

The Deceptions of Atheism

In Susan Jacoby's article "The Blessings of Atheism", the author attempts to prove that Atheism has more to offer than Religion and gives evidence to back up her position. However, her evidence does not accomplish what she intends, but instead makes the article hard to read and makes it difficult for a reader to discover the main point of the article. She does not prove that Atheism is a blessing, but instead reaffirms that Atheism is a lie.

One of Jacoby's primary points is that Atheists can concentrate on the fate of this world without having to square things with an unseen overlord in the next. And yet, what does she mean by concentrating on the fate of this world? She uses the examples of visiting a friend in a hospital or advocating for tougher gun control laws. However, this freedom from an "overlord" presents a few problems: What makes tougher gun control laws of any consequence? In fact, since there is no Lord watching this world, why not just go out and let anyone do whatever they want? Why not legalize mass murder, robbery, and other crimes? Who is to say what is wrong?

Atheists must have some foundation upon which to base their beliefs, but what is this foundation? Jacoby does not say and there are two possible explanations for her silence: One reason is because there is no solid foundation for Atheism, only the personal convictions and feelings of each Atheist. A second reason could be that if there was an established foundation, Atheism would have too much in common with religions, which is the very thing that Atheists abhor.

However, Jacoby is not finished yet, for she suggests that more Atheists should be present at gravesides to give comfort to the families of the deceased by telling them that the person who lies buried has arrived at a perfect rest. But is that statement truly comforting to a family member? I have attended funerals of people I knew and loved, but would I have found

comfort in someone telling me that the person is now resting in perfect peace? Not even slightly. If I did not have something in which to place my trust, I would be inconsolable with grief, knowing that I would never see that person again.

Ms. Jacoby points to the advantage of Atheists not having to ask how a God would allow something terrible to happen, yet is that truly an advantage? As an Atheist, everything happens randomly, with no rhyme or reason; However, Christians know that everything has a purpose and will work out for good. But still the Atheist asks, how could a loving God let all those innocent children die?

The real question is how can God have let all of us live? People are all inherently evil, no matter how much it may be denied; just ask a man's wife and she will tell you that the man sins every day, to her, his friends, and his family. Yes the shootings were horrific, but so are our crimes every minute of every day; yes a loving God let the children die, but the loving God sent his only son down to this earth for those children, yet what did the people of this earth do? They killed the very Christ who was sent to save them and ignored the message he and his followers preached.

Ms. Jacoby makes it very clear that she does not think of Atheism as a Religion, yet she wants to do everything she can to make Atheism as similar to a religion as she can. She wants to demonstrate that Atheism is based in Empathy and wants to create community based outreach programs. She wants people to have comfort and know that their life still has meaning, though when they die, all they will have is a perfect rest. But Atheism cannot provide comfort to the ailing and cannot be seriously considered as an alternative to Christianity, for Atheism leaves many questions unanswered. God does watch over this earth and every person will face Him when they die, whether they are Christians or Atheists. The Christians will be able to say, "Your

son died for my sake”, while the Atheists will have one question: “Why am I not in perfect peace?”