

# Notes

## Preface

- 1 Wendy Kaminer, 'The last taboo: why America needs atheism', *New Republic*, 14 Oct. 1996;  
<http://www.positiveatheism.org/writ/kaminer.htm>.
- 2 Dr Zoe Hawkins, Dr Beata Adams and Dr Paul St John Smith, personal communication.

## Chapter 1: A deeply religious non-believer

### *Deserved respect*

- 3 The television documentary of which the interview was a part was accompanied by a book (Winston 2005).
- 4 Dennett (2006).

### *Undeserved respect*

- 5 The full speech is transcribed in Adams (2003) as 'Is there an artificial God?'
- 6 Perica (2002). See also [http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/108.5/br\\_151.html](http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/108.5/br_151.html).
- 7 'Dolly and the cloth heads', in Dawkins (2003).
- 8 <http://scotus.ap.org/scotus/04-1084p.zo.pdf>.
- 9 R. Dawkins, 'The irrationality of faith', *New Statesman* (London), 31 March 1989.
- 10 *Columbus Dispatch*, 19 Aug. 2005.
- 11 *Los Angeles Times*, 10 April 2006.
- 12 <http://gatewaypundit.blogspot.com/2006/02/islamic-society-of-denmark-used-fake.html>.
- 13 [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/4686536.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4686536.stm);  
<http://www.neandernews.com/?cat=6>.
- 14 *Independent*, 5 Feb. 2006.
- 15 Andrew Mueller, 'An argument with Sir Iqbal', *Independent on Sunday*, 2 April 2006, Sunday Review section, 12-16.

## Chapter 2: The God Hypothesis

16 Mitford and Waugh (2001).

### *Polytheism*

17 <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06608b.htm>.

18 <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm?NF=1>.

### *Secularism, the Founding Fathers and the religion of America*

19 *Congressional Record*, 16 Sept. 1981.

20 [http://www.stephenjaygould.org/ctrl/buckner\\_tripoli.html](http://www.stephenjaygould.org/ctrl/buckner_tripoli.html).

21 Giles Fraser, 'Resurgent religion has done away with the country vicar', *Guardian*, 13 April 2006.

22 Robert I. Sherman, in *Free Inquiry* 8: 4, Fall 1988, 16.

23 N. Angier, 'Confessions of a lonely atheist', *New York Times Magazine*, 14 Jan. 2001:

<http://www.geocities.com/mindstuff/Angier.html>.

24 <http://www.fsgp.org/adsn.html>.

25 An especially bizarre case of a man being murdered simply because he was an atheist is recounted in the newsletter of the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia for March/April 2006. Go to [http://www.fsgp.org/newsletters/newsletter\\_2006\\_0304.pdf](http://www.fsgp.org/newsletters/newsletter_2006_0304.pdf) and scroll down to 'The murder of Larry Hooper'.

26 <http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/mag/2001/11/18/stories/2001111800070400.htm>.

### *The poverty of agnosticism*

27 Quentin de la Bedoyere, *Catholic Herald*, 3 Feb. 2006.

28 Carl Sagan, 'The burden of skepticism', *Skeptical Inquirer* 12, Fall 1987.

29 I discussed this case in Dawkins (1998).

30 T. H. Huxley, 'Agnosticism' (1889), repr. in Huxley (1931). The complete text of 'Agnosticism' is also available at [http://www.infidels.org/library/historical/thomas\\_huxley/huxley\\_wace/part\\_02.html](http://www.infidels.org/library/historical/thomas_huxley/huxley_wace/part_02.html).

31 Russell, 'Is there a God?' (1952), repr. in Russell (1997b).

32 Andrew Mueller, 'An argument with Sir Iqbal', *Independent on Sunday*, 2 April 2006, Sunday Review section, 12-16.

33 *New York Times*, 29 Aug. 2005. See also Henderson (2006).

- 34 Henderson (2006).  
 35 <http://www.lulu.com/content/267888>.

### ***The Great Prayer Experiment***

- 36 H. Benson et al., 'Study of the therapeutic effects of intercessory prayer (STEP) in cardiac bypass patients', *American Heart Journal* 151: 4, 2006, 934-42.  
 37 Richard Swinburne, in *Science and Theology News*, 7 April 2006, <http://www.stnews.org/Commentary-2772.htm>.  
 38 *New York Times*, 11 April 2006.

### ***The Neville Chamberlain school of evolutionists***

- 39 In court cases, and books such as Ruse (1982). His article in *Playboy* appeared in the April 2006 issue.  
 40 Jerry Coyne's reply to Ruse appeared in the August 2006 issue of *Playboy*.  
 41 Madeleine Bunting, *Guardian*, 27 March 2006.  
 42 Dan Dennett's reply appeared in the *Guardian*, 4 April 2006.  
 43 [http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2006/03/the\\_dawkinsdennett\\_boogeyman.php](http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2006/03/the_dawkinsdennett_boogeyman.php); [http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2006/02/our\\_double\\_standard.php](http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2006/02/our_double_standard.php); [http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2006/02/the\\_rusedennett\\_feud.php](http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2006/02/the_rusedennett_feud.php).

### ***Little green men***

- 44 <http://vo.obspm.fr/exoplanetes/encyclo/encycl.html>.  
 45 Dennett (1995).

## **Chapter 3: Arguments for God's existence**

### ***The ontological argument and other a priori arguments***

- 46 <http://www.iep.utm.edu/o/ont-arg.htm>. Gasking's 'proof' is at <http://www.uq.edu.au/~pdwgrey/pubs/gasking.html>.

### ***The argument from personal 'experience'***

- 47 The whole subject of illusions is discussed by Richard Gregory in a series of books including Gregory (1997).  
 48 My own attempt at spelling out the explanation is on pp. 268-9 of Dawkins (1998).  
 49 <http://www.sofc.org/Spirituality/s-of-fatima.htm>.

***The argument from scripture***

- 50 Tom Flynn, 'Matthew vs. Luke', *Free Inquiry* 25: 1, 2004, 34-45;  
Robert Gillooly, 'Shedding light on the light of the world', *Free Inquiry* 25: 1, 2004, 27-30.
- 51 Erhman (2006). See also Ehrman (2003a, b).

***The argument from admired religious scientists***

- 52 Beit-Hallahmi and Argyle (1997).
- 53 E. J. Larson and L. Witham, 'Leading scientists still reject God', *Nature* 394, 1998, 313.
- 54 <http://www.leaderu.com/ftissues/ft9610/reeves.html> gives a particularly interesting analysis of historical trends in American religious opinion by Thomas C. Reeves, Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin, based on Reeves (1996).
- 55 <http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs/3506.asp>.
- 56 R. Elisabeth Cornwell and Michael Stirrat, manuscript in preparation, 2006.
- 57 P. Bell, 'Would you believe it?', *Mensa Magazine*, Feb. 2002, 12-13.

**Chapter 4: Why there almost certainly is no God*****The Ultimate Boeing 747***

- 58 An exhaustive review of the provenance, usages and quotations of this analogy is given, from a creationist point of view, by Gert Korthof, at <http://home.wxs.nl/~gkorthof/kortho46a.htm>.

***Natural selection as a consciousness-raiser***

- 59 Adams (2002), p. 99. My 'Lament for Douglas', written the day after his death, is reprinted as the Epilogue to *The Salmon of Doubt*, and also in *A Devil's Chaplain*, which also has my eulogy at his memorial meeting in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields.
- 60 Interview in *Der Spiegel*, 26 Dec. 2005.
- 61 Susskind (2006: 17).

***The worship of gaps***

- 62 Behe (1996).
- 63 <http://www.millerandlevine.com/km/evol/design2/article.html>.

- 64 This account of the Dover trial, including the quotations, is from A. Bottaro, M. A. Inlay and N. J. Matzke, 'Immunology in the spotlight at the Dover "Intelligent Design" trial', *Nature Immunology* 7, 2006, 433-5.
- 65 J. Coyne, 'God in the details: the biochemical challenge to evolution', *Nature* 383, 1996, 227-8. The article by Coyne and me, 'One side can be wrong', was published in the *Guardian*, 1 Sept. 2005: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/life/feature/story/0,13026,1559743,00.html>. The quotation from the 'eloquent blogger' is at [http://www.religionisbullshit.net/blog/2005\\_09\\_01\\_archive.php](http://www.religionisbullshit.net/blog/2005_09_01_archive.php).
- 66 Dawkins (1995).

### ***The anthropic principle: planetary version***

- 61 Carter admitted later that a better name for the overall principle would be 'cognizability principle' rather than the already entrenched term 'anthropic principle': B. Carter, 'The anthropic principle and its implications for biological evolution', *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London A*, 310, 1983, 347-63. For a book-length discussion of the anthropic principle, see Barrow and Tipler (1988).
- 68 Comins (1993).
- 69 I spelled this argument out more fully in *The Blind Watchmaker* (Dawkins 1986).

### ***The anthropic principle: cosmological version***

- 70 Murray Gell-Mann, quoted by John Brockman on the 'Edge' website, [http://www.edge.org/3rd\\_culture/bios/smolins.html](http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/bios/smolins.html).
- 71 Ward (1996: 99); Polkinghorne (1994: 55).

### ***An interlude at Cambridge***

- 72 J. Horgan, 'The Templeton Foundation: a skeptic's take', *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 7 April 2006. See also [http://www.edge.org/3rd\\_culture/horgan06/horgan06\\_index.html](http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/horgan06/horgan06_index.html).
- 73 P. B. Medawar, review of *The Phenomenon of Man*, repr. in Medawar (1982: 242).
- 74 Dennett (1995: 155).

## **Chapter 5: The roots of religion**

### *The Darwinian imperative*

- 75 Quoted in Dawkins (1982: 30).  
 76 K. Sterelny, 'The perverse primate', in Grafen and Ridley (2006: 213-23).

### *Group selection*

- 77 N. A. Chagnon, 'Terminological kinship, genealogical relatedness and village fissioning among the Yanomamo Indians', in Alexander and Tinkle (1981: ch. 28).  
 78 C. Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (New York: Appleton, 1871), vol. 1, 156.

### *Religion as a by-product of something else*

- 79 Quoted in Blaker (2003: 7).

### *Psychologically primed for religion*

- 80 See e.g. Buss (2005).  
 81 Deborah Keleman, 'Are children "intuitive theists"?', *Psychological Science* 15: 5, 2004, 295-301.  
 82 Dennett (1987).  
 83 *Guardian*, 31 Jan. 2006.  
 84 Smythies (2006).  
 85 <http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/14223.htm>.

## **Chapter 6: The roots of morality: why are we good?**

- 86 The movie itself, which is very good, can be obtained at <http://www.thegodmovie.com/index.php>.

### *A case study in the roots of morality*

- 87 M. Hauser and P. Singer, 'Morality without religion', *Free Inquiry* 26: 1, 2006, 18-19.

### *If there is no God, why be good?*

- 88 Dostoevsky (1994: bk 2, ch. 6, p. 87).  
 89 Hinde (2002). See also Singer (1994), Grayling (2003), Glover (2006).

### **Chapter 7: The 'Good' Book and the changing moral *Zeitgeist***

- 90 Lane Fox (1992); Berlinerblau (2005).  
 91 Holloway (1999, 2005). Richard Holloway's 'recovering Christian' line is in a book review in the *Guardian*, 15 Feb. 2003: <http://books.guardian.co.uk/reviews/scienceandnature/0,6121,894941,00.html>. The Scottish journalist Muriel Gray wrote a beautiful account of my Edinburgh dialogue with Bishop Holloway in the (Glasgow) *Herald*: <http://www.sundayherald.com/44517>.

### ***The Old Testament***

- 92 For a frightening collection of sermons by American clergymen, blaming hurricane Katrina on human 'sin', see <http://universist.org/neworleans.htm>.  
 93 Pat Robertson, reported by the BBC at <http://news.bbc.co.Uk/2/hi/americas/4427144.stm>.

### ***Is the New Testament any better?***

- 94 R. Dawkins, 'Atheists for Jesus', *Free Inquiry* 25: 1, 2005, 9-10.  
 95 Julia Sweeney is also right on target when she briefly mentions Buddhism. Just as Christianity is sometimes thought to be a nicer, gentler religion than Islam, Buddhism is often cracked up to be the nicest of all. But the doctrine of demotion on the reincarnation ladder because of sins in a past life is pretty unpleasant. Julia Sweeney: 'I went to Thailand and happened to visit a woman who was taking care of a terribly deformed boy. I said to his caretaker, "It's so good of you to be taking care of this poor boy." She said, "Don't say 'poor boy,' he must have done something terrible in a past life to be born this way."'  
 96 For a thoughtful analysis of techniques used by cults, see Barker (1984). More journalistic accounts of modern cults are given by Lane (1996) and Kilduff and Javers (1978).  
 97 Paul Vallely and Andrew Buncombe, 'History of Christianity: Gospel according to Judas', *Independent*, 7 April 2006.  
 98 Vermes (2000).

### ***Love thy neighbour***

- 99 Hartung's paper was originally published in *Skeptical* 3: 4, 1995, but is now most readily available at <http://www.lrainc.com/>

swtaboo/taboos/ltnOl .html.

100 Smith (1995).

101 *Guardian*, 12 March 2002: <http://books.guardian.co.uk/departments/politicsphilosophyandsociety/story/0,,664342,00.html>.

102 N. D. Glenn, 'Interreligious marriage in the United States: patterns and recent trends', *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 44: 3, 1982, 555-66.

### ***The moral Zeitgeist***

103 <http://www.ebonmusings.org/atheism/newlOc.html>.

104 Huxley (1871).

105 <http://www.classic-literature.co.uk/american-authors/19th-century/abraham-lincoln/the-writings-of-abraharn-lincoln-04/>.

### ***What about Hitler and Stalin? Weren't they atheists?***

106 Bullock (1991).

107 Bullock (2005).

108 <http://www.ffrf.org/fttoday/1997/march97/holocaust.html>. This article by Richard E. Smith, originally published in *Freethought Today*, March 1997, has a large number of relevant quotations from Hitler and other Nazis, giving their sources. Unless otherwise stated, my quotations are from Smith's article.

109 [http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/mischedj/ca\\_hitler.html](http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/mischedj/ca_hitler.html).

110 Bullock (2005: 96).

111 Adolf Hitler, speech of 12 April 1922. In Baynes (1942: 19-20).

112 Bullock (2005: 43).

113 This quotation, and the following one, are from Anne Nicol Gaylor's article on Hitler's religion, <http://www.ffrf.org/fttoday/back/hitler.html>.

114 [http://www.contra-mundum.org/schirmacher/NS\\_Religion.pdf](http://www.contra-mundum.org/schirmacher/NS_Religion.pdf).

## **Chapter 8: What's wrong with religion? Why be so hostile?**

### ***Fundamentalism and the subversion of science***

115 From 'What is true?', ch. 1.2 of Dawkins (2003).

116 Both my quotations from Wise come from his contribution to the 1999 book *In Six Days*, an anthology of essays by young-Earth creationists (Ashton 1999).



***The dark side of absolutism***

- 117 Warraq (1995: 175).
- 118 John William Gott's imprisonment for calling Jesus a clown is mentioned in *The Indypedia*, published by the *Independent*, 29 April 2006. The attempted prosecution of the BBC for blasphemy is in BBC news, 10 Jan. 2005: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/tv\\_and\\_radio/4161109.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/tv_and_radio/4161109.stm).
- 119 [http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture\\_War/The\\_American\\_Taliban.html](http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture_War/The_American_Taliban.html).

***Faith and homosexuality***

- 120 Hodges (1983).
- 121 This and the remaining quotations in this section are from the American Taliban site already listed;  
[http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture\\_War/The\\_American\\_Taliban.html](http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture_War/The_American_Taliban.html).
- 122 [http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture\\_War/The\\_American\\_Taliban.html](http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture_War/The_American_Taliban.html).
- 123 From Pastor Phelps's Westboro Baptist Church official website, [godhatesfags.com](http://www.godhatesfags.com):  
[http://www.godhatesfags.com/fliers/jan2006/20060131\\_coretta-scott-king-funeral.pdf](http://www.godhatesfags.com/fliers/jan2006/20060131_coretta-scott-king-funeral.pdf).

***Faith and the sanctity of human life***

- 124 See Mooney (2005). Also Silver (2006), which arrived when this book was in final proof, too late to be discussed as fully as I would have liked.
- 125 For an interesting analysis of what makes Texas different in this respect, see <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/execution/readings/texas.html>.
- 126 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karla\\_Faye\\_Tucker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karla_Faye_Tucker).
- 127 These Randall Terry quotes are from the same American Taliban site as before:  
[http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture\\_War/The\\_American\\_Taliban.html](http://adulthoodthought.ucsd.edu/Culture_War/The_American_Taliban.html).
- 128 Reported on Fox news:  
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,96286,00.html>.
- 129 M. Stamp Dawkins (1980).

***The Great Beethoven Fallacy***

130 <http://www.warroom.com/ethical.htm>.

131 Medawar and Medawar (1977).

***How 'moderation' in faith fosters fanaticism***

132 Johann Hari's article, originally published in the *Independent*, 15 July 2005, can be found at

<http://www.johannhari.com/archive/article.php?id=640>.

133 Village Voice, 18 May 2004:

<http://www.villagevoice.com/news/0420,perlstein,53582,1.html>.

134 Harris (2004: 29).

135 Nasra Hassan, 'An arsenal of believers', *New Yorker*, 19 Nov. 2001. See also [http://www.bintjbeil.com/articles/en/011119\\_hassan.html](http://www.bintjbeil.com/articles/en/011119_hassan.html).

**Chapter 9: Childhood, abuse and the escape from religion*****Physical and mental abuse***

136 Reported by BBC news:

<http://news.bbc.co.Uk/1/hi/wales/901723.stm>.

137 Loftus and Ketcham (1994).

138 See John Waters in the *Irish Times*:

<http://oneinfour.org/news/news2003/roots/>.

139 Associated Press, 10 June 2005: <http://www.rickcross.com/reference/clergy/clergy426.html>.

140 <http://www.avl611.org/hell.html>.

***In defence of children***

141 N. Humphrey, 'What shall we tell the children?', in Williams (1998); repr. in Humphrey (2002).

142 <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/yoder.html>.

***An educational scandal***

143 *Guardian*, 15 Jan. 2005:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,,1389500,00.html>.

144 *Times Educational Supplement*, 15 July 2005.

145 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2002/03/18/dol801.xml>

- 146 *Guardian*, 15 Jan. 2005: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,,1389500,00.html>.
- 147 The text of our letter, drafted by the Bishop of Oxford, was as follows:

Dear Prime Minister,  
 We write as a group of scientists and Bishops to express our concern about the teaching of science in the Emmanuel City Technology College in Gateshead. Evolution is a scientific theory of great explanatory power, able to account for a wide range of phenomena in a number of disciplines. It can be refined, confirmed and even radically altered by attention to evidence. It is not, as spokesmen for the college maintain, a 'faith position' in the same category as the biblical account of creation which has a different function and purpose.

The issue goes wider than what is currently being taught in one college. There is a growing anxiety about what will be taught and how it will be taught in the new generation of proposed faith schools. We believe that the curricula in such schools, as well as that of Emmanuel City Technical College, need to be strictly monitored in order that the respective disciplines of science and religious studies are properly respected.

Yours sincerely

- 148 *British Humanist Association News*, March-April 2006.
- 149 *Observer*, 22 July 2004: <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/magazine/story/0,11913,1258506,00.html>.

### ***Consciousness-raising again***

- 150 The Oxford Dictionary takes 'gay' back to American prison slang in 1935. In 1955 Peter Wildeblood, in his famous book *Against the Law*, found it necessary to define 'gay' as 'an American euphemism for homosexual'.
- 151 <http://uepengland.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=184&mode=linear>.

***Religious education as a part of literary culture***

- 152 Shaheen has written three books, anthologizing biblical references in the comedies, tragedies and histories separately. The summary count of 1,300 is mentioned in  
<http://www.shakespearefellowship.org/virtualclassroom/StritmatterShaheenRev.htm>.
- 153 [http://www.bibleliteracy.org/Secure/Documents/BibleLiteracyReport2005 .pdf](http://www.bibleliteracy.org/Secure/Documents/BibleLiteracyReport2005.pdf).

**Chapter 10: A much needed gap?*****Consolation***

- 154 From memory, I attribute this argument to the Oxford philosopher Derek Parfitt. I have not researched its origins thoroughly because I am using it only as a passing example of philosophical consolation.
- 155 Reported by BBC News:  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special\\_report/1999/06/99/cardinal\\_hume\\_funeral/376263.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special_report/1999/06/99/cardinal_hume_funeral/376263.stm).

***The mother of all burkas***

- 156 Wolpert (1992).