

**OPEN LETTER TO US ATTORNEY GENERAL MERRICK  
GARLAND INTRODUCING MY RELIGIOUS INFLUENCES A  
BIT BETTER**

Dear Mr. Garland,

I was strongly influenced by two strains of Christianity. First, Roman Catholicism and second, Anglican Christianity. I was already an atheist by six in 1979 in Bengal, and arrived in the United States in 1987. My strongest influence was my Irish Catholic high school teacher Lys K. Waltien. Simultaneously I was strongly drawn from before by English Romantics, which explains the Anglican influence. I have great veneration for Lys K. Waltien. Let me show you her photograph that I keep nearby since I consider her an extraordinary saintly and Angelic influence in my life.

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Lys is long dead now. She died before I began Princeton University, and I lost one of the great mentors of my life. Anyway, she was strongly anti-Marxist and was

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*Date:* December 10, 2021.

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Ph.D. in Chemistry from Fordham and was remarkably intellectually accomplished. I am sure a great deal of my influences were just absorbed from her. Percy Bysshe Shelley was a kindred spirit to me and so although I was rather more pleased with heretics like Giordano Bruno, I was quite immersed in Christian mythology being a humanist atheist all the way to 2006. I am extremely well-read and examining M. H. Abrams' *Natural Supernatural* which gives some insights about the ways in which English Romantics transformed the Divine to individual light. Yes, I am extremely strongly aligned with Romantics and am not Christian or Muslim at all. Now don't get me wrong. I like Christians and Jews and Muslims, but unfortunately my religion is not one of these and I am quite resistant to well-meaning but completely wrong beliefs in these religions. Obviously I know the truth better than all of these people. However, I am kind, and also rational and do not *provoke* these mass of deluded people who have *overwhelming advantage over me* and I love my life and don't want to be trampled by the stampede. So I keep my peace.

Thank you,  
Zulfikar Moinuddin Ahmed  
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