

# GODS DON'T EXIST

Supernatural beings, with or without the power to affect the lives and fortunes of humans, are imaginary inventions by those who wanted to influence human behavior. Even if the intention was good, lying was not.

Morality, however, existed long before gods were ever thought of. Other social animals have it to a degree. It is based in concern for others, which is a survival trait benefiting interdependent creatures, like ourselves.

Religions can and sometimes do teach morality, though it is not necessary to claim a god as the source. Societies of people who care and empathize about one another succeed by cooperation as well as respecting and protecting one another from misfortunes.

That is the primary principle that should be used in developing systems of government and selecting leaders.

There are people who see an advantage in ignoring the good of others to seek greater wealth and power than the rest, and they reject morality in favor of greed. They invent ideologies and even religions to justify this. They try to convince others to accept their "morality", even though it results in disharmony and sometimes the destruction of society.

Fortunately, in a democracy we periodically have a chance to eject the greed-heads from control and select leaders and legislators who care about the people as a whole. The process is often loud and contentious, but it is important that everyone participate, both in the debates and the selections.

## Regarding religion

Although religions can be perverted and allow dangerous influence on their followers, it is futile to try to suppress them, however irrational their beliefs. It is not ideas, but harmful actions that civil society must address with laws and with education.

--cosmic rat Aug. 19, 2020