

ISLAM, ATHEISM, AND SEXISM

Richard Dawkins is a well-known advocate for atheism. While I share his disbelief in the supernatural, Dawkins sometimes allows his enthusiasm to lead him into religious bigotry, especially against Islam.

It is one thing to speak for rationality, and against superstition, but to attack a particular religion serves only to encourage prejudice against its believers, and become just as divisive as those who sow fear and hate due to irrationality and ignorance.

The following article rose out of a Twitter conversation between Richard Dawkins and a Muslim woman. The author describes and analyzes the attitudes and thinking involved, and reveals with eloquent precision where the errors lie.

Religion is a problem, but it is not THE problem. Beliefs are intertwined with cultures and the identity of individuals. All religions evolve over time, and adapt. These changes must come from within their cultures. Attempts to change them from outside will not work, and may have negative consequences.

[Richard Dawkins, Shut Up and Listen](#) by Thom Stark

Though the article addresses the views of an atheist, or as Dawkins has been called, an antitheist, the points are equally valid when dealing with Christian or Jewish Islamophobes. We need to stop nitpicking at one another's beliefs, and listen to one another, developing understanding, common values, and tolerance of our differences.

-cosmic rat July 31, 2014