

'Read Sam Harris and wake up' RICHARD DAWKINS, Guardian

# THE END OF FAITH

RELIGION, TERROR, AND  
THE FUTURE OF REASON



SAM HARRIS

## Sam Harris *The End of Faith* Digest

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# In a nut shell

- Beliefs in general influence one's action. Some beliefs drive one to violent, harmful actions, including terrorisms. Therefore, some beliefs are dangerous.
- Christians and Muslims believe ridiculous doctrines which have been responsible for terrible cruelty, but which have no evidence at all. Moreover, no amount of evidence against them cannot convince the believers that they are false.
- We have to face the fact that religions are harmful, and base our ethics on science, where evidence and reason are the source of beliefs, and where new evidence can modify old beliefs.

# Sam Harris

- Psychologist, but, after the 911 attack, began to write books harshly criticizing religion, especially, Christianity and Islam.
- One of ``the four horsemen of atheism,” the other of whom are Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, and Cristopher Hitchenes.
- Writer of *The End of Faith*, *Letter to a Christian Nation*, *The Moral Landscape*, etc.

# Belief

- One's beliefs define one's vision of the world.
- They dictate one's behavior.
- They determine one's emotional responses toward other human beings.
- The problem is that different beliefs from different religions are leading us to kill one another.
- These beliefs do not tolerate contradicting beliefs and never permit evidences against them.
- This kind of beliefs are called ``faith.''

# Irrationality of religious beliefs

- The Bible is full of ridiculous propositions, like Jesus was born of virgin, he revived after being executed, etc.
- However much science progresses, religious beliefs will remain the same.
- It also contains propositions that order you to kill enemies of God, even if they are your children.
- Witch hunts, Holocaust, and other cruelty are results of religious beliefs.

# Religious moderates are not excused

- Religious moderates try to reconcile their beliefs with science, but such attempts need an *ad hoc* choice of correct sentences in the Bible. Their solutions are not based on evidence or reasonable thinking.
- Moderates explain that it's not religion itself that enables people to commit violent behaviors. However, it is sure that suicide bombing is promoted by the belief that sacrificing one's life in fight against God's enemies will lead one to eternal happy life in heaven.