

Where is this divine power, and what enables you to *access* it? As sages have known for thousands of years, there is only *one way* to do it. This power *already resides inside you*. All you have to do is *unleash* it. And how do you unleash it? Simple, you get in touch with your *higher self*—the part of you that exists beyond your ego. (ad for self-help tape)

- \* Only the spirit gives life. The flesh is of no avail.

*Jesus of Nazareth*

The New and Old Testaments are full of the hopelessness of looking for anything but tribulation in this world, and the senses stand condemned as gross deceivers which enslave and ruin their addicts. We are to die in the flesh to be re-born in the spirit.

*Malcolm Muggeridge*

- \* Religion by its very nature is unpopular, unpopular with the ego.

*Fulton Sheen*

Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth.

*1 Samuel 3:10*

- \* Religion is about turning untested belief into unshakeable truth through the power of institutions and the passage of time.

*Richard Dawkins*

Religion in the broadest and most general terms possible...consists of the belief that there is an unseen order, and that our supreme good lies in harmoniously adjusting ourselves thereto.

*William James*

- \* Religion is an insult to human dignity. Without it you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. But for good people to do evil things, that takes religion.

*Steven Weinberg*

Whenever a man talks loudly against religion, always suspect that it is not his reason, but his passions which have got the better of his creed.

*Laurence Sterne*

- \* Veneration of a force beyond anything we can comprehend is my religion.

*Albert Einstein*

- \* When a man is freed of religion, he has a better chance to live a normal and wholesome life.

*Sigmund Freud*

Religion is the one force that is stronger than self-interest and sensuality, that is capable of transforming human nature and altering the course of history. The danger of religion is not that it is too weak or too abstract to affect human conduct, but rather that it is so absolute and uncompromising that nature is overwhelmed and crushed.

*Christopher Dawson*

You have to be very religious to change your religion.

*Comtesse Diane*

Here has been the contrast—as a Protestant, I felt my religion dreary, but not my life—as a Catholic, my life dreary, not my religion.

*John Henry Newman*

## *If Religion Could be Shown to be a Delusion Would Mankind be Happier? More Peaceful?*

The lustre of the present hour is always borrowed from the background of possibilities it goes with. Let our common experiences be enveloped in an eternal moral order; let our suffering have an immortal significance; let Heaven smile upon the earth, and deities pay their visits; let faith and hope be the atmosphere which man breathes in;—and his days pass by with zest; they stir with prospects, they thrill with remoter values. Place round them on the contrary the curdling cold and gloom and absence of all permanent meaning which for pure naturalism and the popular science evolutionism of our time are all that is visible ultimately, and the thrill stops short, or turns rather to an anxious trembling.

*William James*

Religion consists of believing that everything that happens is extraordinarily important.

*Cesare Pavese*

You find as you look around the world that every single bit of progress in humane feeling, every improvement in the criminal law, every step towards the diminution of war, every step towards better treatment of the coloured races, or every mitigation of slavery, every moral progress that there has been in the world, has been consistently opposed by the organized Churches of the world. I say quite deliberately that the Christian religion, as organized in its Churches, has been and still is the principal enemy of moral progress in the world.

*Bertrand Russell*

Although I was not brought up in a religious household, and I suppose if I were pressed, would have to admit to being a kind of incurable atheist, I'm nevertheless strongly convinced that religion performs important social functions in the transmission say, of ethical values between generations, and that a society that does away with it, that ceases to engage in any kind of formal religious instruction, is a society that's likely to be less good at maintaining social order than one which maintains a measure of religious faith and observance. And that is based purely on historical observation... So I think one really does away with Christianity, or indeed one does away with God at one's peril. Human beings do seem to behave better when they have some sense of moral authority in the world, and indeed some kind of formal system for inculcating good ethical behaviour.

*Niall Ferguson*

I am not religious, and I regard the adoption of religious faith as incompatible with openness to truth. Nevertheless, the possibility that propositions of religious faith are true cannot be ruled out. And far from its being the case that they have been derived from religion, it is my belief that, historically, things have been the other way about, and that religious doctrines have been arrived at as a result of the possible truth of these propositions. It is because they could be true, and human beings have exceedingly powerful reasons for