OPEN TALK MAGAZINE



Dave to think

ISSUED

May | 2019

MORALITY

The Pastorpreneure & The God Business





- What is Morality and Where does it come from? : writes Namyalo Viola.
- Morality: Do religious leaders have ground to determine what is moral or not? writes Wasswa Peter Mukasa
- Understanding Morality, acritical inquiry by Peter Claver Birimuye
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- A critical examination into morality of the pastorprenueres in Africa writes Kato Mukasa.
- The death of religion as Technology advances by Humanist Ronnie.









LIANT THE HECK IS HUMANISM ASQUE?

Find out more by visiting HALEA offices at Plot 41, Makerere Hill Road, Enterprise House, Room L 3 OR send us an Email:haleauganda@gmail.com

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to yet another exciting edition of the Open Talk Magazine (OTM). In this special one, we examine the crucial subject at hand: MORALITY.

How do you understand morality. On what basis do you judge anything to be moral or immoral. Is morality a preserve for the religious? Is morality determined by God who exactly sets the moral code?

Can non believers be morality upright or they are outrightly immoral because they have no gods to guide them, to inform them what is right and what is wrong?

In this publication, the OTM's critical writers share their opinions on this subject at length and they handle such specific topics such as the now contentious LGBTIQ issues that many theists base on to show as an example of immorality.

In a special way, we delibarately pick memes packaged with provocative and mind stimulating information that can vividly communicate without us writing alot.

The Open Talk Magazine remains focused on promoting critical thinking and free inquiry. We provide space to discus very important issues that your main stream media dares not to discuss.

We continue to promote humanism and emphasize that Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, guided by reason and motivated by compassion. Humanism affirms the dignity of EACH HUMAN BEING and it supports liberty and opportunity consonant with social and planetary responsibility, free from any dogma, theism, and all other supernatural claims and beliefs.

We assert that humanism derives the goals of life from human need and interest rather than theological and ideological abstractions and Humanism asserts that as humans, we must take responsibility and be in charge of our own destiny. It is our life to live, it is one life we have to live and it should be purpose driven.

This magazine is out to address the concerns that humanism promotes. The Open Talk Magazine is a publication of HALEA LTD since 2011. As a humanist organization we shall continue to promote science, reason and rationale as the best approach to handle the numerous challenges in our midst. To all writers, photographers and the editorial team that out this together, thank you.

As always, you are an incredibly wonderful bunch of people to work with. Over the years, I have enjoyed working with you, the big team behind the OTM. To our dear esteemed readers, please continue sending us your views because it is the only way we can continue progressing forward. Enjoy this one life we have as you read the Open Talk Magazine.

Thanks to our team of editors who include: Dr.Majwala, Kisa Kaggwa and Ivan Pinto, Thanks to our designer Nathan

WHAT IS MORALITY AND WHERE DOES MORALITY COME FROMPAn observation analysis by Viola Namyalo



Morality is a very subjective topic that has different interpretations depending on a number of factors such as culture and religious backgrounds. In simple terms, Morality can be defined as a body of standards or principles derived from a code of conduct from a particular philosophy, religion or culture. To other

people, morality can be derived from standards that a person believes should be universal. In the simplest of ways, morality may be a concept to mean goodness or rightness. It is the differentiation of intentions, decisions and actions between those that are "good and those that are bad".

The philosophy of morality is rooted is ethics to which a moral code applies. We note that moral values are important in life because they act as a basis on which we judge something to either be good or bad. We also know that moral values reflect an individual's character and the help in building personal and professional relationships. Therefore, several factors determine what is morally right from what is wrong and it is not necessarily true that all people can understand morality from the same perspective regardless of the concept of universal morality.

For example, religious people, tend to appreciate morality from a religious perspectives yet humanists are more likely to appreciate morality from the ethical and universal perspective.

This is because Humanists don't have a god or devil in their lives, there for there is no guidance that comes from a God in their lives. However, they are moral people and live a good life without a God.

HOW DOES A HUMANIST MANAGE LIFE WITHOUT A GOD.

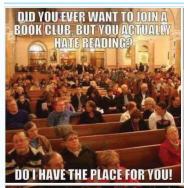
Humanists manage their life with the support of fellow human beings and the use of reason, empathy, respect for each other and experience to choose what is right from wrong. Human reason and our social instincts form the basis of morality and they are natural part of humanity. Hence Morality is from us not from a super natural being.

When we live together in groups, we naturally love each other, take care of each other and love to see everybody happy. This love and affection is within human nature not from a God.

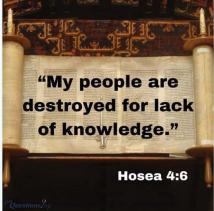
Morality is about making choices based on the well fair of human beings, being empathetic and think about the consequences of our choices on the happiness or suffering of people. Trying our best to do what makes others happy and no or less of what hurts other people's feelings. It is about not being selfish towards others and doing to others what you would love to be done to. This is all with in human nature rather than a God!

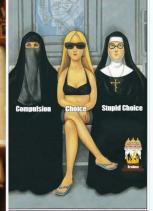
"Morality is a human invention, we should be proud of and thrive to live up with it"

VIOLA NAMYALO IS THE CHAIR OF THE YOUNG HUMANISTS INTERNATIONAL, AFRICA AND A MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR OF HALEA AND UHASSO.









Having a talk with your kids about sex doesn't make them have sex. Having a talk about llamas doesn't make them llamas. Having a talk with your kids about suicide won't make them suicidal. Having a talk with your kids about mental illness doesn't give them mental illness. It does, however, give them tools to help recognise things that might otherwise confuse or terrify them. It may help them to recognise things in themselves or in their friends. And that can save a life.

~Jenny Lawson

JAPAN: World's Second-Largest Population Of Atheists.



One of the lowest crime and murder rates in the world.

The conclusion is clear, not only is life in a Godless world possible, but it may be preferable.



Atheism is just a common sense conclusion. Rationalism is an approach to life. It is Humanism which is a philosophy of life, a way of living.

- Babu Gogineni





When you meet someone who tries their hardest to stick by you regardless of how difficult you are, keep them. Keep them at all costs because finding someone who cares enough to look past your flaws isn't something that happens every day.

fb/the idealist







tall when times get hard, not fall to your knees.

"Speak to your children as if they are the wisest, kindest, most beautiful and magical humans on earth,

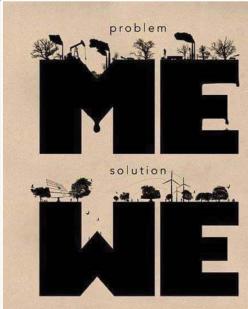


for what they believe is what they will become."

~ Brooke Hampton



The drunk men are always very alert.... Before crossing the road they look left and right for cars and bikes, then they look up for aeroplanes and then down for bombs, they look back for kidnappers and after that they hold the bottle tight and walk zigzag to avoid bullets..... 😜 😂 🖔





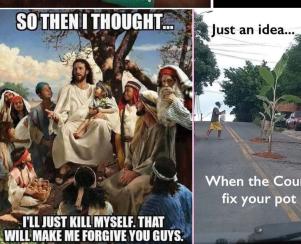


Be kind to Atheists

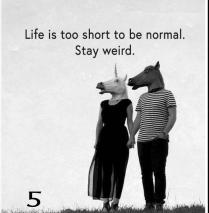
They are the ones that will be taking care of your pets after you are "raptured"

-profoundlyma











MORALITY: DO RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE GROUND TO DETERMINE WHAT IS MORAL OR NOT?

WASWA PETER MUKASA



iving in Africa and growing up in Uganda exposed me to a lot of religious indoctrination. As a child, I grew up seeing Catholic Prisests as role models and as an embodiment of what morality means. They were humble, soft spoken, meek as sheep,

they never had women at least from my childish perspective, they were smartly dressed and they acted as the would be true custodians of Godly morality. During prayers, they always peaches tous the value in loving one another, the need in caring for each other and they emphasised that we are all mad in God's image and our bodies are temples of God. They lived in huge cathedrals, owned big farms, ate good food and drove posh cars. I can comfortably confess that I loved being a priest my self for I thought that being a priest was being next to God and was a getway to heaven.

The priests had previllages that the ordinary folks could not get. The worshippers always gave them, only, sometimes brought food, animals and other related gifts as a token of appreciation to a people serving God. It was extremely inspiring to be a priest and be in a position to serve my community. Above all, during the rebaration war that brought Museven to power, the priests in my area kept the community together and I don't remember an incident when they were attacked by either government soldiers or the liberators.

The point is priesthood was highly respected, exempted from paying taxes and generally accorded respect and many times I would observe that when we boarded public buses or attended community functions, religious leaders such as priests, Imams, Nuns and reverends would be given special seats in most cases sitting infront of the pack. That was the extent to which religious leaders had previllages and leverage over other members of the community.

For decades knew priests as the custodians of morality in the wold over, they twilight people how to behave, they preached to is what is good and bad, and showed us through their scriptures what behaviour and thoughts that can take one to either heaven.

an extra role of offering counselling and guidance services as well as hearing confessions from people who had sinned. I also knew that these very priests being the custodians of morality, and being God's representatives on earth, had extra powers to forgive sin Thus as a believer then, whenever we discussed the theme morality, it was the religious leaders and especially the catholic priests who would come to my mind.

When I was seventh ears old, I began reading widely about the history of Catholic Church, Christianity and Islam. My readings, exposed me to a different set of reality. It was then that I came to discover that the abrahamic religions especially Islam and Christianity were founded by the sword, maintained by the sword and spread through violence, terror, tyranny and blood bath. I was. Shocked reading through the inquisition times I was to learn that chrisatiam crusaders went about killing non believers and they had the blessings of the Leadership of the Catholic Church. Equally so, I learnt that Islam was preached through Jihadism and many people lost their lives.

read that the priests that started the Catholic Church married many women and fathered countless children until when the Catholic Church was in turmoil that a sex tax was introduced and priests were outlawed from marrying women and all women without husband were sold into slaverly. The birth of the Pentecostal church in Great Britain was more fascinating and equally challenging. That a disagreement between a king and a pope over a king's Desiree to Marty another woman and her a successor and the pope's refusal to grant permission to the catholic king then was enough spark for the king of England to start the Church of England and for all purposes and intent, the king remained the political head of a religious institution. This is the Church of England as we know it today that has thousands of branches of what we know as the Protestant churches in Uganda.

What we note here is the sad departure from my original understanding of morality. That religious leaders would sanction war, bless slave traders, colonisers and imperialists and world participate in the deadly world wars blessing the soldiers and their guns with trademark phrases such as "praise the liars and pass the amnition" was a mind blowing revelation that I could not swallow with ease.

Growing up, I realised that religious leaders were never the true custodians of morality as I had understood it in my childhood. The more I observed the more I became sceptical and I finally lost my faith. As a lawyer working with a humanist organisation

(HALE Itd)and as. Legal assistant working with Uganda Law society handling probonal cases, the over ten years in service has exposed me to the bitter reality. I have handled cases of top religious leaders who sexually molested children defiled teenagers and impregnated them, denied parentalhood of children they have produced and physically assaulted their victims because they have come to us to complain.

Often have been threatened by some of these culprits and others have offered to bribe their way to freedom. This we have refused to do and we have continued to champion the rights of the marginalised. Some of our cases have been documented in news papers and featured on public television as we expose these uncouth religious leaders who continue to be shamed and displayed to the world for who they are.

Minister Nakiwala Kiyinji has handled some of these recent cases on camera especially we have encouraged the victims t9 report to our office. There are notorious offenders such as pastor Augustine Yiga who is on re rd to have sexually abused more than five victims among which were outrightly defiled. There has been a case of shake Umar who has defiled three of his clients who go to him seeking healing prayers.

The above is just a tip of the iceberg. The rot among religious leader is sim0ly far too much, surprisinglyhese very religious leaders continue pretending to be the custodians of morality and condem everyone for being immoral but them selves.

s a gay Rights activist I have had cases where some of these religious leaders especially catholic priests and Pentecostal pastors have sexually abused boys in their charge and even when the evidence against them is overwhelming they can not simply own up and atleast accept to take care of the medication and rehabilitation of their victims. Ironically, some of these very priests use their platforms to attack homosexuality and fuel homophobia something that makes our work very hard. Homosexuality for example is treated as a sin and evil and something unacceptable by their God. These very priests are at the center of promoting homophobia and calling upon people to discrim-

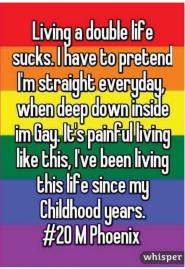
inate, torture and kill homosexuals. That is

there understanding of morality.

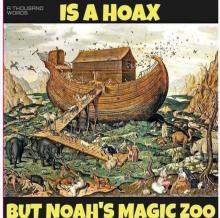
As humanists, we don't think that personal morality should be a target for the law unless one's immoral actions cause suffering. We don't need 10 commandments to know what is good and to avoid what is bad. To live a good life, we don't guidance of religious leaders or their moral code. But rather, we should go by the golden rule which in part states "Do not do unto others as you would that they should do unto you"in other wards Soto others what you would wish to be done to you. To me, morality should be good, reciprocal and utilitarian in a way that it promotes social Justice and enables us to live in a better world.

WASSWA MUKASA IS A FOUNDER MEMBER OF HALEA LTD, A LAWYER BY TRAINING, A HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND HUMANIST BASED IN KAMPALA UGANDA.









BOAT IS UNDENIABL







gay lesbian

bisexual

pansexual other

whichever one you are i love you millions don't be ashamed of who you are STOP STOPPING AGOD
WHO WOULD
SENTENCE YOU
TO AN ETERNITY IN FIRE
FOR NOT BELIEVING IN HIM,
YET REFUSES TO PROVIDE
UNAMBIGUOUS, TANGIBLE
EVIDENCE OF HIS EXISTENCE,
IS NOT A GOD
WORTH BELIEVING IN

Burn millions in ovens, they call you a sociopath.



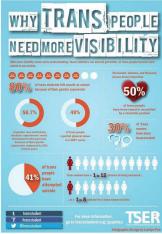
Burn billions in hell for eternity, they call you a "loving god".

STOP STOPPING YOURSELF.

because he's immortal

When you're explaining to Jesus

why his "death" isn't a sacrifice









Christians would laugh at the idea that Muslims believe Muhammad flew to heaven on a winged horse. While Christians believe Jesus flew to heaven on his own.





I fail to see how the addition of a flying horse makes it anymore ridiculous. Both are equally and completely insane



UNDERSTANDING MORALITY, A CRITICAL INQUIRY BY PETER CLAVER BIRIMUYE PETER CLEVER BIRIMUYE



Pear Readers of the OTM, Allow me share my thoughts with you on the understanding of Morality. It Should be noted that the word "Moral" etymologically comes from the Greek word "moralis" which means proper behaviour of a person in the society.

In the literally meaning, it pertains to manners, behaviours or conduct.

In the same Accord, we need to define what Morality means. It therefore refers to the system through which we determine right and wrong conduct that is to say; the guide to good or right conduct.

Often times people confuse Morality with Ethics, however it is worth to note that Ethics is the philosophical study of Morality.

In this study, ethics form the standard of what is right and wrong basing on our treasured values.

Being ethical therefore requires making moral judgement with Prudence, and use of reason. In doing so, we are at times guided by our own instincts and in many cases if the instincts tell you it's a clear choice between right and wrong, it becomes easy to follow instincts thought it is crucial to assess, evaluate situations by use of the brain (reason).

In a broader sense, Morality is then the quality of being in accordance with the standards of right or good conduct. We often hear words about religious Morality in society and items that fall into the morally sound category with qualities like good, goodness, righteousness, virtue and rightness but I found it illogical to say that in order to do good we ought to be guided by religion. No. Can't someone be good without God?

strongly believe that what is Paramount is the ultimate use of reason in whatever we do..... we ought to see, judge (using our brains) and then Act accordingly.

To define Morality, a person will use the rules or habits with regard to right and wrong that he or she follows. It is a complex system of general principles and particular judgements based on cultural, religious and philosophical concepts and beliefs. When therefore someone conforms to the codification, many times that person is considered to be moral.

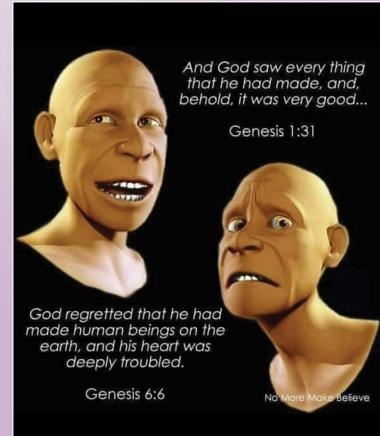
So the notion of how we ought to behave and the reality of how we do behave bare varied and real Morality behaves in accordance with one's perception of Morality.

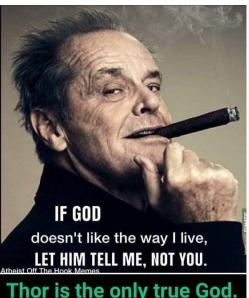
The system of standards used to produce honest, decent and ethical results are considered moral.

Finally in my honest view, we ought to be rational brings in order to be moral as well as having a moral purpose in order to make our actions socially acceptable in that not just acts of man but rather human acts (well thought of).

I thank you for reading this.

Peter Clever Birimuye is the Principal of Pearl vocational Training College.





"If you don't love me, I'll make sure you burn forever."



If it's creepy when he says it, why is it beautiful when God says it?

Thor is the only true God.

All of you who don't believe in Thor



i just want to let you know that Thor loves you.



THE GREATEST LIE IN HISTORY

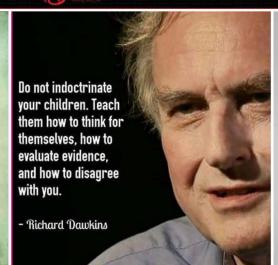
The defination of Jesus(according to christians)

Jesus is a God and the God is Jesus, God has sent Jesus but they are one, because the God is Jesus and Jesus is God, Jesus died but God didn't die because God is ever living but he

didn't die because God is ever-living but he died on the cross, but, the one who died on the cross is not the God but he's Jesus and Jesus is God! God commanded to crucify God to please the God!

Jesus doesn't know the hour or the day because none knows it exept only the Almighty God, so that, jesus is the God! None has seen the God and Jesus was seen by all people! But, Jesus is a God because, he's the incarnated God. Jesus will sit on the right of the God in the judgement day, and he is the God because, Jesus is the Lord of Glory whom God has Jesus is the Lord of Glory whom God has incarnated and he will set on the right of God.

Oh you who have a sane mind! Tell me one thing, is this a logic speech???!!!



1000 YEAR OLD

VEGAN POEM BY ONE OF THE GREATEST CLASSICAL **ARABIC POETS**

VEGAN | PHILOSOPHER | POET | WRITER

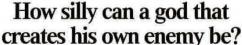
Do not unjustly eat fish the water has given up, And do not desire as food the flesh of slaughtered animals. Or the white milk of mothers who intended its pure draught for their young, not noble ladies.

And do not grieve the unsuspecting birds by taking eggs; for injustice is the worst of crimes.

And spare the honey which the bees get industriously from the flowers of fragrant plants;

For they did not store it that it might belong to others Nor did they gather it for bounty and gifts.

I washed my hands of all this; and wish that I Perceived my way before my hair went gray!





"I know Jesus will return in my lifetime." -said a billion dead people.

FYI

I don't post the things I do on my wall to change anyone's mind. I post them so friends who think like I do will know they aren't alone.



RELIGION AND THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN.

Darren Indongesit

Gabout sex and why I should bother less what a woman does with her private parts.

The deity of the old testament was pret ty much obsessed with female sexuality to a point of absurdity - reading the horrifying attempt left me with no doubt that the bible was written by very weak men who exercised all their evil fantasies on those pages.

Boko Haram still follows the directions given in the bible as we have seen time and time again. The god of the bible specifically orders his jihadists at Shiloh to kidnap young virgin girls and share them amongst the men - this is textbook Daesh and Boko Haram found in the bible.

They weren't just ordered to kidnap school-aged girls but to kill their families and all women who were not virgins.

What was so interesting in virgins that god wanted them so much?

It's the men stupid!

It's the weak men who wrote the bible and virgin girls were their fantasy objects so they had to control and subjugate.

How about another Boko Haram tradition inspired by the bible?

The bible specifically gives directions on how to find and kill girls who had premarital sex. First, the father of the bride signs his autograph on a white bedsheet in front of the two families, hands that immaculate sheet to his son in-law once he pays for his preferred girl. The new owner of the girl takes her into the other room - if the sheet is stained with blood then the product is certified authentic virgin; if the sheet is not stained the owner is supposed to run around the town like an idiot screaming and waving the unstained sheet.

Once the town people gather at the gate in preparation to stone the girl, the honour is given to the father to cast the first stone in an act of honour killing before the whole family joins in. The girl is to be buried with the head above ground then pelted till dead!

Once the town people gather at the gate in preparation to stone the girl, the honour is given to the father to cast the first stone in an act of honour killing before the whole family joins in. The girl is to be buried with the head above ground then pelted till dead!

Boko Haram does this so has Zamfara state under its drive to establish Sharia in the early 2000s.

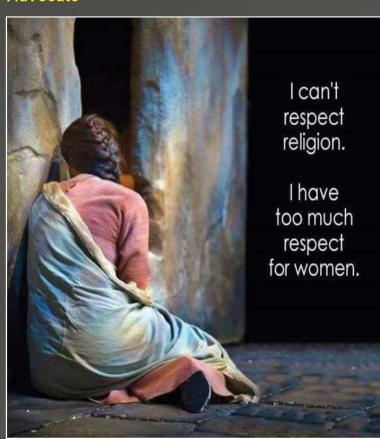
What's the difference between sharia and the bible, absolutely no difference because they are from the same source.

Seeing what the bible made of female sexuality, I get disgusted with people who still try to push the primitive virginity narrative today.

I've listened to more than 3 experienced women concur that virginity can be lost through physical activities such as intense farm work and sports, tell me how many innocent women must have suffered because some men wrote rubbish on those scriptures?

I feel sorry for people who have no conscience and read these books everyday.

DARREN INDONGESIT is a Nigerian based Scientist, Writer, Humanist and Human Rights Advocate



IF YOUR GOD WERE REAL





TODAY, EVERYONE IS SHARING THE FIRST EVER IMAGE OF A BLACK HOLE, BUT NO ONE IS SHARING STUFF ABOUT KATIE BOUMAN, THE YOUNG LADY WHO IS SINGLE-HANDEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.

3 years ago, MIT grad student Katie Bouman led the creation of a new algorithm to produce the first-ever image of a black hole. She first learned about the imaging project in high school, and decided on the spot she'd dedicate her life to it. GOOD JOB, KATIE!





I am an § Atheist.

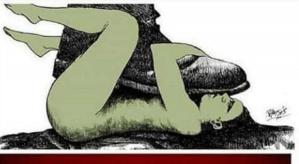
You can ridicule me. You can torture me. You can kill me.

But you don't have to!

Because you can change my mind.

With EVIDENCE.

When Noah's ark finally rested atop Mount Ararat, the kangaroos stepped off and hopped 7,726 miles straight to Australia and without any opposable thumbs, they picked up every bone from their own dead as not to leave a trace of their migration.

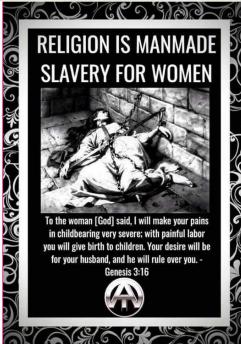


STOCKHOLM SYNDROME

Stockholm syndrome is a term used to describe a paradoxical psychological phenomenon wherein hostages express excessive admiration or praise and positive feelings towards their captors (kidnappers/abductors). These appear to be irrational in light of the danger or risk endured by the victims, essentially mistaking a lack of abuse as an act of kindness.

WakeUp

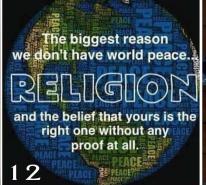








In Egypt, two male royal manicurists named Niankhkhnum and Khnumhotep were found buried together in a shared tomb similar to the way married couples were often buried. Their epigraph reads: 'Joined in life and joined in death'. Having lived in 2400 BC, they are believed to be history's oldest recorded gay couple.





THE NAGGING FRIEND Gayleen Cornelius



Everyone probably has a nagging, needy, clingy friend who seems to live off their attention. If you don't have such a friend, you're probably that one friend to your peers... Or you don't have any friends. As much as we like to think that these kinds of friends are weird, they mean a lot more to us than we think.

In fact, they want the same things we want from any friendship, the only difference being that they are open and enthusiastic about it. Yes, we all love being nagging, clingy and needy friends. It is mind blowing to think that this funny attribute about us reflects our deep sense of morality.

As a social species, we evolved to succeed and survive in groups and communities. The earliest humans moved around in small bands cooperating with each other to hunt and gather food. Compassion and empathy towards each other were necessary for survival, especially when it comes to attaining peace as a community. Social scientists from Havard University have conducted a 70 year study on what makes people happy, and the answer with overwhelming odds was relationships.

As their survey showed, many people are the happiest when they show compassion to other people and the reason for this is our evolution as a social species.

If we are to cut across every culture, we are going to find that the basic rule of morality is present. The same way our different primates have that "scratch my back and I will scratch yours" concept, is the same way we complement every individual's existence in our society. We have a common humanity and are capable of social intelligence. Religion however has been identified as the central reference for morality by our society today.

There has been over one thousand religions that humanity has followed; all of them encompassing a lot of aspects, morality being just one of them. The only thing common about all these religions is that they have the basic rule of morality.

It is commonly known as the ethics of reciprocity; found in Christianity as the Love thy neighbor clause Where the Bahai faith says, "Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself," the Brahman faith says, "This is the sum of Dharma [duty]: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you" (Mahabharata, 5:1517).

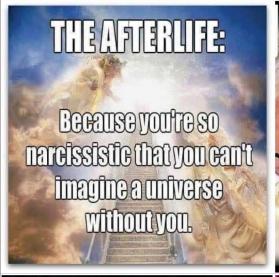
Buddhist scriptures include a verse that says, "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful" (Udana-Varga 5:18), while Jainism says, "In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief,

, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own self" (Lord Mahavira, 24th Tirthankara). The list goes on if we account for every religion that has ever existed, most of them older than Christianity which is popular in Africa. This goes on to prove that we have a common humanity. Why then do we have so many religions if we all share a common morality?

The answer is; religions are not based on morality, but divine command. The ethics of reciprocity we all relate to in every religion do not belong to these religions but to our nature as human beings. It is unfortunate that we all pretend that we are not that clingy friend, but people who have to replace morality with religious dogma. As Arthur C Clarke once said, "The greatest tragedy in human history is when religion overtook morality." Religion is based on salvation and divine obedience, regardless of whether the divine command is moral or not.

If your nagging friend is Muslim, chances are that he or she will not call you infidel because his or her compassion for you amounts to morality. That's why nagging friends are always the most trustworthy; they value the morality of your friendship better than religion. Let us channel our inner dorky - friend - selves and realize true morality and satisfactory relationships.

Gayleen Cornelius is a South African Humanist Leader, Human Rights Activist and Writer.



"You believe in a book that has talking animals, wizards, witches, demons, sticks turning into snakes, burning bushes, food falling from the sky, people walking on water, and all sorts of magical, absurd and primitive stories, and you say that we are the ones that need help?' Mark Twain

RELIGION IS DIRTY OLD MEN TEACHING PRE-TEEN GIRLS TO IGNORE SCIENCE.



Twelve (12) states have outlawed abortion after 20 weeks because the fetus might "feel pain"



Meanwhile, in all 50 states, it is permissable to perform a circumcision on a newborn male without anesthesia because doctors remain divided over whether infants can feel pain.

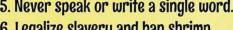
"RELIGION IS LIKE A BLIND MAN LOOKING IN A BLACK ROOM FOR A BLACK CAT THAT ISN'T THERE, AND FINDING IT."

OSCAR WILDE

I love it in the Bible when. Jesus is alone, talking to god, (himself?), and someone who wasn't there is writing about it.

- 1. Make man.
- 2. Give them free will.
- 3. Slaughter 99.9% of them for using it.
- 4. Randomly favor one group.
- 5. Never speak or write a single word.
- 6. Legalize slavery and ban shrimp.
- 7. Kill myself for a weekend.
- 8. Hide.

God's To-Do List



IF RELIGIOUS FAITH IMPROVED MORALITY



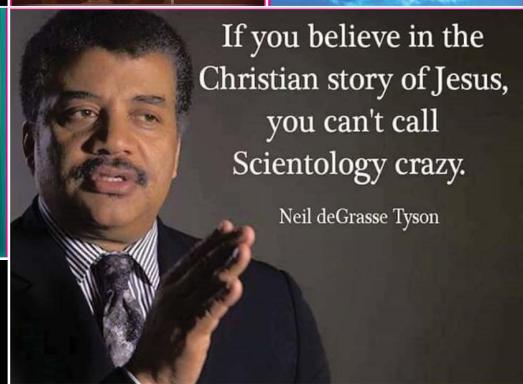
PRIESTS WOULDN'T RAPE KIDS



SUICIDE BOMBERS **WOULDN'T EXIST**



AND WOMEN WOULD HAVE EQUALITY









A CRITICAL EXAMINATION INTO THE MORALI TY OF PASTORPRENUERS IN AFRICA.

KATO MUKASA



They brand themselves as the custodians of the moral campus, they are the people to look up to and we see what their god requires the rest of us the weaker, mortal beings emulate. They tell us what is good and what is bad, they tell us what defines our destiny, what qualifies us to either go to hell or heaven.

They all start in the most humble of ways. They start with small congregations, sometimes with no built churches (call them churches without walls) in rented premises and in most cases, make shift churches. Then they preach the world of their version of god with passion, persuasion, and in no time, they have ten, one hundred, hundreds and thousands of followers.

They have a shepherd who is religiously trusted by the sheep that see them from the humble beginnings and it is such founder church members that are later to bear witness of how their god works miracles because they would have seen a church starting with family members and friends and growing into a huge enterprise that eventually attract thousands of worshippers and the god business empire blossoms and grows out of bounds like a bush fire. Their message is focused on selling one main brand, Jesus Christ the son of God. The Jesus merchandise comes in a package that includes faith healings, "miracle" performances,

exorcism, prosperity gospel books and magazines authored by themselves etc. They also trade in other items such as the so called holy handkerchiefs, water, olive oil from Israel, and some

even sell merchandize and edible items from their business ventures including rice, under garments, bread, salt etc. They claim that the products sold at church are holy and blessed and they carry blessings to those that use them. It should not therefore surprise you that majority of their worshippers (I refer to them as the sheeple) buy these products and ridiculous prices, sometimes 15 times more that what the item is sold at the local store. To the church goer, that is not thuggery, it is supporting God's ministry.

The owners of these churches, call them Ministers, or Pastors, or Bishops or Evangelists etc, always convince their gullible sheeple to donate money to the church to support establishment of church owned radio and television stations so that the word of god can be preached wide and far. The faithful worshippers raise the money through total sacrifice. Some sell their properties, others donate their properties directly to the church and the church will sell the property to raise money.

I have known individuals who have dedicated half of their salary to church development for years, there are some who have foregone meals, resorted into fasting and donated the saved money to the church. I am not talking about just a few individuals, I am talking about thousands of individuals ding exactly that, raising money through super personal sacrifices to raise money that can be taken to support church development. The church leaders fervently encourage the sheeple to pray for miracles to happen and their smoothened pressure cleverly works on the psyche of the believers that they easily convince them to attend morning prayers, lunch time and overnight prayers because it is important to keep a personal relationship with god and the more you pray the more it becomes easier for God to answer your prayers.

They are encouraged to pray to get employed, to get better jobs and to get miraculous healings. This obviously transparent nonsense disturbs my conscience a great deal. Watching these pastorprenuers uttering statements dripping with intellectual dishonesty and moral cowardice, I have always had a hard time wrapping my head to appreciate why a people can stoop so low down the logical ladder and swallow every lie the pastorprenuers trade as they promote intellectual dishonesty and laziness and yet they continue to proudly do so for generations, un challenged.

Theirs is a full time job, preaching the word of god and encouraging the sheeple to sow the seed to do god's work. So it follows that the sheeple contributes the funds, Radio and TV stations are established to further spread the word of god. Who then owns the Church Media and who is it accountable to? Does it make any profits, does it allow advertisers, do the sheeple that contributed to the establishment of the media have their adverts aired free of charge?

The sheeple does not have the courage to ask the hard questions because it is immoral to question those that god has anointed. Meanwhile, they see their pastors rise from rugs to riches, they gradually own palaces for homes, own the most luxurious cars, take their children to study in Europe and the US and some even own private jets. Still no one asks, which job does the pastor do, what is the source of all the wealth enjoyed and to whom are the pastorprenuers accountable.

Is it surprising that many of the richest pastors in the world today are based in Africa?Bishop David Oyedepo, a Nigerian born pastorprenuer has a net worth of \$150M and with over a hundred branches of his church version spread all over the world earning him hundreds of thousands of dollars each day. He among others owns private jets and stays a luxurious life that his sheeple only dreams about in heaven.

Bishop Oyedepo is not alone is the rich club, he is ranked with his colleagues in the god business that include Bishop Adeboye, T.B Joshua, Alph Lukau, Ayadele Oritsejafor, Chris Okotie, Chris Oyakhilome, Mathew Ashmolowo, Ray Macculay and Ubert Angel among others. The most successful pastor-prenuers can be traced in West and South Africa. It pays to be a smart pastor, convincing thousands of gullible sheeple selling them an invisible product and promising them heaven can be a rewarding venture.

Uganda's version of these pastorprenuers can be seen in pastors such as Samuel Kakande,

Joseph Sserwadda, Robert Kayanja and the new stubborn entrant, Aloysius Bugingo. Our version of pastorprenuers are not doing bad financially either, some like Bugingo have amassed unaccounted for wealth just in less than ten years. Thus if their God business continues to flourish, be sure as day follows light that they will soon be owning private jets just like their inspirational pastors in West and South Africa.

Do these pastorprenuers talk about morality? Yes. They are in fact the enforcers of god's version of morality. Their message is the same: they condemn homosexuality and tell their congregation that their version of god is punishing African countries for being tolerant to homosexuals.

They often say that regimes that tolerate homosexuals are agents of the devil and that the end times are near. They preach against feminism, secularism, atheism, humanism and all "isms" that tend to question the moral code as presented in the 'holy' books. Some are aggressively intolerant to even other religions branding other religious groupings as devil worshippers and positioning their own brand of religion as the most correct and the only path that leads to heaven and eternal happiness.

Do these pastors directly condemn human rights violations at the hands of the most corrupt and dictatorial regimes in their countries? Hell No. They smartly choose to leave what belongs to Caesar to Caesar of course as business people, they know it well that it is important to share a bed with regime of the day as a cushion for their own safety and prosperity. Many own private guards supplied to them by regime handlers and the sheeple will not ask why men of god should be guarded by soldiers in the first place?

Take a look at where most of these churches are located. They are built in areas that are dwellings of the most poor, less educated and in places where highly superstitious people stay. With a people having hundreds of problems, the prosperity gospel is not hard to sell. There are several red flags that would definitely attract attention of a critically thinking people but the

majority of the theists are generally blind believers, they pay less attention to the most critically observable realities such as a hitherto poor pastor amassing wealth over night and at their own expense but instead, through blind faith, they focus on how much their own faith can get them to the wealth the pastor enjoys. To them, it is through prayers that the pastors become wealth and equally, it will take prayers for them to receive the blessings of god and become wealth too. It is as simple as that. To this end, can we still say that our pastor-prenuers are moral beings that our people should look up to for inspiration, to determine how to live their lives? Depending on your definition of morality being subjective to a number of factors, I may not be the most qualified to dismiss your point of view in regard to these pastorprenuers but regardless

of the simple mantra that they keep championing, I do not see them as a people even remotely qualified to set the benchmarks on which morality can be defined.

Kato Mukasa is a Humanist Leader, Lawyer, Writer and Human Rights Activist Based in Kampala, Uganda.

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Treat others with dignity and respect.

Be ethical.

Be courageous.

Keep your word and your commitments.

Act responsibly; do your duty, and be accountable.

Live your values.

LeadingWithHonor.com

ATHEISM IS A RELIGION, JUST LIKE:

- BALD IS A HAIR COLOR
- NOT COLLECTING STAMPS IS A HOBBY
- ABSTINENCE IS A SEX ACT
- OFF IS A CHANNEL ON THE TELEVISION
- UNEMPLOYED IS A JOB
- HEALTHY IS A DISEASE
- CLEAR IS A COLOR
- BAREFOOT IS A TYPE OF SHOE

We don't thank god, we thank:

Firefighters.

Rescue men and women.

Doctors.

Paramedics.

Nurses.

Scientists.

Teachers.

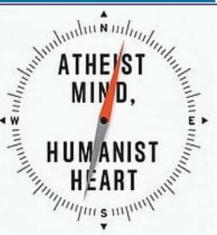
Soldiers.

Police.

Mental Health Professionals.

Social Workers.

Thank you.



I AM NOT RELIGIOUS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN DOGMA AND TRADITIONS THE LORD IS NOT MY SHEPHERD, FOR I AM NOT A SHEEP.







GOD WAS INVENTED BY CAVEMEN ...to explain THUNDER

"Terrorists are not misinterpreting Quran. It is clearly written in **Quran that Non-Muslims** must be killed. Secularists who defend Islam have never studied the Quran. Quran (Islam) is the root cause of terrorism."

- Taslima Nasreen

What is religion?

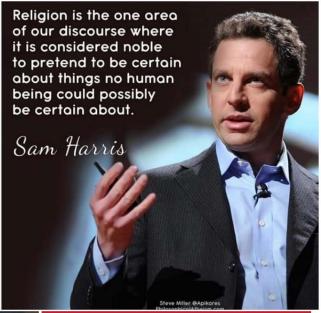
Religion is idiocy in the guise of intelligence, hubris masquerading as humility – it is belief dressed as knowledge, hate disguised as love, and fiction parading as fact.



Forgotten were the elementary rules of logic, that extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence and that what can be asserted without evidence can also be dismissed without evidence.

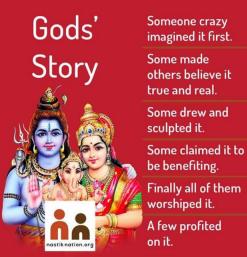
(Christopher Hitchens)





Belief in God stifles modernization: Studies show that intensely religious countries are less innovative and produce less patents than those that aren't. It is science, rather, that has been at the heart of innovation and discovery.





PLACING YOUR
HAND ON
A BOOK
OF LIES
AND SWEARING
TO TELL
THE TRUTH.

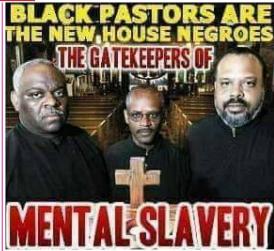
Faithless Vagabond

There is no harmony between religion and science When science was a child, religion sought to strangle it in the cradle. Now that science has attained its youth, and superstition is in its dotage, the trembling palsied wreck says to the athlete: "Let us be friends." It reminds me of the bargain the

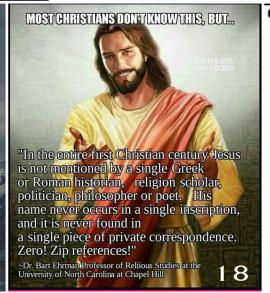
cock wished to make with the horse: "Let us

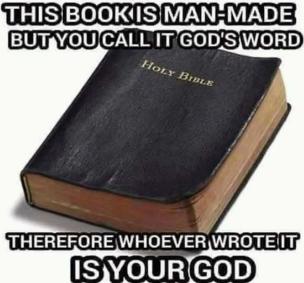
agree not to step on each others feet."

Robert G. Ingersoll, "The Truth Seeker" SPECIAL KIND OF CON ARTIST TO GET RICH WITHOUT PAYING TAXES BY SELLING PEOPLE AN INVISIBLE PRODUCT FOR 10% OF THEIR INCOME THAT THEY CAN'T SEE UNTIL AFTER THEY DIE.



THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE UNEDUCATED. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY ARE EDUCATED JUST ENOUGH TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TAUGHT. AND NOT EDUCATED ENOUGH TO QUESTION WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TAUGHT.





THE BIOLOGY OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND TRANS SEXUALITY An Analysis by ABRAR HASSEN.



Vriting this piece is no easy task for me as I have only recently started looking into the complex phenomena of homsexuality and transsexuality. But I want to make full use of this oppurtunity to share what I have learnt so far. These phenomena are still not fully understood and are being studied. The purpose of this piece is to present very briefly what science has uncovered and thereby encourage

the reader to do further research.

behaviour is observed in a wide variety of animals. Starting from dogs to sheep. This observation alone makes it obvious that there is a biological component that determines homosexuality. It cannot simply be a result of culture or choice. But even if it was, it still would not be wrong as it is a consenting relationship between 2 adults and no one is being hurt.

There are genetic factors as well as environmental factors that give rise to homosexuality. It has been observed that if one twin is homosexual, the chances that the other twin will also be homosexual is greater in case of identical twins than in case of non identical twins. In other words, identical twins are both more likely to be both homosexuals than non identical twins. Identical twins share 100% of their DNA and non identical twins only share 50% of their DNA.

So the observations are what we would expect if genes played a role in homosexuality. But it is often the case that one identical twin is homosexual but the other is heterosexual. So DNA cannot be the only factor that play a role in homosexuality. The environment also plays a role. One twin study estimated that genes played a role of 30% and the environment around 70%.

n recent years, specific parts of the human DNA have been shown to be related to homosexuality. Homosexual people have similarities in certain parts of their DNA. Two such parts are 8q12 and Xq28. [2]Besides DNA, hormonal factors have also been shown to play a role in hmosexuality

Women who have been exposed to increased level of androgen (a hormone) are more likely to be homosexual.[3]

omosexuality is an important part of nature. Homosexual members do not reproduce themselves but they take care of their neices and nephews and allow more reproduction by their heterosexual relatives. This is called kin selection or gay uncle hypothesis. Homosexual behavior also helps to form strong alliances among members of the same sex which is advantageous for survival. This has been observed in apes. [4]

It is a well perpetuated myth that homosexual people are more likely to suffer from STDs than heterosexual people. But the reality is, this risk is higher specifically for male homosexuals who

Practice anal sex. The risk of STD can be avioided by regular medical check ups and contraceptives. However, there is another factor in play here. That is discrimination. Homosexual people have poorer access to health care and they feel uncomfortable sharing their sexual identity with their doctors for fear of discrimination. This is an important factor that makes homosexual people vulnerable to diseases. [5] The study I provided has been done in America.

ne can expect the situation to be much worse in countries such as Uganda or Bangladesh. Being a student of medicine, I personally feel that the entire field should be ashamed of this.

Now let's talk about transexuality. Transexuality is a condition where a person identifies as a member of the opposite gender. They feel that they are trapped in the body of the wrong gender. This is a legit biological condition. Trans people are not pretenders as is wrongly assumed by many people.

There is a respectable amount of evidence that the brains of transexuals are wired like that of the gender that they identify with. A man who identifies as a woman has a brain resembling a female brain. Two regions of the brain, striae terminalis and the interstitial nucleus of the hypothalamus are known to be sexually dimorphic.

That is, they are different in men and women. These parts of the brains of trans women (man to woman transitioners) resemble the female brain istead of male brain. This has been observed even before the trans person has stared hormone therapy to transition to a woman.[6]There are also genetic factors that causes transexuality. The gene coding for androgen receptor is defective in man to woman transsexuals.[7]

One important thing that should be stated is that transsexuality is no longer considered a mental disorder.[8] A better understanding of the condition made us realize that it makes no sense to classify it as a mental illness. So the WHO, American Medical Association and American Psychiatric Association no longer considers transsexuality to be a mental illness.[9] It may be a bit hard to grasp for some people but it is simple really.

Transsexual people are not delusional. A trans woman (man who turned woman) does not think she has a uterus. She does not think she has the body of a woman. She is well aware of her male body. But she feels that she is trapped in a wrong body. This is an accurate self perception because as discussed earlier, her brain resembles a female brain. Female brain placed in a male body. There is nothing delusional about her self perception.

Some people often point out that the suicide rate among trans people is high. And they use this fact to falsely claim that trans people are mentally ill. But this is of course, a flawed argument. A sane person can commit suicide in times of distress. While mentally ill people are more likely to commit suicide, sane people undergoing a lot of distress can choose this option also. Trans people are under constant distress. Not only because of a mismatch between their gender identity and body but also because of harassment.

They don't hear a voice in their head that tells them to kill themselves unlike schizophrenics. It has been shown that suicide rates fall once their family accepts them for who they are. The point is, they have a genuine source of distress causing them to pick suicide as an option very often. [10] The suicide rates therefore does not prove mental illness.

In conclusion, homosexuality and transsexuality are complex and interesting phenomena that are often misunderstood by the lay person. Education about these issues is there for important to free people from their prejudices.

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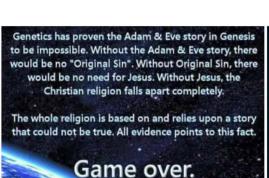
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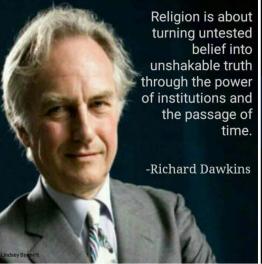
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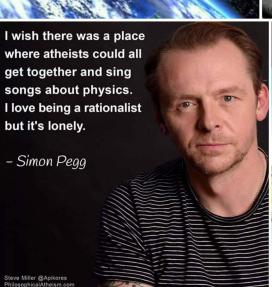
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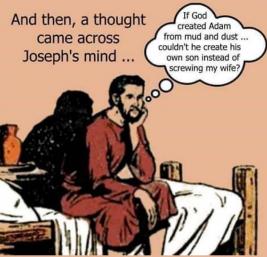














"I don't know."

"Therefore, God!"

"I don't know."

"Let's find out!"



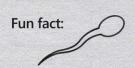
The oldest found homosapien fossil is 195 thousand years old.
Written language is only 8 thousand years old.

Mankind existed for over 187 thousand years without religious books, so why do you think the truth can be found through religious books?

Science.

Because reality is too interesting to be content with ignorance.





Humans are deuterostomes, which means that when they develop in the womb the anus forms before any other opening. Which basically means at one point you were nothing but an asshole.

Some people never develop beyond this stage





THE DEATH OF RELIGION AND ITS MORALITY AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES.

by Humanist Ronnie.



come from a deeply religious background and for a better part of my life I was schooled into religious dogma and mythology. Morality was purely understood from a religious perspective and it was based on the Judeo-Christian Ten Commandments. Thus to know what is good from what

is bad was purely based on what the holy book. My parents and gaurdians believed in deities and some what ensured that as children under their custody, we believed in what they belived in. There was no room to doubt openly openly because questions were not entertained. We strictly followed what the preachers and our elders belived to be true and as a result, there was no morality that in a person that didn't believe in God.

Going to school and getting exposed to science was the first brain booster that I got and it gradually put me unto the path of skeptisim. However, choosing to become a mechanical engineer exposed me to the world of reality or call it the scientific world. Working on machines mentainance, fixing broken vehicle engines, rebuilding car bodies that have been wrecked by accidents, fixing breaks and resurrecting dead and written off cars back into seemingly "brand new cars" is one such thing that made me a s a mechanic to understand the meaning of a God from a different perspective.

The relationship between a mechanic and a car is literally the same between God and humanity. It has been said that God is all knowing, all powerful, is a giver of life and he is all loving among others. Inversely put as a mechanical engineer I love giving life to the cars I fix, I decide how exactly to fix each broken section, I discard off parts that are no longer useful and I insert new ones. I also give free Will to my creations but I still remain in control to ensure that the power built with in the machine doesn't exceed the abilities of the driver other wise accidents are bound to occur.

In 2009, I got in touch with the Humanist Association for Leadership, Equity and Accountability (HALEA LTD) first as the mechanic repairing

the cars that did charity work but later on I got interested in knowing more about what the organisation stands for.

I discover3d organised humanism. This is the most important world view I was looking for. Through their seminars and workshops I learnt that humanism is an attitude of mind that is ventured in man kind and human interest and not to the exclusion of other animal species.

I learnt that humanists don't believe in Gods, angels, devils and other make believe beings. I got to know that humanism simply means to think for your self and to act in the other east of others in accordance to reason, co operation with others and in persuit of the dentifrice method that is aimed at the promotion of Human happiness.

I understand that as a mechanical engineer, humanism is the best world view for me because it is not only scientific but it is above all people centred. As a mechanic, my interest should not be all about. Making money but rather promoting human happiness as I make money for my self. The discovery of humanism and how it resonates with my scientific life marked the death of religion in my life.

The question of morality often springs up in my mind. It is wrong for anyone to assume that people without religion or a people that don't that don't believe in a God can not be morally up right. Morality it's self is subjective, it cannot be defined in just one simple sentence of do this and don't do that or this is good and this is bad. When the scientific method is faceted in, we start asking questions to find out why some human action can be declared immoral yet another human behaviour is declared moral.

Humanism introduces the idea of free inquiry and we are encouraged to question everything in order to seek satisfactory answers. Humanists don't do good because they want to be rewarded for doing good or because they fear to be punished for doing bad.

Rather humanists do good because it's the rational thing to do since doing good is in its self humane. Therefore, if you brought your in my garage, the humanists n me tells me that I should fix your car not only to your satisfaction but to that desired standard in which I would be very comfort-

Humanism would imply that I practically offer social justice, offering the best services in my power that safeguards the life of people that will use that car. The adversment Of technology and science has practically meant the death of old gods and old religions as we know them from the "holly" books and instead introduced another new meaning of religion and God from a scientific perspective. As science progresses, life span is prolonged and many diseases that hitherto were incurable can not be effectively treated and managed. And this is a big blow to religious because religion is premised on the concept suffering and a good life in heaven. In practical terms, science is answering many of the un known questions that the framers of religion couldn't answer by the time they invented it. Thus, without suffering and without fearing imminent death religion loses its grip as people who can reason and think freely start questioning it and arrive at rational conclusions. There is no longer need to pray for heavenly cures because science and technology advancement is progressively fixing things.

When you come to my garage to fix your car, I do all my best to fix it and ultimately do so without resorting to prayers. Many times I tell my clients not to simply pray when ever they sense that their cars are not in good condition but rather to seek professional advice from car mechanics and have their car challenges fixed without waiting for tragic accidents to happen. In other words, in today's world The individual has become the perfect meaning of God.

Old religions will gradually be left to mostly a people who cannot think for them selves and a people who hang on religion because of the economic benefits they delive from remaining believers. Religious consolation is dangerous to the advancement of societies.

It is important that such damaging beliefs continue to be bashed through critical thinking seminars and dialogues and public debates such as this'd ones advanced by HALEA. It nonsensical to see a driver and passengers praying crying loud to God asking God to protect them in their journey instead of doing a thorough scientific inspection, tasting the level of engine oil, water,

lights and ensuring that the break system is in good condition.

We can only make the world better if we encourage each other to seek knowledge that advances critical thoughts, to seek to live an ethical life that makes us better human beings abc to live a purpose driven life that respects humanity.

Humanist Ronnie - Amechanic Engineer and a Humanist based in Kampala uganda

As a Motor Vehicle Mechanic, Ronnald believes in being practical in watever he does. In the pictorial below, he puts his skills at work.

Humanism emphasises being practical in our aproach to life. We use that approach to handle challenges that we face in our day today strugles.



HALEA YOUTH SUPPORT CENTER CHARITY CAMPAIGN IN MAKERERE KIVULU SLUM

A PICTORIAL

HALEA is a charity organisation working among the poor in the slums of Kampala. We do outreach campaigns that involve giving burseries for needy students, supporting young mothers go back to school as well as teaching teenager girls how to make sanitary towels to keep them in school. In addition we donate basic items such as clothes, shoes and scholastic materials to young people under our care. below is a pictorial of our recent outreach. Consider supporting our work by making a donation towards our activities.



SUPPORT HALEA TODAY:

Support HALEA's Activities & Programs:

Are you that individual who loves our work? Are you that individual who would love to associate with HALEA and all our good activities, we have consistently provided over the years, with proven excellent record of success in service delivery? Are YOU that person Saying YES? YES, I want to join HALEA as a member, Yes, I want to support HALEA as a Contributor and YES I want to support HALEA as a donor to help in furthering the good programs being done. I want to be part of those individuals contributing some funds to support the hard working and very committed volunteers and full time workers at HALEA office, I want to support the Young Mothers and Women Empowerment Project at Pearl Vocational Training College, I want to support HALEA's activities especially the Open Talk Debates, the Open Talk Magazine's expanding operations and other HALEA activities including Slum Teens Empowerment, Community Out Reach, Humanists Celebrants Empowerment, Influencing public policy, promoting Human Rights and Civil Rights and Liberties, Research, and Ethical Living. If you are that person, kindly donate your contribution on the following Account:

Account Name: Humanists Association for Leadership, Equity and Accountability (HALEA LTD) P.O.BOX 8664 Kampala, Organisation's registered charity Number:96101, PO BOX, 8664 Kampala, Uganda, Plot 41, Makerere Hill Road, Kampala City.

Our BANK: STANBIC BANK UGANDA, BANK IDENTIFIER CODE (BIC) SBICUKXXXX

Our ACCOUNT NUMBER (IBAN) 9030005642565

Office: 031-2-291-427, mobile: +256 772-576-635 / +256 704 60 95 34.

Our Email: haleauganda@gmail.com.

HALEA BANK DETAILS, SUMMARY

HUMANIST ASSOCIATION FOR LEADERSHIP, EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (HALEA)

Plot 41, Makerere Hill Road, Kampala	Organisational Address
+256 704609534	Telephone
haleauganda@gmail.com	Organisation E-mail Address
PO Box 8664, Kampala, Uganda	Organisation Postal Address
96101	Organisational Number
Stanbic Bank Uganda Ltd Wandegeya branch	Name of Bank
SBICUGKXXXX	BIC – Bank Identifier Code
9030005642565	IBAN - Account Number

HALEA is a Charity Organisation Offering free services and relying on volunteers. It is sometimes hard to operate without basic facilitation to do the work we do. We therefore call upon you to consider donating to HALEA to enable us continue do what we love to do.