



Jagbir Singh <s.jagbir@gmail.com>

THE MOTHER: Observer and Consciousness of Quantum Mechanics I told Lalita point-blank: "You will be raped for life." Rob Hall was gentler: "Religion is a poison

1 message

Jagbir Singh <s.jagbir@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 9:03 AM

To: "The Mother: Observer and Consciousness of Quantum Mechanics" <the-mother-observer-and-consciousness-of-quantum-mechanics@googlegroups.com>

I told Lalita point-blank: "You will be raped for life." Rob Hall was gentler: "Religion is a poison that stunts the growth of the human species globally as a whole." Carol Beaton agreed: "All that is wrong in our world is because of religion." Hugh Carlyle fumed: "Take any religious book you want - Bible, Koran, or Torah and you will find passages that are so grossly offensive, immoral and violent to women, homosexuals, and non-believers that most of us find them hard to stomach." Goran Hinic pleaded: "Jagbir! Stop or I will go crazy!" I cared for his sanity.

I assure Lalita, Alejandra, and Kiran: "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence, as the saying goes." Just have ears that can hear. (August 17, 2020)

Ben Smith

28 minutes ago

I was raised with religion (Catholic) and believe me, I don't want to make the same mistake with my kids as my parents made with me.

Janet McNaughton

29 minutes ago

I think the important thing is to raise a child who is not fearful and suspicious of people who believe other things, regardless of religion or lack of it. We are atheists but child was free to do whatever she wanted with regard to religion, including attending church with friends. You want to communicate a strong sense of ethics and a sense of wonder in the world, and make sure your children never hate or fear others for their beliefs whether you embrace a religion or don't, the result will be the same.

Otis Fernandez

53 minutes ago

Being free of religion is a good thing. Humanist communities provide the same social interaction if that is what you crave. if it is answers, science is where to turn.

Geraldine Glodek

1 hour ago

As a small child, I had a wonderful spiritual life devoid of rigid dogma. During walks around the city, my dad would take me into a Catholic church "to say hello to Jesus". It was like dropping in on a neighbour glad for our company. We didn't say anything out loud. Jesus simply understood our thoughts. He was interested in everything that happened to us, even the tangled hair I woke up with after going to bed with a wad of bubblegum. Jesus was looking out for us day by day. This reassuring spiritual life ended when I was six. I had to study the Baltimore Catechism after the sudden death of my mother and the permanent institutionalization of my dad, a factory worker who was already a shell-shocked WWII veteran. Bereft of his beloved wife and left with 6 kids under twelve, he had "a permanent nervous breakdown". The catechism taught me that most of the painful emotions I felt were Deadly Sins, which I heard about daily in Catholic School. Children were beaten for "giving the wrong answers" during our word-for-word recitations of the catechism. There was so much emphasis on offending God, so many ways to make him mad. All he did was record our sins, and he'd get us for them when we died. When three of our elementary school children died suddenly, the nuns used these occasions to remind us that we never knew when we were going to die, and those children would be burning in Purgatory or Hell if they were not in the full "state of Grace" at the moment of death. My beloved, caring Jesus became like the ugly troll hiding under the bridge, waiting to nab little children and throw them into the fire. Needless to say, I'd give anything to have been raised in no religion. Ms. Racanelli, maybe your friend with the raised eyebrow wasn't just being smugly supercilious.

Joe Rootliek

1 hour ago

Even if there was no Religion, war would have happened over wealth, jealousy, human ambition anyways. Religion was the scapegoat for those who do not believe.

DNA, our own bodies regulation of the 21 or so elements that keep us alive, our heart pump system, our lung system, just did not come by chance or randomness of atheistic thoughts. The moon, without it, we would not have life on earth... It was designed.

You do not have to believe in any organized religion to realize, life was not just something that came out of a premordial mess. A cell cannot even be created in a lab without buying parts.

Our lava core, essential to the magnetic field that keeps oxygen here on earth. Obviously it is designed by a higher power.

Michael Laderoute

1 day ago

I was born and raised a Catholic. I guess there are some people that need to feel that there is a higher power to praise for their lives and so they can get to this mythical place called heaven. I personally believe that religion is like George Carlin said, " One of the best b.s. stories of all time!" More people have died on this planet in the name of religion than any other reason. For this planet and its living entities, there must be a fundamental change in our understanding of how to interact with each other. One of the best ways is for people to see the overall universe and where we are in it. We are on such a miniscule rock in the middle of our small galaxy of which there is billions, it is beyond our comprehension. In our lifetime and millions more lifetimes it would take us to get to another planet that could support life as we know it. If we are to praise anybody it should be the scientific community.

Katy Smith

6 months ago

I understand the disconnect when you don't partake in certain ceremonies or rituals (all my extended family are Catholic and know what to say/do in a church and I felt out of place not knowing these rituals at my Uncle's funeral).

However, teaching a child spirituality and connection with something deeper than them is more than learning a string of words or reading from a book/showing up to church regularly. There are countless ways to show your

child there is meaning to life in an understandable, tangible way. Showing them "the Golden rule" that belongs to every single religion (in different words, but it is the same underlying truth). Showing them the beauty found in nature that exists without being forced, without being taught. Flowers know how to blossom, animals know how to deliver their young. Life is either meaningless or meaningful. There is nothing to enforce this other than one's perspective. You can teach your child that there is beauty and wonder without deciding what rule book they need to follow.

Tanner McNabb

6 months ago

I was raised without religion, and briefly as a pre-teen, I thought I was missing something. Very shortly afterwards, I started thinking more and more for myself, and interacted with more and more people about their upbringing (religious or not), and now I am extremely grateful I was NOT raised religious.

In every case of someone I've met who had a religious upbringing, they struggled to think for themselves as teens and young adults, when they made mistakes they not just had their own guilt, but the guilt of their parents and their church to follow them, etc. Not healthy

And that's not even touching on the fact the church has a well documented history of child abuse and sexual abuse....not a chance I'd leave my kids alone with someone from a church.

John Vermeer

7 months ago

All religions are based on the golden rule.

Unfortunately that becomes clouded by their dogmas, rules, rituals, idols, images and holy books. The cornerstone of the Catholic faith is that your earthly life should be dedicated to "God" with a promise of eternal life in "heaven" but that you can't get there on your own. You have to go through their church. Sad.

Furthermore, religions indoctrinate children from an age long before they can reason for themselves in the same way political regimes do. Doubly sad.

Ironically religions including the Christian faiths do little more than divide us, hardly a positive interpretation of the golden rule. Notice that all religions have developed sub-sects because their own members can't even agree on their dogmas, rules, rituals and so on.

By all means educate young people about religions' dogmas. Religious stories may be useful in explaining elements of the golden rule. They will learn that in fact it's possible to be spiritual without being religious. It's possible to live fully by the golden rule, to be a good person, not because you wish to earn a mythical reward from a supernatural creation of mankind's imagination but just because it's the right thing to do.

I'm confident that this remarkable young man will reach the same logical conclusion.

Charleston Robles

7 months ago

Lack of religion isn't the problem. A lack of moral compass is.

Morality largely originates from religion or culture. People in places like Japan and Korea tend to show a higher level of morality, and less violence because they pass on those values to the next generation.

That cannot be said for Americans and Canadians, where the highly liberal culture is to embrace constant change, and reject tradition. Nobody stops to question whether the change is actually good for society. And so they adopt ALL change, including the types that are detrimental to society. And there are many more bad

ideas than good ones.

Sam Ho

7 months ago

I used to know 2 who are brothers who lived nearby. Both joined a seminary and became Catholic priests. Their parents are devout Catholics and spend a lot of time doing volunteer work for the church. I have nothing against people making life choices. When they get into a discussion on moral & ethical issues, they ended up agreeing with the Catholic Church's position.

The 2 young men went to a religious Order in Connecticut affiliated with the Legion of Christ. The Church needed more priests to replace those retiring and the Legion attracted many young people so everybody was happy.

After hearing media reports in the 1990s that the founder of the Legion Fr. Marcial Marciel molested children in Mexico was transferred to the Vatican by Pope JP-II, it's hard to accept the Church having any moral authority over churchgoers. And then 1 of the brothers now an ordained priest sent an Email to his friends telling them that they should pray for their own sins instead of focusing on the world's problems. There are many pedophile priests in the Church and "good" priests who are covering up their problems. And there are many who would go to church every week as if the problems in the Church are not important.

The end of the day religious affiliation is a personal choice. There are devout people in the Catholic Church who overlook the problem of priests who committed sex crimes is their choice. Don't like to see people who go around the neighborhood sharing their faith expecting to bring people into their church.

Tim Morgan

7 months ago

If you want your child to be a part of something, there are far better groups to join than one that believes in an invisible man who lives in the sky. You want your child to have a sense of belonging, join a community charity group, get them involved in some clubs that's what I do in my community and so do my kids. As for the question of ethics and the possibility of an afterlife, I teach them right and wrong and the MANY different possibilities when it comes to the here after. We keep an open mind, I don't tie them down to just Christianity or any other one ethos. I teach them a very Agnostic view point.

Again there are many healthy ways to give children a sense of community belonging outside of organized religion.

Will Webster

7 months ago

You do not need religion to impart a sense of community, culture, history or ethics to your child. In fact, subjecting a child to religious indoctrination may well do the opposite.

What children need is honest parenting, not the hypocrisy of joining a religion not because you believe, but because you want them to have community.

If you want your child to have community, let them play and interact in the community.

If you want them child to know culture, take them to cultural events.

If you want them to understand history, expose them to a liberal education.

If you want them to possess ethics, be ethical yourself. Giving lip service to some religion that you do not believe in yourself is not ethical, nor is demanding they adopt a religious notion just because you do!

Nadia Berg

7 months ago

I am very glad that I was not raised with religion.

I looked into them a bit in high school to see if any made sense to me, but they did not. They all basically say that 'god is love', yet so many spew hatred at one another for believing in the wrong god[s], and so many motivate their believers with guilt, shame, and fear. I live my life with integrity and I have good morals, and I don't need religion for that. I do not feel comfortable in churches, even the most liberal, non-denominational ones, and I certainly don't feel left out or like there is something missing in my life and religion could fix. Apparently religiosity is a genetic trait, and I obviously don't have that one!

Steve Cohen

7 months ago

If your parents did not indoctrinate you into a religion - count your blessings!

Sam Ho

7 months ago

Sorry to say some religion is forced onto a child before he/she has the intellect to choose the personal path.

I traveled to Malaysia last year. It is theoretically a secular country with a Muslim majority. By default, every child born to a Malay parent (1 side of the family), you are automatically considered a Muslim by default. There is always the choice of not being a Muslim later in life but there is the peer pressure to stay within the religion.

Some religions like Roman Catholic, the parents who are already in it will baptize a child at an infant. Goes back to the days of high infant mortality in Europe that baptism will cleanse away a child's original sins so that he/she can go to heaven. The choice has been made on his/her behalf by the parents since the child is not old enough to choose. And he/she will go through communion, confirmation and other steps of becoming a full Catholic with the parents being the guardians. The parents being regular churchgoers, the child comes along as the only option.

Sam Ho

7 months ago

Reply to @henry king:

People can make all sorts of claims if you believe in his/her religion, you will have salvation when you die. Religion is supposed to be preaching love and compassion to your neighbors yet people fight over different beliefs claiming 1 is superior to the other. You can only treat somebody as as brother if he is in the same religion.

Some people build a wall around themselves and don't associate with others outside their faith or accept others at face value regardless of their beliefs.

John Vermeer

7 months ago

Reply to @Henry James: And they divide us on the basis of their names, their dogmas, their beliefs.

harold stanley

7 months ago

My wife and I grew up in religious households. As adults we decided to leave the church and raise our son in a non religious household. Living in a remote part of BC our then 10 year old son wanted to join his friends at a summer camp run by a local christian church. We were told there was no religious teachings at the camp. When we picked him up a week later he was singing hymns and criticising us for our non christian behavior. Young minds are easily manipulated and it took a while for him to get back to "normal". Best to leave the choice of whether to be religious up to the individual not the parent. At univeresity our son majoried in Religious Studies. After 4 years and a degree with distinction he remains a humanist and is skeptical of all religions.

Paul Bonnette

7 months ago

Educate your child on a variety of world religions then, and let him decide which he accepts as most "True". Indoctrinating children into a particular faith that they will be beholden to for the rest of their life, is child abuse plain and simple.

Gerald Fremont

7 months ago

I just can't understand anybody who would push children into religious brainwashing sessions. It's beyond me.

Being mesmerized by rituals is not good enough to put children into a state of mind that will prevent them from looking inside themselves to find their true personality.

Clive Badden

7 months ago

Neither path is a mistake, they are just choices. I have no problem with people embracing religion for comfort and answers to things they either don't have the intelligence or education to answer themselves. Ultimately, I hope that children that are indoctrinated into a religion do not lose a sense of skepticism and continue to seek answers. It's sad to see so many influential people these days entangled in the harmful rigid dogma(s) of religions. Religion continues to be the root of everything that is wrong in this world with (of course) the most devout being the most problematic.

Dale Chapman

7 months ago

I respect and totally understand your decision. I was raised as part of a church, but I never felt like I was part of the church community as many of the people in my church were very judgemental. As for knowing all of the rituals, I understand that you see it as important. I have a different perspective. I was in grade seven when the Jonestown massacre occurred. Ever since then, I have had a deep distrust of blindly following rituals.

Ernie Walker

7 months ago

The problem with having children attend church is that by the time they are old enough to make their own decisions, the guilt they feel and have pushed on them by the various churches makes that decision almost impossible to make. Our children were brought up in a home where we taught them to be fair, honest, polite and help other people when help is needed. Unfortunately not enough people live that way including many

that claim and brag about be religious.

Sean Adams

7 months ago

Why????? When we should be encouraging the opposite. Religion is antiquated and has no place in society. It is a crutch against reality and often sparks wars and disrespect. Just be a good person, you shouldn't need a mystery being to tell you that. Imagine how much money would flow into the system if religious groups paid taxes. It's entertainment.

Susie Smith

7 months ago

Having been brought up Roman Catholic allowed me to form a belief in God (however my parents were not overly religious - didn't attend church every Sunday). Being someone who questions most things, I have also come to the belief that ORGANIZED religion are some of the most hypocritical organizations around. So now I am a person who believes in God (to me God is hope) but I do not believe I need to practice rituals and hypocritical rules of an organized religion. I do not have to attend a specific building at a specific time if I need to reach for the hope (God)

Bill Dixon

7 months ago

I couldn't disagree more. Not knowing the words to prayers is the last reason to push religion on a child.

As someone of Québécoise and Irish heritage, there was a habitual attempt to make me into a Catholic, but I saw through it all by the time I was 9. Religion is a toxic influence in modern society, and does far more to separate and push people apart than it does bring them together.

And it only helps one deal with tragedy or other forms of life's events and stresses if that person is a hard-core believer; if you don't believe in mysticism and immortality, then it won't help.

As for the benefits of "Irish Catholic culture", the Church in Ireland has a horrific history, and the Irish have suffered greatly because of that association.

In my opinion, religious organizations are dangerous places for children, and it's unfathomable to me why a non-religious parent would ever force her children to become a member of one.

Navin Johnson

7 months ago

I was raised WITH religion (Catholic) and I don't want to make the same mistake for my boys.

Rob Hall

7 months ago

I think this is huge, huge, huge mistake!! You want to raise your child religious simply because you felt awkward the few times you were exposed to religious rituals? And you think the sense of community that comes with being apart of a church is a good thing? But at what cost? Distortion of your child's sense of logic and rationality! His sense of well being, they tell you you are sick and broken (figuratively), and only they have the cure! How will your son understand the many facts in Science if Religious ideas have gotten into his brain first. Did you not pay any attention to the many discussions online in 2008-10 pertaining to the books, lectures and debates from people like Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris? Religion is a

poison that stunts the growth of the Human species globally as a whole. We would do a lot better if we started breeding less religious folk not more!!

Rick E. Williams

7 months ago

I don't understand the logic here. I totally get the community aspects of church/mosque/synagogues which are arguably positive in a very narrow sense. But it's all still built around a basic falsehood and relies on indoctrination, something that can last well into adulthood and beyond and can be unshakable later in life. Indoctrination, which is a kind of brain washing (or its a kind of tribalism, take your pick - I mean look how geographic religion is) is not a good thing in my view. It interferes with free thinking, something that I think everyone should have an unimpeded ability to engage in.

Bob Gillis

7 months ago

"A religion to call his own" It seems to me that organized religion tends to be someone else's. Would children not be better off deciding what things to believe on their own terms instead of looking at a menu of approved organizations ?

Dom Pantone

7 months ago

Reply to @Bob Gillis: An excellent point. Religious indoctrination of children especially when it comes to the fear and punishment based monotheism should be criminalized much in the same way we currently do other forms of psychological abuse. It is illegal to threaten the child with bodily harm and torture and confining them to a basement as punishment and yet...it is perfectly legal, and even seen by some a sign of virtue, to threaten children with eternal damnation and torture in the fiery pits of Hell if they disobey the man made rules of conduct by an alleged celestial entity. Adults can chose to believe anything they want but the brainwashing of children into harmful myths and superstitions (which is how most religions get their new members) should be outlawed outright.

Carol Beaton

7 months ago

Well, I was raised with religion and raised my child without religion. I KNOW she is better for it.

My one rule for life, is treat others as you would like to be treated.

All that is wrong in our world is because of religion.

Laura Mack

7 months ago

"A child is not a Christian child, not a Muslim child, but a child of Christian parents or a child of Muslim parents. This latter nomenclature, by the way, would be an excellent piece of consciousness-raising for the children themselves. A child who is told she is a 'child of Muslim parents' will immediately realize that religion is something for her to choose -or reject- when she becomes old enough to do so."

— Richard Dawkins, The God Delusion

Deb A

7 months ago

Reply to @William Burnham: Hi there:) Atheists have nothing to prove. We are simply denying the claims that religions make regarding, supreme being, miracles, taking animals, and so forth. The burden of proof is on the person using faith (belief in something in the absence of proof) to believe. Atheists are quite willing to change their views when the evidence is shown but we are still waiting. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence, as the saying goes. Atheists use science and reason. Religions are the ones using power and influence. History will show the evidence of this. So, atheists should not just keep quiet. On the contrary they should continue to spread science and reason and question everything. Religion is an idea and all ideas should be scrutinized. Thank you for reading.

Lorne Callaghan

7 months ago

I used to hide in the orchard with my brother Sunday morning to avoid church. My dad would drop us off on the way to the golf course.. Religion shouldn't be forced on children.

Rick Bauersy

7 months ago

Reply to @Lorne Callaghan: I used to be forced to go to church twice on Sunday, and then a couple evenings a week. All to the detriment of being a kid, my grades and just doing things I would rather have done. It destroyed the relationship between my siblings and parents, and to this day has been the main wedge between us. Some argue families that pray together stay together, I would argue those that pray together are less close than all my friends who have families who never really spent as much time with church or religion. People do not expect perfection from Christians, just authenticity. And that is hard to find

Mark Sobkow

7 months ago

Can't agree. Religion is a pox upon society, dragging us down with tenets passed on by word of mouth by illiterate and uneducated shepherds and such. It is not based on facts or rationality; the whole thing is a fiction made up by mankind to explain the wonders of a universe they didn't understand in the least.

If you need religion to teach your child morality, it is because you are unwilling or unable to teach them to simply feel their own compassion and to be able to put themselves in other people's shoes and think about how those others feel. All religion teaches you is mindless rules and regulations; it doesn't teach you how to THINK about the results of what you intend to do.

Rick Bauersy

7 months ago

Reply to @Mark Sobkow: I have heard the morality argument over and over from hypocritical, nasty and judgemental religious zealots my entire life. It's why I eventually rejected any religion despite being brought up in it from birth.

John White

7 months ago

Well this type of viewpoint presupposes that God is real. If you wish to hold your child back from reality then by all means bring them to the Catholic Church which will be more than happy to brainwash them and load them with Catholic guilt.

Hugh Carlyle

7 months ago

Its rather hard to comprehend the twisted logic of this piece. Have you read a complete religious text before doing this? Did you ever study their origins?

Take any religious book you want - Bible, Koran, or Torah and you will find passages that are so grossly offensive, immoral and violent to women, homosexuals, and non-believers that most of us find them hard to stomach. Then add in the passages from the 6th century and before that are so ridiculously absurd to contemplate in the 20th century, let alone the 21st century and this is what you want to present to a child?

Then add in that most of the stories in these books are mostly copies of one another and borrowed from earlier ancient Egyptian and Persian fables. Noah's Arc is an old Persian fable. Read them first. Please. For your child's sake. And your own.

Goran Hinic

7 months ago

This is a personal choice, but it is a sad one. We live in an age where atheism is rising and religions are losing followers, and because of that are behaving like cornered animals, viciously attacking secularity and personal choice in countries where their obsolescence in government was defined decades ago. By default we also live in times where scientific discoveries are able to explain mechanics of the universe that surrounds us like never before, yet scientific discoveries are being questioned in every realm, from climate change to vaccinations, from shape of the earth to sexuality and nutrition. Making a conscious choice of raising a religious child(christian in this case, but it really doesn't matter) exposes the child to the idea of alternate truths. Science can and has been wrong a lot of times, however, science has a mechanism of recognizing it's failures while religion doesn't. And while it's easy to prove that not everything in religion has to be taken at face value; Earth is older than 5000 years, evolution is a thing, it might be more difficult to explain to a child that while God doesn't want a raped woman to have an abortion or a gay couple to get married, it is their personal choice and right to do so. Your influence and interpretation of religion will cease, and at that point that child/person will be left with the choice to view the world through a critical, scientific lense, or make it's choices and decisions based on the scripture. It is not a neutral choice.

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