

Deism Today

Summer 2009

Deist Alliance Quarterly Newsletter



Positive vs. Negative

by Peter Hilbig



Welcome to the latest issue of Deism Today, the quarterly newsletter of the Deist Alliance. We offer you authors familiar and new. And we are always seeking new material. Contact us at the Positive Deism discussion board.

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Deist Alliance News



There has been quite a bit going on around the Deist Alliance websites.

First, we want to welcome John Casler and his site, Deistpoet.com, to the Deist Alliance. Many Deists love poetry, and the poets on his site speak a language we understand.

We have added a Christian Deism forum on the Positive Deism discussion board. It has been quite active since its inception.

The Positive Deism board continues to grow with over 260 members, many of whom are active every day.

Positive Deism is also still seeking updates for its website home page.

The Nature's God discussion board has grown slowly, but steadily and now has a few regulars.

We have seen an interesting and eclectic group of folks with very diverse backgrounds visit us on our boards this year. We have seen a Muslim Deist and a Jehovah's Witness Deist. They are either genuine, or they are among the best actors I've ever seen.

All in all, it has been a very good year. We're looking forward to the second half.



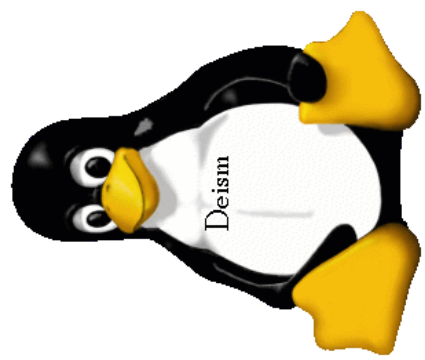
Freethinker Quiz

~ Name the Freethinker ~

We read the pagan sacred books with profit and delight. With myth and fable we are ever charmed, and find a pleasure in the endless repetition of the beautiful, poetic and absurd. We find, in all these records of the past, philosophies and dreams, and efforts stained with tears, of great and tender souls who tried to pierce the mystery of life and death, to answer the eternal questions of the Whence and Whither, and vainly sought to make, with bits of shattered glass, a mirror that would, in very truth, reflect the face and form of Nature's perfect self.

These myths were born of hopes, and fears, and tears, and smiles, and they were touched and colored by all there is of joy and grief between the rosy dawn of birth, and death's sad night. They clothed even the stars with passion, and gave to gods the faults and frailties of the sons of men. In them, the winds and waves were music, and all the lakes, and streams, and springs, the mountains, woods and perfumed dells were haunted by a thousand fairy forms. They thrilled the veins of Spring with tremulous desire; made tawny Summer's billowed breast the throne and home of love; filled Autumn's arms with sun-kissed grapes, and gathered sheaves; and pictured Winter as a weak old king who felt, like Lear upon his withered face, Cordelia's tears. These myths, though false, are beautiful, and have for many ages and in countless ways, enriched the heart and kindled thought. But if the world were taught that all these things are true and all inspired of God, and that eternal punishment will be the lot of him who dares deny or doubt, the sweetest myth of all the Fable World would lose its beauty, and become a scorned and hateful thing to every brave and thoughtful man.

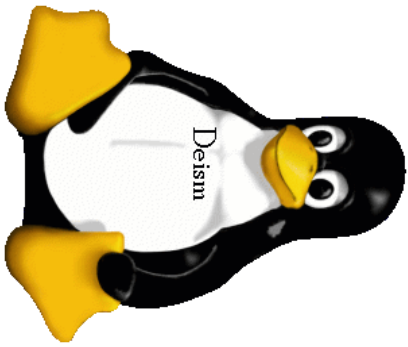
Answer
on
page
seven



...continued from page one

Deism 2.1

by Charles Clendenen
(for the geek at heart)



Deism is an open source religion. No one "owns" it. Deism carries no brand name. No one can claim to speak for all Deists. Deism has no rigid standards, no dogma, no sacred operating manual.

Credit:

This idea came from an article entitled *Open To Revisions* by Sam Kean in the May/June issue of Search Magazine



Life Goes On

By Charles Clendenen

How the breeze moves through the trees
And verdant shadows hide the stars
Now the moon shines through the leaves
And promises to light the dark
Chase away the lonely dark

Still I watch, alone I wait now
Then a bird's wings split the night
Comes a simple twist of fate now
Silent, deadly shadow flies
Solitary shadow flies

Then I see it, now it hovers
Shadow plummets like a stone
Time and death embrace like lovers
Nature rules the world alone
One life ends, and one goes on

So I sit alone in wonder
But I do not wonder long
For a voice in distant thunder
Says for certain nothing's wrong
Life goes on and nothing's wrong

Some Keep the Sabbath Going to Church

By Emily Dickinson

Some keep the Sabbath going to Church –
I keep it, staying at Home –
With a Bobolink for a Chorister –
And an Orchard, for a Dome –

Some keep the Sabbath in Surplice –
I just wear my Wings
And instead of tolling the Bell for Church,
Our little Sexton – sings.

God preaches, a noted Clergyman –
And the sermon is never long,
So instead of getting to Heaven, at last –
I'm going, all along.



Native American Prayer

translated by Lakota Sioux Chief
Yellow Lark in 1887

Oh, Great Spirit
Whose voice I hear in the winds,
And whose breath gives life to all the world,
hear me, I am small and weak,
I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever
behold
the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things you have
made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may understand the
things
you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have
hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my
brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy - myself.
Make me always ready to come to you
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
my Spirit may come to you without shame.



Answer to Freethinker Quiz on page three:

Robert G. Ingersoll

quoted in Washington, D.C., October 7, 1879.



Join the Deist Alliance

Your newsletter needs YOU!

The Deist Alliance is looking for authors. We all certainly express ourselves regularly in the discussion forums available at Deist Alliance sites such as PositiveDeism.com, Panendeism.org, Naturesgod.org and GodOnlineHome.com. The newsletter represents one more way we can spread the word about Deism in a positive fashion.

The newsletter is a perfect way to share your opinions, theories, hopes and dreams with your fellow Deists and freethinking folks who subscribe. It is also a good way to share a poem, a photo or a sketch.

Volunteer, contribute and express yourself! Promise yourself to make a positive statement in the next quarterly issue. Just watch for a call for submissions on the Positive Deism discussion board.

The Deist Alliance is just what it sounds like, an alliance of groups that promote Deism. If you have a website or discussion forum or blog that celebrates a positive and independent form of Deism, you might consider the Deist Alliance.

Just go to <http://deistalliance.org> or email webmaster@deistalliance.org. Come on over to the Positive Deism discussion group so we can get a chance to know you, and you can get to know us.

Editor's Note:

The views expressed by the authors of the articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of all Deists or of all the members of the Deist Alliance.

Credit for authorship is given for each article. The abstract image on p. 7 by One Eyed Jack. All other images are in the public domain or released under the Gnu Free Documentation license, mostly from Wikimedia Commons or by the editor.



Deist Alliance

<http://deistalliance.org>