The Joy of Deism

by Robert L. Johnson

Deism has a lot to offer. It offers individuals the impetus and ability to apply our God-given reason to our ideas of God unlike the “revealed” religions that require the suppression of our God-given reason if we are to accept their religious teachings. In turn, by offering the exercise of reason to the individual, Deism greatly improves the chances of having a truly progressive, reasonable and balanced society. This in turn means less violence and wars and more progress.

There is something else that Deism offers to us that is a true and profound positive, and that is joy. Webster’s Desk Dictionary defines joy as “the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something good or satisfying.” That something good or satisfying is Deism and the way it centers us on God’s gift of reason. As we actively apply it to more and more aspects of our lives we experience more and more joy!

The joy we experience from using our reason is unfathomable. While those poor souls that are still trapped in Christianity or some other “revealed” religion have to base their belief that God exists on faith instead of reason, along with faith in the validity of volumes of man-made nonsensical myths, rituals and dogmas, Deists know God exists based on the application of our reason on the designs found throughout the known universe. To quote the great French Deist Voltaire, “What is faith? Is it to believe that which is evident? No. It is perfectly evident to my mind that there exists a necessary, eternal, supreme and intelligent being. This is no matter of faith, but of reason.” And the recent addition to our Deist family of the lifelong atheist Antony Flew who converted to Deism in December of 2004 who said DNA “has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce life, that intelligence must have been involved.” On the other end of the spectrum from the former atheist Antony Flew is our own former Roman Catholic Priest turned Deist, Ray Fontaine. Deism has a very
wide appeal! Add to these such intellectual giants as the two Toms (Paine and Jefferson), Ben Franklin as well as Albert Einstein and we begin to see that the evidence found in the designs of nature demonstrates that it is much more reasonable to believe in the Designer of nature than it is not to.

<> As fellow Deist Ray Fontaine points out in the below e-mail exchange, "The doctrine of Deism is very simple: namely, the designs in nature presuppose Supreme Intelligence. That's the only tenet in Deism." This fact makes it much easier for us as active Deists to spread the Deist message among our friends and family and society in general. As Antony Flew wrote in his excellent book *God and Philosophy*, ". . . the more minimal the definition, the more widely it can be accepted." The natural simplicity of Deism is what will allow us to overcome the convoluted man-made nonsense of all the "revealed" religions! It's up to each and everyone of us how fast this positive change from a fear based superstitious world-view to a reason-friendly truly progressive world-view takes place. I give my deepest profound heart-felt thanks to all of you who are *DOING* things to get the word out about Deism! And I ask all of you who haven't yet taken action to please do so now! We have a long way to go so we need to really get working *NOW* to close the gap between Deism and the "revealed" religions!

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**Help Us Reach New People With Direct Mail!**

In order for the full benefit of Deism to be realized on both an individual and on a societal level, we must reach new people. One way to accomplish this is the use of direct mail. With direct mail, we can put Deism directly in the hands of people. The Deist postcards we send out are precise and to the point. They are making thousands of people aware for the very first time that there actually is something called Deism! The text on the postcards reads, "**Do You Believe In God But Not In Religion?** Is the beautiful simplicity and order found throughout Nature enough to make you believe in Nature's God? If so, you are a Deist! Deism is a natural religion/philosophy, not a "revealed" religion. Deism is based on our God-given reason and nature. To learn more about Deism visit [www.deism.com](http://www.deism.com) or request further information by writing us at: World Union of Deists, Box 47026, St. Petersburg, FL 33743. A whole new reason-based universe free of fear and superstition awaits you!"

We need your help in this important effort to reach new people with Deism. If you'd like to help please visit any page at our site [http://www.deism.com](http://www.deism.com) and click on the donate button on the lower left side of the page and make a donation for any amount you feel comfortable with. By working together we are changing the world!<>
E-mail no. 44: A Reader Suggests a Fanfare

I have just finished reading your book. Wow! From being a priest who preached the revelation of God through Jesus Christ to being a deist who now teaches God's existence as revealed in the wonders and designs of nature - what a dramatic changeover!

From your book I learned that you will be 89 years old on November 11. You have at most three or five years to spread the word of Nature's God. So if you had a billion dollars and carte blanche to hasten the triumph of Nature's God before you pass away, what would you do?

I suppose you could write another book, this one not telling us more about yourself but all about God: who he is, where he is, what he does and what he wants from us humans. That book would be your Bible as it were, similar in style to the Torah, the Gospel and the Koran.

Just writing it, however, would not suffice. It would have to be published and promoted by well-informed and devoted people worldwide. To train people for this gigantic task worldwide, you would have to establish hundreds of divinity schools, such as the Catholic seminaries.

Moreover you might want to build places of worship like those of the Catholics, the Protestants, the Jews and the Muslims. People of the same faith like to gather somewhere to worship their God with sermons and songs and rituals.

I feel certain that you have considered the above possibilities and devised a plan of action for the next five years. I would be very interested in your strategy. If possible, I'll give you a hand.

E-mail no. 45: I'm Satisfied to Write More Articles on the Internet.

Thank you for your e-mail reminding me what I must do for Nature's God before my approaching demise. Let me tell you my plan of action.

I don't think that I need write a book about Deism. The doctrine of Deism is very simple: namely, the designs in nature presuppose Supreme Intelligence. That's the only tenet in Deism. Nature tells us that the Creator exists but nothing about his nature and actions and plans for all humans. We must fend for ourselves, exploiting our full potential and relying upon the environment.

If the doctrine of Deism is that simple and doesn't require a book, there is no need for professional teachers like priests trained in seminaries to explain it. The designs in nature do that by themselves. Children can see them on the surface and scientists uncover them on a deeper level.
As regards churches and temples, certainly God does not need them for his glory. He has all of nature for that. Nor do humans need churches and temples wherein to glorify God. They can praise and thank God anywhere in nature. That's what I do now and so can everyone else.

I am convinced that eventually humans worldwide will honor God as revealed in the designs and marvels of nature. I'm simply trying to hasten ever so little that glorious day. When it happens, all humans on earth will glorify not the god whom certain humans created but the God who created all of nature.

Visit the Deist Site of Ray Fontaine! And order his outstanding book, *My Life With God IN and OUT of the Church*. You can read samples of his book and order it at:

http://www.to-natures-god.net

Return to Reason

by Pauline Rocco

I know it's not polite to say, "...told you so!" But in this case, I can't help myself.....WE TOLD YOU SO!!

Robert Johnson, founder of WUD, did outstanding investigative journalism reporting to our readers about the ill-conceived, ill-advised neocon Project for a New American Century---using American power to bring democracy to the Middle East (read: making the region safe for Israel).

I also wrote articles opposing the very idea of invading a country that was no threat to the United States. I warned that allowing believers in revealed religion to take over our government could not produce good results...to say the least!

The catastrophic results of the neocon-artists policies continue to unfold right before our eyes and it holds true that there is no honor among thieves. Even as I write, these foreign policy bandits are into the blame game big time. It's all Bush's fault! This Jew-Day-O- Christian cabal is not saying *mea culpa*.


I fully expect the Democrats to win sweeping victories on Tuesday. But we the American people are in danger of losing unless we demand that the people representing us return to reason. This country was founded upon reason. We must return to the security of our foundational roots. There is no possibility of national security if we leave the security of our nation in the hands of believers in revealed religion.
If you think this election will cause dedicated neo-con artists to change their warped minds, please read what Eliot Cohen said recently:

"The best news is that the United States remains a healthy, vibrant, vigorous society. So in a real pinch, we can still pull ourselves together. Unfortunately, it will probably take another big hit. And a very different quality of leadership. Maybe we'll get it."

If we do our duty as citizens and Deists they'll "get it" all right---"it" being long prison sentences.

Demand a return to reason now and do not settle for anything less.

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**Deism Is Spreading Thanks to Young Deists!**

Just a quick note to let everyone know there are many young people who are attracted to reason-friendly Deism and are taking action to get the word out about Deism by starting Deist discussion groups at online sites set-up for the youth and students. This is fantastic and I thank everyone involved! Keep up the great work! Deism can go light-years in improving the lives of individuals and society itself. Much needs to be done to make Deism a household word so this can become a reality, and you are DOING what needs to be done! Thank you!

Here is the link to an outstanding Deist group at facebook -
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2209150425

**What Language Was The Isaiah Text Jesus Read From Luke Chapter Four Written?**

by Peter Murphy

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, verses 16 to 20, Jesus reads something very interesting from Isaiah 61, NASB: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he has sent me to proclaim the release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed.” In order to continue, a little basic history is needed.

Most people who have not taken the time to study the subject assume that all Bible translations use the same primary sources, but that is not true. So a little history is needed. Originally, the Jewish scriptures were written in Hebrew. This was workable when the Hebrew people lived in one geographical area and shared a common language. In time, the Hebrew people migrated willingly, or in some cases unwillingly, to other areas especially in Hellenistic times. Eventually the Hebrew people became the Jews united in their religion but no longer in their culture or even languages.
In Alexandria Egypt the Jews became so Greek in language and culture as they became more Hellenistic that they forgot Hebrew. Around 2,200 years ago, the Hebrew scriptures were translated into Greek and this collection became known as the Septuagint. This collection, which should not be taught of as a Bible today, became extremely popular among the Greek speaking Jews of the Hellenistic and Roman worlds, and eventually became the standard of the Christian Old Testament and was itself translated into Latin by Saint Jerome (340-420CE).

In the Judea area, the Jews became integrated with their Aramaic-speaking neighbors and eventually, that language became the common tongue. Hebrew remained a language of the educated priestly elite, but Aramaic became the language of the people. In time, these Jews, like the Jews of Alexandria, used their influence to have the Hebrew scriptures translated into the Aramaic language, known as the Targum. The Targums remained the preferred translation until Aramaic fell out of favor. Like the Septuagint, this was a collection of books rather than a Bible as such.

The Masoretic text, for instance, which is the basis of the modern Jewish Tanakh and Protestant Old Testaments, only dates from the 7th to 10th centuries CE and has nothing to do with the question at hand.

Now that the basic history has been provided, we return to what Jesus read in that synagogue. Of particular interest is the phrase: "and recovery of sight to the blind..." If one looks at a Jewish Tanakh (the Jewish Bible), it does not exist, it does not exist in any Biblical translation based on the Masoretic text. It is missing from the Great Isaiah Scroll that is part of the Dead Sea collection. It is missing totally from the Isaiah books in the Dead Sea Scrolls that contain Septuagint and Targum scrolls. Nevertheless, one does find it in Bibles that are translated from the Septuagint. Jesus was supposedly an Aramaic-speaking native speaking to an Aramaic speaking populace. If so, then he did not read from the Septuagint, for that version of Isaiah would have been in Greek. It would be more than very odd to have someone read a scroll in a language that the audience did not understand; it would be as asinine as reading from a German scroll to an English speaking audience. It can be stated with certainty, that Jesus never read any such phrase from an Aramaic or Hebrew version of Isaiah. It is evidence that the author of Luke used the Septuagint and was a Greek and not Aramaic educated, for if he was the latter, he would have used Targum sources.

You can visit two great Deist groups online that are run by the above author. One is an MSN group at http://groups.msn.com/DEISMbeliefinGodwithoutthebaggage/ and the Yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/revpeter_reading_room/ Both groups are outstanding! The editor.

News of Interest to Deists

The leader of 30 million Evangelical US Christians steps down due to his connections with a male homosexual prostitute and drugs.

A poll in Christianity Today shows that 9 in 10 people believe in "God or a universal spirit" (which sounds like a Deistic idea of God to me) and the percentage of people who believe the Bible is the Word of God
fell from 65% in 1963 to only 28% in 2006!

5,000 people pack a Christian church to honor Israel. The belief in Bible nonsense has caused US foreign policy to be unbalanced in Israel's favor and to the detriment of America and the Palestinians. If we could inject reason into this very important issue we could end terrorism, both governmental and nongovernmental.

1/3 of US voters believe the lie that God gave the Jews the "Promised Land" and that Israel should control it!

It sounds like the Orthodox Jews have a serious mental problem. It's a sin for them to do anything on the Sabbath, even holding keys or pushing a baby in a stroller! In order to get around this Jewish dogma and superstition, they can put up a fishing line and pretend it's part of their Temple and people can then hold their keys and push their baby strollers! REVEALED RELIGION - NO REASON REQUIRED!!!

Rabbis demand boy go back to the chopping block to be re-circumcised!

Man in court for circumcising his two year old daughter!

A Muslim "holy" man says women who aren't covered head to toe are like a piece of uncovered meat! Now there's a progressive thought process!!! I wonder if God will forgive us for being so stupid and for turning our back on his/her gift of reason to the point of actually having believed in "revealed" religion!

Pat Robertson and demons!

What happens when religion and politics mix - people are murdered by the government for being witches!

Interesting NASA mission to study our closest star, our Sun.

Many other stars are similar to our Sun which means there is a good chance of life on other planets. Makes you think!

Hubble Space Telescope will continue on!

MAKE PEOPLE THINK!
ORDER YOUR DEIST BUMPER STICKER!
And Don’t Forget to Order Your Deist Reason Bracelet!

It’s a great way to start a conversation about Deism!

Thought Provoking and Inspiring Quotes

"No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority."

Thomas Jefferson

"An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it."

Mohandas Gandhi

"All genuine goodness is original and as free from cant and tradition as the air."

"Each man's necessary path, though as obscure and apparently uneventful as that of a beetle in the grass, is the way to the deepest joys he is susceptible of; though he converses only with moles and fungi and disgraces his relatives, it is no matter if he knows what is steel to his flint."

"Go not so far out of your way for a truer life; keep strictly onward in that path alone which your genius points out. Do the things which lie nearest to you, but which are difficult to do."

Henry David Thoreau

"Whatever you do or dream you can, begin it! Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

Goethe

Is Reaching People With Deism Worth 30 Cents a Day to You?

Even though Deism has far more to offer people and society than all the "revealed" religions
combined, its resources to reach people are limited. Because we are currently small in numbers, much more is demanded of each of us if we want to see Deism reach its full potential.

If everyone who receives this free Deist ezine subscribed to our monthly Deistic Thought & Action!, we’d be well on our way to achieving critical mass and making the world a much better place! All it costs is $10.00 a month, or about 30 cents a day! For such a little bit of sacrifice and giving, we can do very much in our efforts to make Deism a household word and overcome the negatives of the "revealed" religions. Please make a difference with Deism by clicking here for your subscription to Deistic Thought & Action! Thank you!

All new subscribers with US postal addresses will receive as a thank you gift a signed copy of Ray Fontaine's excellent thought provoking book, My Life With God IN and OUT of the Church! Please help yourself and help get the word out about Deism by taking advantage of this great offer!

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The Truth Seeker has been battling superstition and fear since 1873! This outstanding journal pulls no punches when it tackles important topics such as revealed religions and their "holy" books, pressing social issues and little known historic facts. Visit their site at http://www.truthseeker.com/truth-seeker/ You will be very glad you did!

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**Mental Health Based on Reason! This is a very important and interesting site!**

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**Reach New People With Deist Leaflets!**

Thank you for reading this edition of THINKonline! Please forward this issue of THINKonline! to someone you think would be interested in it. This is a great inexpensive way to get the word out about Deism!