



WHAT IS MORAL ATHEISM?

A Question of Moral Atheism

from blog.iamanatheist.com



To download additional tracts or purchase a copy of Ask Yourself to Be Moral, please visit blog.iamanatheist.com

©2009 D. Cancilla. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License

You will notice that none of these assumptions directly involve morality or religion, and that they do not rule out the supernatural out of hand. Rather, the moral atheist uses ZQ to grow principles from these assumptions. Alternatively, a moral atheist might use these tools as a "morality sieve," examining a series of possible solutions to a philosophical question and accepting those that are not found wanting.

Moral atheism is an atheistic philosophy not because it assumes atheism but because proofs for the existence of one or more deities are not found to be compelling in the light of the philosophy's assumptions.

Clear, logical thought as a tool for investigating one's own beliefs is very important to the moral atheist. Many moral atheists consider their atheism to be much less important than these principles of introspection, to the point that they would rather try to convince a theist to develop an acceptable, coherent theism than to convince them that belief in a deity is not justified.

MORAL ATHEISM IS a philosophy derived from a few basic logical principles. It is largely concerned with morals and ethics, but the moral atheist has found that truths revealed during the search for valid philosophy imply atheism.

Moral atheists subscribe to the "two questions" (or ZQ) method of testing whether a system of thought is valid (details of ZQ can be found in a separate tract). In addition to ZQ, the moral atheist makes a few assumptions, including:

- An objective reality exists.
- The scientific method is the most reliable method available for investigating nature (so far as it can be investigated).
- Simplest sufficient explanations (those that introduce the fewest new concepts, rules, objects, entities, or assumptions) are preferred.
- It is better to be right than wrong.
- It is better to be right than certain.
- Self interest is okay.

MORAL ATHEISM IS a philosophy derived from a few basic logical principles. It is largely concerned with morals and ethics, but the moral atheist has found that truths revealed during the search for valid philosophy imply atheism.

Moral atheists subscribe to the “two questions” (or 2Q) method of testing whether a system of thought is valid (details of 2Q can be found in a separate tract).

In addition to 2Q, the moral atheist makes a few assumptions, including:

- An objective reality exists.
- The scientific method is the most reliable method available for investigating nature (so far as it can be investigated).
- Simplest sufficient explanations (those that introduce the fewest new concepts, rules, objects, entities, or assumptions) are preferred.
- It is better to be right than wrong.
- It is better to be right than certain.
- Self interest is okay.

You will notice that none of these assumptions directly involve morality or religion, and that they do not rule out the supernatural out of hand. Rather, the moral atheist uses 2Q to grow principles from these assumptions. Alternately, a moral atheist might use these tools as a “morality sieve,” examining a series of possible solutions to a philosophical question and accepting those that are not found wanting.

Moral atheism is an atheistic philosophy not because it assumes atheism but because proofs for the existence of one or more deities are not found to be compelling in the light of the philosophy’s assumptions.

Clear, logical thought as a tool for investigating one’s own beliefs is very important to the moral atheist. Many moral atheists consider their atheism to be much less important than these principles of introspection, to the point that they would rather try to convince a theist to develop an acceptable, coherent theism than to convince them that belief in a deity is not justified.



from blog:iamanatheist.com

A Question of Moral Atheism

MORAL ATHEISM?

WHAT IS



QUESTIONS OF MORAL ATHEISM: INSTRUCTIONS

We appreciate your interest in helping us spread information about moral atheism! To make copies of this pamphlet for your own use or to share with friends, follow these simple steps:

1. Print pages one and two of this document, one on each side of the same piece of paper (if you don't have access to a duplex printer, print page one, put the page back in the paper tray upside down, and print page two — depending on the type of printer, you may have to experiment a bit).
2. Cut the printout in two, using the thin rules across the middle of the page as a guide.
3. Fold the two pieces of paper in half, making a pair of small pamphlets.
4. Keep one of the pamphlets to read, and give the other away to an interested friend or stranger.

That's it! If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, we invite you to share them by leaving a comment on blog.iamanatheist.org. Thanks!
