

Previous Context

- Robert Sapolsky – pseudo kinship
- Jonathan Haidt – Our Righteous Minds
- Don Hostetler – history of UU
- Andy Reese – humanist presentations and recent sermon
- Continuing discussion – reason as the dominant canon of UUCA

Today's Discussion

- A challenge to “reason” as the new god of religion, morality, etc.
- What replaces current religions if they fade from relevance?
 - Nationalism with the force of states?
 - Weak, disorganized, serendipitous happenings with power?
 - Institutionalization of displaced “family” functions?
- Occam's razor vs. Occam's broom
- Activist options for this group

Unstated Ideas

- Distinguishing between logical argument and evidence
- How we “know” things
 - Very limited direct experience
 - Trusted sources – by far the most dominant
 - What we think is “reasonable” based on experience
- Resources (time and money) to build institutions
 - Weakness of the liberal orientation
 - Over-reliance on governance to solve all problems
- Equality and parity vs nature

Jonathan Haidt

Points to Note

- Definition of delusion
- Wrong emphasis on reason in human experience and morality
- Pillars of morality that don't have much to do with reason
- Dogmatism of the New Atheists
- Characterization of conservatives as more likely to be happy and charitable
- Emergent and social context of morality

Daniel Dennett

Points to Note

- What religion has provided
- Benefits of religion without religion – possible models
- Unstated thread – institutions and power/money

Sam Harris

Points to Note

- Subjective nature of consciousness
- Consciousness without the focal point of a Self
- OPTIONAL
 - About 7 minutes
 - Pretty close to Buddhism 101

Reference URL

- <http://links.skytoucher.com>
- Links to original YouTube videos, handout
- Available for about 2 weeks