

Forewarned, forearmed (for some)

by Piya Tan

Dear fellow seekers,

Religion as evident from personal experience and news reports are the most destructive of human force. Indeed, next to hurricanes and widespread natural disaster, God-religions (and sometimes Buddhism, too) is the most destructive force on earth. The atom bombs have exploded, but the religious bombs keep exploding and taking countless numerous lives.

What little we can do now will surely help change the future for greater sanity, peace and wisdom.

In today's STRAITS TIMES (S17) is a must-read entitled "10 myths, truths about atheism" by Sam Harris, the prize writer of two important books: "The End of Faith" (2004) and "Letter to a Christian Nation" (2006). This very important and education write-up was originally published in the LA Times (1).

I have also attached links to reviews of Harris' two books (2, 4), and related entries in the WIKIPEDIA on them (3, 5). I have also found Harris' paper on modern Islam (6).

Most importantly, do read his write-up on the Buddha (7): yes, he is a "Buddhist," but more so than most of us, as you will (or will not) discover.

(1) 10 myths -- and 10 truths -- about atheism

By Sam Harris. Los Angeles Times, December 24, 2006. Repr in The Straits Times, 6 January 2007:S17.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-op-harris24dec24,0,3994298.story?coll=la-opinion-righttrail>

(2) Sam Harris on his book "The End of Faith" (2004), interviewed by Kenneth Krause:

http://www.infidels.org/library/modern/kenneth_krause/end-of-faith.html

(3) "The End of Faith" (Wikipedia)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_End_of_Faith

(4) Sam Harris on "Letter to a Christian Nation" (2006), interviewed by Random House:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307265777&view=auqa>

(5) "Letter to a Christian Nation" (Wikipedia)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_to_a_Christian_Nation

(6) Sam Harris on the Reality of Islam

http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/20060207_reality_islam/

(7) "Killing the Buddha" by Sam Harris (Shambhala Sun, March 2006):

<http://www.samharris.org/media/killing-the-buddha.pdf>

Please pass this on to others.

May we all find peace within and may we let it out, too.

sabbe sattaa santii hontu / pace in terram,

Piya Tan, 2007