



# The End of Faith

By Sam Harris

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An impassioned plea for reason in a world divided by faith. This important and timely work delivers a startling analysis of the clash of faith and reason in today's world.

Harris offers a vivid historical tour of mankind's willingness to suspend reason in favor of religious beliefs, even when those beliefs are used to justify harmful behavior and sometimes heinous crimes. He asserts that in the shadow of weapons of mass destruction, the world can no longer tolerate views that pit one true god against another. Most controversially, he argues that we cannot afford moderate lip service to religion—an accommodation that only blinds us to the real perils of fundamentalism. While warning against the encroachment of organized religion into world politics, Harris also draws on new evidence from neuroscience and insights from philosophy to explore spirituality as a biological, brain-based need. He calls on us to invoke that need in taking a secular humanistic approach to solving the problems of this world.

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## **The End of Faith** By Sam Harris Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Sam Harris cranks out blunt, hard-hitting chapters to make his case for why faith itself is the most dangerous element of modern life. And if the devil's in the details, then you'll find Satan waiting at the back of the book in the very substantial notes section where Harris saves his more esoteric discussions to avoid sidetracking the urgency of his message.

Interestingly, Harris is not just focused on debunking religious faith, though he makes his compelling arguments with verve and intellectual clarity. *The End of Faith* is also a bit of a philosophical Swiss Army knife. Once he has presented his arguments on why, in an age of Weapons of Mass Destruction, belief is now a hazard of great proportions, he focuses on proposing alternate approaches to the mysteries of life. Harris recognizes the truth of the human condition, that we fear death, and we often crave "something more" we cannot easily define, and which is not met by accumulating more material possessions. But by attempting to provide the cure for the ills it defines, the book bites off a bit more than it can comfortably chew in its modest page count (however the rich Bibliography provides more than enough background for an intrigued reader to follow up for months on any particular strand of the author's musings.)

Harris' heart is not as much in the latter chapters, though, but in presenting his main premise. Simply stated, any belief system that speaks with assurance about the hereafter has the potential to place far less value on the here and now. And thus the corollary -- when death is simply a door translating us from one existence to another, it loses its sting and finality. Harris pointedly asks us to consider that those who do not fear death for themselves, and who also revere ancient scriptures instructing them to mete it out generously to others, may soon have these weapons in their own hands. If thoughts along the same line haunt you, this is your book.--*Ed Dobeas*

### From Publishers Weekly

In this sometimes simplistic and misguided book, Harris calls for the end of religious faith in the modern world. Not only does such faith lack a rational base, he argues, but even the urge for religious toleration allows a too-easy acceptance of the motives of religious fundamentalists. Religious faith, according to Harris, requires its adherents to cling irrationally to mythic stories of ideal paradisiacal worlds (heaven and hell) that provide alternatives to their own everyday worlds. Moreover, innumerable acts of violence, he argues, can be attributed to a religious faith that clings uncritically to one set of dogmas or another. Very simply, religion is a form of terrorism for Harris. Predictably, he argues that a rational and scientific view—one that relies on the power of empirical evidence to support knowledge and understanding—should replace religious faith. We no longer need gods to make laws for us when we can sensibly make them for ourselves. But Harris overstates his case by misunderstanding religious faith, as when he makes the audaciously naïve statement that "mysticism is a rational enterprise; religion is not." As William James ably demonstrated, mysticism is far from a rational enterprise, while religion might often require rationality in order to function properly. On balance, Harris's book generalizes so much about both religion and reason that it is ineffectual.

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### Review

An important book, on a topic that...should not be shielded from the crucible of human reason. -- *Natalie Angier, The New York Times Book Review*

At last we have a book that...links Islamic terrorism with the irrationality of all religious faith. -- *Peter Singer, author of The President of Good and Evil*

Harris's tour de force demonstrates how faith...threatens our very existence... A must read for all rational people. -- *Alan Dershowitz, author of America on Trial*

Here is a ringing challenge to all Americans. -- *Joseph C. Hough, Jr., President, Union Theological Seminary, New York*

Will strike a chord with anyone who has ever pondered the irrationality of religious faith and its cruel, murderous consequences. -- *The Economist*

[Harris] writes with such verve and frequent insight that even skeptical readers will find it hard to put down. -- *The San Francisco Chronicle*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Gabriel Reed:**

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they're still students or that for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *The End of Faith*. All type of book could you see on many sources. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

#### **Olga Andres:**

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#### **Stanley Rivas:**

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**Michael Grammer:**

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