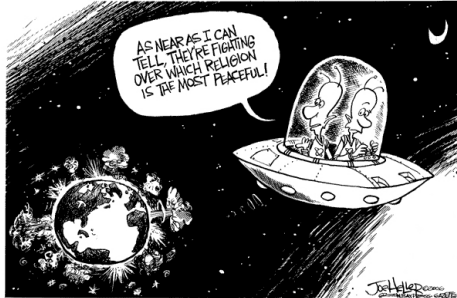


Session: A Humorous Look At Religious Beliefs

Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA, submitted by Stephen Hughes, June 2019

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting:



Rivers, ponds, lakes and streams - they all have different names, but they all contain water. Just as religions do - they all contain truths..

- Muhammad Ali

Check-in: *What have you done to feed your spirituality recently?*

Focus Graphics: Read over the religious “playing cards” below.

Focus Questions:

- 1) Which of the aspects of the religions depicted would you say are accurate?
- 2) Which of the aspects of the religions depicted would you say are not accurate?
- 3) Do you find aspects of the God Trump cards disturbing or offensive?
- 4) Do you find aspects of the God Trump cards humorous?
- 5) Choose a card and a subject (Age, Wealth, etc.) and comment on your thoughts about it?
- 6) Discuss a personal experience that you have had that illustrates what is shown on one of the cards.

Check-out/Likes & Wishes: *Is a picture worth a thousand words?*

Closing Words & Extinguishing Chalice:

I do benefits for all religions - I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality.

- Bob Hope

All religions have been made by men.

- Napoleon Bonaparte



Agnostic

Age Don't know	5/10
Wealth Not sure	5/10
Follower Dedication Couldn't say	5/10
Daffiest Doctrine In two minds	5/10
Weapon of Choice Undecided	5/10
Easily Offended? Ambivalent	5/10



Buddhist

Age Over 2,000 years old (we're not counting the reincarnation)	9/10
Wealth ... does not guarantee happiness (apparently)	2/10
Follower Dedication Mostly placid live-and-let-live types. Except extremist Buddhists in parts of Asia who kill Christians	4/10
Daffiest Doctrine Is the oneness in itself the same as the oneness for itself?	6/10
Weapon of Choice Holds the passport to Nirvana	5/10
Easily Offended? Too busy meditating	1/10



Catholic

Age 2,000 years, with no sign of going away	10/10
Wealth Over \$100 billion, all in the Vatican's own bank	10/10
Follower Dedication The Pope says jump, they say how high	9/10
Daffiest Doctrine Virgin birth, resurrection, transubstantiation ... shall we go on?	9/10
Weapon of Choice The Pope Mobile	5/10
Easily Offended? Do you need to ask?	10/10



Born Again Christian – All and Any Denominations

Age Born yesterday	2/10
Wealth Think of those Mega Churches in the States	8/10
Follower Dedication The ex-smoker of the religious world	9/10
Daffiest Doctrine Rapture. Part judgment day, part field trip with Jesus	10/10
Weapon of Choice Televangelists, threats of hell fire	6/10
Easily offended? Oh yes. Everything is Satan's work	10/10



Hindu

Age Possibly the "oldest religious tradition"	10/10
Wealth There's a single temple in Bradford worth £3m	9/10
Follower Dedication 3rd largest religion on Earth	9/10
Daffiest Doctrine Cow worshipping. Hindu deity Devagana lives in the anus. Lucky him!	10/10
Weapon of Choice Fasting. Like, all the time. A very cheap date	4/10
Easily Offended? Didn't take kindly to Mike Myers' <i>The Love Guru</i> , but who did?	2/10



Secularist/Atheist/Humanist

Age Predates the Garden of Eden	10/10
Wealth No central bank account	1/10
Follower Dedication Varies between indifference, aversion and outright resistance to organised religion	5/10
Daffiest Doctrine No rules, just individual morality. Imagine that!	1/10
Weapon of Choice Logic, reason, science, sarcasm and Dawkins	7/10
Easily Offended? More often exasperated than offended	2/10

- *God Trumps* by Christina Martin

You can see the full set of God Trumps by Christina Martin at:
<https://newhumanist.org.uk/1915/god-trumps-part-i>