**Atheism**

**Mom: “Hi, honey. How was school?” Son: “The ACLU visited our class today and taught us a new word.” Mom: “What word is that?” Son: “Sans. They insisted we should do the Pledge of Allegiance sans God.” Mom: “In fairness, maybe God will insist the ACLU should do Eternity sans Heaven.” *(Johnny Hart, in BC comic strip)***

**Saying atheism is a belief system is like saying not going skiing is a hobby. *(Ricky Gervais)***

**Fred Hoyle, an atheist and astronomer, coined the phrase “Big Bang” during a 1949 radio interview to mock Lemaitre’s theory of the origin of the universe. Hoyle rejected the implication that the beginning of the universe required a causal agent, i.e. God. He proposed a steady-state theory in which the universe has no beginning or end – a view that has since fallen out of favor. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 8)***

**In Russia, the building that for 67 years housed the Museum of Religion and**

**Atheism is now a church of the Orthodox Christian faith, crowded with worshipers. *(Paul Johnson, in Reader's Digest)* 129963**

**By night an atheist half-believes a God. *(Edward Young)***

**China is officially atheistic. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One evening, a young woman came home from a date, rather sad. She told her mother, “An hour ago Anthony told me I was the most beautiful woman in the entire world, and then he proposed.” “Then why are you so sad?” her mother asked. “Because he also told me he is an atheist, Mom, he doesn’t even believe there’s a Hell!” Her mother replied, “Marry him anyway. Between the two of us, we’ll show him just how wrong he is.” *(Tidbits)***

**The atheist does not deny God so much as he denies himself. A book is more enjoyable when we know its author. A symphony is more stirring when we know its composer. A painting is more meaningful when we know the artist. A poem is more personal when we know the poet. Life is more purposeful when we know the Creator. *(William Arthur Ward)***

**Now there is even a “dial-a-prayer” for atheists. You call a number and nobody answers. *(Inspiring Quotations, Compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)***

**An atheist is a man who watches a Notre-Dame-Southern Methodist University game and doesn’t care who wins. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)**

**Epitaph of an atheist: All dressed up but nowhere to go! *(The Atomic Cafe)***

**A math teacher at an Iowa Catholic high school was fired for joining an atheist website on her home computer. Abby Nurre, 26, says she doesn’t know how administrators at St. Edmund’s Catholic School monitored her online behavior. The school says that not only was Nurre’s firing justified, but that “she should be denied unemployment benefits.” *(The Week magazine, June 11, 2010)***

**A pastor read: “God is dead” – Nietzsche. The graffiti underneath read: “Nietzsche is dead” – God*. (Tidbits)***

**Sign on a St. Louis church bulletin board: “Merry Christmas to our Christian friends. Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends. And to our atheist friends, good luck.” (William E. Burke, in Reader's Digest)**

**Hypocrite: One who writes a book praising atheism and then prays it will sell. *(Jim Reed, in A Treasury of Ozark Country Humor)***

**Thomas Jefferson never spoke publicly about his religious beliefs. Realizing that anything he said would only add fuel to the controversy, that accused him of being an atheist, he refused to discuss his faith except with his most trusted friends, and even then he found it necessary to remind them to keep the words confidential. *(C. Bruce Hunter, in Bible Review)***

**Good week for: Atheists, who are just as happy overall as those with strong religious faith, according to a new meta-analysis by the University of Cologne. Based on data from 24 countries, the study found both groups reporting high degrees of life satisfaction, while the "weakly religious" were the least happy. *(The Week magazine, July 2, 2021)***

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**An article in Newsweek tells what it is like to be an atheist. I have a friend who’s an atheist and married a Jehovah’s Witness. Their kids are a little strange. They go out and knock on doors but don’t know why. *(Jay Leno)***

**Did you hear that the atheists have produced a Christmas play? It’s called Coincidence on 34th Street. *(Jay Leno)***

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**An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both. As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, “Oh my God! Help me!” At once the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in midair, a booming voice came down from the clouds, “I thought you didn't believe in me!” “Come on, God, give me a break,” the man pleaded. “I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!” *(Coffee Break)***

**Atheist: a man who watches Notre Dame play Southern Methodist and doesn't care who wins. *(Sports Illustrated)***

**Are humans hardwired for faith?: “Atheists might not exist,” said Nury Vittachi. To the millions of people who insist they do not believe in God, that may seem like an outlandish claim. But cognitive scientists are concluding from their research that “a metaphysical outlook may be so deeply ingrained in human thought processes that it cannot be expunged.” Even people who reject the God of organized religion appear to be hardwired to believe in some larger, spiritual reality. When questioned about their beliefs, self-identified atheists often admit to believing in “a higher force” or a purposeful universe. Nonbelievers usually adopt many of the moral positions of traditional religions, attributing their strong sense of right and wrong to “karma” or other abstract concepts. In times of fear or great stress, even militant atheists find themselves engaging in their own version of prayer – interior monologues with dead family members or some other invisible presence. Anthropologist Pascal Boyer recently noted that “a slew of cognitive traits predisposes us to faith,” and that atheists have many ‘religious ideas” they don’t recognize as such. Whether we like it or not, “we are born believers.” *(The Week magazine, July 18, 2014)***

**Atheism is a non-prophet organization. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Good week for: Supply and demand, after a group of entrepreneurial atheists started offering pet-care services to devout Christians who expect to ascend bodily to heaven in the Rapture. Since the founders of the company have no chance of salvation, they say, they can guarantee years of humane post-Rapture care for just $110. *(The Week magazine, September 18, 2009)***

**54% of Americans say they’d vote for a “well-qualified” atheist for president, the highest since Gallup began asking the question, in 1958, when just 18% said they’d vote for a nonbeliever. *(Gallup Poll, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 10, 2012)***

**Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue triggered a protest by atheists when he led a public prayer on the lawn of the statehouse begging God to bestow some rain on the drought-stricken state. "God, we need you," Perdue beseeched during the prayer service, attended by three Protestant ministers and a church choir, which sang hymns. "We need rain. We do believe in miracles." About 20 members of the Atlanta Freethought Society staged a protest. "My public leader is making a fool of himself and acting as though all the people of Georgia agree with this foolishness," said freethinker Ed Buckner. *(The Week magazine, November 23, 2007)***

**Sometimes when I’m faced with an atheist, I am tempted to invite him to the greatest gourmet dinner that one could ever serve, and when we have finished eating that magnificent dinner, to ask him if he believes there’s a cook. *(Ronald Reagan, in Speaking My Mind)***

**An atheist is a man who has no invisible means of support. *(Bishop Fulton J. Sheen)***

**Next to the official state Christmas tree in the Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin, an atheists' group put up a sign expressing their disbeliefs in Christmas and on the back of it, affixed another sign that read – “Thou shalt not steal.” *(Bill Flick, 1997)***

**The story is told of an atheist who happened one day to have strong stirrings of thankfulness within him but then soon was profoundly frustrated because there was no one to thank! (Rev. Theodore H. Loy, in The Pantagraph)**

**Where do good atheists go when they die? *(Ashle* *igh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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