



**WHY I'M NOT...**



**WHY I'M NOT  
AN ATHEIST**

# A foot in two worlds





**A foot in  
two worlds**







**A foot in  
two worlds**





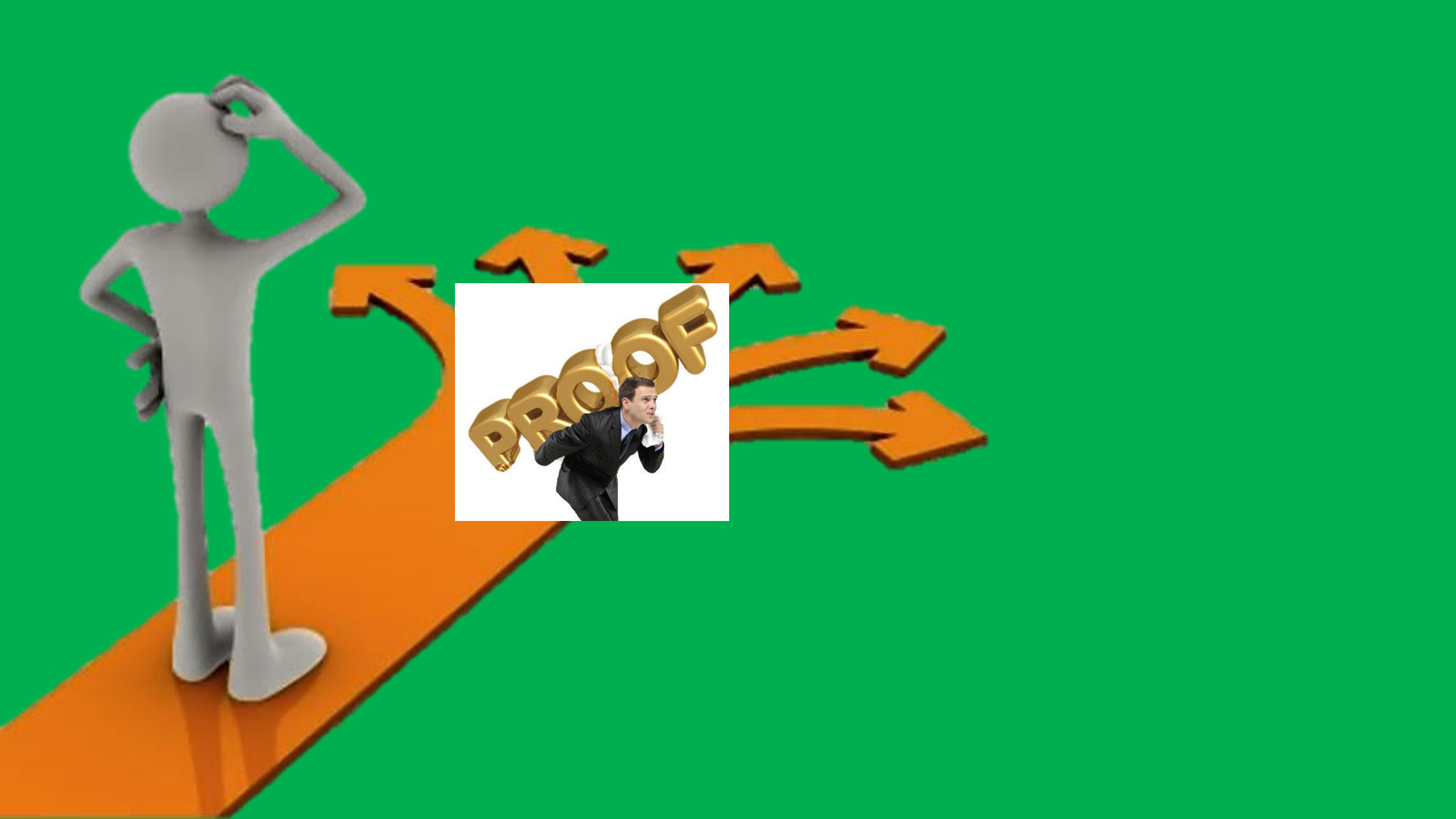
# The “Burden of Proof”



**The Person Making the Claim  
Bears the Burden to Prove It**







**What is the  
proof there is  
no God?**



**"ATHEIST"**

**"AGNOSTIC"**

# "ATHEIST"



# "AGNOSTIC"





# "ATHEIST"



There is  
**NO GOD**

# "AGNOSTIC"



There is  
**NO GOD**

# "ATHEIST"



There is  
**NO GOD**

# "AGNOSTIC"



There is  
**NO KNOWLEDGE**

# "ATHEIST"



**There is  
NO GOD**

# "AGNOSTIC"



**I DON'T KNOW  
if there's a God**

# The Four Horsemen of the New Atheism

Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, and Victor Reppert

Why are they so influential? What are their arguments?

How do they compare to the old atheism?

What are the implications for religion and philosophy?

What are the responses to their arguments?

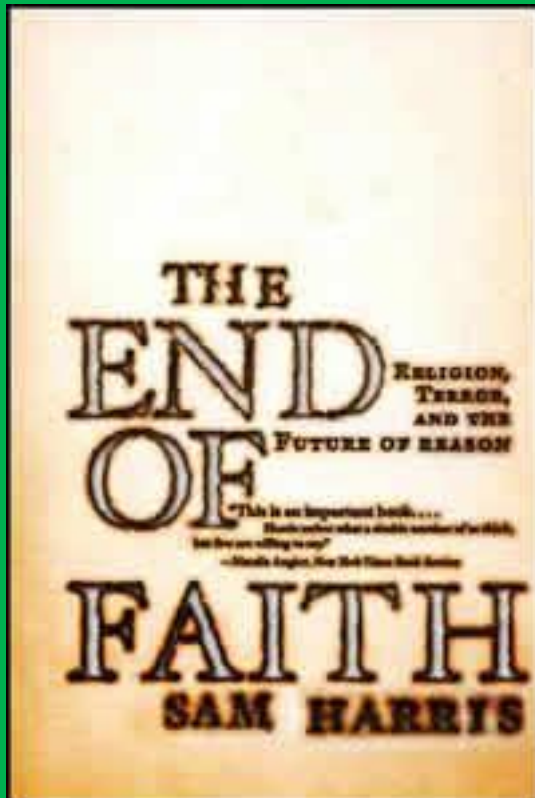
What are the future prospects for the New Atheism?

What are the challenges facing the New Atheism?

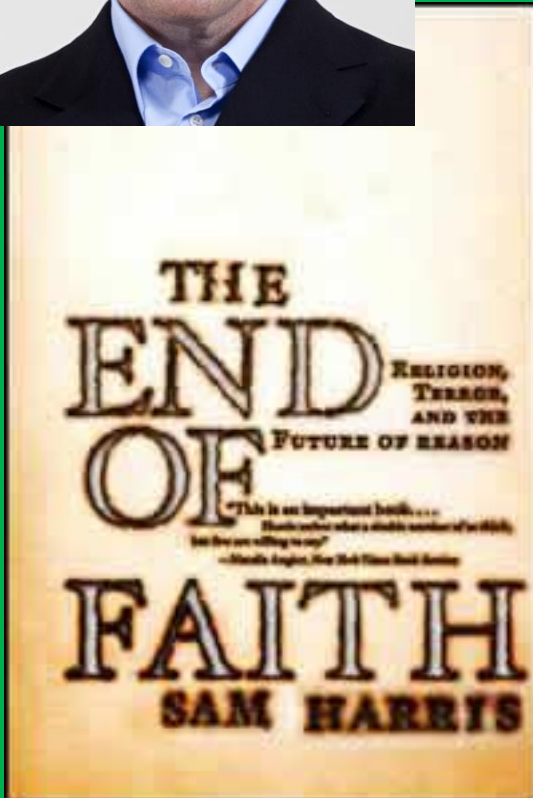
What are the lessons learned from the New Atheism?



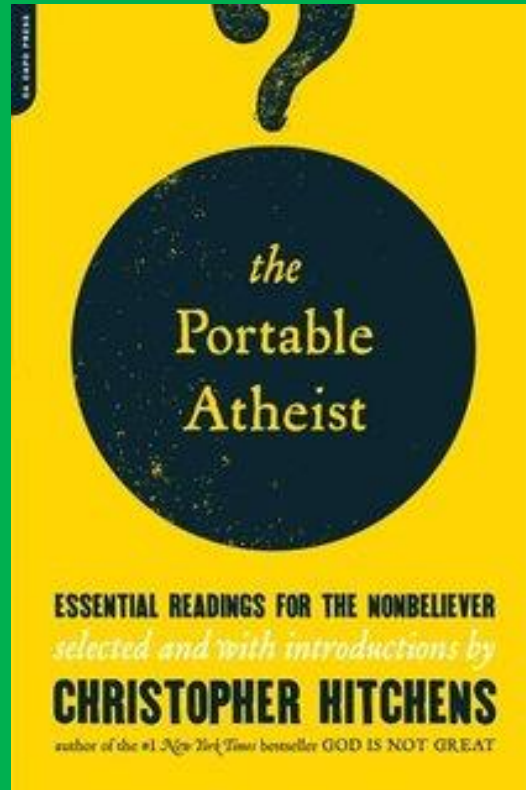
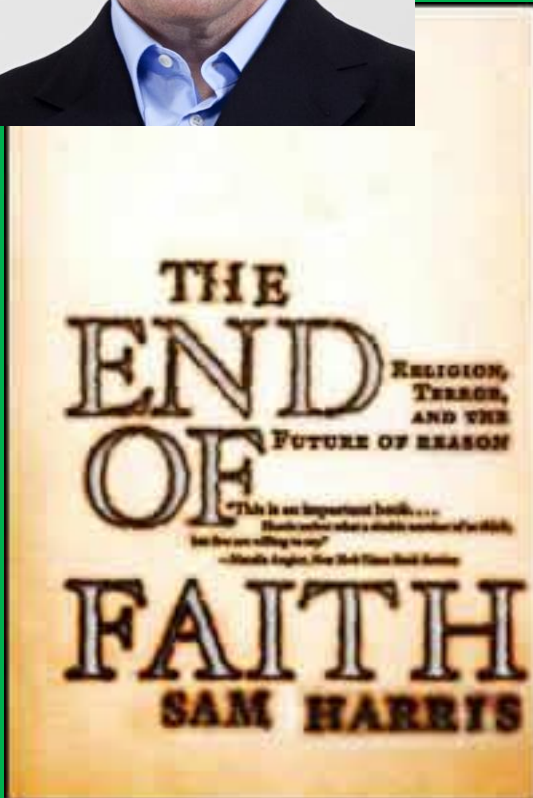
# The Four Horsemen of the New Atheism



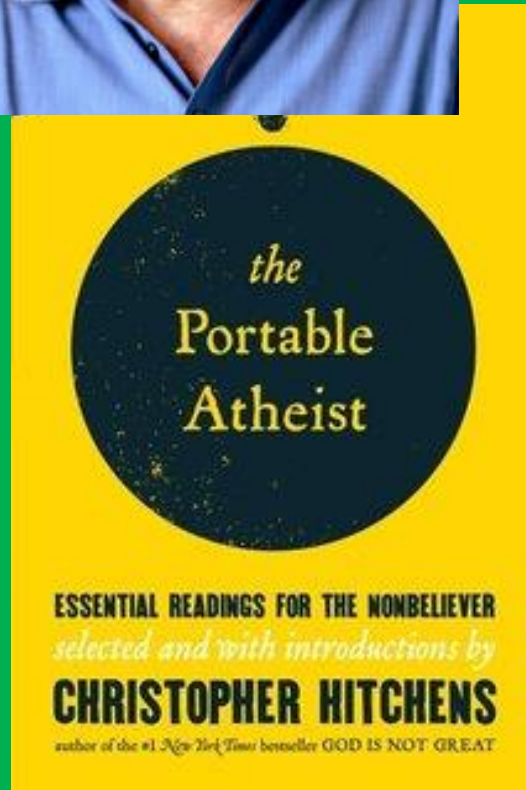
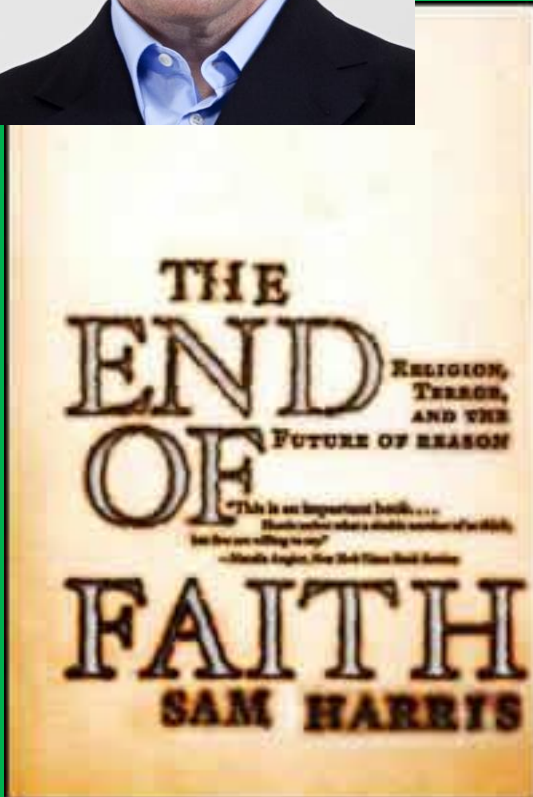
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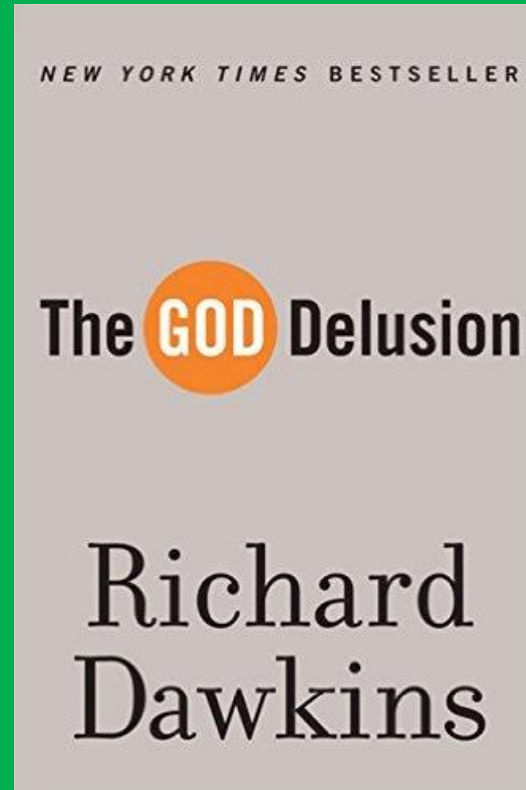
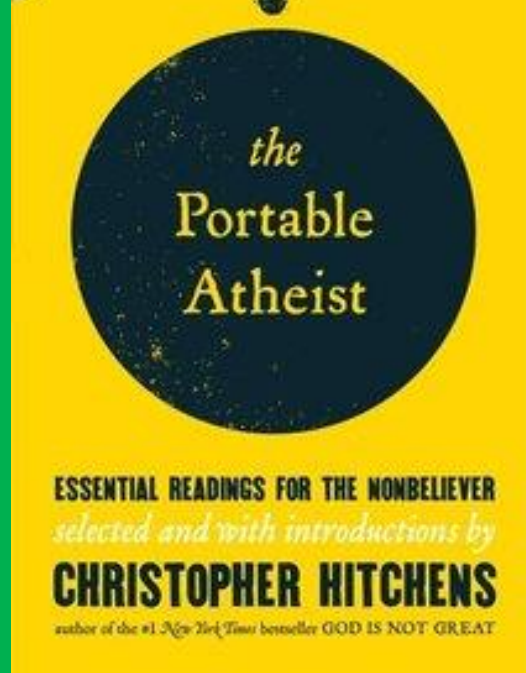
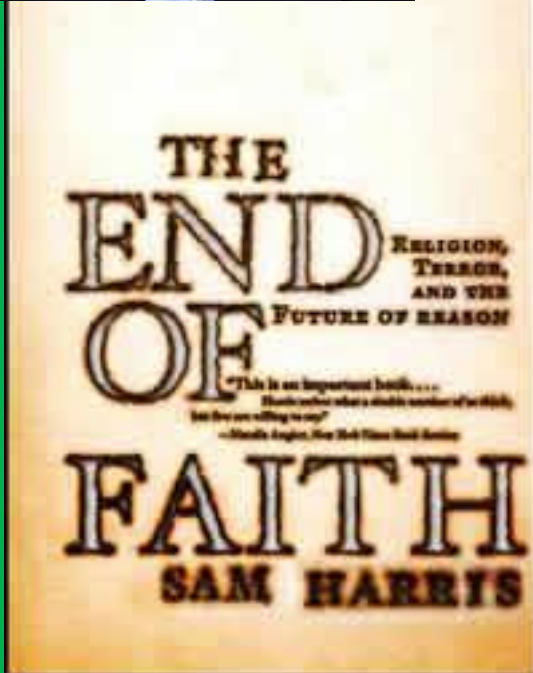


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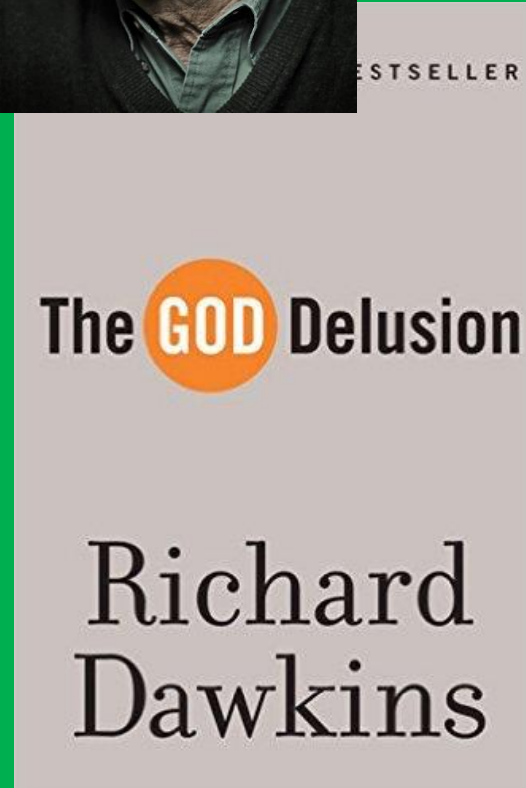
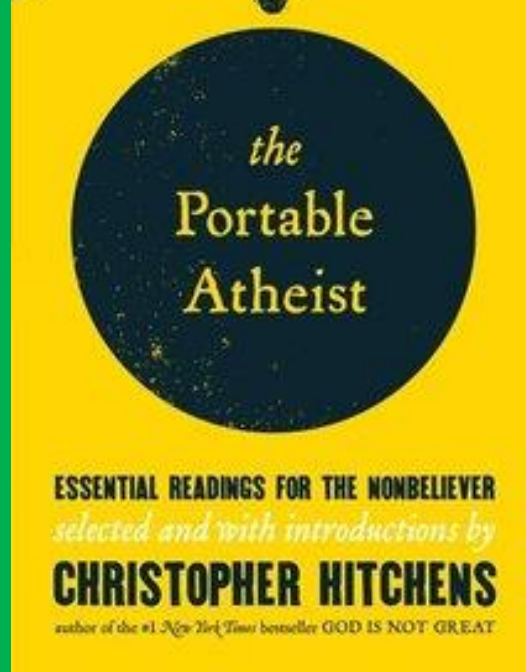
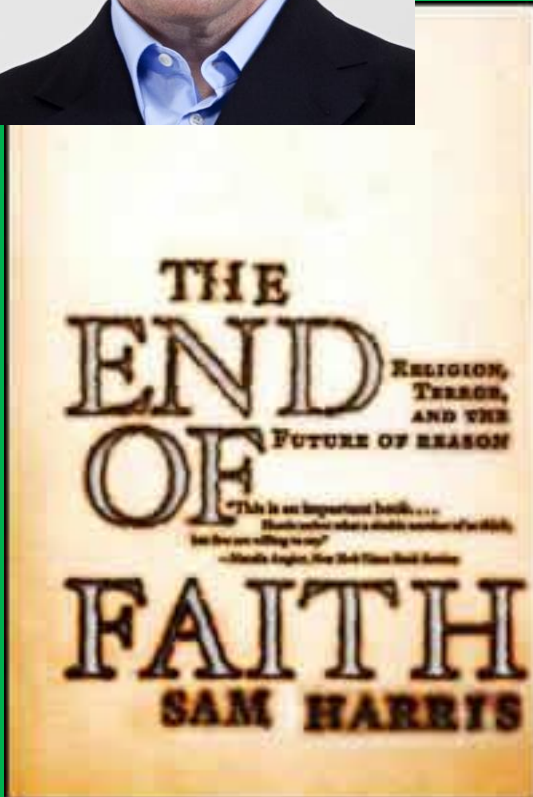




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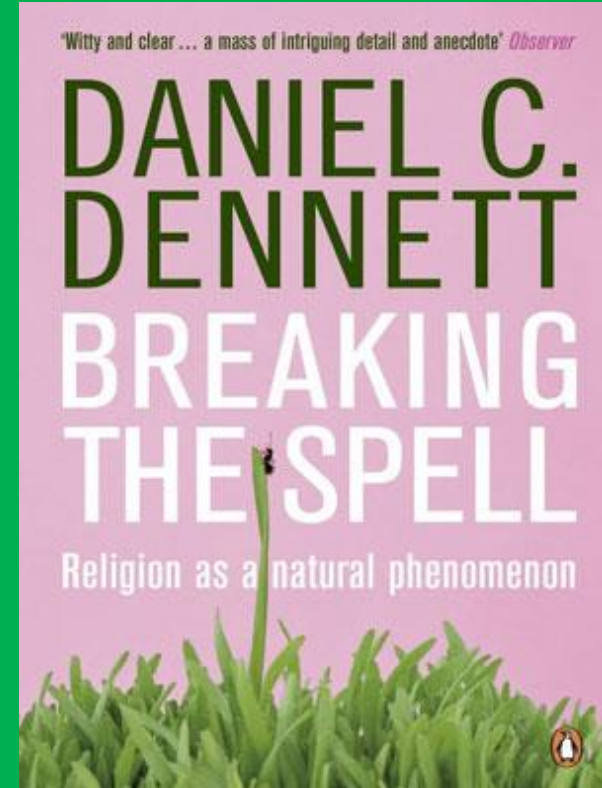
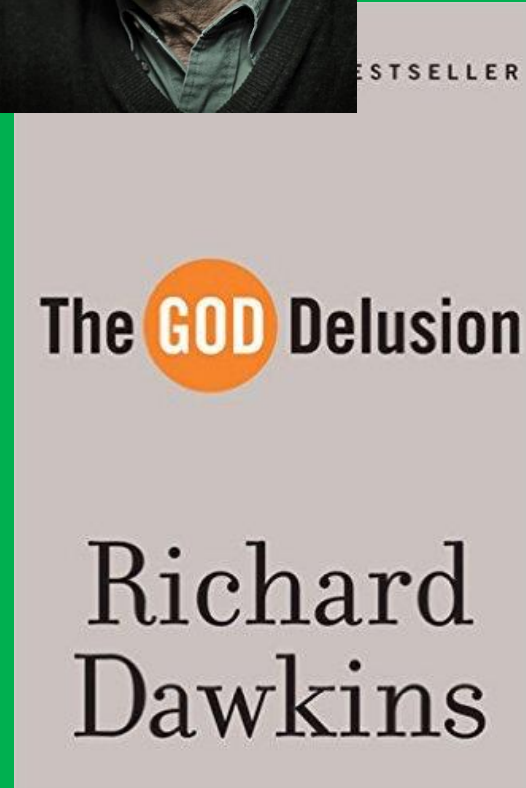
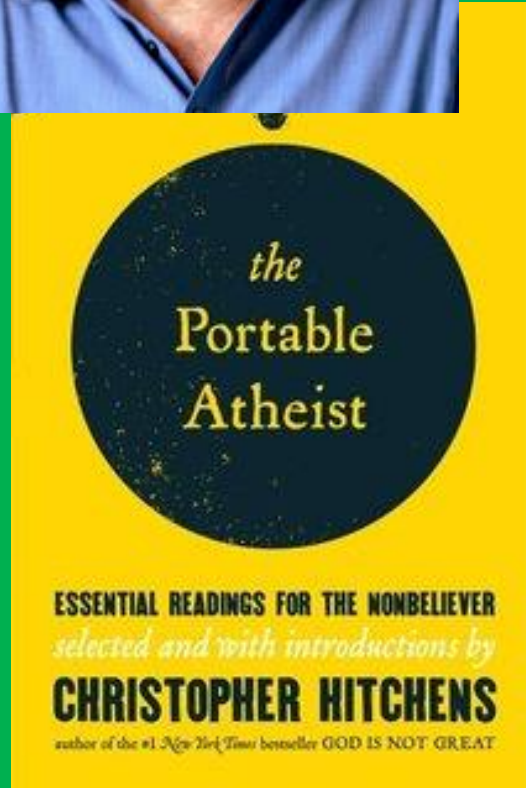
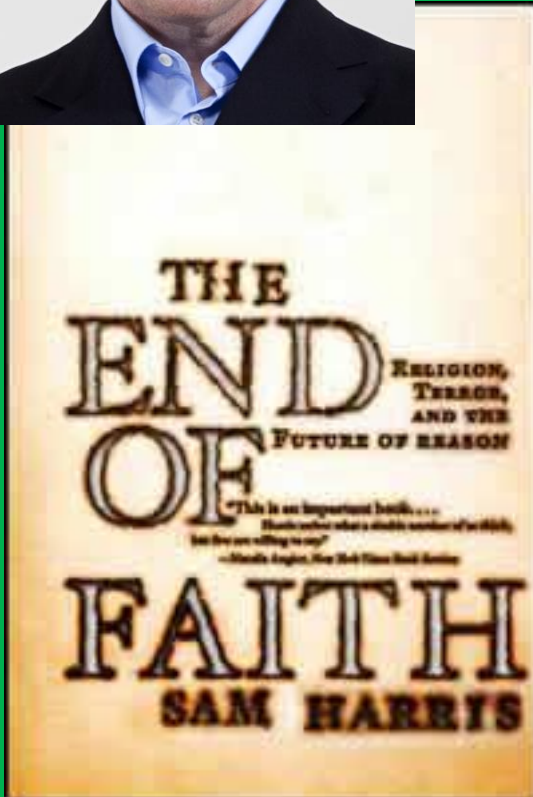


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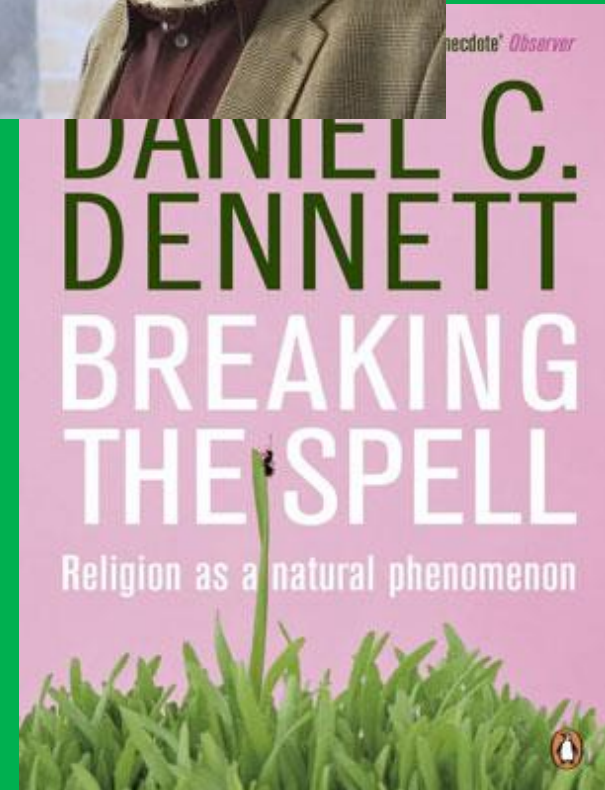
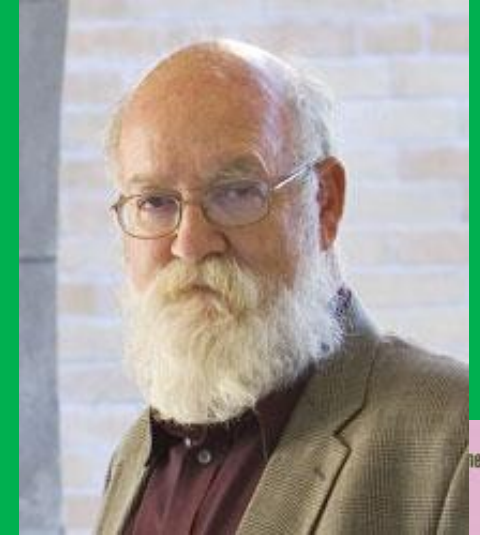
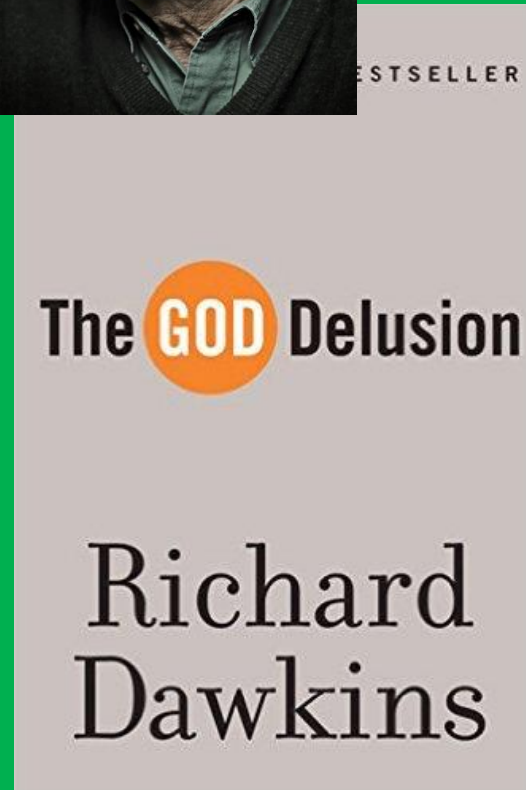
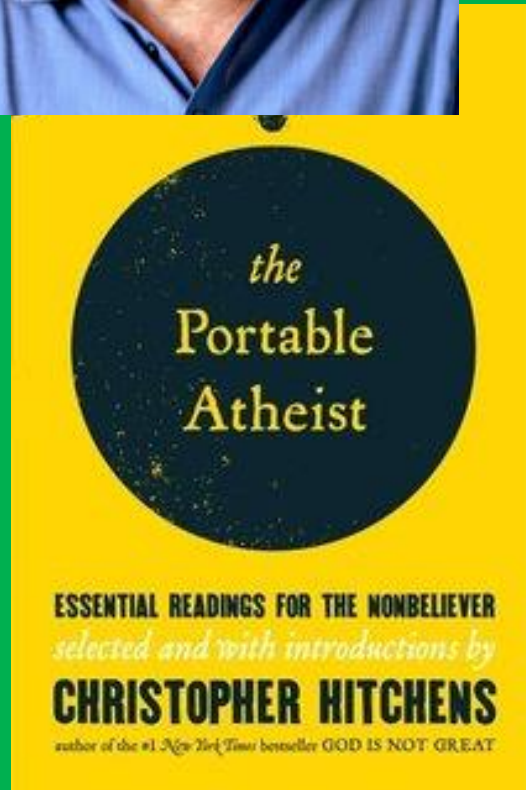
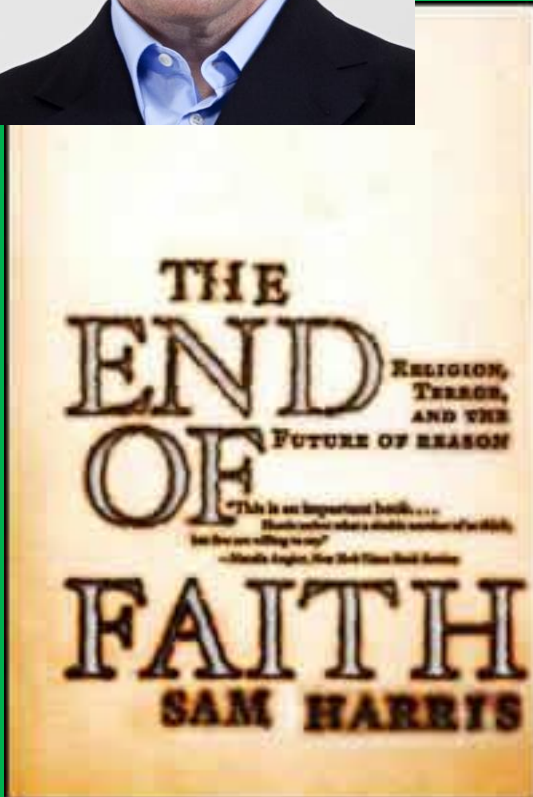




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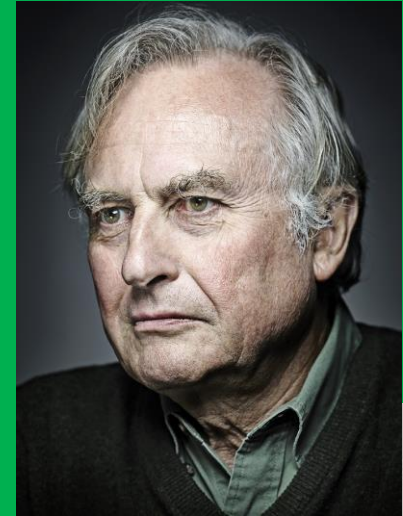


# The Four Horsemen of the New Atheism





Faith is blind trust, in  
the absence of  
evidence, even in the  
teeth of evidence  
- *The Selfish Gene*



BESTSELLER

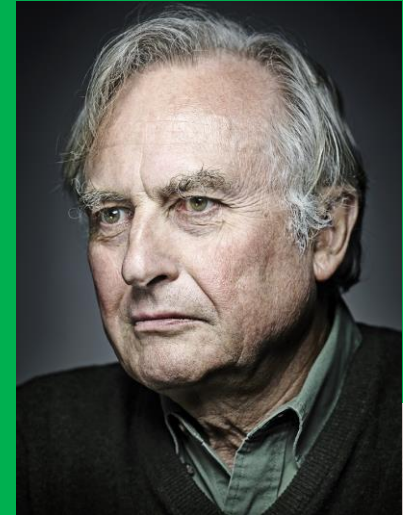
The **GOD** Delusion

Richard  
Dawkins



Where's the  
evidence?

ust, in  
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teeth of evidence  
- *The Selfish Gene*



BESTSELLER

The **GOD** Delusion

Richard  
Dawkins

**Atheism proof or  
sleight of hand?**



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**They shift the burden  
of proof**

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**They shift the burden  
of proof**

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**They shift the burden  
of proof**

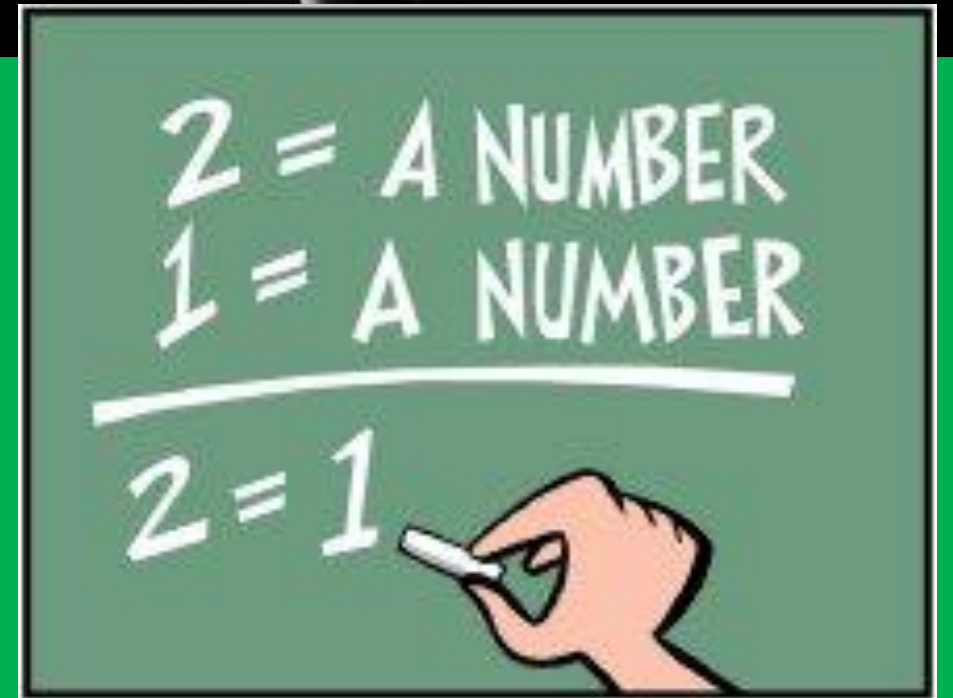
**They use logical fallacies  
and rhetoric tricks**



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**They shift the burden  
of proof**



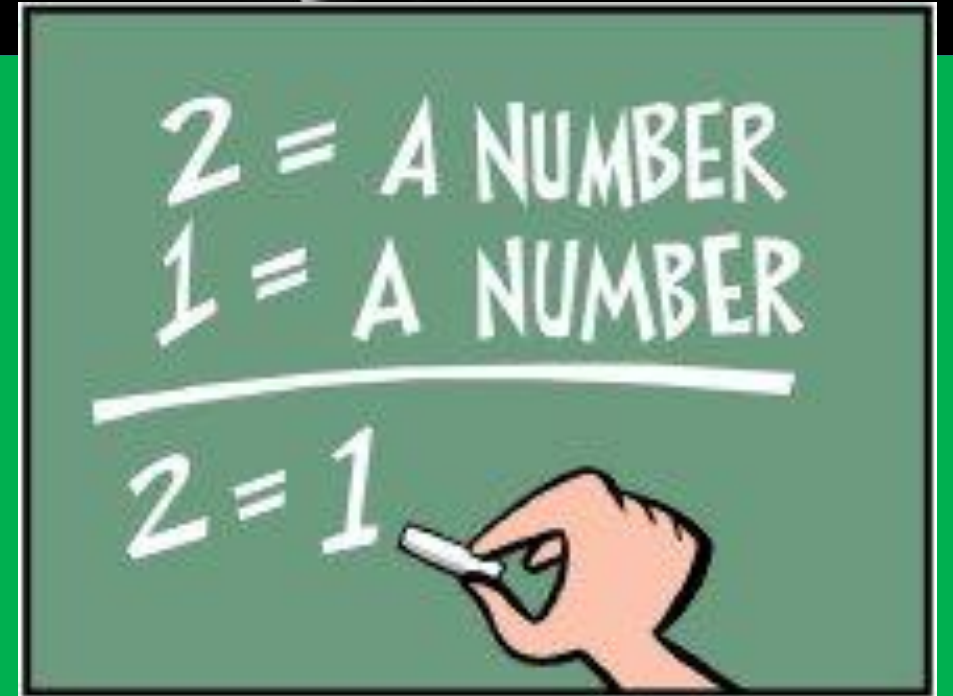
**They use logical fallacies  
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# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



They shift the burden  
of proof

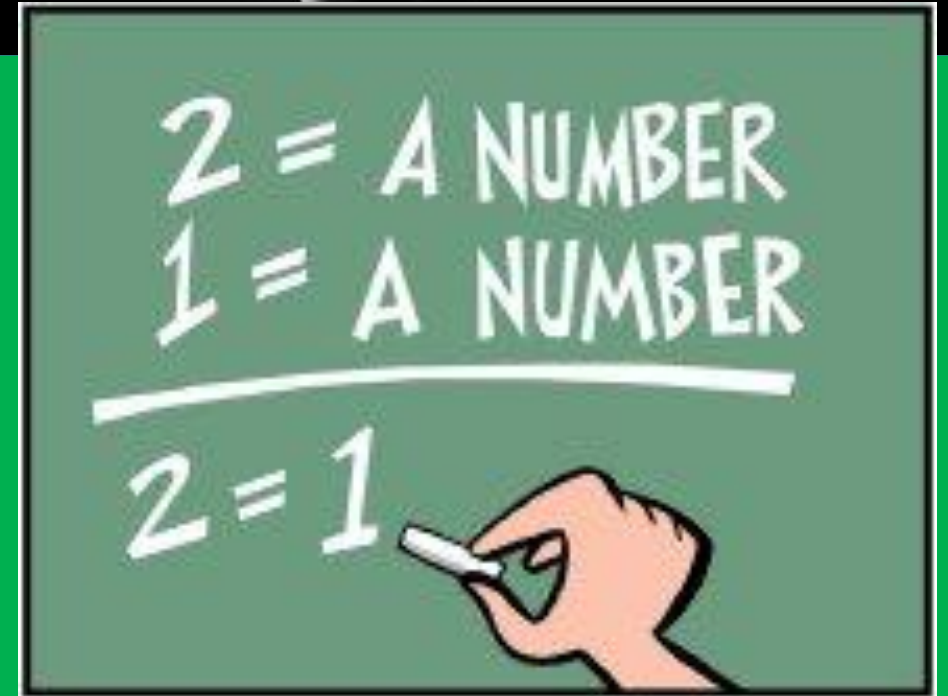


They use logical fallacies  
and rhetoric tricks

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



They shift the burden  
of proof



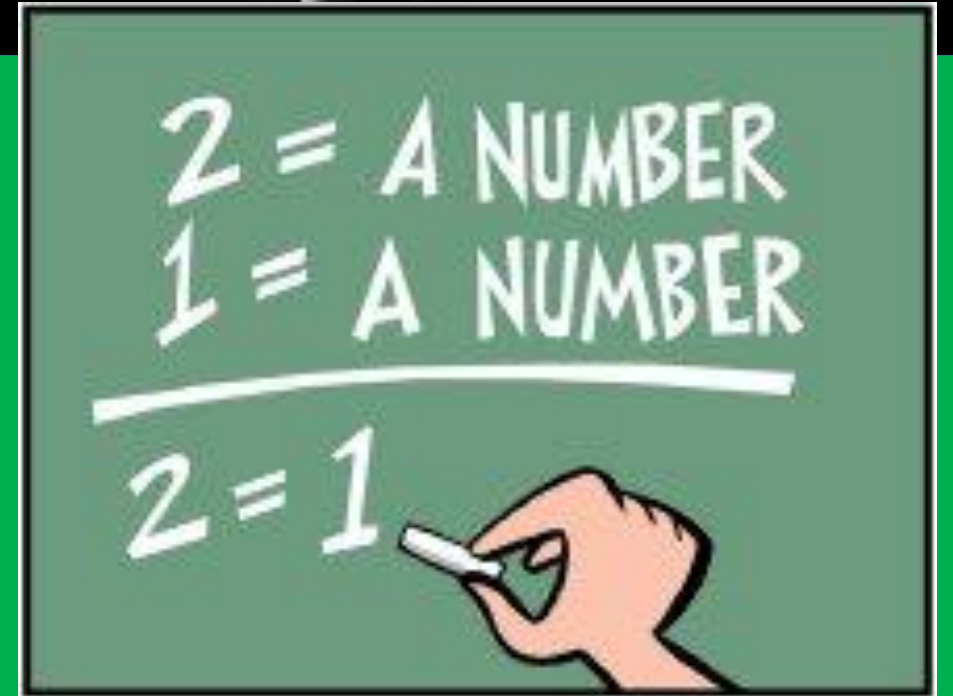
They use logical fallacies  
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# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?

Last session



They shift the burden  
of proof

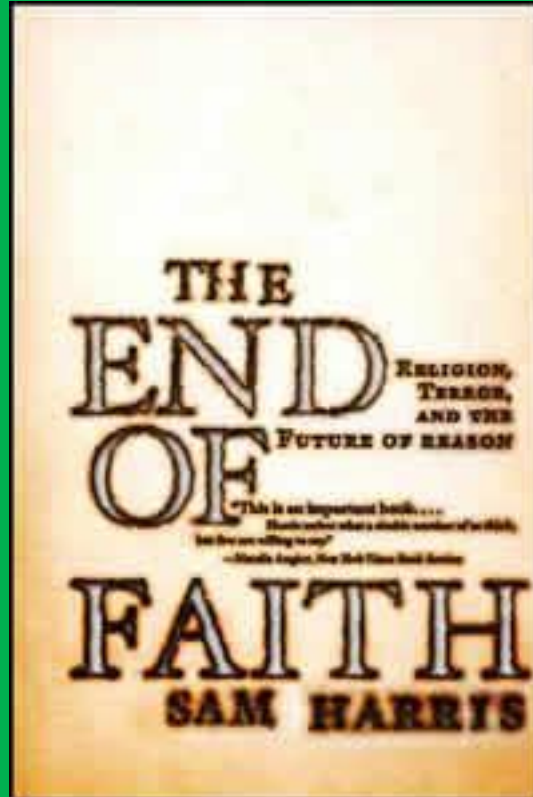


They use logical fallacies  
and rhetoric tricks

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



Religion does  
bad stuff!





# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**Religion does  
bad stuff!**

THE young man boards the bus as it leaves the terminal. He wears an overcoat. Beneath his overcoat, he is wearing a bomb. His pockets are filled with nails, ball bearings, and rat poison.

The bus is crowded and headed for the heart of the city. The young man takes his seat beside a middle-aged couple. He will wait for the bus to reach its next stop. The couple at his side appears to be shopping for a new refrigerator. The woman has decided on a model, but her husband worries that it will be too expensive. He indicates another one in a brochure that lies open

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**Religion does  
bad stuff!**

on her lap. The next stop comes into view. The bus doors swing. The woman observes that the model her husband has selected will not fit in the space underneath their cabinets. New passengers have taken the last remaining seats and begun gathering in the aisle. The bus is now full. The young man smiles. With the press of a button he destroys himself, the couple at his side, and twenty others on the bus. The nails, ball bearings, and rat poison ensure further casualties on the street and in the surrounding cars. All has gone according to plan.

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**Religion does  
bad stuff!**

The young man's parents soon learn of his fate. Although saddened to have lost a son, they feel tremendous pride at his accomplishment. They know that he has gone to heaven and prepared the way for them to follow. He has also sent his victims to hell for eternity. It is a double victory. The neighbors find the event a great cause for celebration and honor the young man's parents by giving them gifts of food and money.

These are the facts. This is all we know for certain about the young man. Is there anything else that we can infer about him



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



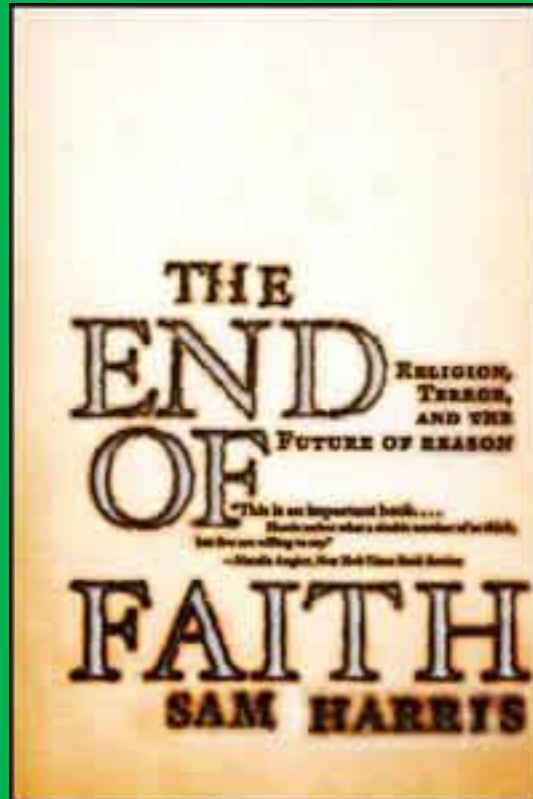
**Religion does  
bad stuff!**

on the basis of his behavior? Was he popular in school? Was he rich or was he poor? Was he of low or high intelligence? His actions leave no clue at all. Did he have a college education? Did he have a bright future as a mechanical engineer? His behavior is simply mute on questions of this sort, and hundreds like them.<sup>1</sup> Why is it so easy, then, so trivially easy—you-could-almost-bet-your-life-on-it easy—to guess the young man's religion?<sup>2</sup>

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



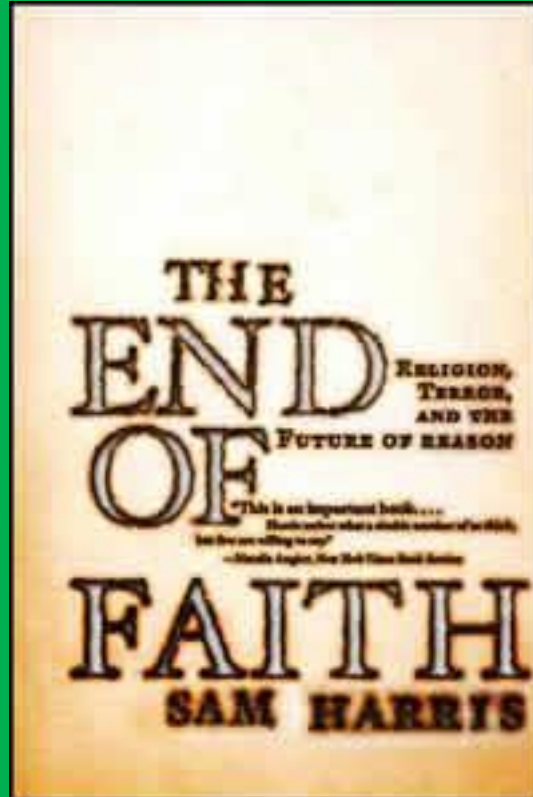
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# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



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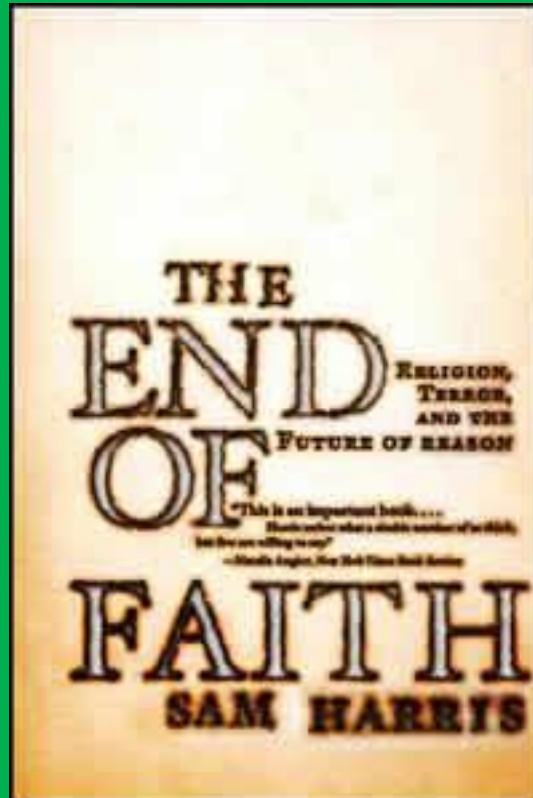


Ad Hoc Rescue,

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**Religion does  
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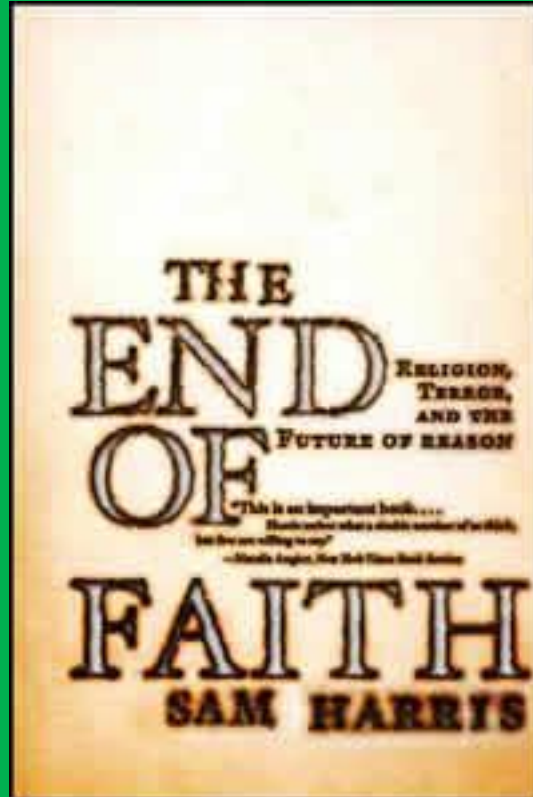


**Ad Hoc Rescue,  
Appeal to Emotion,**

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**Religion does  
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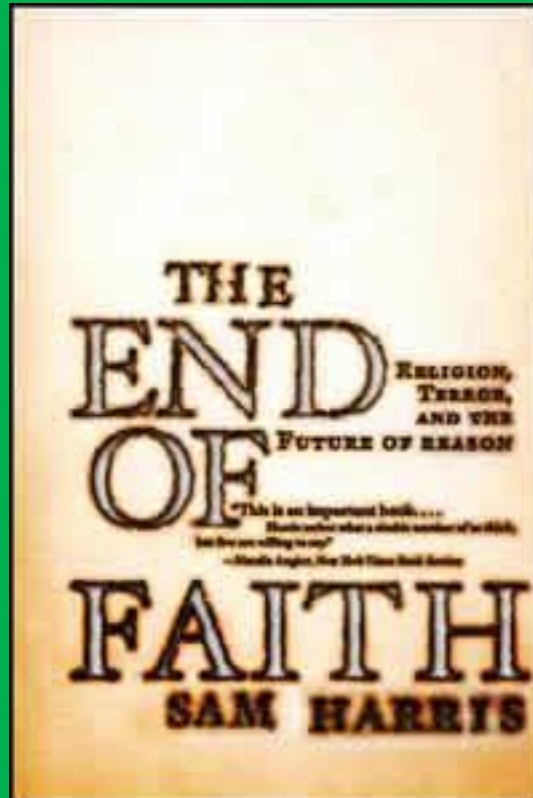
**Ad Hoc Rescue,  
Appeal to Emotion,  
Relevance,**



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



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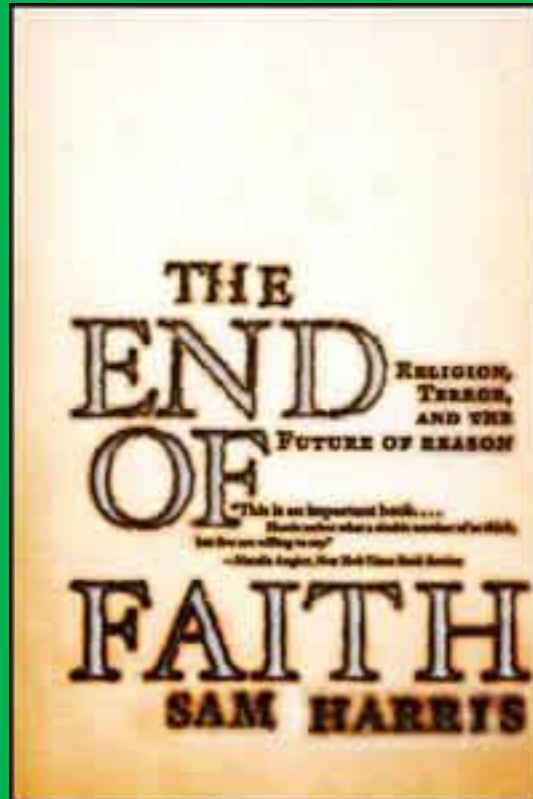


**Ad Hoc Rescue,  
Appeal to Emotion,  
Relevance,  
Appeal to Instinct,**

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



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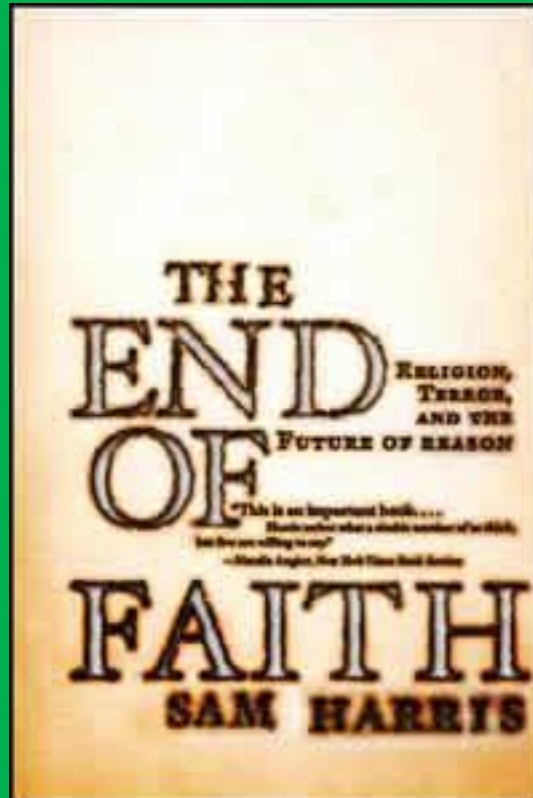
**Ad Hoc Rescue,  
Appeal to Emotion,  
Relevance,  
Appeal to Instinct,  
Overgeneralization**



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**Religion does  
bad stuff!**



**Ad Hoc Rescue,  
Appeal to Emotion,  
Relevance,  
Appeal to Instinct,  
Overgeneralization  
Assuming Facts not in Existence**

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**Religion does  
bad stuff!**

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



## So does atheism



**Religion does  
bad stuff!**

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



So does atheism



**Religion does  
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# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



So does atheism

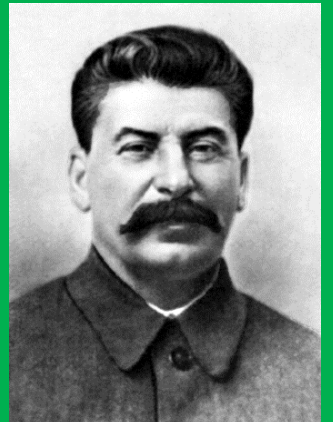




# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



So does atheism



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



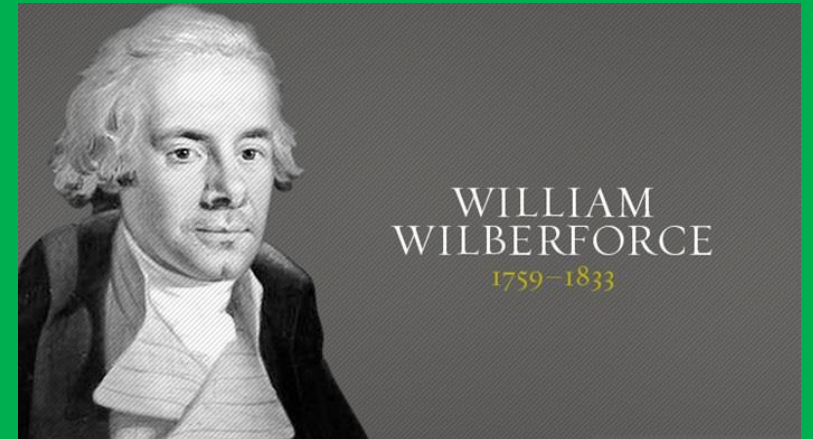
The truth:



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



The truth:

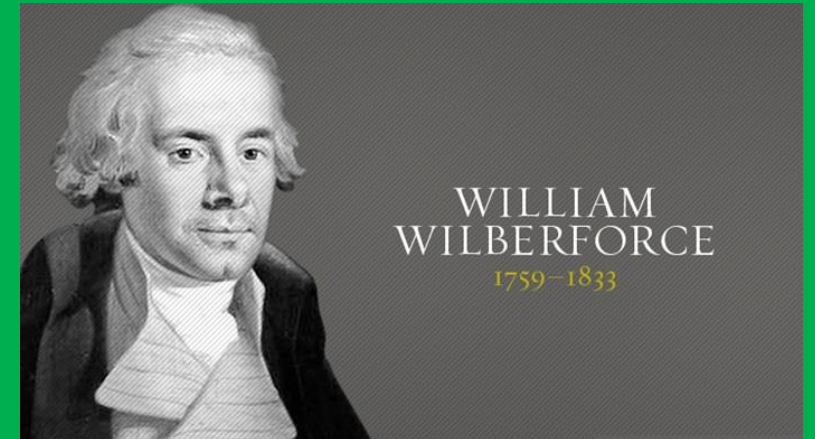


# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**The truth:**

**1. Religion can be destructive**





# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?

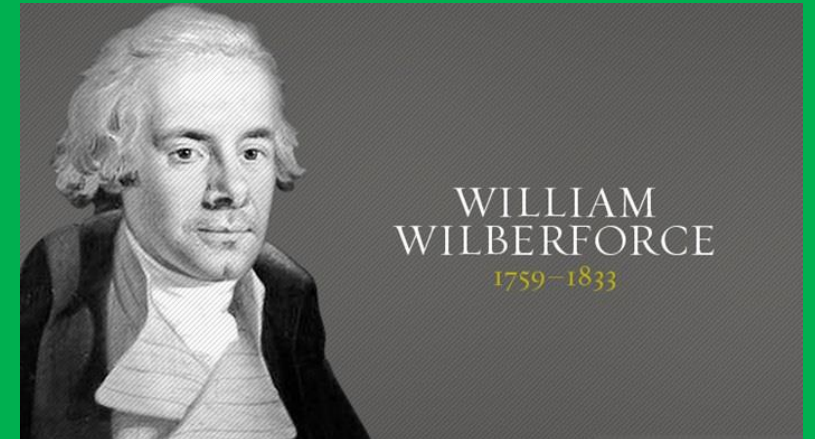


## The truth:

**1. Religion can be destructive**



**2. Religion can be constructive**

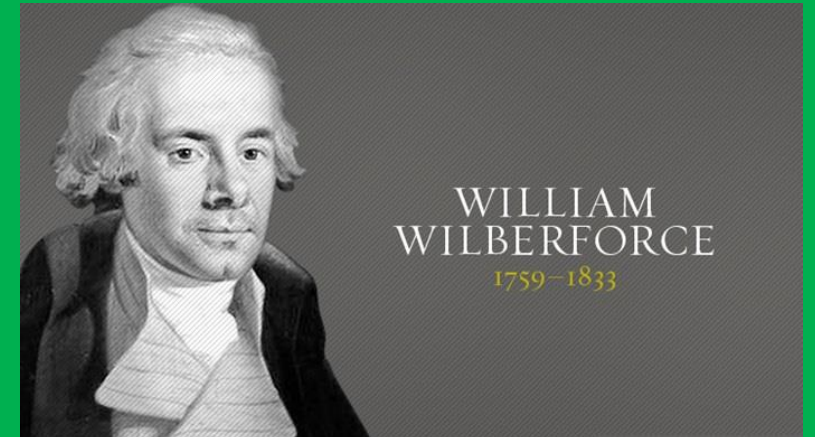


# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?

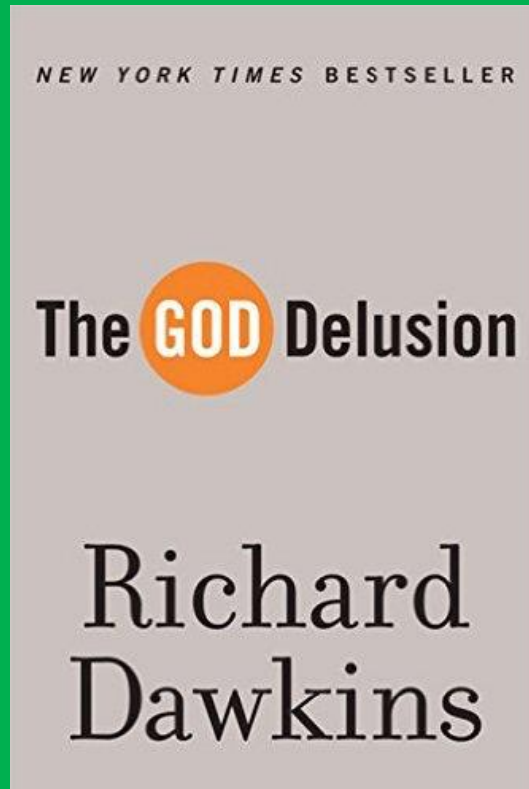
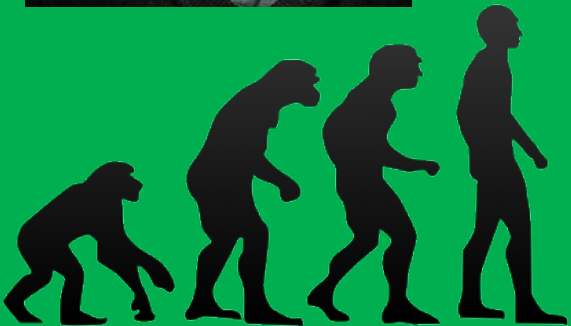
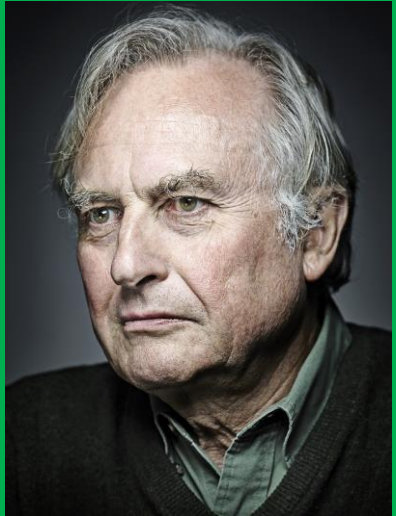


## The truth:

1. Religion can be destructive
2. Religion can be constructive
3. Atheism can be destructive



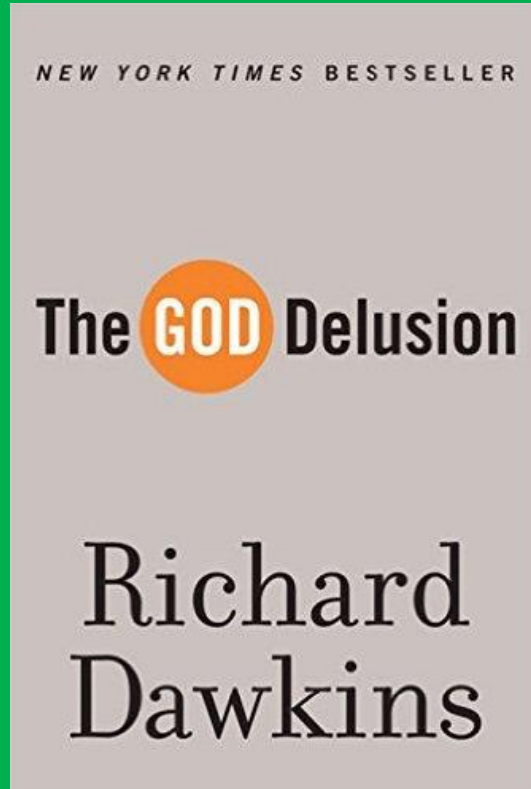
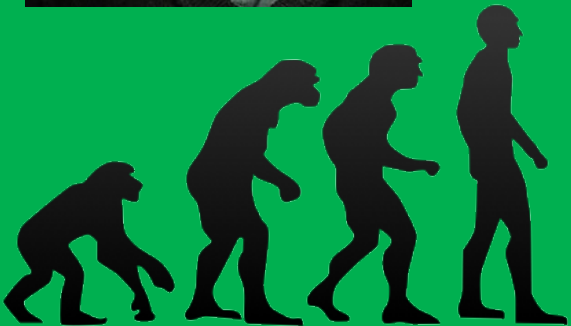
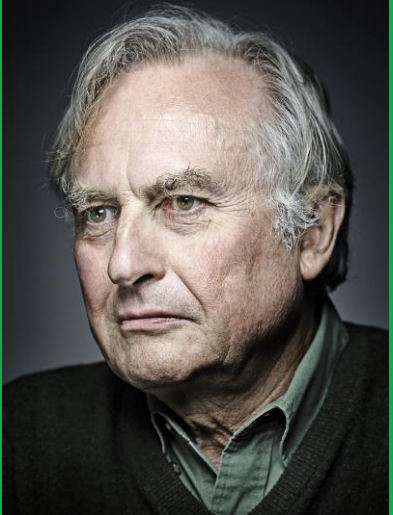
# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



## Evolution?

The scientific method doesn't prove or disprove God any more than a ruler proves or disproves the temperature

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



## Evolution? Irrelevant

The scientific method doesn't prove or disprove God any more than a ruler proves or disproves the temperature

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?





# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



The truth:



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?

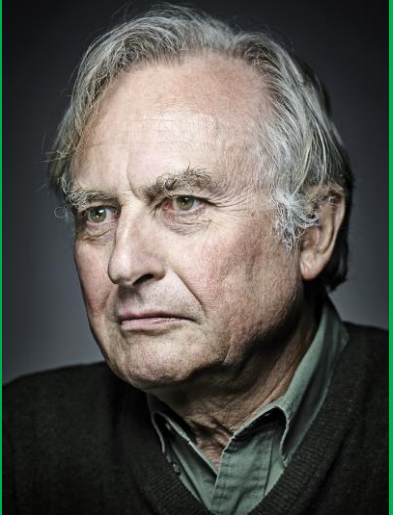


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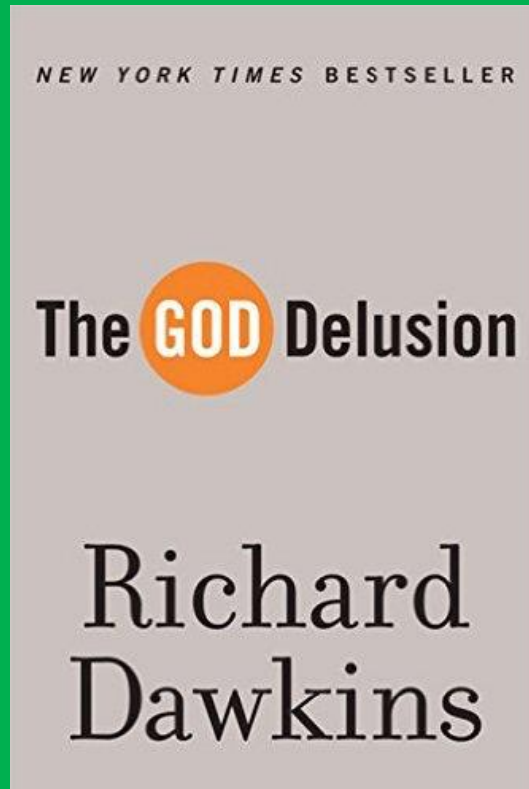
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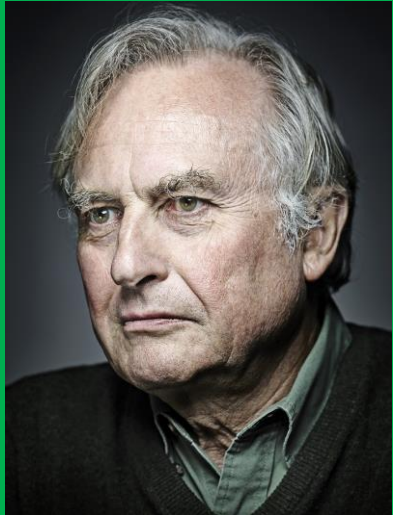
# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**There's too  
much stuff!**



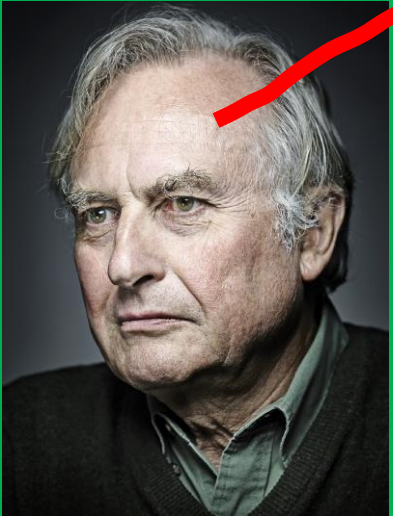
# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



**There's too much stuff!**

A God capable of continuously monitoring and controlling the individual status of every particle in the universe *cannot* be simple. His existence is going to need a mammoth explanation in its own right. Worse (from the point of view of simplicity), other corners of God's giant consciousness are simultaneously preoccupied with the doings and emotions and prayers of every single human being—and whatever intelligent aliens there might be on other planets in this and 100 billion other galaxies.

# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



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# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



3 1/2 lbs



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# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



The truth:

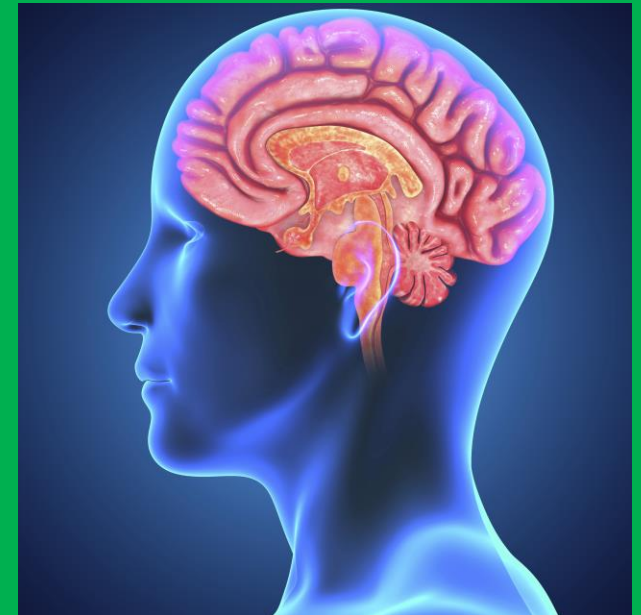


# Atheism proof or sleight of hand?



## The truth:

**If our 3 ½ pound brains can figure out the questions of this immense universe and it's history, it's scary to think of what something immensely greater could do!**



# Points for home





## Points for home



*“What can be known about  
God is plain to them, because  
God has shown it to them”  
(Rom. 1:19)*

## Points for home



*“What can be known about  
God is plain to them, because  
God has shown it to them”  
(Rom. 1:19)*

**I need to understand  
what I am looking for**

# Points for home



## Points for home



*“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse ”*

*(Rom. 1:20)*

## Points for home



*“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse”*

*(Rom. 1:20)*

**I need to recognize  
what I see**



# Points for home



## Points for home



*“Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools ”*

*(Rom. 1:21-22)*

## Points for home



*“Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools ”*

*(Rom. 1:21-22)*

**I need to remember  
humility**



**WHY I'M NOT  
AN ATHEIST**