

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – June 2009

“SUPERSTITION”

I found some interesting information in an article on the Center for Science & Culture website. The original article comes from the Discovery Institute in Washington, D. C. *Which Secular Superstition Do You Believe?* by Logan Paul Gage begins with the following quote from Richard Dawkins’ book, *The God Delusion*:

“Natural selection builds child brains with a tendency to believe whatever their parents and tribal elders tell them. Such trusting obedience is valuable for survival...On this model we should expect...that superstitions and other non-factual beliefs will locally evolve—change over generations...”

Gage then tells of meeting a man in a local pub who announced, “I know the truth about Christianity. I read The Da Vinci Code.”

The real question is: *Who is more likely to believe wild-eyed superstitions these days, the religious or irreligious?*

Rodney Stark, a respected scholar at Baylor University’s Institute for Studies of Religion, recently released a study entitled “What Americans Really Believe? The Gallup Organization conducted the poll.

One finding from this survey is that, despite the many neo-atheistic books that have been published and are making best seller lists, few Americans have been converted. Atheism is holding steady at around four percent of the population, and even in Europe, the majority are not atheists.

“Gallup asked questions regarding belief in things like Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, Atlantis, haunted houses, and astrology.” After organizing these figures into an index of paranormal belief, the researchers discovered that “While 31% of people who never worship expressed strong belief in these things, only 8% of people who attend a house of worship more than once a week did” (as reported in the *Wall Street Journal*).

“...In fact, the more traditional and evangelical the respondent, the less likely he was to believe in, for instance, the possibility of communicating with people who are dead.”

Atheists ignore data such as this, and continue to claim that religion breeds gullibility and superstition, and think that people believe in God only when there is no other valid explanation for mysterious phenomena, such as thunder, earthquakes, disease. This is where the myth arises that science and religion are discordant or at war with one another. But, science was begun by Christians who wanted to understand how God has put the world together and keeps it running.

“Even many non-religious historians of science now understand that, far from perpetuating old superstitions, the Judeo-Christian tradition constituted a radical break with pagan thought. It posited a single rational mind behind the universe rather than myriad irrational spirits in the universe...It is no accident that experimental science arose in the West where the idea of the intelligibility of nature took root, for it made sense to seek orderly laws of nature if there exists a rational lawgiver of the universe.” —See www.discovery.org for full article.

The new question now is: “Once we lose ‘faith’ in the rational intelligibility of the universe, what is left to dissuade us from the latest findings of UFO-logy?”