

# DEISM

## Quotes from “The Age of Reason” by Thomas Paine

“I believe in one God, and no more; and I hope for happiness beyond this life.”

“I believe in the equality of man; and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavouring to make our fellow-creatures happy.”

“All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian or Turkish, appear to be no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit.”

“I do not mean by this declaration to condemn those who believe otherwise; they have the same right to their belief as I have to mine.”

“Every national church or religion has established itself by pretending some special mission from God, communicated to certain individuals. The Jews have their Moses; the Christians their Jesus Christ, their apostles and saints; and the Turks their Mahomet, as if the way to God was not open to every man alike.”

“Each of these churches accuse the other of unbelief; and for my own part, I disbelieve them all.”

“The word of God is the creation we behold and it is, in this word which no human invention can counterfeit or alter, that god speaketh universally to man.”

“The creation is the bible of the Deist.”

“The God of moral truth.”

“The only idea we can have of serving God, is that of contributing to the happiness of the living creation that God has made.”

“As mystery and miracle took charge of the past and the present, prophecy took charge of the future and rounded the tenses of faith.”

“The three great faculties of the mind are IMAGINATION, JUDGMENT and MEMORY. Every action of the mind comes under one or the other of these faculties. In a state of wakefulness, as in the day-time, these faculties are all active; but that is seldom the case in sleep, and never perfectly: and this is the cause that our dreams are not so regular and rational as our waking thoughts.” (From ‘An Essay on Dream.’)

“Is man ever to be the dupe of priest craft, the slave of superstition? Is he never to have just ideas of his Creator? It is better not to believe there is a God, than to believe of Him falsely. When we behold the mighty universe that surrounds us, and dart our contemplation into the eternity of space, filled with innumerable orbs revolving in eternal

harmony, how paltry must the tales of the Old and the New Testaments, profanely called the word of God, appear to thoughtful man!”

“Books, whether Bibles or Korans, carry no evidence of being the work of any other power than man. It is only that which man cannot do that carries the evidence of being the work of a superior power. Man could not invent and make the universe – he could not invent nature, for nature is of divine origin. It is the laws by which the universe is governed.”

“One of the finest scenes and subjects of religious contemplation is to walk into the woods and fields, and survey the works of the God of Creation. The wide expanse of heaven, the earth covered with verdure, the lofty forest, the waving corn, the magnificent roll of mighty rivers, and the murmuring melody of the cheerful brooks, are scenes that inspire the mind with gratitude and delight.”

“All principles of science are of divine origin. Man cannot make, or invent, or contrive principles: he can only discover them; and he ought to look through the discovery to the author.”

“I have said, in the first part of the “Age of Reason,” that “I hope for happiness after this life.” This hope is comfortable to me, and I presume not to go beyond the comfortable idea of hope, with respect to a future state.”

“My own opinion is, that those whose lives have been spent in doing good, and endeavoring to make their fellow-mortals happy, for this is the only way in which we can serve God, *will be happy hereafter*; and the very wicked will meet with some punishment.”

“When we survey the works of Creation, the revolutions of the planetary system, and the whole economy of what is called nature, which is no other than the laws the Creator has prescribed to matter, we see unerring order and universal harmony reigning throughout the whole. No one part contradicts another. The sun does not run against the moon nor the moon against the sun, nor the planets against each other. Everything keeps its appointed time and place.”

“Thomas Paine has written to show that the Bible is not the Word of God, that the books it contains were not written by the persons to whom they are ascribed, that it is an anonymous book, and that we have no authority for calling it the Word of God, or for saying it was written by inspired penmen, since we do not know who the writers were.”

“It [Deism] is a religion that has God for its patron and derives its name from Him.”