

## Why I am an atheist:

Because I don't have any trouble dealing with the fact that I am an insignificant speck of organic funkiness within an inordinate agglomeration of chaos that is the universe, so far;

Because I don't mind having to rationalize my system of ethics in a systematic manner, thinking in an autonomous fashion, rather than toeing a party line;

Because I think free-will is a pretty good idea, and fact of the world;

Because I would rather base my interpretations of reality on the world around me than various series of curious and contradictory historical narratives subject to a wildly ranging series of translations;

Because I have no need for an afterlife as a placebo for the visage of death;

Because I'd rather be nice to people as a result of who I am, and perhaps some altruistic or even selfish genes, instead of the threat of some big entity that will clobber me if I'm not;

Because life actually functions despite the inherent faults and defects in organisms in all shapes and sizes - if this was the work of some intelligent designer I'd be rather ashamed at the shoddy quality of the goods produced - I mean, I'd get better stuff at Crappy Tire;

Because despite all of the randomness in the world, there is love and forgiveness and caring arising from the humanity of it all, batteries and deities not included;

Because I believe that there are many paths to, stages, and forms of, enlightenment, beauty, and truth; and,

Because my church accepts and my minister lauds me for bringing such a critical mind to the sanctuary.

(j oseph muller 2002)