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**Sam Singleton Agrees to Answer Eleven Questions
*Atheist Evangelist in Rare Interview***

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What gives you the authority to challenge other people's beliefs?

Who says I require some sort of authority? Where would this supposed authority come from? Like I say: Don't make a public profession unless you want to hear back from the public.

Are you saying that we should all be atheists?

Yes.

Would the world be a better place if everyone were an atheist?

Yes.

What does your family think of your rejection of your heritage?

They're all mad at me. One of my sisters, and I'm not saying which one, put walnuts in the "pe-can" pie she made for my birthday.

Do you regard paganism, satanism, and witchcraft as religions? Are they any better or worse than Abrahamic religions?

Like I say, Tinkerbell or the Sugar Plum Fairy . . .

A lot of people who don't believe in God still think Jesus was a good role model for ethical behavior. Do you agree?

No.

Do you think only stupid people believe in God?

I know plenty of smart people who believe and do stupid things. Not me so much, but plenty of others. No matter how smart you are, believing in God is stupid. You want people to think you're not stupid? Ix-nay on the od-gay.

Do you have children? If so, how can you raise good, decent, moral, and law-abiding adults without teaching them God's laws?

No kids. Great wife, though. Sister Singleton, God love her. Parents looking for divine guidance,

for help from on high, about how to teach their kids about right and wrong are, pardon the expression, fucking a dead dog. You can pretty much bet that any real solutions are going to have to take place in the real world and not some fantasy land in which everything is all laid out by some all-knowing intelligence.

A lot of wars have been fought between believers of different religions. If there were no religion don't you think people would just find other reasons to fight?

Well, they already fight for reasons other than religion. There's an aphorism: 'Religion provides something of no material consequence about which people can disagree and an impetus for conflict when conditions favor harmony.' Fighting about religion amounts to fighting about literature. Killing people over stories. That's frighteningly perverse.

Most people take comfort from knowing—or at least believing—that they will be with their loved ones after death. Isn't it cruel to try to shatter that belief?

Reminds me of that quote from Shaw about how a believer being happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than the fact that a drunken man is happier than a sober one. At the risk of sounding paternalistic and condescending, I'll use a parental metaphor. Should a parent encourage a child to continue believing in a literal Santa Claus even through adulthood? Would that credulousness be likely to help or hurt the child over the long run? Which is more cruel, disabusing the child of the fantasy or not doing so? Who's going to be the grown-up when everyone refuses to grow up? Where does that leave us? By the way, would you vote for a candidate that admitted serious belief in Santa Claus? There's exactly the same amount of evidence for Santa Claus as there is for God. Willful ignorance is a dangerous thing.

Why are you doing this?

My mission, and that's the precise word, is to give voice to the unheard. That, and to get some stuff off my own chest. But mainly to cash in. And I'm determined to wake up some folks. America makes it impossible for those of us who don't believe in God to avoid being constantly reminded of our marginalization, of our minority status. That's wrong.

Anything you want to add?

That's twelve. I agreed to answer eleven questions. You want more, buy a ticket.

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