

A Herstory of Religious Rejection

by Elizabeth Evelyn

Fortunately, as children, my only sibling and I were not “churched” on any regular basis. My grandmother took me to a church once in a while. At age three she took me to a nearby church where I was totally enthralled with the “theater” of the service. People paraded in costumes up and down the center of the building. The choir members were also in costumes! Those things were the best part and the most attractive — the music and the costumes.

Many years later, when we asked our parents why we did not go to church, we were told to go if we wanted to. Each of us went separately with our friends. Again it was the theatrics, costumes and music that were appealing to me. Nothing else was at all interesting.

When I married and had children, it seemed to be a good idea to go to church as a family. That was fine until my husband would not go with us. That was the end of that — in many ways.

My second husband was an Episcopalian. We all went to church, though he and I could not be married in his church. Why? Because I was married before and I had had children. (Gasp!)

After some time, my children and I became involved in the church choir and other social activities. The priest and I became good friends as well. He encouraged me and my two eldest children to attend “confirmation” classes, which would prepare us to become confirmed Episcopalians.

He asked if I had been baptized. I didn’t know so I immediately asked my mother. She told me that I probably had been baptized although she could not remember.

The priest told me not to try anymore to find out, but if we could not find any records, we just would assume it had been properly done.

Shortly thereafter, I began to question many of the things I was told I needed to agree with in order to “pass” the class. Finally, after many of my questions, the Priest told me to just “buy what you can and we will leave the rest alone.”

At that point I knew that I had no business becoming a confirmed Episcopalian. My children were informed that they could choose at another point in their lives to go through the classes and get confirmed, but it would be their choice, not mine.

That was the end of church for me! It was the beginning of my questioning the validity of religion, god, Jesus, the whole theology thing.

I became a seeker of truth through scientific investigation and the reasoning ability of my own mind. Some not-so-wonderful experiences that were very negative for me and my children also played a major role in my knowing that the whole religious program is a complete



hoax; lies, and more lies. Man was making God in his own image in order to control the people, I thought. It starts with scaring the crap out of the children!

I found the Freethought Society (FS) Discussion Yahoo group through **Howard Replogle**. Replogle is the founder of the Birds of a Feather Freethought Group sponsored by the Escapees Recreational Vehicle Club.

There are quite a few very assertive Christians in our park, which has 119 leasehold lots, mostly occupied by couples. Although I do not label myself as other than a non-believer in religious teachings, I am sure my Christian friends here in the park refer to

me as an atheist. Twice each week there is a Bible study gathering in the community Ranch House. When they first started to meet, there were about a dozen attendees. The Bible study group now only has about 5 regular attendees. Soon they will be required to meet in another smaller building.

I participate in the daily Happy Hour as the musician (I play a keyboard) and I use my computer as a tool to reach others. I’ve made many cyber-friends through the FS Discussion Group

Alan Gold and I have been cyber-friends from the beginning of my subscription to the FS Discussion Group. We have shared many thoughts, and found that we have a great deal in common regarding the evolution of consciousness.

I have been interested in the subject of consciousness ever since I lived in Lincoln City, Oregon. I met a fellow named Jim who owned a book store that focused on metaphysics and started attending meetings. Jim speaks about what we call “then and now.” He never claims to “know.” I found the information quite profound. Jim is better known now as “Ishvara,” and has become a sort of Guru on this subject.

My interest in Enlifement.org and the FS Discussion Group is all about consciousness raising. It is my desire to be involved in all similar groups, including the subject of science.

In closing, I offer part of what I have learned in my quest for truth. Many of these thoughts originated with Ishvara, whose permission I have to “tweak” in order to include my personal thoughts:

*Be All You Are...
Be Yourself...*

*Live Moment By Moment...
Now Is All There Is...*

Everyone Else Is Taken...

*The World Transforms...
As You Transform...*

*Enjoy All You Do...
Do All You Enjoy...*

*You Are The Universe...
Being You...*