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Subject: Re: When did you become a Insert-Religion-Here?

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Mon, 17 Jan 2011 08:40:35 GMT

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I consider my beliefs to be an ongoing process.

I grew up in a very relaxed household, but because most of my extended family and many of my friends were Christians, I thought that was what I should be too. Nobody ever pressured me into anything, but I wasn't actively encouraged to seek my own beliefs either. Somewhere during middle school I had a crisis of faith... though it would probably be more accurate to say that I realized a little at a time that I hadn't had any faith to begin with. The more I thought about it, the less the idea of God made sense. After all, if God made all of existence, then who made God? God could not have created himself, so if God existed then his existence must have been caused by something or someone else- and he was therefore not God. I started to find the very idea of worshiping a being who (if he existed at all) was not the ultimate source of anything, to be somewhat offensive.

At that point, the only label I knew of that described a person who doesn't believe in God was 'atheist,' so that's what I identified as for a long time. However, 'atheist' wasn't quite adequate- while technically true, people tend to make certain assumptions regarding one's other beliefs when the word 'atheist' is spoken. I don't believe in God, but I do believe that death is not absolute and that living things do have what some prefer to call a soul. I've stopped calling myself an atheist, because the label comes with too many misconceptions. I usually drop 'agnostic' in conversation now, at least when I'd rather not have to make lengthy explanations- although it's no more accurate a term, it is generally accepted as the "it's complicated" option and is thus useful for brushing off unwanted questions.

A while ago, I started privately calling myself an 'infinetist.' I believe that there was never an absolute beginning, that there never will be an absolute end, that the only constant in existence is change, that death is not the end of life but rather a changing of its form akin to the relationship between matter and energy. I believe that conscious beings such as humans (though I would certainly not consider humans to be unique in this regard) do have what might be called a soul, which exists at least in part outside our present ability to perceive or detect its existence. I believe that good and evil are not absolute in the nature of things; good and evil are merely possible decisions that can be made. I believe that science will one day unlock the mystery of life and death, though I don't pretend to know what we'll find when that day comes. I believe that we and all that we know are not the result of a God's whim, but rather that we are just one of an infinite number of possibilities that came to pass, and that infinite others exist in the vastness of space and time.

I temper my beliefs with known science; if I find that something I believe contradicts known, observable facts, then I change what I believe. Truth is absolute; only our understanding of it changes. We should have faith in the unknown because it will someday be known, not because it is unknowable. We should have the courage as a species to admit when we do not know the answer, but we should also have the courage to say what we think the answer might be even if we don't have enough evidence to prove it.

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