

Dear Mr. Russell,

I have just finished your book, Why I Am Not A Christian. I enjoyed it very much. I thought that your arguments against Christianity were very potent, and often you made the church not only seem ridiculous, but a boulder on the road to Progress.

I especially appreciated the first chapter, in which you went into thoroughly all the aspects of Christianity. At one point you said that the majority of good Christians do not follow many of the teachings of Christ. For instance, Christ said "Resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." And after this statement you remarked that if you struck the Prime Minister he would, ^{not} although undoubtedly a very good Christian, turn the other cheek.

Another good point made in that chapter was that the belief in God is based on fear. I wholeheartedly agree with you. People themselves are insecure, and as they are not intelligent enough to find a sensible cause for the marvels of the earth, they invented a fearful monarch, to whom homage was done every day. People deny themselves, in order to have a reward at the end. And that reward is their own invention God.

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In my family we have no set religion, because my father is Jewish and my mother comes from Episcopalian stock. We are all ardent admirers of yours. From the time of my grandfather, we have faithfully obtained all your books and essays.

I come from a family of writers on my father's side. My great-grandfather, Israel Freedman, wrote on a paper. My grandfather wrote many well known novels of his time (American novels) such as, Mendel

Merantz, and ~~XXXXX~~ The Intellectual Lover. My mother and father have written jointly five novels. Mrs. Mike, the story of a young girl who goes into the depths of Alaska, This and No More, which is about a mathematician struggling to make both ends meet in N.Y., ~~XXXXXX~~ Spark and the Exodus, is one of exciting, heartbreaking alliahs to Israel, Tresa, the lovely, bewitching girl who leads men on to who knows what, and Lootville, the racket of T.V. with all its tears and smiles. I hope you have read some of these and have had as much pleasure out of them as we have had out of your books. My father is also a mathematician, and has had articles and puzzles printed in several mathematical magazines.
 ESPECIALLY THIS + NO MORE + Spark
 He has written in the Abstracts Mathematics

I suppose that this is a good time to tell you who I am. My name is Johanna Freedman, and I am twelve years old. I ~~also~~ feel that writing will be my vocation. I have had a book of poems published two years ago, and I am almost ready to have a second book published ~~as well~~. I like to write short stories, (very short) and I am hoping that soon they will be ready to ~~have~~ printed in book form.

I can only say once more how much I liked your book. It is the first thing of yours that I have ever read, and if everything else is that good, I am afraid you must be swamped with fan mail.

Please keep writing, more and more wonderful books,

Your disciple,

Johanna Freedman

Johanna Freedman