The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins

The God Delusion is a fascinating and compelling insight into the evidence, not only against the existence of God, but a detailed analysis for the evidence for both sides of the argument, and the repercussions this has on society. It makes no attempt to hide its purpose, to enlighten believers to the reason and logic of science, and articulately, passionately and humorously describe the arguments against religion, and for the understanding and respect of science. It is important to note that I am an atheist myself, but do not be deterred by statement, for this book has plenty to offer.

It explores many contentious topics in relation to religion and poses many controversial questions; should we respect religion? Can we 'prove' God's existence and non-existence, and if that is the case, what is the point? And suggests even more compelling and controversial answers. After careful consideration of his responses, I couldn’t help but admire his courage and agree with his reasoning. It exemplified the importance of reason in this world, at a time when we need it more than ever, and the danger of faith in both the context of a theistic belief, and in regards to any belief that is substantiated in opposition to or with a lack of evidence.

It explores the both the fundamentalist views of both Christianity and Islam, deviating slightly into other theistic religions. It does make note that in regards to Eastern religions, such as Buddhism, as it is interpreted as a way of life, and not a system of illogical beliefs. It explores the foundations or morals, and questions whether we truly do need religion to guide us, to be virtuous human beings and find fulfilment in life.

Looking through and analysing the arguments critically, you can’t help but notice certain contempt throughout the text that fluctuates from a having respect and understanding of religious belief to that of total and utter disgust. This inconsistency can be attributed to the fluctuating levels of belief, from total fundamentalism to the metaphorical interpretations of biblical and holy texts. However, one cannot ignore this inconsistency and question where exactly his stance lies. Not only this, but on the obvious account that this is a persuasive text; one can’t ignore some of the obvious biases he portrays. Therefore, one must read this with a pinch of salt, and be sceptical of the information in order to unlock the true wealth that is inside.

The God Delusion is a fascinating read, and a must for both believers and non-believers alike. His arguments based on reason and logic are a refreshing new perception for an important and contentious issue that has always, and most likely will continue to be a prominent influence, for better or worse, on our global society.

Rating: 4/5