ANALYTIC ESSAY 4



KAREN ARMSTRONG

- Former nun, former teacher, now popular historian, writer and broadcaster
- Has written books about the role and meaning of religion
- In her writing, she highlights communalities between religions

KAREN ARMSTRONG

- British author of Irish Catholic descent
- Born in 1944
- She became a nun in 1962
- Attended Oxford where she studied English
- Left the nunnery in 1967

“THE CASE FOR GOD”

- Published in 2009
- Main argument: religion is part of human nature, but which religion? Religion as myth and practice, daily living, not religion as dogma.
- Response to the New Atheists’ attack on religion.

THE NEW ATHEISTS

- Sam Harris,
- Richard Dawkins
- Daniel Dennett
- Christopher Hitchens

- [The new atheist] writers are wrong -- not only about religion, but also about politics -- because they are wrong about human nature. Homo sapiens is also Homo religiosus. As soon as we became recognizably human, men and women started to create religions. We are meaning-seeking creatures. While dogs, as far as we know, do not worry about the canine condition or agonize about their mortality, humans fall very easily into despair if we don't find some significance in our lives. Theological ideas come and go, but the quest for meaning continues. So God isn't going anywhere. And when we treat religion as something to be derided, dismissed, or destroyed, we risk amplifying its worst faults. Whether we like it or not, God is here to stay, and it's time we found a way to live with him in a balanced, compassionate manner.