

Religion as an aid to law

As a humanist (and a barrister of 29 years standing) I feel moved to protest at the Chief Chancery Master's recent statement. It displays a sentiment which humanists find objectionable in religious people, namely the denigration of human nature. Master Ball says that if the idea of the divine is removed it does not matter whether there is a republican, humanistic or communistic form of government. None of them, he says, would be controlled by anything deeper than the whims and prejudices held for the moment by fleeting human beings. This dismissive, contemptuous attitude to humanity is offensive to humanists. We respect human nature, and believe that the only hope for this world lies in bringing out and encouraging the best elements in all of us. Reliance on supernatural intervention is debilitating. It amounts to passing the buck. The probabilities are that man's destiny is in man's hands. We would do best to realise it and act accordingly.

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