

Philippine Atheists and Agnostics Society

For many years

Most societies, political organizations, and religious groups would speak about atheism and its presence in the Philippines.

They say atheists are people who do not believe in God and his religion. people who does not pray and ask for God's blessing and guidance in their daily lives. People who does not live a life of love and service to the church.

And yes they are right.

We do lack the belief in the deity, nor serve the church of a God we do not believe in.

However, in addition to this ...

They say our lives are absurd and meaningless.

No motivation to do good for we lack a conception of heaven or hell. that we are an impossible doctrine for we try to prove a negative and it is impossible to prove a negative.

We are a "fringe group", a tiny minority with the overall population.

They say we are intolerant and prejudiced against good religious people. We undermine the patriotism and good citizenship in this Christian-Muslim country. And we are guilty of worshiping science.

But is that so? What if they are wrong?

Since February 2011, we - the Philippine Atheists and Agnostics Society - enlighten the Filipino people that life can be fully experienced and enjoyed without belief in God. We can live a life of exuberance without religion.

As atheists, we believe that we have a limited number of days, hours and minutes. Therefore we should strive to fill each of those days, hours and minutes with meaning.

Our vital social relationships with family, friends and the community motivates us to be good, which leads us to a fulfilled, self-actualized life.

We deny the existence of God, not because we can disprove them, but because there is simply no point in postulating its existence. We don't see the need of God to explain the aspects of the world, and there is no reason to invent the "God of the Gaps".

2.3% of the world's population are atheists, but comparing to the second largest Protestant denomination - the United Methodist Church - (8.5 million), which is smaller in number?

We also believe that within the flocks of religious people, there are closet atheists who conceal themselves simply for the sake of loyalty to their family and faith.

We believe that there are intolerant and prejudiced non-religious people, as well as intolerant and prejudiced religious fanatics. But how intolerant is somebody who opposes "Scientific Creationism" more that those who condemn homosexuals to hell?

Never judge a person by his beliefs, but by his actions.

We believe that we can be good patriotic citizens and lead a good example to our countrymen in this country. We believe in democracy, a form of government founded even before the birth of Christianity and Islam. We believe in a system founded by people that serves the people.

We are for evidence-based reason. We believe that we simply cannot appeal to subjective

experience to convince others. Science is a rational, progressive enterprise that has illuminated many things previously shrouded in darkness.

Thus we conclude that these misconceptions against us are ...

Corrected.

The Philippine Atheists and Agnostics Society, PATAS, is a social organization for the public understanding of atheism and agnosticism. It serves to dispel all myths and misconceptions surrounding the lack of a belief in a deity. The society speaks to all atheists and agnostics to come out and say so that they can be good Filipinos without finding religion necessary.

PATAS is for human ethics, grounded in the lack of supernatural assumptions. We can be good without God.

And we are spreading ..;

- PATAS Cebu
- PATAS Iloilo
- PATAS Davao

The Philippine Atheists and Agnostics Society envisions itself as an agent of awareness and public understanding concerning disbelief, an organization committed in replacing superstition with rational and secular solutions grounded in our lack of belief in the supernatural, as an organization that commits to education of atheism and agnosticism we are for the unity of Filipino atheists and agnostics, towards a secular goal for the Philippines...

"It is my pride and joy to have fulfilled many dreams in this society...

The Philippine Atheists and Agnostics Society was hatched out of the ebullience of a few but spread like wildfire, winning hearts and minds of the string freethinkers. PATAS means fair or equal...

we demand equality in the Philippines!

As the stand for humanistic liberty gathers universal momentum, it is a delightful thing to know that no cage is strong enough to imprison the liberty of rational thoughts."

- Marissa Toress-Langseth

PATAS Chairwoman

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