

We cannot scrap religion from the curriculum!

The postmodern age, more so the age of relativism, has brought with it many factors that undermine the very core of mankind's quest to belong and to worship autonomously. Back in 2013, I facilitated a talk at Kenya Methodist University city campus (Audio Cd available) whereby I talked about the imminent and inevitable danger of skepticism on matters to do with the right to religion and worship and a threat to dethrone God (God-factor) from the Kenyan philosophical ideologies and the National Anthem. And here it is!

This evident in what was alleged last week in the news by Mumia; president of atheists in Kenya. In his speech and letter, where he challenged the inclusion of religious studies in the curriculum, I saw a lot of selfishness, hypocrisy and double think. More so his premise is wrong, weak and invalid and based on a slippery slope. My conclusion is based on the following:

First, since 'science evolution theory' is based on the ideology 'survival for the fittest' we wonder why he wants to train virtues. 'Survival for the fittest' stands for a virtue-less generation. This shows that his school of thought is a sharp contrast to his belief system in the first place. Clearly this is double-think on the part of Mumia. Further, in his article May last year, despite him being a practicing atheist, he called out the name of God when he came to a near collision course with death. Truly he believes that by teaching positive values alone would make the world a better place. But my question is: Why does he care? For whom and for what? It is worth noting here that Mumia answers the 'how' question but tends to ignore the 'w' question. This confirms that Mumia can only be concerned with peoples' positive living only if he feels he has an obligation to be good for the sake of a monitoring higher authority like the Godhead.

Second, Kenya constitution chapter four, under the clause Freedom of conscience, religion, belief and opinion states thus:

32. (1) Every individual has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.
- (2) A person shall not be compelled to join an association of any kind.

Indeed the constitution is supreme and surpasses all other opinion or interpretation thereof. Mumia, therefore, has no right to impose on others his dogma no matter his high sounding nonsense. Nothing whatsoever either imposed or stated makes his belief system superior to others. As stated in my numerous emails to atheists and other skeptics, Mumia has confirmed that his small cliché of atheists believe that others who hold a contrary belief are morons. If he as a scientist believes in wind and neutrons (which he cannot see at all) then he should also not object when others subscribe to the idea and faith in a God who they too cannot see. Besides, no one, not even the government, his cliché or his colleagues would ever force him to become religious leave alone sit for a religious paper. His spirit and letter to the state is therefore in contravention of the bill of rights through falsehood and coercion and is therefore culpable.

Third, it is clear that atheists do not have a problem with God parse but religion. Clearly, if they are scholarly enough as they profess, then Mumia and his lot should know better the difference between religion and God. And if Religion is God as they pupport, why does Mumia hate someone who does not exist (as he claims) in the first place? I believe too that there could be some nasty experience in his past

denomination when he was growing up that he has been unable to move over. I recommend that he seeks counseling so that he stops this habit of transferring his woes and frustration in science to those of us who believe in God. With his limited knowledge, Mumia should not talk with cocksure complacency that there is no God and that religion should be done away with. For the illustration, further, in the medieval times, a French infidel, Voltaire, had vowed to wipe away religion (and Christianity in particular) single-handedly from the face of the earth. Shockingly enough, Voltaire died and said the following words on his deathbed. I paraphrase:

“...If I said there is no God nor hell...and now I feel hellfire on my bosom...My God, my God, help me...am taking a dive into the deep...”

This makes me wonder aloud in a monologue! If this is indeed the case, what makes Mumia think he knows better than his atheistic forefathers?

Fourth and lastly, if one would use science to nullify religion, then on the flip side, we have seen many instances science has been unreliably imperfect with many gaps. Older scientific hypotheses have been proved wrong. For instance, scientists earlier believed the earth is flat, only for other finer scientist in early 20th century to discover that it is indeed spherical. Another example is the carbon fourteen dating (now replaced with microwave background radiation) which calculated that the earth is billions of years old. But the challenging question has been ‘how true’ and yet the former methods were later declared faulty. Mumia too, with his limited knowledge in science, should not talk with cocksure complacency that there is no God and that religion should be done away with.

I conclude thus: If only Scientists could keep searching with open mindedness, they will discover the wonderful and real God who is beyond their imperfect inventions. Religious studies are here to stay!