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Atheism And Vega

The nonreligious represent a significant demographic in the animal advocacy movement. Is atheism a strategically desirable one?



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AUTHOR: OWEN ROGERS | PUBLISHED: AUGUST 23, 2018



There are numerous studies examining the demographics of the animal rights movement throughout the world. However, religiosity – especially the lack of it – is less likely like race, income, gender, and political ideology. The animal rights movement has been closely tied with religion for centuries, continuing to this day. In the modern era, it is precisely because the movement has not done much to advertise this fact nor has it made strong connections with non-religious members. The author of this paper hopes to give a brief overview of the history of the movement and how the current movement can best embrace its secularity.

The modern animal rights movement in the West began in earnest in the 18th century. In this era, many educated westerners viewed violence towards animals as an impurity. Later in the 19th century, vegetarianism came to be associated with a desire to achieve spiritual health through avoidance of certain worldly goods. Mainstream science of the time was opposed by many animal rights advocates who rejected spiritual values. Around the turn of the 20th century, vegetarianism was promoted for health by some health activists, such as John Harvey Kellogg and Reverend

combined nutritional science with religious or spiritual values to argue for scientific procedures and advancements, such as vaccination and vivisection. This wave of the movement. In 1940, the Vegan Society was founded in the United Kingdom with science and logic-based reasoning. Later thinkers like Peter Singer and Regan made arguments for veganism. In the current era, the movement is made up mostly of people who choose to highlight this aspect.

The author of this paper uses a recent survey of vegans from the US to examine the country. 287 respondents were counted, all of whom were vegans living in the US. 83% of respondents were white and heterosexual, and the majority of those that responded were female. 72% of male and female respondents identified themselves as being atheist, 83% of non-binary respondents and 73% of respondents that did not identify themselves as a specific religion. 76% of respondents claimed their primary motivation for adopting a vegan diet was concern for animal suffering. 76% of agnostics, 79% of Christians, 68% of Jews, and 70% of those from other religions were more likely than other respondents to be socialists or anarchists. Atheists were more likely to be involved in other theaters of social activism, but were less likely to be involved in the animal rights movement. According to the author, this signifies that humans need to come before humans. According to the author, this signifies an intersectional outlook. The non-human animal rights movement is often accused of being too focused on human suffering, and intersectionality fights that perception.

The author notes that atheists and agnostics are often overlooked, despite their presence in the animal rights movement. One theory put forward is the desire to avoid further stigma by not openly associating with the nonreligious community. Atheists and agnostics are often seen as cold or amoral, and the animal rights movement might be wary of alienating religious people. The author also acknowledges that the atheist community as a whole is generally not well represented in the animal rights community, which signifies a lack of successful outreach. This lack of representation within the movement suggests that it is possible to win the support of the atheist community. The animal rights movement do more to welcome and accommodate the needs of the atheist community. The challenge is to do so without alienating the religious community, which makes it difficult to gain widespread support in American society.

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Owen Rogers is from northern Illinois, raised in the suburbs of Chicago young age, when he had several companion animals ranging from a dog to a cat. He has a philosophy with a focus on ethics, and became a vegetarian. In addition, he volunteered at animal shelters and participated in environmental clean-up projects.



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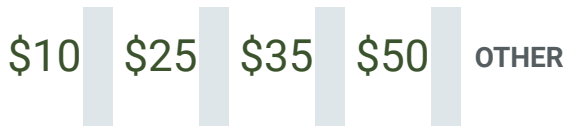
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