

personal english



Quote #30 Christopher Hitchens

“**Owners of dogs** will have noticed that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they will think **you are God**. Whereas **owners of cats** are compelled to realize that, if you provide them with food and water and affection, they draw the conclusion that **they are God**.”



Christopher Eric Hitchens (1949-2011) was an **Anglo-American author** and journalist, who, in his lifetime, published more than 30 books, including five collections of essays on politics, literature and religion. His **confrontational style** of debate made him both a lauded intellectual and a controversial public figure. Having long described himself as a social democrat, a Marxist, and an anti-totalitarian, he began to **break with the established political left** after what he called the "tepid reaction" of the Western left to the Satanic Verses controversy, which saw a fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khomeini to order Muslims to kill writer **Salman Rushdie** in 1989 after the publication of his (purportedly) blasphemous book **The Satanic Verses**. His writings include critiques of public figures such as Bill Clinton, Henry Kissinger, Mother Teresa and Diana; he also advocated for the separation of church and state. As an **antitheist**, he regarded the concept of a god or supreme being as a totalitarian belief that impedes individual freedom. He argued that free expression and scientific discovery should replace religion as a means of informing ethics and defining codes of conduct for human civilization. The dictum '**What can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence**' has become known as '**Hitchens's razor**' (with reference to Occam's razor).

Click on the Picture for a **VIDEO** on Hitchens