

**GOD IS BACK – WITH A  
VENGEANCE**

*or...* **Is vengeance back with  
a God to justify it?**

## **God is Back**

Hypothesis:

**Belief is a characteristic feature of the human brain that acts as a coping mechanism by making sense of the unintelligible and reducing fear and anxiety.**

## God is Back

Belief is one example of the many inbuilt design features of the human brain – others include “the two-pencil illusion” and mirages.

## God is Back

Is it “wrong” to see a mirage?

The unreality of the perceived object is neither “right” nor “wrong” (neither good nor bad).

What matters is **how it affects behaviour.**

## God is Back

A mirage in the desert is seen by nearby:

- Lost travellers
- Rembrandts & Michaelangelos
- Dickenses & Twains
- Mozarts & Lloyd-Webers
- People in despair and panic
- Torquemadas
- William Jameses & Joseph  
Campbells

# God is Back

Beliefs do not work because they are true,  
but are [or become] true because they work

*Summary of William James*

# God is Back

In other words.....

The rules and conventions that we live by are not fixed by or in divine will. They are no more than **AND NO LESS THAN** codes of behaviour that we agree upon, that we agree to obey and which, to some extent, define “us”.

They are like **TRAFFIC LIGHTS**.

## God is Back

**“Believe whatever you wish, but  
behave as if there was no  
supernatural interventionist deity  
to sort out our problems for us”**

*“Can We Be Good Without God?” 2001*

**God is Back**

More about the Humanists:

**1.877.HUMANS.1**

**hac.**