

HUMANISM

Humanism, in opposition to theism, holds (a) a ^{secular or} naturalistic (as opposed to a supernaturalistic) world view, and (b) the thesis that human values, in particular moral values, are man-made, not either God-given or self-existent (Kurtz 1973). Our own kind of humanism is scientific and democratic. It is scientific for holding that scientific research is the best road to truth --as well as the best antidote against axiological and moral dogmatism. and the best supporter of values and morals/ (But of course (a) science is both fallible and perfectible, and (b) although valuations and moral norms can be inspired in, and tested by, scientific research, they are not automatic results of it--just as modern technology, though based on science, is not an automatic result of it.) Finally, our humanism is democratic for holding that the human condition can be improved through grassroots political participation and governmental/ action aiming at the equal accessibility of all

to material and cultural wealth.

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