

# Living Without God

## New Directions for Atheists, Agnostics, Secularists, and the Undecided

RONALD ARONSON

Ronald Aronson has a mission: to demonstrate that a life without religion can be coherent, moral, and committed. In the last few years the “New Atheists”—Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett, Richard Dawkins, and Christopher Hitchens—have created a stir by criticizing religion and the belief in God. Aronson moves beyond the discussion of what we should *not* believe, proposing contemporary answers to Immanuel Kant’s three great questions: What can I know? What ought I to do? What can I hope?

Grounded in the sense that we are deeply dependent and interconnected beings who are rooted in the universe, nature, history, society, and the global economy, *Living Without God* explores the experience and issues of 21st-century secularists, especially in America. Reflecting on such perplexing questions as why we are grateful for life’s gifts, who or what is responsible for inequalities, and how to live in the face of aging and dying, *Living Without God* is also refreshingly topical, touching on such subjects as contemporary terrorism, the war in Iraq, affirmative action, and the remarkable rise of Barack Obama.

Optimistic and stirring, *Living Without God* is less interested in attacking religion than in developing a positive philosophy for atheists, agnostics, secular humanists, skeptics, and freethinkers—as well as for all those of us who, whatever we call ourselves, manage to live fundamentally secular lives and are searching for bearings today.

978-1-59376-160-8  
CLOTH  
6" x 9"  
288 PAGES

\$25.00  
RELIGION/ATHEISM  
TERRITORY: W/E  
SEPTEMBER

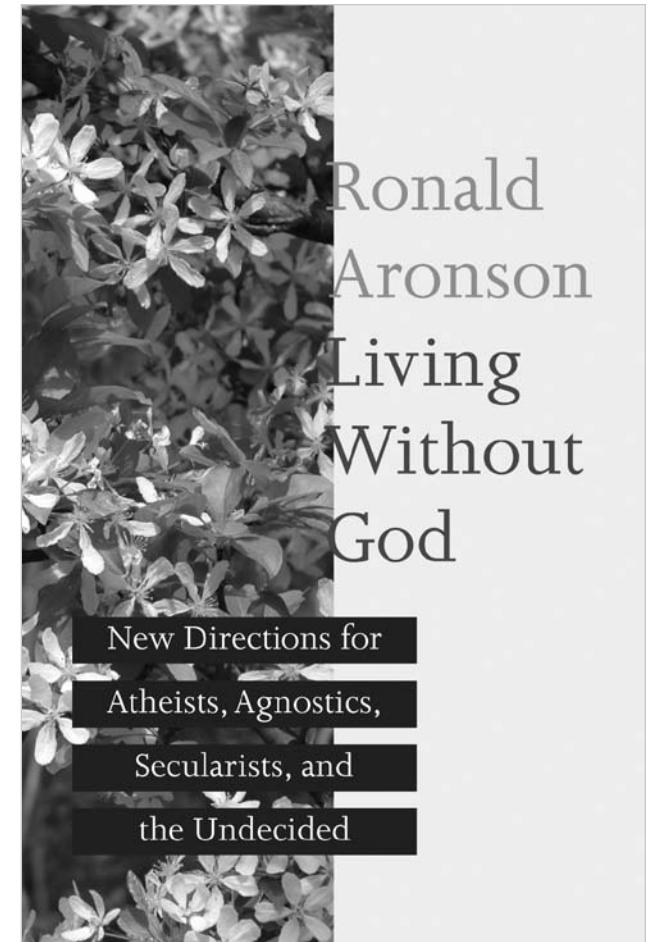
### MARKETING

- National print campaign
- National radio phoner campaign
- Promotion through religion blogs and discussion groups

### OF NOTE

- Picks up where Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, and Daniel Dennett left off
- Author or editor of eight books, Aronson is an internationally recognized authority on Jean-Paul Sartre

What it means to  
live today without  
a belief in God



From *Living Without God*

We know dozens, hundreds, thousands of things that are vital for human understanding and well-being—have verified, can confirm, can operationalize them. In this, the twenty-first century, so much that was once cloaked in darkness is known, and so much that is really essential to our lives is knowable. We sell ourselves short to pretend otherwise. We have developed methods of analysis, synthesis, and reasoning that can be taught and learned. All of this is now part of the “social consciousness of the race,” and it belongs to all of us. It is waiting to be claimed and used.

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Giving thanks, central to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, is virtually absent from our secular culture. But this deprives those who live without God of much of life’s coherence and meaning. For there is much to be grateful for. Exploring this little-noticed feeling and idea from a secular point of view opens a new way of experiencing our relationship with forces, entities, and beings beyond our individual selves.



**RONALD ARONSON** is author or editor of eight books, including *Jean-Paul Sartre: Philosophy in the World*, *After Marxism*, and *Camus and Sartre: The Story of a Friendship and the Quarrel That Ended It*. Distinguished Professor of the History of Ideas at Wayne State University, he has lectured widely, including at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and other South African universities. He lives in Michigan.