## Contents

One	Putting It Mildly	I
Two	Religion Kills	15
Three	A Short Digression on the Pig; or, Why Heaven Hates Ham	37
Four	A Note on Health, to Which Religion Can Be Hazardous	43
Five	The Metaphysical Claims of Religion Are False	63
Six	Arguments from Design	73
Seven	Revelation: The Nightmare of the "Old" Testament	97
Eight	The "New" Testament Exceeds the Evil of the "Old" One	109
Nine	The Koran Is Borrowed from Both Jewish and Christian Myths	123
Ten	The Tawdriness of the Miraculous and the Decline of Hell	139

Eleven	"The Lowly Stamp of Their Origin":	
	Religion's Corrupt Beginnings	155
Twelve	A Coda: How Religions End	169
Thirteen	Does Religion Make People Behave Better?	173
Fourteen	There Is No "Eastern" Solution	195
Fifteen	Religion as an Original Sin	205
Sixteen	Is Religion Child Abuse?	217
Seventeen	An Objection Anticipated: The Last-Ditch "Case" Against Secularism	229
Eighteen	A Finer Tradition: The Resistance of the Rational	253
Nineteen	In Conclusion:	
	The Need for a New Enlightenment	277
	Acknowledgments	285
	References	287
	Index	295
	Twelve Thirteen Fourteen Fifteen Sixteen Seventeen Eighteen	Religion's Corrupt BeginningsTwelveA Coda: How Religions EndThirteenDoes Religion Make People Behave Better?FourteenThere Is No "Eastern" SolutionFifteenReligion as an Original SinSixteenIs Religion Child Abuse?SeventeenAn Objection Anticipated: The Last-Ditch "Case" Against SecularismEighteenA Finer Tradition: The Resistance of the RationalNineteenIn Conclusion: The Need for a New EnlightenmentAcknowledgments References