**TO: Professor Jerry Coyne**

**AT: University of Chicago**

**DATE: 4/24/16**

**Here is the link to Coyne's article:**

[**https://whyevolutionistrue.wordpress.com/2016/04/22/jeff-tayler-in-defense-of-sam-harris/**](https://whyevolutionistrue.wordpress.com/2016/04/22/jeff-tayler-in-defense-of-sam-harris/)

**Jerry, you wrote "*First, Sam asks hard questions, and people don’t like to think about hard questions ... Is our notion of “free will”—of agency—a complete illusion? ....*"**

**I am only writing about this one statement in your otherwise excellent essay.**

**Sam Harris did not ask the hard question that you paraphrased.**

**Sam Harris stated, as fact, his opinion that free will is an illusion (as did you).**

**(I assume it won't be necessary for me to deluge you with titles and quotes to support that claim. If I assumed wrong, let me know, and the deluge can begin).**

**If neither of you had ever asserted your opinions as fact, you probably would never have heard from me.**

**As you might recall, I never did assert a position. However, I did ask you a series of questions which challenged you to support your many assertions.**

**To your credit, you did not answer. Why is that to your credit?**

**Because on YouTube video comment threads, I've challenged dozens of Determinists who, unlike you, chose to reply ... and how did they reply?**

**To a man (or woman), every single one of them resorted to a desperate attempt to Switch The Burden Of Proof. When they weren't not allowed to get away with that tactic, all their comments devolved into childish, bitter name-calling and insults (which I happily returned in spades).**

**So I disagree with your statement above about Harris, and I am ready to support it with numerous examples should it be necessary.**

**neo**

**(as always, replies are encouraged)**

**Additional CC list:**

[**http://www.samharris.org/contact**](http://www.samharris.org/contact)