**Matt Dillahunty stated,**

**"*Religion is a mental illness? Cause I don't recall ever saying that, at all, and it is not the sort of thing I would support*."**

**My response**

**From Dictionary.com**

***mental illness (also called mental disorder or mental disease):***

***"Any of the various forms of psychosis or severe neurosis."***

**Okay, so let's first look up psychosis.**

***psychosis:***

***1. A mental disorder characterized by symptoms, such as delusions or hallucinations, that indicate impaired contact with reality.***

**If I were debating with religious believers, I would list a myriad of delusions that prove that they exhibit psychotic behavior. But since I am debating nonbelievers, it is unnecessary to list those things, as most of you should already be aware of them.**

**We are talking about people who talk to invisible ghosts and actually believe that someone is listening. If that doesn't qualify as either a delusion, or a hallucination, that indicates an impaired contact with reality ... then I don't know what would.**

**Add to cart: "psychotic"**

**So I could stop right here, as the burden of proof has been met.**

**But why quit when we're having so much fun?**

***psychosis:***

***2. Any severe form of mental disorder, as schizophrenia or paranoia.***

**Definition 2 requires researching a couple of additional words.**

***schizophrenia:***

***1. Psychiatry (also called dementia praecox):***

***A severe mental disorder characterized by some, but not necessarily all, of the following features: emotional blunting, intellectual deterioration, social isolation, disorganized speech and behavior, delusions, and hallucinations.***

**Delusions and hallucinations ... check.**

***schizophrenia:***

***2. A state characterized by the coexistence of contradictory or incompatible elements.***

**Just in case any of you had any doubts about adding schizophrenia to the list, the religious mind is the epitome of cognitive dissonance. As we all know, their holy book has more contradictions (which they blindly accept) than it does ...**

**verses.**

**(okay, that might have been a slight exaggeration)**

**Add to cart ... "schizophrenic."**

***paranoia:***

***1. (Psychiatry) A mental disorder characterized by systematized delusions and the projection of personal conflicts, which are ascribed to the supposed hostility of others, sometimes progressing to disturbances of consciousness and aggressive acts believed to be performed in self-defense or as a mission.***

**Is any nonbeliever really going to try to argue that, that definition does not fit religious belief?**

**When American Atheists put up their famous "Don't believe in God? - You are not alone" signs, remember the reaction from outraged Christians all over the country?**

**Well I do.**

***paranoia:***

***2. baseless or excessive suspicion of the motives of others.***

**Every poll has made it clear that most people believe that Atheists are the least trustworthy, most immoral people in our society. Without a holy moral code to guide us, believers describe our motives with one word ... selfish.**

**Add to cart: "paranoid."**

**Now, returning to the beginning, and the second part of the definition for mental illness:**

***neurosis:***

***1 A functional disorder in which feelings of anxiety, obsessional thoughts, compulsive acts, and physical complaints without objective evidence of disease, in various degrees and patterns, dominate the personality.***

**Obsessive thoughts (dwelling on the horrors of Hell, constantly judging others like gays, Muslims, and Atheists) and compulsive acts (praying, crossing oneself, etc.), without objective evidence of disease.**

**This applies mainly to Christians who admit on polls that religion plays a major role in their lives (dominates the personality).**

**Add to cart: "neurotic."**

**Okay, I think we can proceed to "check out" now, having proven that Christian, Muslim, and Jewish beliefs are: psychotic, schizophrenic, paranoid, and neurotic.**

**The Abrahamic religions not only satisfied the definition of mental illness, they also fit the definition for many of its subcategories ... and this is without even considering the immeasurable violence associated with religious belief.**

**Religion IS a mental illness. That is not my opinion ...**

**it is Mr. Webster's.**

**-----------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Now, regarding specific statements made by Matt Dillahunty:**

***Regarding - having been religious at one time ...***

**That only means that you have pulled yourself out of one state of mental illness; other states may still persist. But before you take too much offense, understand that, that applies to the rest of us as well.**

***Regarding - mistakes in thinking ...***

**2 + 2 = 5 is a mistake in thinking.**

**Deriving satisfaction from the belief that someone will burn in Hell for loving the wrong person is much more than "a mistake."**

***Regarding - a mentally ill person is incapable of changing their mind.***

**I Don't how you arrived at that one, but I would enjoy watching you try to prove it.**

***Regarding - religion not being the result of a mental illness***

**True, but I've just proven that the reverse IS true.**

**CONCLUSION**

**What you are doing is engaging in political correctness.**

***politically correct (adj):***

***Avoiding offense based on demographics especially race, sex, religion, ideology, sexuality, disability, or social grouping.***

***(sometimes pejorative)***

**The problem with being politically correct is that one must sacrifice truth.**

**I refuse to make that sacrifice.**

**If something is true, then we say that it is "correct." The only purpose for inserting the adjective "politically" in front of it, is to take something that is wrong, but agree that we will pretend ... that it is correct.**

**I find that disgusting and I refuse to do it.**

**Christopher Hitchens**

***"... people who talk about political correctness as being a kind of thought police have no idea of what a thought police is. But political correctness does have the same mentality. It means that intellectual argument is doomed. Objective truth simply becomes a thing to jeer at, because obviously there's no such thing as objectivity—unless of course you're politically okay, in which case you can be objective. Any child can see through that, but many adults can't."***