



Humanism is a philosophy of life  
based on concern for humanity in  
general and for the individual in  
particular.

It is a view of life which combines  
thinking with compassion.

# Humanist Belief

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- Humanism is a set of principles, perspectives, and ideas about the world
  - Humanists believe We the people in the universe, determine its value.
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# The Main Beliefs of Humanism

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- **Humanism is ethical.** It affirms the worth and dignity of the individual and the right of every human being to the greatest possible freedom taking into account the rights of others.
  - Humanists have a duty of care to all of humanity including future generations. Humanists believe that morality is a big part of human nature based on understanding and a concern for others, needing no external sanctions.
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# Humanist Belief

- **Humanism is rational.** It believes in things that can be seen and proven. It seeks to use science creatively, not destructively.
- Humanists believe that the solutions to the world's problems lie in human thought and action rather than divine intervention.
- Humanism believes that science and free inquiry should be applied to the problems of human welfare.

# Democracy and Human Rights

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- **Humanism supports democracy and *Human Rights*.** Humanism aims at the fullest possible development of every human being. It holds that democracy and human development are matters of right. The principles of democracy and human rights can be applied to many human relationships.
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# Personal Liberty and Responsibility

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- **Humanism insists that personal liberty must be combined with social responsibility.**
  - Humanism wants to build a world on the idea of the free person responsible to society, and recognises our dependence on and responsibility for the natural world.
  - Humanism has no set of firm beliefs, and does not impose a creed upon its followers. It is thus committed to education free from indoctrination.
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# Humanism as an Alternative

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- **Humanism is a response to a demand for an alternative to the major organised religions.**  
The world's major religions are based on revelations that are fixed for all time.
  - Humanism believes we get reliable knowledge of the world and ourselves through observation, evaluation and revision.
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# HISTORY OF HUMANISM

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- Western Europe has a tradition of non-religious ethical thinking that can be traced back some 2,500 years to the philosophy of the Ancient Greeks.
  - This way of understanding the world, of finding meaning in life, and of grounding moral thinking can also be found in China and India and many other cultures.
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# Aesop and his Fables

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- Little is known about the originator of the fables, though it has been said that he was a freed slave who came to live in Greece. The moral tales attributed to him, often involving animals, have remained popular and been widely imitated. What is interesting to humanists is that they teach a simple, practical morality, deeply rooted in human experience and common sense, giving worldly, rather than metaphysical, reasons for behaving well. The well-known story of the boy who cried 'Wolf!' so often that when a real wolf came along he was not believed, is typical in that it illustrates the human consequences of lying.
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# Another Fable

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Another fable, *The Wind and the Sun* shows us that gentleness works better than roughness:

"A dispute once arose between the North Wind and the Sun as to which was the stronger of the two. Seeing a traveller, they agreed to see which could get his cloak off him more quickly. The North Wind began, and sent a furious blast which nearly tore the cloak from its bindings – but the traveller, seizing it with a firm grip, held it round his body so firmly that the wind used his remaining strength in vain.

Then the Sun, dispelling the clouds that had gathered, turned his warm and genial beams on the traveller's head. Growing faint with heat, the man flung off his cloak willingly and hurried to the nearest shade."

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# The Golden Rule

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- One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself.
  - One should not treat others in ways that one would not like to be treated.
  - The Golden Rule is the basis for the modern concept of human rights, in which each individual has a right to just treatment, and a responsibility to ensure justice for others.
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