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11-25-2009

November 25, 2009: Happy Thanksgiving Everyone

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Title: Happy Thanksgiving Everyone

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11/25/2009—Followers of Hallowed Secularism, either the book or the blog or both, know that one of its great challenges is to become a way of life. What kind of lives, with what kinds of ceremonies and what kinds of celebrations, exist for the hallowed secularist? This is not just a question for hallowed secularists, of course. Secularism of the future will have to answer this question all over the world. And the answers are likely to differ depending on the society in which the question is posed. For me, the most important component to an answer is study and text. Secularists must spend time with greatness of spirit. That is what religious believers are able to do even without thinking about it. They have great texts, awesome ceremonies, and transformative art. Secularists lack all this and sometimes pretend they don't need any of it. One part of the future for secularism in America will be Thanksgiving. This day is one that the secularist can spend in an attitude of gratitude. Ronald Aronson has written that gratitude should be a defining attitude of secularism. Thanksgiving is already available for that as a broad social structure in which secularism fits as well as any religious tradition does. So, tomorrow, give thanks. The universe spent thirteen billion years creating us and the beautiful world that supports us. Evolution painfully turned matter into empathy and generosity over millions of years. We all awoke into a consciousness we did not earn. And then there is love, the mysterious glue that holds our worlds together. And I am grateful for the opportunity to think about the future along with all of you.