

SAM HARRIS INTERVIEW PART ONE

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Hello Ars Technica listeners. This is the latest serialization of an episode of the After On podcast here pm Ars. Instead of the normal two to three segments, we're splitting this one into four parts, starting today. Because this is a long one. My guest is a neuroscientist, a serial New York Times best-selling author, and very-widely-followed podcaster. But I probably most often hear him described as a public intellectual. His name is - Sam Harris

Sam is a controversial thinker. And a very original one, as evidenced by the fact that he outrages fairly large factions on both the left and the right with respectable frequency. Folks on the right dislike that he's vehemently anti-Trump - and also, that most of his political beliefs are fairly left-of-center. As for his left-wing detractors, Sam fiercely opposes most of the more strident "politically correct" elements on campuses today, because he believes they stifle debate in ways that could lead to a real crisis of free speech and free thought. He's also profoundly concerned about religiously-motivated terrorism – and expresses his concerns in ways that have rankled folks on the left including ... Ben Affleck. Who instigated a fairly notorious public brawl with Sam, which we discuss toward the beginning of opening segment of our conversation today.

As with the episode we serialized last week on Ars, with UCSF neuroscientist Adam Gazzaley, this is an early podcast from my archive, which means it's about a year old. So I hope you'll forgive the fact that I'm a still bit of a novice interviewer here.

And with that -- let's get started.

TRANSITION MUSIC

Rob Reid: So Sam, thank you so much for joining me here at Tom Merritt's lovely home studio.

Sam Harris: Yeah, happy to do it.

Rob Reid: You were a guest on the Art of Charm Podcast about a year ago, and they asked you to describe what you do in a single sentence and you said, "I think in public," which I thought was a very elegant way of putting it. I was hoping you might elaborate on that and in this case, feel free to use as many sentences as you wish.

Sam Harris: Yeah, well I'm glad you brought that back to me, because I would've totally forgotten that description and it's a useful one. Increasingly, I'm someone who's attempting to have hard conversations about what I consider some of the most important questions of our time, so at the intersection of philosophy, particularly moral philosophy and science and public policy and just things in the news, topics like race and terrorism and the link between Islam and jihadism and things that are in the news but that have, when you begin to push on these issues, they run very, very deep into just the core of human identity and how we want our politics to proceed and the influence of technology on our lives. So there's just ... You can almost, you pull one of these threads and you sort of, everything that people care about starts to move.

Rob Reid: Yeah, there's a great deal of interconnection, and I'd say, and correct me if this is wrong, but I'd say you started thinking in public in earnest perhaps back in 2004, with the release of your first book, *The End of Faith*, in which you argued stridently against all types of organized religion and in favor of atheism. It peaked at number four, was it, on the New York Times bestseller list, or thereabouts?

Sam Harris: Yeah, you know, I don't even remember. It was on for I think 33 weeks, but I think four sounds about right.

Rob Reid: Yeah, so obviously you got out there in a big way with the book. You've since written, is it four more bestsellers, New York Times bestsellers, since then?

Sam Harris: Yeah. Yeah. That designation means less and less, as it turns out, but ... I mean, there are bestsellers and there are bestsellers.

Rob Reid: There are, yeah.

Sam Harris: There are the bestsellers that bounce off the list, which most of mine have been, and then there are those that stay on forever. But yeah, I've had five that have hit the list, yeah.

Rob Reid: And what's intriguing to me is that quite recently you have developed a wildly successful podcast, and I was hoping you could characterize the reach that the podcast has attained compared to that of these very, very successful series of books that you did.

Sam Harris: Yeah, the numbers are really surprising and don't argue for the health of books, frankly. A very successful book in hardcover ... You know, your book comes out in hardcover first normally. Some people go directly to paperback. But if you are an author who cares about the future of your book and reaching lots of people, you publish your hardcover and you are generally very happy to sell 100,000 books in hardcover over the course of that first year before it goes to paperback.

Rob Reid: Indeed, ecstatic. That would probably put you in the top percentile of all books published by major publishers.

Sam Harris: Oh yeah, and that is very likely going to hit the bestseller list. Maybe if you're a diet book you need to sell more than that, but if you sold 10,000 in your first week, depending on what else is happening, you almost certainly have a bestseller. In the best case, you could sell 200,000 books or 300,000 books in hardcover, and that's a newsworthy achievement, and then there's the one-one hundredth of 1% that sell millions of copies. Malcolm Gladwell is one of the bestselling authors of all time, really, or at least of our lifetime, and he sells millions of books, but he doesn't sell tens of millions of books in any ... ultimately he might, but not in any period of a few years, right?

So with a book, I could reasonably expect to reach 100,000 people in a year and then maybe some hundreds of thousands over the course of a decade, right? So all my books together now have sold ... Now we're talking six books. I haven't looked at the numbers, but I'm pretty sure I haven't reached two million people with those books. Somewhere between a million and two million. But with my podcast, I reach that many people in a day, right? And these are long form interviews. Sometimes it's standalone, sometimes it's just me just talking about what I think is important to talk about for an hour or two, but often I'm speaking with a very smart guest and we can go very deep on any topic we care about. And again, this is not like going on CNN and speaking for six minutes in attempted sound bites and then you're gone. This is, people are really listening in depth and the podcast is now at 50 million downloads a month. I don't know how many people that is, but I'm pretty sure it's at least 2 million people.

Rob Reid: And so if we were to clone you in two right now and one of the Sam Harris was that we ended up with was to record a podcast and the other Sam Harris was to write your entire literary output, who would require more time?

Sam Harris: Oh, yeah, well, that's the other thing. Forget about the time it takes to write a book, right, which in some cases is years, in some cases is months, depending on how long the book is and how research driven it is, but it's a lot of time. It's a big commitment to write a book. Once it's written, you hand it in to your publisher and it takes 11 months for them to publish it. So there's that wait, and then-

Rob Reid: There's a lack of immediacy, certainly.

Sam Harris: Yeah, yeah, and increasingly, that makes less and less sense. Both the time it takes to do it and the time it takes to publish it don't compare favorably with podcasting. In defense of writing, there are certain things that are still best done in written form. Nothing I said has really any application to what you're doing. You're writing novels, right, and so reading novel is an experience that people still want to have.

Rob Reid: Yes.

Sam Harris: But what I'm doing in nonfiction that's primarily argument driven, right, there are other formats in which to get the argument out. I'm still under a book contract, I still plan to write books because I still love to read books, and taking the time to really say something as well as you can affects everything else you do. It affects the stuff you can say extemporaneously in a conversation like this, as well. So I still value the process of writing and taking the time to think that carefully about things.

Rob Reid: The thing that is striking, though, is the extraordinary efficiency that the podcast has become as a way for you and many others to disseminate ideas in terms of the hours that you put into the creation of it, which are nontrivial. I'm learning that as a very new podcaster myself. It ain't easy to research and put one of these things together. But compared to a book, there's just incredible leverage there.

Now, another thing, speaking of large audiences, I believe I read somewhere that you were featured in the most heavily watched Bill Maher video clip of all time. Do you know if that statistic is accurate?

Sam Harris: I suspect it still is accurate. It was at the time. It was the most viral thing that ever got exported from the show.

Rob Reid: You were discussing Islamophobia with the then-future Batman.

Sam Harris: Yeah.

Rob Reid: Why do you suppose that clip became so widespread? I mean, Bill Maher is no stranger to controversy. The exchange between you and Ben Affleck and between Maher and Ben Affleck did become quite heated, but in any given month, there are many interactions on cable news and on Sunday talk shows that are at least as lively. What do you think it was about that, that made it go widespread? And also if you'd care to just characterize it briefly for those who haven't seen it.

Sam Harris: It was a combination of things. It was the topic, it was the fact that it was a star of Ben Affleck's caliber going kind of nuts, and going nuts in a way that was very polarizing to the audience. So what happened briefly is I was actually on not to talk about Islam or jihadism or terrorism or anything related to this topic. I was on to talk about my book on meditation, *Waking Up*, where I was trying to put our spiritual concerns, our contemplative concerns on a rational footing, and it just so happened that ... I mean, this is a hobbyhorse that Bill and I have ridden for a number of years, talking about the unique need for reform in Islam. I have an argument against all faith-based religion, but part of my argument is to acknowledge that religions are not the same. They teach different things, they emphasize different points, and to its discredit and to the reliable immiseration of millions of people, Islam emphasizes intolerance to free speech and intolerance to political equality between the sexes and a rather direct

connection between suicidal violence and martyrdom and hence, all the problems we see throughout the Muslim world at the moment and our collision with it.

So in any case, that topic came up, of Islam and jihadism in the middle of this interview, and Ben Affleck jumped in. Clearly, he had been prepared by somebody to hate me, because his intrusions into my interview with Bill were otherwise inexplicable, because he was sort of at my throat even before the topic of Islam came up. I was still talking about meditation and he said something snide, again, in a mid-show interview that is normally protected from the intrusions of the rest of the panel. So it was weird, and then the thing just lit up with him seemingly completely misunderstanding what Bill and I were saying, but doing it in an increasingly adamant and ultimately quite heated way. So he was unhinged and not making any sense, from my point of view, and he was calling us racists and bigots and-

Rob Reid: And in some ways, proving the very points that you were making.

Sam Harris: Oh yeah, in every way. My point was, listen, people get emotionally hijacked on this issue. They don't actually follow the logic of what is being said. I'm criticizing ideas, not people. Islam is a religion subscribed to, to one or another degree, by people who call themselves Muslims, but we have to speak specifically about the consequences of specific beliefs, right? And so it becomes incredibly relevant to know what percentage of people think dying in defense of the faith is the best thing that could possibly happen to you, or that apostates should be killed, all right?

So we're talking about the consequences of ideas, and there are many, many millions of Muslims who would repudiate both of those ideas, so obviously I'm not talking about them when I'm talking about the problem of jihadism or a belief in martyrdom or apostacy, and so he proved himself totally incapable of following the plot, just as I was talking about that very problem, and went berserk.

And the most depressing thing about that encounter was to see how many people on the left, and in particular, apologists for Islam and so-called moderate Muslims, who views his performance as just kind of the height of ethical wisdom, right, like he had unmasked my and Bill's racism, as though being Muslim was to be a member of a race, right? I mean, that non sequitur was the first thing people should've noticed, but he was celebrated as just this white knight who came to the defense of beleaguered brown people everywhere, right?

Rob Reid: Really? I missed that part of the-

Sam Harris: To a degree that is just ... If you've looked on social media in the immediate aftermath of that, it was just ... it was just a tsunami of moral and political confusion, really. It was like a nuclear bomb of identity politics.

Rob Reid: Well, what's interesting to me is I looked at that in preparation for today's talk, and it would seem the tide has changed. I looked at the YouTube clip, and I know that you've said in other places that YouTube seems to be a particularly bad cesspool for really vitriolic commentary at times, and I figured I'd scan it quickly to get a sense of what's the percentage breakdown. I looked at almost 100 comments, I believe, and I did not find a single one that was pro-Ben Affleck. People were making the points that you just made, that he was essentially making your points for you in that when you start talking about ideas, people presume that you're trying to paint with a broad brush people, which you were not trying to do. So it might've changed since then, but in the immediate aftermath, there was a very pro-Ben kind of reaction to it, it sounds like?

Sam Harris: Yeah. Yeah, and it continues, and it continues in a way that is quite shameful. For instance, the comic Hasan Minhaj, who just did the White House Correspondents' Dinner, so he's now ... the one that Trump didn't attend, but his stature has risen among comics of late, and he just released a Netflix special where he talks about this issue, just praising Ben Affleck to the skies and saying quite libelously that Bill, in that exchange, advocated for "rounding up Muslims and containing them," as though in concentration camps or at the very least, internment camps, right? How this got past Netflix fact checkers-

Rob Reid: He stated that as a fact-

Sam Harris: As a fact.

Rob Reid: ... not as a punch line of the joke.

Sam Harris: No, no. As a fact.

Rob Reid: He said, as a fact, "Bill Maher said on camera, a YouTube clip viewed by millions of people, 'Round 'em up.'"

Sam Harris: Yeah. Yes, this is his position, that he wants Muslims rounded up and contained, right? And happily, he didn't mention me by name. He was talking about Bill and Ben in that episode, but it's just pure delusion and slander. It's a massive applause line, right, in his world. So this is a form of asymmetric warfare. Whenever I inadvertently misrepresent the views of my opponents, no matter how malicious the opponent, right, if I say something that gets their view wrong and it gets pointed out to me, I publicly apologize for it. So it's like, I am absolutely scrupulous to represent their views faithfully.

Rob Reid: As they represent them themselves.

Sam Harris: Yeah. Yes. So some of this gets fairly bloody, but when I'm pushing back against my critics, and again, no matter how malicious, I am always holding myself to the standard of articulating their position in a way that they couldn't find fault with. Right? So it's like, just say so you believe X, and I'm always thinking that my opponent would sign off on X, right, and then I can then go on and demonstrate what's wrong with their view. We're dealing with people ... You know, anyone who criticizes Islam as a doctrine, or really anyone who touches any of these third rails that have become so fraught among liberals and progressives, so to talk about race, to talk about gender, to talk about really any of these variables around which identity politics have been built, reliably produces people who think that defaming you at any cost is fair game. So they will attribute to you views that not only do you not hold, they are the opposite of the views you hold. They will make any attempt to make that stick.

Rob Reid: Do you think in their minds it's an ends justifies the means thing, where they are so committed to their position, and they are so utterly certain that their position is objectively right that they're saying, "Okay, I know he didn't say round them up, but I'm going to say that he said round them up because that will eliminate his credibility, and the elimination of his credibility, even by a dishonest mechanism, serves such a higher good."

Sam Harris: Yeah.

Rob Reid: Do you think that's the calculus?

Sam Harris: Obviously, there's a range of cases here, and so the most charitable case is that there's some number of people who are just intellectually lazy and are just guilty of confirmation bias, they're misled, they hear a snippet of something which strikes them a certain way and then they just run with it, right, and they feel no intellectual or moral obligation to get their facts straight. Anyone can fall prey to that. I've been so critical of Donald Trump, if you show me a tweet that looks insane from him, I'm not going to spend any time trying to figure out if it's really a tweet from him because all of his tweets have been insane, so the chances this one's real are very high. If revealed that it was fake, well, then, I'll walk back my forwarding of it or whatever, but everyone only has so much time in the day, and so it's easy to see how people get lured into just being lazy. Right?

But then there are the people who consciously manufacture falsehoods. I think they are actually real just psychopaths in any movement, right, and they're people who just have no moral qualms in spreading lies no matter how defamatory, no matter how likely they are to increase the security concerns of the people involved. Spreading the lie that someone is a racist or that they favor genocide against Muslims, say, which these are both lies that are just endlessly spread about me and Bill and even former Muslims or Muslim reformers whom I support, someone like Ayaan Hirsi Ali or Maajid Nawaz, people who have excruciating security concerns, endless lies are told about them, and these lies have the effect of raising their security concerns.

Rob Reid: It could jeopardize their lives.

Sam Harris: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, and this is well understood by the people who are telling these lies. For instance, this is just, you happen to catch me in a 24-hour period where this has happened to me in a fairly spectacular way, so-

Rob Reid: Really?

Sam Harris: Yeah, I had Maajid Nawaz, who is this brilliant and truly ethical Muslim reformer on my podcast, and he-

Rob Reid: And a reformed Muslim, as well. He had been in prison for a period of time for radical activities, correct?

Sam Harris: Yeah. Yeah, so he's a former Islamist, which is distinct from a jihadist. He was not a terrorist. He was not, but he was part of an organization that was trying to spread the idea of a global califate, and they were trying to engineer coups in places like Pakistan and Egypt, so he was doing fairly nefarious things, he was recruiting for this organization, and then spent four years in an Egyptian prison and got essentially deprogrammed in proximity to jihadists and fellow Islamists, just understanding of the kind of world they wanted to build more deeply, and then he was also taken as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International, and it was the juxtaposition of that kind of ethical overture from the enemy, right-

Rob Reid: Because he at that time would've considered Amnesty to be the enemy.

Sam Harris: Oh, yeah.

Rob Reid: This is a Western, liberal, progressive organization. Now all of the sudden, they're coming in and defending me, even though they know I loathe everything they stand for, because that is what they do. That is consistent with their values. So that got through to him.

Sam Harris: And what organization in the Muslim world or the Islamist world does that, right? So it's like it was just the ... It broke the spell, and so he came out of prison and very soon thereafter disavowed his Islamist roots.

Rob Reid: But did not disavow Islam, right?

Sam Harris: No.

Rob Reid: He is still a practicing Muslim.

Sam Harris: He's at pains to say that he's not devout. He's not holding himself up as an example of religiosity, but he's identified as a Muslim. He's not an ex-Muslim. He's not claiming to be an atheist. He started this counter-extremist think tank,

the Quilliam Foundation in the U.K., that has attracted theologians and other former Islamists and has a very active program of deprogramming extremists, both jihadist and otherwise. And this is just the most courageous and necessary work. Of all the things that human beings should be doing, especially people in the Muslim community, this is just, it has to be at the top of everyone's list, and yet, he is demonized as an Uncle Tom and a native informant by so-called moderate Muslims. Right?

He and I wrote a book together, which was initially a kind of debate. I mean, I was the atheist criticizing Islam and talking about the link between the doctrine and terrorism, and he was arguing for a program of reform, and it was a very fruitful collaboration and a very useful introduction to the issue for those who have read the book. There's a documentary coming out based on the book, and we did a speaking tour in Australia together. I'm totally supportive of him, he's a real friend now.

And so he was on my podcast in January and we're having a conversation about all these issues, and there's a part of the conversation where I'm essentially playing devil's advocate with him. He had been talking about reform and at this point, we're speaking specifically about the migrant crisis in Europe born of the civil war in Syria and just what to do about the millions of people who are pouring across the borders into Europe at that point and just the ethical challenges of that. I'm on record, both in that podcast and elsewhere, saying that I think we have a moral obligation to let in all the Syrians we can properly vet. I talk about these people as the most unlucky people on earth. I was against Trump's travel ban, right, and I have criticized that on television and on my podcast and in print.

Rob Reid: Yeah, you've been quite unequivocal about that.

Sam Harris: Yeah. Yeah, and again, within this specific podcast, made these points. I talk about secular and liberal Muslims being the most important people on earth and the people who I would move to the front of the line to get U.S. citizenship if they wanted it, if I had any influence there. So my views on this matter are very clear, and so there's a part in the conversation where I'm playing devil's advocate and there had just been a terrorist attack in Germany in the Christmas market where a jihadist in a van plowed into dozens of people and I think killed 12 and injured 50, and at one point, I said to Maajid, "Okay, so you've said many hopeful things thus far. I want to push back a little bit. I can well imagine that there are millions of people in Europe at this moment in the aftermath of this Christmas market attack who are thinking, 'Why the fuck do we need more Muslims in our society? I mean, surely we have enough. Why not just not let anyone else in?' Right?"

So someone who apparently has been doing this all my podcasts, I only just noticed this time, but someone in the Muslim community took a snippet of the audio starting with "Why the fuck do we need more Muslims in our society?" Right? And then there's just, Maajid's contribution here is just he's just kind of

nodding along, saying yes, doing nothing to push back, just seeming to acquiesce to my position here, and he tweets this out, this minute of audio, "Witness Sam Harris' genocidal attitude toward Islam, toward Muslims, and Maajid's support," and then all the usual suspects, Reza Aslan and Max Blumenthal, the odious son of Sidney Blumenthal, who has never resisted an opportunity to lie about people like me and Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Maajid. All of them, just full court press, push this out. I mean, we're talking about people who have-

Rob Reid: Large followings.

Sam Harris: ... platforms of hundreds of thousands, and that percolates down to all the people who have tens of thousands of people on Twitter, so millions of people receive this.

Rob Reid: And this was just yesterday, or in ...

Sam Harris: Yeah.

Rob Reid: Yeah.

Sam Harris: Yeah, this is now 48 hours ago. And I'm seeing people from ... I'm seeing a writer from The Nation also push it out, and also nearly dox me, where she says, "Well, next time I see him at my favorite coffeehouse," and she names a coffeehouse that I'm at rather frequently, right, "I'll tell him what I think of him." Right? So it's the most irresponsible use of social media, and in the case of people like Reza Aslan, right, he absolutely knows what my position is, and he knows he's lying about it. I mean, there's just way too much back and forth between me and him.

Rob Reid: And there is clearly a world of difference between what you had characterized as the most charitable case, which is this is just somebody who's incredibly lazy and doesn't research. This person very plainly-

Sam Harris: Oh, yeah.

Rob Reid: ... surgically removed something out of context, very, very surgically, not an oopsie blunder kind of thing-

Sam Harris: No.

Rob Reid: ... put it out there, and those who picked it up, presumably knowing a thing or two about both you and also the source, just spread it wantonly without any notion of checking to see if it was taken out of context.

Sam Harris: And the other thing that's crucial here is that even if you wanted to extend the most charitable interpretation to them, that it's a genuine mistake, right-

Rob Reid: The secondary forwarders, in a sense, yeah.

Sam Harris: Yes. Yeah. Within 15 minutes, the hoax is revealed, because I have nearly a million people following me on Twitter, right, and I pushed back against it multiple times, and I sent a link to, a timestamp to the beginning of the actual part of the conversation that reveals just what is being said. No apologies come from any of these people-

Rob Reid: No retractions.

Sam Harris: Yeah, no retraction, they don't delete. They just double down.

Rob Reid: Which you wouldn't expect from the person who did it-

Sam Harris: Right.

Rob Reid: ... because they did it quite wittingly. But the people who forwarded it to hundreds of thousands of people, having been made aware, would have a moral responsibility to walk that back, because it does put you, it heightens the physical threat that you live under, things like that.

Sam Harris: Oh yeah.

Rob Reid: Now, we're probably either a double digit number of months from software, of which we've seen the first prototypes already, that would allow somebody to basically sample your voice, of which there are many, many examples, and basically do a marionette thing where they have you say whatever they want. But these tools are going to be out there, and they're going to be misusable by anybody, and you could be made to say, I could be made to say, the President, anybody could be made to say absolutely anything. I wonder if that's going to kind of, in a perverse way, help things, because audio quotes will from that point forward just simply not be taken seriously.

Sam Harris: Yeah no, I'm really worried about that, but I do actually see the silver lining you just pointed to. I think that it will be so subversive that people will realize that all you can trust is the actual source. Right?

Rob Reid: Yeah, it'll be so misused so quickly.

Sam Harris: I imagine something similar has happened with Photoshop now.

Rob Reid: Sure. Yeah.

Sam Harris: Where people just don't use photos as forensic evidence in the same way, and they're fairly skeptical about what they see in an image when it counts. Yeah, so just imagine if someone forwarded to you a photo of Trump in some insane circumstance. Your first thought before forwarding it would be, "Wait a minute.

Is this Photoshopped?" Yeah, we'll have to be that circumspect about audio, and even video. So now they have the mouth linking fakery. They completely fake audio, which again, sounds exactly like the person's actual voice, can be made to seem like it's coming out of his or her mouth-

Rob Reid:

You add the visual cue and it always, what happens in audio happens next in video.

Well, to sort of go a little bit bigger picture for a moment, I'm delighted to be talking to you now because there's almost an uncanny overlap between the subjects you've dedicated your life to understanding and those that are discussed in my novel, *After On*. The main topic of the book is super AI. You're very widely quoted on this subject. You gave a great TED Talk about it almost exactly a year ago. Another major theme in the book is consciousness. You spent an entire decade exploring consciousness full time. I'm not sure if that's an overstatement, but it's an approximation. A connected major topic is neuroscience. You are one, or you're a neuroscientist. And yet another major theme is nihilistic terrorism, and of course, you're now one of the most outspoken people in the U.S. on this subject. I think the only lifelong focus of yours that's not a major obsession of the book is jiu-jitsu, so we will keep the jiu-jitsu talk to an absolute minimum here.

END INTERVIEW ELEMENT OF PART ONE

Sorry Jiu Jitsu fans - this just isn't your episode. But I hope the rest of you will join us here on *Ars* tomorrow for more about Sam's personal history also, toward the END of that installment we'll explore the research that Sam did while getting his neuroscience PhD at UCLA. Now, if you can't wait to hear the entire episode – or, if you'd like to browse my podcast's archive of three dozen episodes with various thinkers, founders & scientists, just head on over to my site, at after-on.com. Or, type the words *After On* into your favorite podcast player. And you'll find it all there.

Finally, before we close, I'd like to mention that throughout October, [Medium.com](https://medium.com) is running a series of essays that I've written on the subject of existential risk. Which is to say, the grim, yet perversely fascinating possibility that our technological creations might just annihilate us.

Although I'm of course biased, I do think I have a novel take on all this, and present some arguments and analytic lenses that are new to this important discussion. If this might interest you, please go to [Medium.com/@RobReid](https://medium.com/@RobReid). At least two articles in the series should already be up by the time you're hearing this. And the third should go up sometime this week, or, at the very latest, next Monday.

I should note that *Medium* is running this in their editorially-curated, paid, members-only section. The good news is, they give everyone access to a few free articles per month with essentially zero friction.

That's it for now. I hope you'll join me tomorrow, for more with Sam Harris.

OUTRO MUSIC