

## **Not The Vicar's Letter**

### **Pause for thought – a short story**

A man went to a barbers to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a conversation. They talked about various things and various subjects. When they eventually touched upon religion and the subject of God, the barber said, "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realise that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he did not want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber, "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here and I am a barber. I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

The exasperated barber replied, "But barbers do exist! What happens is that people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" said the customer. "That is the point! God does exist. What happens though is that people do not go to Him and do not look for Him. That is why there is so much pain and suffering in the world."

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