

My reading is an excerpt from a piece written in the 1990s by Ed Harris, a Unitarian minister. Some of you may recall hearing parts of this reading at my ordination here at FUS in 2015. – Jim Foti

Dare I say it? I want a human Humanism. I want a Humanism, not of the philosophers — the abstract thinkers, those sheltered in ivory towers, those trapped in the brilliance of their own minds issuing pronouncements and manifestos — but a Humanism for the people, the [person] in the streets, the poor who live in villages all over the world. I want a democratic Humanism, a creatively democratic Humanism.

I want a Humanism that is joyful and a little messy. I want a Humanism that is funny, full of jokes, stories, and tales. I want a Humanism that is relaxed, friendly, helpful, not one that is full of bile, criticism, and always whining about how stupid it is to believe in God or religion.

I want a Humanism that puts the head back on the body, that recognizes we have bodies — bodies that [are flawed,] awkward, and, though they may be beautiful, ultimately fail....

I want a Humanism that sees the human, not at the pinnacle of an evolutionary chain of being, but as part of this natural world. I want a Humanism that loves this Earth, our home. I want a Humanism full of rhyme and poetry, unafraid to play. All thought and no play makes Humanism exceedingly dull. I want a Humanism that can be stated in terms of caring, loving, promoting, building, doing, and being....

I want a Humanism that is about the struggle to live decently in this world. I want a Humanism that gives us a road map for the future, that points us towards a planetary perspective; that fosters, not correct thinking, but joy in living; that encourages the creative power of every human being; that affirms life in all its expressions; that elicits possibilities for a humane future; that has no argument with the world.

I want a Humanism that loves differences, that is joyful, that celebrates this life and this world.