

*I Am Spiritual...
but not Religious*

So...

I will find Christ--

but not in the New Testament,
for that is a *religious* book.

I will join others in my quest--

but not in a church,
because that is a *religious* community.

I will commit myself to God--

but not by being baptized,
since that is a *religious* ritual.

I will marry under the sky

with the clouds as my witnesses—
but not in a church,
for that is a *religious* place.

Since I am spiritual,

I honestly face my shortcomings--
but not during Lent,
for that is a *religious* season;
nor do I start by receiving ashes,
for that is a *religious* symbol.

At Christmas time

I concentrate on the tree--
but not on the crèche,
because its source is in *religious* imagination.

Similarly, at Easter time

I paint eggs and draw lilies;
but not celebrate resurrection,
for that is a *religious* belief.

In my search for wisdom

I heed philosophers and scientists—
but not theologians and priests,
because they are at the service of *religion*.

All spiritual people appreciate beauty--
so I admire Gothic cathedrals,
because they are inspiring architecture,
not because they houses of *religious* worship.

So, too, do I avidly listen to Gregorian chant--
for its spiritual quality,
not for its original use in *religious* services.

And, please, in my final days
don't call in a priest for the last rites,
nor bring my body to church for a funeral.
If I avoided *religious* ceremonies
during my life,
why should I bother with them
at the end?

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