

*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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