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ISTANBUL - THE ECONOMY'S FORTUNE TELLER

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While the rest of us were grieving over our broken financial instruments last October, there was a man somewhere on the Asian side of Istanbul, or perhaps scooting around the Bosphorus in his yacht, who realized something awesome.

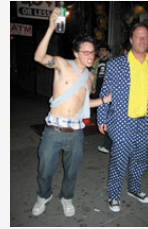
You know Iceland? The tranquil little island nation northwest of Ireland that looks like a flying cow without legs? No place had been immediately hit harder by the economic tailspin, its banks having gorged themselves full on a plate of Europe's most toxic assets. So get this: no other country has a higher rate of belief in monkey-to-man evolution—not one. Coincidence? The man thought not.

Earlier that month, I went to Istanbul to interview Harun Yahya, a.k.a. Adnan Oktar, who has spent most of the last few decades obsessed (to the tune of writing 200 or so books) about how all the world's problems derive more or less directly from Charles Darwin's brain. He's also the handsome guru-in-chief of an allegedly criminal, several-hundred-strong religious brotherhood of Turkish elites that operates an international Islamic creationist media network and a tidy import-export business on the side.

I asked him about Scandinavia—after all, those countries seem like pretty nice places to live, even without having fallen utterly into the thrall of his Versace-creationist version of Islam. He explained that my impression was mistaken. "There is an inner chaos going on in those people's hearts and minds," he said, through a young and nimble translator. "They are not really people."

He goes on. Suicide, drugs, rock music...many, many maladies. "Theirs is not real happiness," he says. "We cannot call artificial happiness real happiness." Their economic meltdown was fantastic confirmation of his entire reason for existence.

## DOs & DON'Ts



The hot new accessory this month is old guys dressed as young guys dressed as cartoons.

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**HELLO, I'M A CIVIL WAR REENACTOR...**  
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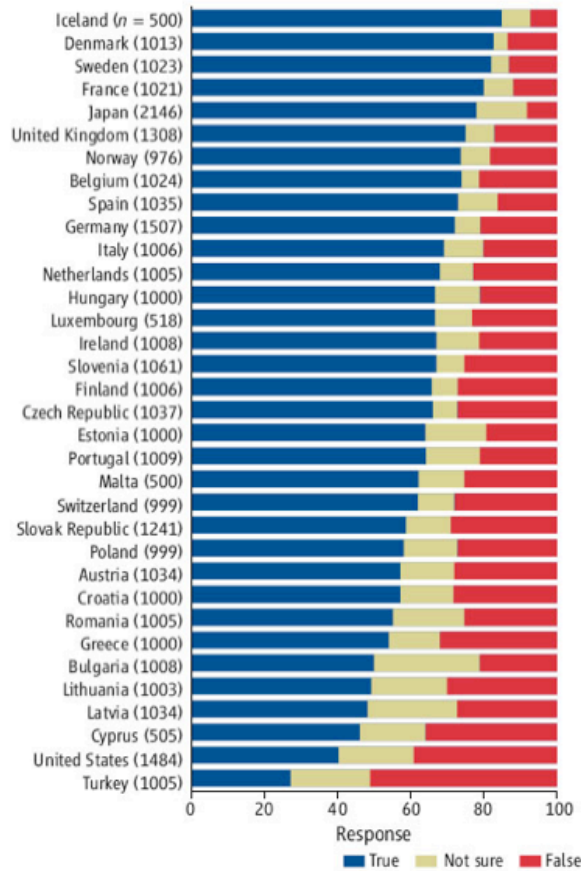
**SUNNY SIDE UP**  
Luminous Sex Toy Art

## DOs & DON'Ts



Nude with a CBGB's tattoo is rough, but is she there with her husband and their kid? Does he have to see his mom's tits flopping around in the mosh pit? That's beyond sadistic. That's eye rape.

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Public acceptance of evolution in 34 countries, 2005.

Turkey's on the bottom! And, next... oh. The United States. That's weird.

**NATHAN SCHNEIDER**

16/06/2009 in [Animals](#), [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Current Affairs](#), [NZ](#), [Religion](#), [Scandinavia](#), [Travel](#), [USA](#) | [Permalink](#)

**Comments**

I did a report on Iceland in third grade. They also have one of the highest literacy rates in the world. It was number one at the time of my report, handed in with a clear plastic cover and yellow plastic spine.

Posted by: Neal | 16/06/2009 at 19:37

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