

Concept of God in the Religions without God

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ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 15 June 2020

Keywords

Scientific Indulgence, Prudence, Hovers, Skeptic, Synthetic, Cognitive, Conative, Bodhi Sattva, Arhat.

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ABSTRACT

The present era is an age of scientific indulgence and technological prudence. But still even with the development of science and technology, Philosophy and Religion can never be denied of its existence. One can be moral even without believing in an infinite and all powerful reality called God. It still hovers over as the most powerful part of our lives, whether one is theistic, atheistic or may be skeptic. Philosophy and Religion contributes a lot in shaping our cultural and social background. This research writing focuses on giving up all the orthodox and conservational thought process and give importance to moral values. This work is based on descriptive, analytical and synthetic methods. Religion is a very complex psychological process, which has three aspects; Cognitive, Affective and Conative. Most of the Religion is based on the acceptance of God, but there are also some religions which do not accepts the presence of God. For example- Buddhism, Jainism and Humanism. The interpretation of God as done by other religions is very different from the interpretation given by the religions which accepts the presence of God. These religions without God have interpreted the notion of the ultimate power not as God but the concepts like Nirvana, BoddhiSattva, Arhat, etc. Morality has been given the most superior place in these religions. This research paper mainly focuses on establishing moral values as the highest ideal which nearly in every religion accepts almost as same and by giving the moral values top most priority inter-religious conflicts can be stopped.

1. Introduction

Religion and Philosophy are the two sides of one coin. Religion arose out of reverence towards fear and awe. Philosophy also arose out of wonder. According to Prof. Galloway " Religion is man's faith in a power beyond himself whereby he seeks to satisfy emotional needs and gains stability of life, and which he expresses in acts of worship and services".

In Historical references, there are certain religions in which the existence of God has not been accepted. These religions are called as atheistic religions. Atheism means the theory which is related to God. This theory accepts essentially the negation theory of the existence of God. There are basically three religions which negates the existence of God, which are as follows;

- Jainism
- Buddhism
- Humanism

Jainism rejects theism. In order to refute the existence of God Jainism accepts many arguments against the existence of God. Jainism takes support of many arguments for refuting the existence of God. The arguments that are used to prove the existence of God, Jainism use the weaknesses of these arguments to refute the existence of God. Jainism refutes the existence of God. In this way, Jainism negates the existence of God and accepts atheism.

Buddhism also negates the existence of God. Ordinarily, it is said that this world is a creation of the almighty and God is considered as the creator. According to Buddha, this world

works on the cycle of dependent origination or Pratityasamudpada. This world works on the law of origin and destruction. Buddhism as a religion has given several arguments that favours the non-existence of God. In this manner, Buddhism such high moral values, these have been kept into the category of religion.

On the other hand, Buddha never directly refuted the existence of God. Instead, he maintained silence on metaphysical questions. This might be the case that, the silence of Buddha was being understood by his disciples. But, when Buddha asked his disciples to become self-reliant or 'AtmaDipo Bhava', which clearly meant that, he was not a believer of God. He asked his disciple to find the light within one's self. Despite, being the follower of atheism Buddhism have been categorized as a religion due to its belief in high moral values.

When it comes to Humanism, Tagore is named very respectfully. Apart from him Hellenism also accepts Humanism. In this religion; human beings are portrayed in the form of God. Humanism is the supporter of science. It does not support anything beyond logic. Humanism is being understood in two forms. According to the first description, God is a present in this world in the form of man and the second forms describes God as a man with beyond humanly characteristics, free from all the vices.

Jainism, Buddhism and Humanism give a new dimension to what we had previously understood about religion. It is just because Of their stress on such high moral ideals that these religions had been kept into the category of religion.

These religions without God, not only leads man towards a virtuous and moral life but also take care of their needs that ignored under the supervision of orthodox and superstitious values. That's what that makes this religion beautiful.

2. Aims and objectives

- The objective of this research paper is to help people stress on adopting morality and give up superstitious and orthodox values.
- The aim is to establish a new dimension in the traditional way of portraying god as done in Jainism, Buddhism and Humanism.

3. Methodology

The method of the study adopted is descriptive, factual, analytical and synthetic.

4. Hypothesis

- In this modern era if we stress on moral values and give up idol worship then there is a possibility that this can prove to be more practical and beneficial for mankind as a whole.
- If we discuss the concept of God in the form of moral values in religions without God then inter-religious harmony can be established and conflicts can be stopped.

The first trithankara of Jainism was Jayadeva and the last was lord Mahavira, who considered, the three ideals which are called the 'triratnas' or 'the three jewels' – right knowledge, right conduct and right faith to be very important for any religion. According to Jaina philosophy, it will be not right to call God to be almighty and all powerful since God cannot be the basic cause of the origin of all the objects of this world. The Jainas believe in the five ideals or Panmahavratas of Satya or truthfulness, Ahimsa or non-violence, Asteya or non-stealing, Aparigraha or non-acceptance of unnecessary gifts or having no greed for others things, Brahmacharya or celibacy and austerity which are to be followed most importantly by every religion and every person.

In this way Jainism is atheistic. Although, theoretically Jainism refutes the concept of God but if we observe

practically, Jainism is quite thoughtful of the notion of God. They had replaced God with the Trithankaras or the teachers and worship them. The Trithankaras are the God in the Religion of Jainism. Jainism just like other religions accepts God in one way or another.

Lord Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. According to him, this entire world works on the law of dependent origination. It will be absurd and at the same time contradictory to accept the existence of God who is momentary and mortal. In Buddhism moral values are taken to be supreme, which makes it undoubtedly to be considered as a religion. The history of Buddhism itself declares that Buddha later was worshipped as a God. The only reason that seems behind this is that atheistic religions are incapable of satisfying the thirst of the religious feelings of man.

Thus, the religion which seems atheistic in nature somehow bends to accept God.

In Humanism, god is nothing but is the base of moral values and congregation of humanly attributes. This religion believes in the worship human beings, their welfare works. According to this religion man himself is his own fortune taker. Buddhism, Tagore's philosophy, Hellenism, etc are the followers of this religion. The humanly qualities like, love, compassion, service, etc should be worshipped. Humanism believes that man is the idol of worship. Therefore, welfare of man should be the sole purpose.

5. Conclusion

Religion is nothing more than a temperament of human beings which influences their entire life. Most of the developed religions of the world somehow believe in a supernatural power which is beyond the humanly existence. Religion without God or atheist religion who do not believe in the existence of God but to accept this that they totally reject the notion of God is totally absurd, since they somehow holds their believe on some supernatural all powerful entity. But this kind of supernatural concept is quite different from the supernatural entities as accepted by theistic religions. These super powers in these religions are taken in the form of Nirvana, moksha, bodhisattva, arhat, etc.

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