

Christianity and Natural religion

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Forewords

Jesus Christ never prayed to Jehovah. He prayed to “Father in Heaven”. Judaism and Christianity are totally different religions. Jesus called himself “Human Son”. In my opinion he was a man. What then is Christianity? I have studied it in comparison with ancient religion of Japan.

What are Human Beings?

We human beings have millions of years of evolution from anthropoid. At what point can we say our ancestors became human beings?

What distinguishes human beings from the other animals are:

- (1) Exchange of things and ideas through words
- (2) Caring for other fellow beings, especially for the weak, infant, young and old
- (3) Burial of the dead, setting tombstones for their memories

We can say Neanderthals were already human beings as they buried their dead ones decorating with varieties of flowers. They appeared about 500 thousand years ago.

Natural Religion

<> The other world

The Neanderthals must have had a religion. They had a concept of “the other world” from which we come from at birth and return to at death.

<> Worship of ancestors

The simplest and most natural form of religion is worship of ancestors. My parents passed away a few years ago. They are no more in this world physically, but they do live in our hearts. Every morning I pray to them for their happiness in the other world and for our peace and prosperity in this world. In most households in Japan we have small altars called “Butudan” to worship our ancestors. There are all kinds of religions in

Japan but I feel worship of ancestors is the very basic religion of ours.

◇ Animism

Our ancestors in primitive ages believed in spirit in everything. So do I now in another form. I can't imagine any moment the natural laws stop working.

A. Einstein once said "what is hard to understand is that we can understand the nature". Everything exists bound by natural laws. That is why we can understand the nature and that is the natural religion of our age.

◇ Equality

In nature all human beings were equal. We can see this trace in our languages. In Japanese "hito" means "one" and "a human being". Furthermore it also means "equal". We can find this in other languages, too. In English "one" also means "a human being" in such a sentence as "One is mortal." Furthermore "one" appears in "someone, anyone, no one, oneself, etc." In other European languages we can find similar facts.

States Religion

The advent of agriculture and domestication of animals bore private properties and wars. The winners subjugated the losers. Thus the society split into the ruling and ruled classes. The war brought more wealth and power to the winners and greater territories. The process continued until formation of tribal states where the kings ruled the people. The rulers have all the rights and the ruled only duties. The equality in the primitive ages was lost. The civilization brought unnatural, unequal and inhuman societies. The above process developed states religions in order to justify the autocracy by the kings. The kings were believed to be gods or agents of gods qualified to rule the people.

In Japan the ancient state religion was not so strict; it is a Polytheism with a great many gods. That is reflection of the Japanese dynasty which was formed by coalition of a number of powerful lords.

Judaism

Is the tribal religion of the Jewish people that is depicted in the Old Testament.

Christianity

Is usually regarded to be related with Judaism as The New Testament is combined with the Old Testament as Bible. But I think they are totally different religions.

- (1) Judaism God is the creator of the universe hence absolute. Even naming or expression in arts is impossible because that relativizes God. Worship of idols is a serious crime in Judaism.

On the other hand Jesus called his God “Father in heaven”. I interpret it as “Ancestors in the other world”. The Christian God can be depicted in arts. In fact it is a source of unexhausted inspiration for artists.

- (2) Judaism God is unpredictable and horrible. The God destroyed the world by flood, lightening or fires from heaven. The essence of Judaism is Fear of God. So it should be naturally, since it is the religious reflection of almighty kings in the ancient world of the Orient.

On the other hand in Christianity God loves the believers with infinite depth. Jesus preached “Fear not. Your God knows what you need before you. Even the number of your hair is counted.”

- (3) Method of Prayers

Jesus preached “ The Pharisees pray on the busy street so they can be seen . Their prayer is not met because they are already rewarded.” They are indeed! Judaism is a state religion for the Jewish state hence needs to be seen in public by the people.

To his disciples Jesus preached, “ You must pray in secrecy in your room with your window concealed with a curtain closed” Naturally!, as Christianity is a world religion for all human beings. Individuals pray to God in persons.

- (4) Shrines

Jesus chased away all the merchants selling cow, sheep or birds for offering at a shrine in Jerusalem. Jesus never killed any living things. Methods of offering to God were completely different between Judaism and Christianity.

His Love extended beyond human beings. He preached “Look at the sparrows. Father in heaven feeds even such small beings. So you, do not worry for today or tomorrow. God knows what you need. Are human beings not greater than birds? ”

At other times Jesus preached “ Even King Solomon at his height of prosperity was not clad so beautifully as the thistles in the field.”

In Japan we have numerous shrines all over the country at wonderful natural sites or birthplaces or other related places of great persons. Even enemies of the dynasties were enshrined because they are worshipped once gone to the other world.

Similar concept is seen in USA. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. is, in my

definition, a shrine dedicated to Abraham Lincoln.

(5) Universal religion

Judaism is a tribal religion exclusively for Jewish people. On the other hand Christianity is a universal religion for all human beings. The New Testament begins with counting ancestors from Jesus to Abraham; 42 generations. It is now about 70 generations from Jesus. Everyone living today has $2^{70} = 10^{21}$ ancestors at the time of Jesus. Or rather Jesus must have 10^{21} descendants today. The world population today is less than 10^{10} . Everyone living today must be descendant of Jesus including Jewish and Palestinian people. We are all brothers and sisters!

Based on the above discussion I believe Christianity is a natural religion.

Natural Religion for the future

- (1) All human beings are brothers and sisters, hence
- (2) All human beings are equal and free
- (3) Love of Gods extends to all human beings and beyond.
- (4) All existence follows natural laws at any time, hence
- (5) Science & Technology can understand the nature and create new inventions,
- (6) Which must be useful to bring happiness for all the people and beings.

Based on Natural Religion,

Powered with science & technology,

We can build better Future.