

## Monotheism and Polytheism

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### Foreword

Israeli occupation of Palestine is the cause of one of the greatest human misery today. The daily humiliation of Palestinian people by the Israeli is the cause of Palestinian terrorism. The Israeli rarely admit it, but it was the Jewish terrorism against British Empire that made the Great Britain give up rule of Palestine. Then Israel was erected in 1948 based on the “ Division of Palestine Plan” approved by the United Nations. The remaining is the state terrorism by Israel on the residents of Palestine, beginning with immediate expulsion of 750 thousand Palestinians from their home lands, occupation of the whole Palestine in 1967, continuous expansion of illegal Jewish settlements in the occupied land, daily harassment of the Palestinians by Israeli police and military and frequent violence by the settlers and complete blockade of Gaza for nearly 20 years. Hamas terrorism on 7, October, 1923 was a trigger of the ongoing terrible bombardments and genocide of more than 41,000 people in Gaza, but not cause of the conflicts. The true cause is the humiliation of the Palestinian people by the state of Israel. Palestinians are human beings. They do want independence, justice, protection of their fundamental human rights. The oppressed have the right to resist the oppressors.

Watching terrible genocide in Gaza on TV, I wonder what makes Israel such an inhuman terrorist state. The following is my study about the question.

### Monotheism

Judaism and Islam are monotheism. They have common religious root.

In Judaism and Islam worship of idols is a serious sin because monotheism God does not allow existence of any other deity and is absolute, hence cannot be expressed in pictures or sculptures.

### Christianity

Contrary to general understanding, I believe Christianity is not essentially related with Judaism. The trinity theory itself reveals that Christianity is not monotheism. How can God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit be one? Some scholars even add “Love” to it. Some Christians most heartily worship “Mother Maria”. Jesus Christ himself never

mentioned God. He talked about and prayed to “ Father in heaven”. I interpret it as “ forefather in the other world” ; the other world we come from at birth and return to at death. In short, Christianity is a natural religion. For more details see

<http://www5e.biglobe.ne.jp/~kaorin57/Christianity%20and%20Natural%20religion.pdf>

## Polytheism

In my knowledge, all other religions in the world are Polytheism.

### - Ancient Greek and Rome

The mythologies of ancient Greek and Rome are typical polytheism. Numerous gods mutually interact and with the people. They even breed with the people to bear heroes and heroines. In short, gods in ancient Greek and Rome are essentially human beings. Ancient Greek and Roman culture gives the backbone of western civilization. To confirm this, just open your dictionary and find out how many English words come from Greek and Latin origin.

### - India

In Hinduism, there are a great many gods. They specialize in certain areas, hence nothing like God in monotheism. They are just like human beings possessing some mysterious but specialized abilities.

In Buddhism there is no god. It is based on equality of all human beings. Buddha preached “ in the wide ocean how can you tell water coming from Ganges or from other rivers?” Buddhism is a collection of knowledge that leads people from mazes in life.

### - China

In Chinese religions there is no god. The legendary gods in ancient Chinese religions are in fact idealized persons who achieved great works as in beginning agriculture, controlling flow of rivers, etc.

#### -- Heaven

Is the basic concept in Chinese thoughts. The destiny of the people is governed by heaven. The title “emperor” means “Child of Heaven”. The hero who starts a new dynasty is endorsed by “Heaven” and allowed to name the title.

#### -- Earth

Is another basic concept in Chinese thoughts. Taoism means “Ways ”. The ways lead people anywhere. The corresponding proverb in western culture is; All roads lead to

Rome. People develop new roads, travel around to meet and trade with other people and learn new ways of life.

#### - Japan

Japanese mythology has many gods. Just like Greek mythology, Japanese gods breed with human beings. In short Japanese gods are mystified human beings who achieved great things. All proper names were forgotten hence all gods are named by their properties just like in allegories.

#### Primitive ages

Human beings evolved from anthropoid through millions of years. When did they become human beings? We know Neanderthals were already human beings as they buried their dead decorated with many flowers. They must have had a religion. Thus we can say human beings have a history of hundreds of thousands of years.

#### - Animism

Our ancestors believed everything has spirit in it. It is quite a natural thought that bears buds of both religion and science. We all know we have our inner world called "mind". Our inner observation also tells there is "I" that makes my decision of my actions. Projecting this observation to external world, animism is quite a natural religion and science. In Japanese thought, everything has spirit; not only human beings but also animals, plants, mountains, rivers, waterfalls, rocks, etc. You will find numerous shrines all over Japan dedicated to those natural wonders.

#### - Worship of ancestors

Our ancestors live in the other world where we will go after death. In Japan every family has a small altar called "Butsudan" at home. Every morning I stand before my Butsudan to pray for my parents, relatives and friends who are already in the other world and wish for peace and prosperity of our world. Worship of ancestors is the most natural basis of religion.

#### -Equality of human beings

In primitive ages all human beings were equal. We can see this in Japanese language. In Japanese, "Hito" means "person", "one" and "equal".

In English "one" has the similar meanings as in someone, anyone, everyone and oneself.

The human society before civilization was observed by westerners in North America in 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The tribal leaders were elected by all members, men and women on equal basis. It gave knowledge about natural human society before civilization to French philosopher J.J.Rousseau who completed the contractual theory of human societies that established the principles of democracy. The thought bore a great fruit in the independence of USA with Declaration of Independence in 1776. The USA is the first major state without a king and with government elected by the people, i.e. the first democracy in modern age of the world.

#### Monotheism as states religion

As seen above, monotheism is exceptional religion today. But at the start of civilization, all state religions were monotheism. With the advent of agriculture and domestication of animals, “ private property” was born in human society. Competitions for better lands brought wars among different groups. The winners got more territory, wealth and warriors. The losers were subjugated to the winners thus the society split to ruling and ruled classes. The process continued until formation of power states ruled by kings. In the class-divided state the rulers have all the rights, and the ruled only duties. The equality in the primitive ages was lost. The civilization brought unequal, unnatural and inhuman societies.

In order to justify rules by the kings, state religions were created. The kings were regarded as gods that have the right to rule the people.

#### -Judaism

Jewish tribe were small, weak people in ancient Orient subjugated to great empires in Egypt, Syria and Mesopotamia. All those ancient states were religious states with their monotheism gods, which were lost at fall of those empires. However, the monotheism of the weakest, Judaism has survived until today.

Judaism God is unseen, unpredictable and horrible. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with “ Fire and Sulfur” for no particular reason; It reminds me of Gaza now. Judaism God also destroyed the mankind by enormous flood.

The essence of Judaism is **Fear of God**. This is understandable because Judaism God is nothing but a religious reflection of almighty kings in ancient Orient.

Jesus Christ objected the concept of Judaism God. If God is creator of the world, we must be his children. Which parent gives snakes to his children who need fish?

The essence of Christianity is **Love of God**.

Jesus Christ's teaching can be simply summarized; Love your neighbor.

#### Evil Nature of State Religion

Japan was in isolation during 17 -19 centuries, during which it was peaceful. When Japan was forced to open to the world, in mid-19 century she was in real danger of colonization by occidental imperial powers. In order to survive in the severely competitive world she adopted a state religion against her own tradition. She established a monotheism that declares the Japanese emperor as the living god!

The state religion was quite effective to promote militarism that could bring victories in wars against China and Russia. At the same time the state religion was also effective to suppress movements for democracy and drive Japan to the world war 2, against USA over Asia. The unprecedented destruction and loss of lives in the Pacific war ended in the fall of Japanese Empire in 1945.

After WW2, Japan was reborn on the principle of separation of religion and state, democracy and pacifism. For the past 79 years Japan has not been involved in any wars.

I once saw Israeli ambassador to UN hoisted The Old Testament claiming the whole Palestine for Israel. It is such a stupidity of the believers of Judaism. Anything written is written by someone, hence nothing more than the writer. Everything written is fabrication by the author. Religion simply insists on validity of the contents, while science is more humble. Only proven matters by theory and experiments are accepted as natural laws. Judaism is excluded to others than the Jewish people, while science is open to all people. Science is the true development from animism in the primitive ages. The society and democracy today are firmly based on science and technology.

#### Conclusion

We have seen that monotheism is exclusive in nature. If it is adopted as a state religion, it naturally drives the state to militarism. The principle of separation of state and religion must be fully achieved. Democracy is the basis of peace and prosperity. With complete freedom and equality, who would ever want a war?