

Natural Religions for the Future

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What are Human Beings?

In the evolution of humankind, the Neanderthals were certainly already human beings as they buried their dead ones decorated with varieties of wild flowers. They must have had a concept of the other world we come from at birth and return to at death. In another word, they had a religion.

Natural Religions

Animism

In the primitive ages our ancestors believed in spirits in everything. In Japan anything magnificent in nature are worshipped as sacred. You will find numerous shrines at great mountains, huge rocks, high waterfalls, tall trees, etc. with interesting stories to tell about their origins and histories.

The cave pictures in primitive ages in various parts of the world still have powers to impress us deeply. In 21st century, I believe, we are basically the same as our ancestors in stone ages.

Worship of Ancestors

Is the most natural form of religion. Human beings receive babies and send off the deceased with burial and build tombstones. This reception and off-sending are basic elements of Japanese natural religion. Almost every home has a small altar “Butsudan” to worship ancestors.

On worship of ancestors are based fundamental human concepts:

(1) All living things are related

Everyone has two parents. In k generations back, one has 2^k ancestors. Homo Sapiens appeared on the earth about 30,000 years ago, since then at least 1,000 generations. It means everyone living today has at least $2^{1000} \gg 10^{300}$ ancestors as homo-sapiens.

The exponential increases tell that all living things are related. The natural religion is scientifically correct. The above calculation tells all humanoids, anthropoids, monkeys, mammals birds, reptiles, and even up to bacteria, share the common biological ancestors. In Japanese legends even reptiles, trees or mountains have spirits that inter-worked with the people.

(2) All human beings are brothers and sisters.

Everybody has common ancestors as homo-sapiens, hence is brother or sister. Furthermore anyone living today will be ancestors of all humankind in the future.

(3) All human beings are equal and help each other.

Observations of the few remaining primitive villages have revealed that equality and mutual help was the basis of primitive societies. A catch by a hunter was distributed equally among the

villagers. The recipient did not even say “thank you” as it was so natural a custom.

Civilizations Religions

With agriculture and domestication of animals, arose private properties. The products can be stored, exchanged or plundered. With civilization came wars that brought more wealth and power to the winners and subjugation to the losers. Thus the human society split into ruling and ruled social classes. The wars brought more wealth and powers to the winners with larger territories. The process continued until establishment of power states where kings ruled aristocrats, warriors, commoners and slaves. The rulers had all the rights and the ruled all the duties. The equality and mutual help in the primitive ages were lost. The civilization has brought unnatural, unfair and inhuman societies.

States Religions

In order to justify the inhuman rules of the civilized societies, states religions were developed. All ancient states had states religions. The ancient Egyptian and Orient empires had monotheisms to justify their ruling by almighty kings.

On the other hand the ancient Greek mythology is a polytheism because the area were filled with many city-states; Athens, Sparta, Corinth, etc. The political system of Athens was a form of direct democracy among the citizens.

Japan was unified around 7th century under a dynasty which formally has survived until today. The numerous shrines all over the country were overtaken, their histories modified to fit into the impressive hierarchy of mythologies that justify the rule of the state by the dynasty. The Japanese mythology is polytheism as the ruling dynasty was a joint body of several powerful lords.

Judaism

The Jewish tribe never formed an Empire but a small kingdom for a short period as ancient Israel that subjugated to such great Empires as Egypt, Hittites, Babylonia, etc. The Old Testament tells about a tribe that initially migrated from the ancient city of Ur, northward along the great rivers to southern Syria and then southward to Palestine. Later they migrated to Egypt at times of severe famine. They were treated as slaves there. The tribe, led by Moses, escaped from Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, migrated in the Sinai desert for 40 years before coming back to Palestine. The tribe attacked the Palestinian villages brutally to settle down in Palestine. The tribe was later called Jews because of their religion; Judaism.

Judaism is a typical monotheism influenced by the culture of the ancient Orient. What is unique is that god of Judaism is an absolute almighty that created the whole universe hence cannot be named, expressed in pictures or sculptures because such acts relativizes God.

I wonder why such almighty God could select such a small tribe to protect them and help them perish their enemies, which is only a very relative acts. The Jewish people were isolated wherever they migrated because of their selfish “ selected by almighty God” ideology. Adolf Hitler gained power through election by attacking Jews; people of Germany supported his extreme anti-Semitism. It was not only propaganda. The Nazis Germany exterminated 6 million Jewish people! The greatest victim of Judaism was Jewish people themselves.

And in 20th century, after 20 centuries of migration all over the world, Jewish people came back to Palestine, again, to form a state; Israel. But it was more Jewish a state in the land of Palestine than the ancient Israel. Almost 800 thousand residents were excluded from their home lands at establishment of Israel, thus created Palestinian Refugee problem.

The problem has not only continued unsolved but much worsened; now tens of thousands of children, women and men have been killed, mutilated, displaced from homes that were destroyed by Israeli bombardments in Gaza and West Bank. The war was triggered by the Hamas terrorism in Israel on 7, October, 2023, BUT it was not the true cause of the war. The true cause of the war is Occupation of Palestine by Israel, Eating the land of Palestine by the illegal settlements and despicable violence of the settlers and the complete blockade of Gaza for so many years. The most basic cause of these criminal acts is, in my opinion, the egoistic exaggerated Jewish state religion; Judaism.

Christianity

is usually misunderstood to be related with Judaism. But they are, in my opinion, totally different. Judaism is a state religion for Jewish people only. On the other hand Christianity is a world religion for all the people. Furthermore, in my opinion, Christianity is a Natural Religion.

(1) Worship of ancestors

The New Testament begins with counting the ancestors; 42 generations from Abraham to Jesus. You do not have to stop at Abraham. Even after Jesus himself, it is now 80 generations; every human being living today is a descendant of Jesus.

Jesus referred to God by the word “Father in heaven” and called himself “ human child”. These names remind me of “ancestors, descendants and the other world” of the natural religion

(2) Equality of human beings

On chapter 20 Mathew of New Testament Jesus said;

“It shall not be so among you; but anyone whoever would be great among you must be your servant.”

It is democracy, isn't it?

(3) God of Love

God of Judaism is unpredictable and horrible; destroyed the world with flood, lightening or fires from heaven. The essence of Judaism is Fear of God, naturally as it is a religious reflection of

worldly Almighty Kings in ancient world of the Orient.

On the other hand God of Christianity is a loving god at all times for all people. This is understandable as it is, in my opinion, a natural religion.

(4) Expression in arts, literature and science

Judaism and Islam are pure Monotheism. Even naming, expression in pictures or sculptures are strictly prohibited as those acts relativizes God. Worship of idols are punished by death.

On the other hand, Christianity has kept giving inspirations to artists, writers and scholars for artistic, music expressions and scientific researches.

Natural Religions and Sciences for the future

The natural religions in the primitive ages were also sciences. That is also true today.

The primitive religions split into states religions and natural religions as the human historical stages entered civilizations which split the human societies to ruling and ruled social classes within power states. The power states have been in constant competitions. It was the power, often violence that determined rules of the world. The states religions rationalized the greedy powers of the states. The states religions do not matter whether they are true or not as their objective is to make the people obey the orders of the states or authorities.

The world of humankind has evolved through the ages. The social systems developed as the commoners gained the powers of the states through a number of revolutions and evolutions. Thus the equality and mutual help in the primitive ages have been recovered as democracy today. In democratic countries today, the states religions have been abolished except for Judaism, Islam, etc.

The natural religion, science & technology

(1) Common essences ; Search for truths and axiomatic theoretical system

Scientific law must be established both theoretically and experimentally. The scientific theory today is built by axiomatic method. All mathematical theorems must be logically proven. This methods necessitates that some basic statements remain to be accepted without proof; axioms on which the whole theoretic system is built. The correctness of axioms is believed as if a natural religion. But they must be always scrutinized as an incessant research for more basic truths.

(2) For the future

I am an engineer in communication technology. In our daily efforts, what motivates us is to realize new machines or systems that will be useful to promote happiness of all humankind. It is the desire for the mutual help since the primitive ages that inspires us today in 21st century. Thus the science & technology share the same objectives as natural religions.