



Religion: a Rational Entity?

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Abstract

The word religion derived from the Latin word *religio* which means bond. A bond which restricts you from doing mischief, a bond that binds you with the society with strict social moral codes, a bond that makes aware of the consequences of present life's daily conduct and the reward or punishment in life after death. It remains a matter of controversy and of course the question has been raised over the years regarding the founder of monotheism—who was actually the founder of monotheism? Though some historians claim that the Moses of Old Testament was the founder of monotheism; some says one God theory had been introduced long before Moses as mentioned in the Rig Veda, book no 1, Hymn no 164, Verse no 46 “Ekam sat vipra bahudha vedanti”—sages call one God by many names.

Prologue:

When logic fails, miracles works as vital weapon:

Man in general susceptible to bait lay by founder of religion. Sometimes they fail to convince people with logic. They show dream of paradise for good conduct in this present life and hell for the wrong doing. But to transform an atheist to theist is such a herculean task that sometimes the originator uses his sleight of hand instead of logic.

Moses used fire as his chief weapon. He mixed up his magical power with pure doctrine to establish a new theory of one God and beside whom no God or any deity to be worshiped. Moses was brought up in the royal court of Egypt and educated by royal priest. Egyptian priest were able to make gunpowder and used it in fireworks or primitive flares as early as six thousand years ago. Moses was well- acquainted with the production of gunpowder and highly skilled in the composition (sulfur, saltpeter, charcoal).

When someone stood on his way, he simply warned him of being punished with the fire of hell. English archaeologist professor Flinder Petrie proved the existence of abundance of sulfur in entire Sinai region where Moses encountered his Yahweh God. Moses never allowed his people to come nearer to his Lord. He played the role of interpreter like Prophet Muhammad. When Israelites arrived at the mountain, the people were told to purify their garments and keep their distance. Lord commanded Moses "Go down warn the people not to cross the boundary to come and look at me; if they do, many of them will die. At Sinai, Israelites could only hear the thunderous sound of explosion and saw smoke of fire. Moses told his people that God came in thick cloud and handed over him the TORA-THE TEN COMMANDMENT.

The so called Midnight Theory-that Yahweh was originally a God of people of Midian-is usually discredited today, but it was in Midian that Moses had first vision of YAHEW. It will be recalled that Moses had been forced to flee Egypt for killing an Egyptian who was ill-treating an Israelite slave. He had taken refuge, married there and it was while he was tending his father-in-law's sheep that he had seen a strange sight; a bush that burned without being consumed. When he went closer to investigate, Yahweh had called to him by name and Moses had cried; Here I am

(biieni), the response of every Prophet of Israel when encountered the God who demanded total attention and loyalty.

'come no nearer (God) said, (Take off your shoes for which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father", he said, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob". At that Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God".

Long before Moses, in around 6th century BC, a new religion emerged in IRAN and became official religion-Zarathustra encountered his God Ahura Mazda, seated on a throne encircled by fire on the holy mountain Albordi. He proclaimed that there is only one God beside none to be worshipped. It almost in an identical fashion like Moses: God bestowed on him His sacred law. Like Moses chosen people- his people crossed the river on foot when water parted away.

India is the birthplace of Hinduism. Hinduism has no known founder, no known historic beginnings, no central authority and no common creed. It has many founders of diverse school and sect, many spiritual leaders, many scripture, much expression. Hinduism is an overwhelming reality in today's India; it is visible in thousands of temple cities, audible in exuberant festivals, alive in hundreds of millions of people. The

term, *“Hinduism is an invention of eighteen century European scholars who were fond of ‘ism’ and had no exposure to the reality of Indian religion”*. By now, however, the designation ”Hindu” has been taken by the Hindus themselves and while it may be impossible to define Hinduism as one religion, it makes sense to use the term to describe a family of religion that developed over past several thousand years in South Asia which have much in common and share many historic roots. The discovery of Siva’s idol at Mohenjadaro and Harappa claims Hinduism as 4000 thousand years old religion that had took birth in India.

Whenever a messenger or prophet descends to earth, he is always accompanied with some precursors and angel messengers who proclaim that he will be the savior. Krishna was born to Daivaki and angel Yogamaya warned Kansa that his sisters’ son would be his killer. Angel also told Daivaki in an ethereal voice that her son would be the savior of mankind. Like Krishna, Buddha and Jesus both regarded as human and divine. Like Christ’s, Buddha’s birth is the result of a miracle; angel messengers proclaim that he will be a savior and prophesy to his mother: “All joy to you, Queen Maya, rejoice and be glad , for the child to whom you have given birth is holy!” just as the old and pious

Simeon has been told he will see the coming of the Messiah, the birth of the Buddha is prophesied by the saintly old Asita who, shortly before he dies, comes to the new born child, takes him in his arms and declares:

“This is the peerless one, pre-eminent among men-He will attain to the ultimate height of enlightenment. He has knowledge of the supreme will. It is he who will set the Wheel of Doctrine in motion. He has had compassion on the struggles of humankind. The faith he founds will spread all over the world”.

Simeon, it will be recalled, likewise takes the holy child in his arms and says,

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation

Which thou hast prepared before of all people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. (Luke2:29-32)

Krishna performed lot of miracles in his childhood. He relocated mountain Gobordhan to save his people from the wrath of God Indra, fought multiple headed snake Kalia, defeated him and compelled it to leave the river Yamuna, killed demons with bare hand. Jesus healed a person who was suffering from

skin-disease. He could calm a storm; he healed a paralysed man by simply asking him to get up, who got up immediately. He healed two blind men, a dumb man and many. It is controversially reported that certain precursors accompanied Prophet Muhammad's birth- the fourteen galleries of Kisra Palace cracked and rolled down, the sacred fire of Magians died up; some churches on the lake Sawa sank down. The event of elephant in which the elephant of Abrah, the Abyssinian viceroy refused to move forward and knelt down when it was directed towards westward where AL-KABAH was situated. Abrah wanted to demolish Al-Kabah. This event took place in the month of Al-Muharram, fifty or fifty five days before the birth of Prophet Muhammad. It could actually be regarded as a divine auspicious precursor of the light to come and accompany the advent of the Prophet and his family. As related by Anas in Sahih Muslim, Gabriel came down and ripped his chest open and took out the heart. He then extracted a blood-clot out of it and said: "That was the part of Satan in the." And then he washed it with the water of Zamzam in God basin. After that the heart was joined together and restored to its place. The boys and playmates came running to his mother, i.e., his nurse, and said: "Verily, Muhammad----has been murdered." They rushed towards him and found him all right

only his face was white.

Epilogue:

Though most of people bears a common belief that one's religion is superior to other yet it bears same common theory. If we observe it with microscopic vision we can find that the miracle and precursor plays a significant role in convincing the common people to accept the doctrine when logic and philosophy fails. Doctrine can't be too rational. If something is not visible it doesn't mean it is not there. We can't see air but it does exist. God is ubiquitous but we can't see Him. He is sustainer and omnipotent but He is tantalizingly absent when you need Him most. We can't claim to have understood Him because He is such an abstruse reality that if we claim, He would not be God but a simple human projection of needs and desire. If we try to investigate or find logic behind God's existence both God and the religion would die a sudden death.

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