

RELIGION IN INDIA: CHRISTIAN CULTURE AND PRACTICE

Author's Name: Swati Das

Affiliation: PhD Scholar in Adamas University, Part time lecturer in Sociology – Khejuri College

Guest lecturer in Environmental Studies, K.B.K.A.S. Mahavidyalaya

E-Mail: swatidas302@gmail.com

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Abstract

The Indian sub-continent has a wide range of religious that define the morality and ethics of the people who follow it. Several communities live together and we have a range of religions. As Swami Vivekananda said while addressing an audience at the world Parliament of Religious in Chicago in 1893:

“I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in Universal toleration but we accept all religions as true.”

As Indian we are all proud of this think and culture, because Christian and their all culture are prosperous our everyday and representativeness.

Keywords: Christianity, Trinity, Uniqueness, resurrect.

INTRODUCTION

Ancient civilisation and cultures were closely bound with religion. Religions evolved as a set of beliefs regarding the nature and purpose of universe. Gradually we become organised system of beliefs binding groups of people into a close-knit society. Religion has played an important part in the lives of the Indian people from the earliest times. But religion in India has never been static, various movements have developed with new ideas and in response to evolving culture and socio-economic situation.

There is a long tradition of religious pluralism, an important part of cultural pluralism in India. Almost all major religions of the world are professed in this country. There are four religions which trace their origin to the Indian subcontinent-Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Religions beliefs and systems that “arrived” from outside of others country are Islam and Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Judaism and Baha’i. The spirituality of each religion is vested in the sacred books and physical spaces where people get together to pray religion is a very powerful tool in the hands of the powerful and they use it to break and make communal ties, but usually India has had more years of religious peace than the instances of communal tension.

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA

One of the largest of the world Christianity has a lot of followers in India Christians are said to have arrived in India during the first century after the birth of Christ. Evidence suggests that one of Christ’s apostles, Thomas reached India in AD52 and settled in Malabar (Kerala). It is widely believed that he was martyred in Tamil Nadu in AD72 and he buried in Mylapore, a suburb of Chennai, where the Cathedral of St. Thomas now stands. A rocky hill near meenambakkam, Chennai Airport is known as St. Thomas’ Mount. Syrian Christians arrived in Kerala in the 6th Century AD in a major missionary movement.

The Portuguese latter brought a fresh development, introducing Roman Catholicism. The Jesuit, St. Francis Xavier, came to Goa in 1542 and in 1557, Goa was made an Archbishopric. In 1793 the Baptist missionary William Carey came to Bengal. Significantly, the Christian populations of

the tribal hill area of Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam stem from such late 19th Century missionary movements.

ORIGIN OF CHRISTIANITY

Jesus Christ founded Christianity which spread throughout the Roman Empire where it was made the State religion in the 4th Century AD. Later the Church split into two broad groups – the western under the people in Rome and the Eastern under the Patriarchates of Antioch, Alexandria and Constantinople. Still later the Roman church was broken up by Protestantism, and in the Eastern churches many communities' setup their own patriarchates.

It was founded by Jesus Christ in Jerusalem and after his prosecution and resurrection after three days, it started to get more and more followers. After some time, it become the state religion of the Roman Empire and Started spreading rapidly. The basis of the Roman Catholic Christianity became Vatican City in Rome. After some time, there were several reform movements in Christianity and sects like protestants, Methodists etc, become widespread.

UNIQUENESS OF CHRISTIANITY

Christianity and their believers are very unique in the religious consciousness. Crucial to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity is the truth that all three persons of the three - in-one exist simultaneously both now and forever. In other words, God is now, always has been and always will be, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons who are also one. Many common illustrations that seek to explain the Trinity fall short of this crucial Biblical truth.

Some illustrate the Trinity by saying “The Trinity is like H₂O. it can exist as a said called ‘ice’, a liquid, which we usually just called ‘water’, or a gas called ‘steam’”. In any of these three states, it is still just H₂O. This illustration highlights the truth the God has three aspects to His being, just as H₂O can be said liquid, or gas and still be the same chemical. This concept, however, points a false view of God. It misses the mark because it illustrates God in three modes or phases that exist one after the other, but not as three persons, eternally in union with on another.

BIBLICAL DISCURSSION AND THEIR PRACTICNESS ON UNIQUENESS

This false nation, that God started out as Father, then become a Son, and finally turned into a spirit, is called “Modalism”, and condemned as heresy by the early church in the councils of Antioch (AD268), Nicaca (AD 325) and Constantinople (AD381).

By contrast, the doctrine of the Trinity asserts that the Trinity exists, not as three different modes, but father as three persons in union at the same time, and to prove this you need look at only one event, the Baptism of Jesus, as recorded in Mathew 3:13-17.

13. Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him.

14. But John forbed him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15. And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then He suffered him.

16. And Jesus, when he has baptized, went up straightway out of the water, and to the heavens were opened unto him, and He saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17. And to a voice from heaven, Saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Similarly, Mark 1:9-11

9.And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized

of John in Jordan.

10. And straightway coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11. And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

And Luke 3:21-22 proved that believeness and the Christian culture.

21. Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

As John finish ballizing Jesus, all three persons of the three-in-one are manifested simultaneously. The Son comes up out the water, the father pronounces His love from Him, and the spirit hovers over Him. That is not God existing in three phases or modes but three persons present and joyously regarding one another, all at once.

INDIAN CHRISTIANS AND THEIR CULTURAL PRACTICES

The Portuguese later brought a fresh development, introducing Roman Catholicism. The Jesuit, St. Francis Xavier, come to Goa in 1542 and, in 1557, Goa was made an Archbishopric. In the early stages, the churches were quite influenced by the caste system and the Kerala Christians adopted social rules very similarly to those of high caste Hindus. It was only in the late 18th century that attempts to were made to abolish discrimination on the basis of caste.

The basic philosophy of Christianity is the existence of one God who created the universe. God sends messengers or messiahs, when necessary, to help his creation. Jesus was a messenger who wanted to help people to find God and become their 'Saviour'. They also believe that after Jesus left earth, God presence was retained on earth in the form of the Holy ghost or Holy spirit. In fact, Christians worship the Holy trinity: The father (God) the Son (Jesus) and the Holy ghost (Holy spirit).

Christian missionary and their activity were more limited in north India, through Jesuit missions came to Akbar's Court in the late 16th century. But protestant missions in Bengal from the end of the 18th century had a deep influence on cultural and religious development. In 1793 the Baptist missionary William Carry came to Bengal. it was under his influence of Christian missions in education and medical work was, however, greater than their influence as a proselytising force. Indeed, education in Christian schools Stimulated reformist movements in Hinduism itself.

Organization like the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Young Women's Christian Association (YMCA) and the Solution Army still do valuable social work. Most main protestant denominations in India are now part either of the church of South India or the church of North India. The Syrian Christian church of Kerala has reuited with the Roman Catholic sec of Roam and Christ church, Shimla (1857), Sant Thomas church, Chennai, St. Paul Cathedral, Kolkata, St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Palayoor, Santacruz Basilica, Kochi, Basilica of Holy Rosary Church, Hooghly, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Delhi and most popular various churches are worked on village area in India. They are build churches, school and many various activity and Social works centres.

Many villagers, small workers, lower cast and tribal people are taken their facility of

educational, economical and cultural basis need in this Christian culture and religion. Whenever they are loved Jesus in impression and created their position and job satisfaction Christian festival and their culture are very famous in hole world that are Christmas and Easter and Good Friday.

This day is celebrated all across the world as the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ. It falls on the 25th of December every year. The celebrations begin with the Midnight Mass that is held at all the churches on the night of the 24th December to 25th December, which signifies the birth of Christ at midnight. People visit the church where several programmes are arranged for the devotees to remember the good work of Christ. People visit each other's houses and exchange gifts. The two rituals attached to this festival are of the Christmas Tree, which is set in everyone's house. It is decorated with may ornaments, lights and holly. The other myth is of Santa Claus who is supposed to be a harbinger of gifts. People sing carole and distribute sweets, cakes and chocolate on this day.

This is the day celebrated for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to Bible "Mark 10:34" "And they shall mock him are shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day He shall rise again." Three days after Jesus was crucified, he was resurrected and hence. Easter is supposed to signify the triumph of life over death. The festival of Good Friday is to commemorate the day of crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It falls in the month of April each year. The death of Jesus is considered necessary for this rebirth and hence, it is good sign and gives hope to human beings.

CONCLUSION

Religion is the human response to the apprehension of something or power, which is supernatural and suprasensible. It is the expression of the manner and the type of adjustment effected by a people with their conception of "Supernatural", according to Robertson.

"Religion refers to the existences of supernatural beings which have a governing effect of life". Christian's culture and their impact on be-half of Indian Society are very great importance.

India has had more years of religious peace than the instances of communal tension in this all religion. Because, India has many religious combinations, but it is a main fact of "Unity in diversity on India."

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