

Religion Management



There are many religions in the world. Every person is born in one or the other religion. Right from the childhood, the values of religion are imbibed. Hence a person cannot think of himself without religion, religious behaviour is the holy duty. Everybody is proud of the religion. It is but natural. But at times the hatred of other religion goes to such an extreme end that it leads to terrorist activities. Innocent people lose their lives. Hence people begin to think, ‘what is religion? What is the reason behind following the religion?’

Man is a social animal living in groups. Long ago nomadic man was having pet animals. They also lived in groups, became stable on discovering agriculture. They started forming small groups, felt the need of some system to keep the group together and organized. It was a practical and moral need. While living together a person should follow rules of unity, fraternity, love and co-operation for the community to prosper. The social charter created for this need and to support to the community morally is known as religion. In short religion means a person’s duties towards a community or other persons, it means rules and

regulations for moral behaviour and to keep one's character clean, it means the management of human behaviour.

Religions tell us what people should do from getting up in the morning to sleeping at night, how to live the life and what to do on different stages of life. Religions tell us what things are right or what things are wrong. Today human life has become multifaceted. Laws are made to control the social behaviour and the transactions. But even today, the morals and rules of the religion have a strong hold on human society.

In the words *Aacharya* Vinoba Bhave, "It is incumbent upon us to serve the people in the society around us. This is our '*Swadharma*'. To elaborate it means, I should serve my parents, members of my family and people of my village or town, and finally the whole humanity and the environment. This is my '*Swadharma*'. This is my sacred duty. This '*Swadharma*' outlined in the Geeta, is born with us."

One important binding agent of the religion management, which is common in all religions, is Almighty. Perhaps due to Almighty, religion has become strong and powerful. Almighty is the creator and controller of the world. Some call it Ishwar, some call it God, and some call it Allah! Lord Krishna narrated Geeta to Arjuna. Jesus Christ preached people about Almighty Prophet Muhammad preached Allah's teachings to the people. Gautama Buddha got enlightenment and he preached kindness to people. Books are made of his teachings. The scriptures became religious books. These books have an effect on the society even today. If man did not obey the orders and preaching of God, what will happen? How will one be punished? Almost in all the religions, there are concepts of heaven and hell. If a person is not holy and

characterless, is answerable of his deeds to Almighty after death, as a punishment he may be sent to hell to suffer painful punishments. If a person has good behaviour, remembers Almighty, heaven is rewarded to him. He will get joy there.

This means punishments in the hell are a means of the religion to control human behaviour. Same religion tells us that punishing for mistakes or rewarding for good deeds are not done by the God, but a person gets fruits of one's deeds. In short religion tells you to keep your behaviour and deeds good and pure.

In the world, there is one energy. It is only transformed into another form. Sunlight is a type of energy. If the rays are concentrated at a point through a lens, we burn. Thus, Sun's energy is transformed into heat. Water is made to fall on turbines and potential energy is converted into electricity. With this electricity, we get light; we can heat water, cook food. This means electrical energy is converted into light and heat. This shows that energy is convertible. It transforms from one form to another. Likewise, human religion is also one. A tree has many branches and roots. The roots absorb nutrients from the soil and carry them to the branches. Likewise, the principle is the same even if the religions are different. There are different reasons for establishing different religions. The principle of the religions is the same, even if they have been founded at different times, places and conditions. The principle is devotion to God and welfare of the mankind and of the nature. If you unwind the layers of the religion, you will reach these age-old principles.

It should not be necessary to register one's religion, caste, sub-caste in any register. I feel, while doing this, we divide people. We see the atmosphere of love as well as

hatred among religions. Celebrating others festivals, is based as attitude of “*Sarv Dharma Samabhav*” which means all religions should be treated equally. Whereas with hatred for people of other religion, puts restrictions, torturing others. Such examples of two extreme points are seen in the world. If we study different religions a particular religion was founded three thousand years ago, 2nd religion two thousand years ago, third some thousand years ago? So on. But man existed before these religions. There was no religion then. There is a possibility that new religions were created by accepting good things from a religion and rejecting bad, out-dated things from others.

Hence it is essential to study the religions in the world, understand characteristics.

This should be done by everyone to find out the basic principle of the religion. Some systems, customs in a religion are important for a spiritual progress as prayer and daily rituals. *Aarati* is done twice in a temple. Bells are ringing at the time. In church also bells are rung at certain times. This helps people to know the time of the day. Muslims offer *Namaz* five times a day. It is a holy duty. It gives peace of mind with physical exercise. A person gives some time for *Namaz* from his daily chores. Then he becomes fresh for doing his work again. Through prayers, *Namaz*, a person remembers God, destroying pride. People come together in temples, churches and mosques for prayers. It benefits them. They come together, know each other, good will is spread among them. The main aim of religion is to bring people together and near the nature.

In every religion certain practices are followed traditionally, the logic behind particular practices may not be known today but when it was introduced there was some logical as well as scientific reason behind it. We have to try

to understand it before we discard the practice prevailing at present.

Today religions are given less importance, over conveniences. The main aims and principles of religion are forgotten. In such conditions if war like situations arises, people may get confused. People not having love for each other's religion and thoughtful attitude won't be united. Science tells us that trillions of years ago, earth's surfaces were interconnected to each other. In the course of time, some changes took place and all the parts of the land were divided. Likewise, a human being has also been divided on the basis of religion, caste, language and creed.

If a person follows the aims of the religion, then all the sorrows and disparities may come to end. A person should get a suitable job and payment for it accordingly. If a person gets more money, he should not store it, but spend it on charity. People getting less money, should be ready to work hard. When a person forgets the aims of his religion, he makes mistakes.

Things like the aim and management of the religion should be included in the syllabus from 1st standard to higher education. This education should be of all the religions. So that everyone will get the knowledge of all the religions. Ignorance about the religions will disappear. A Hindu should be encouraged to study Bible, Quran. A Muslim should be encouraged to study Bhagvadh Geeta. A Christian should study Quran. This will create respect about other religion and misunderstandings will be removed and religious brotherhood will be established. Not allowing people of other religions at a certain holy place is unfair according to me. Before religions came and thousands of years ago, many prosperous civilizations

existed on the earth. They had a system of their own. We should be logical and not superstitious about religion. There should be discussions and even debates on the good and bad practicing of the religions. But a person should do it responsibly. To have a sense of responsibility, education regarding religion should be included in the syllabus because; religions create morality and help in acquiring skills for living.

The same case is of the castes. Man is divided into a number of castes. There are again sub-castes. People say that they are *Deshastha*, *Kokanastha*, *Rigvedi*, *Yajurvedi*. Those who call them among the 96 families (*Shahannav Kuli*) cannot tell the names of 96 families nor their family numbers. Even though, everyone is proud of caste or sub caste. When conflicts arise, riots take place through this. A question arises, where are we going? When Jesus Christ was crucified by the cruel people, he was bleeding with excruciating pain. Yet he prayed; “God, these people are ignorant. They don’t know what they are doing. Oh God please forgive them”.

Why does nobody understand the sympathy, great feelings behind it? There is only one religion in the world. People should be made aware of this.

Language is also a medium of exchange of human emotions and feelings. But there are differences among the people due to languages.

Languages cause conflicts due to man’s pride. When we go at a railway station, we see that the name of a place is written in three languages local, national, and international. If the name of a place is written in one language there are movements and protests against it. People feel that nameplates on the roads should be written

in a particular language; answers should be written in state language, interviews should be conducted in English etc. Nobody thinks of the cost involved in it. I think we should come out of this conflict. Language is a medium of expressing thoughts, feelings. If there is only one language, the world will come much closer without much hindrance.

It is impossible to have one religion, one language. It may be possible, if we try sincerely to remove the hindrances dividing the people and work hard for the unity of the world. There will be many hardships but we can find a way through understanding. This won't happen overnight. Perhaps it may take 100 to 500 years to put this thing in order. But it should begin somewhere. Lord Krishna has said in *Bhagvad Geeta*, "I will be born again and again for establishing the religion." We should not wait for God to take rebirth and start working. To work thoughtfully and morally is the need of the time.



Quotes

"You cannot believe in god until you believe in yourself."

- Swami Vivekananda

"My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness."

- Dalai Lama

"Worship is a way of seeing the world in the light of God."

- Abraham Joshua Heschel

“Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life.”

– **Buddha**

“True wisdom always leads us to please God.”

– **Anthony DeStefano**

“God’s word is lamp that lights my path.”

“Nothing kills the ego like playfulness, like laughter. When you start taking life as fun, the ego has to die, it cannot exist anymore.”

– **Osho**

“Pleasure from the senses seems like nectar at first, but it is bitter as poison in the end.”

– **Bhagavad Gita**