Comparative Religious Perspectives on Morality in Hinduism Buddhism and Islam

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Religion, Morality, and the Problem of Intergroup Conflict

Religion is supposedly a system in which there are beliefs and rituals through which its followers interpret and respond to the things they consider sacred and supernatural. Apparently, for the theists, all unexplained, mysterious things are supernatural. Ordinarily, religious beliefs differ from the culture of society. The religious ideas followed by people usually make up their identity. The conservative people of the community consider their religious views as something to be valued and guarded like a treasure (*The Impact of Religion on Morality*).

Hence, bias and enmities between groups are usually related to religious beliefs. It also means that one team deems it perfect to discriminate against the other because of their religious ideologies. For example, the Jews differ from the Arabs and justify it by saying that this is what Yahweh tells them. Religious beliefs are considered conservative and supposedly preserve social conventions because the people who follow them view their religion as having a divine origin. Hence, most religious leaders are against change, fearing that such a turn might lead to God's wrath (O'Brien).

Recently, it has become common knowledge that most religious people who undergo hard times and suffer in their lives claim that this is what God wants for them. It means that these people enjoy their suffering and are content with it. Apparently, this is why the prophets who taught a religion always risked their lives or sacrificed themselves, like Martin Luther King.

Defining Morality Across Religious Traditions

Morality, on the other hand, is more related to setting up boundaries of behavior conducted by members of society. These limitations ensure that one person's rights do not overstep the other person's rights. This means that morals are a kind of shield for weaker community members. They serve the weaker members by ensuring that the more powerful people of the city maintain restraint when dealing with others. It also means that the more powerful people do not enjoy extreme power and advantages. The power distribution is supported by religious leaders who make sure that there are no victims.

To better understand each of the three largest and most popular religions' views on this topic, I have given their narratives in this essay. First, I will explain the views Hinduism has on morality in culture.

Hindu Perspectives on Duty, Meaning, and Moral Conduct

Indian philosophy is founded on the Vedic-Hindu ideology. And because of its approach, the theory has become ingrained in the Indian culture. According to the Indian philosophers, other religions, like Jainism, Sikhism, and Buddhism, are also a product of Hinduism. The philosophies of Hinduism have developed over the centuries. According to them, Ishwara, Bhagawan, and Parameshwara are all Supreme Authorities and claim much influence among other deities. They also control everything that moves or that does not run. Hindus do not only believe in the Vedas but also the Upanishads, Smritis, Puranas, and the Gita. According to the Hindus, the Puranas and the Vedas are prime sources of guidance for a man to acquire knowledge. And it is known from them that guides a person to a perfect path.

Morality is an essential element in the quest to make life more meaningful. To lead a life with purpose and worth and in a guided way, he has to follow the Vedas. According to the Hindus, morality is the difference between right and wrong. It is a person's self-control to choose the best option of the two. They further say that morality is not an ideal theory that has no real existence. It exists in all truly lively and active societies that are conscious of their roles in this life.

Hence, it is compulsory for everyone to select the right thing and stick to it, no matter what. Even if he/she has to face adversity, he or she has to make morality a part of his or her everyday life. Human behavior is undoubtedly an essential aspect that plays a critical role in a person's character and personality. It is human behavior that is linked to morality. Both morality and ethics come side by side. The ideals of the Indian community have been shaped solely by this explanation of morality.

Buddhist and Islamic Approaches to Morality

On the other hand, the Buddhists view morality as a natural thing that flows by mastering one's desires and ego. Buddhists claim that stress comes from one's hopes for more. They believe that there are no moral laws in Buddhism and that one's decision to commit sin or not is the basis of one's condition. Hence, it supports a thing called Intentionality. It revolves around the fact that individuals view their problems. They should analyze their choices with wisdom and understand the consequences of their actions.

(Ume Nasreen)

Islam has completely different views compared to Hinduism and Buddhism. Islam claims that it is a

comprehensive code of conduct for living life. It is a complete moral system that teaches its followers how to live. Islam orders its followers to practice high morals instead of practicing something sinful. It asks its followers to be conscientious of its actions in all matters. Islam clarifies that Muslims should adhere to moral principles so that wrong deeds may not become popular in society. According to Islam, the sole objective of Muslims is to make sure that harmful and illegal acts do not become widespread and common.

According to Islam, morality is the most important source to keep a nation intact, while immorality is something that causes a government to perish. It is why honesty is one of the principles of Islam. The Islamic moral system not only defines the meanings of morality but also guides the followers toward achieving success in society. Hence, the things that lead to good and success are morally sound in Islam, while what leads to loss and decline is immoral.

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