

Religions and Religious Freedom

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At this time the world has a small number of these major religions are: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Vedic (meaning Hindu or Sanaatan Dharma), and Buddhism. The followers of no religion, except the Vedic, say that all religions are same.^{4,5,6}

[(Most Vedics say “all religions are same” out of misunderstanding of a line in the Vedas that says all paths lead to the same god.^{1,2} They forget that when the Vedas said it (in the beginning of creation³) there was only one religion – the Vedic dharma - in the world. This Vedic dharma gives a number of yogas – processes of realizing god or going to god and experience bliss. All these Vedic paths lead to the same god. Therefore, the words “all paths” of the Vedas do not include Islam and Christianity.]

When one understands that all religions are different, then one may ask – which religion is good, or better, or best? This question immediately raises another question – how you figure if a religion is better than another religion? Here is how you could figure it:

A religion is better than another religion when:

1. It gives more freedom of thought, speech and action.⁷
2. It is tolerant of all the tolerant religions because tolerating the intolerant is encouraging intolerance.⁷
3. Its practice does not take away, or curtail, or limit the freedom, lives, lands, or property, pursuit for happiness, or dignity and honor of the followers of other tolerant religions.⁷
4. Its practice is eco friendly and harmonious with nature.⁷
5. It does not encourage animal killings for fun.⁸
6. Its practice makes one compassionate to other living beings.⁹
7. People accept it by free choice without any force, pressure or enticement for conversion.⁷
8. Its followers or preachers preach only to those who have friendly and non-envious interest to know it.⁷
9. It is more scientific or logical than another religion.⁷
10. It does not say, “Kill those who quit this religion.”⁷
11. It does not say, “Women cannot go to heaven.”⁷
12. Its place of prayer or religious activity is open to all to visit who feel friendly and non-envious to the religion.⁷
13. It does not say one race or sex is superior to another.⁷
14. It does not encourage slavery, sex out of marriage, gambling, or intoxication.¹⁰

15. It is for all the humans of all the time. It is not exclusive for a particular race, or country or group.⁷

16. Its practice helps in achieving peace at any level from personal to national and global. It has more potential for achieving world peace.⁷

So, if you use the above criteria to judge if a religion is better than another religion, you will find that some religions are not good, and at least one is really worst or barbaric.

You have to know about a religion only by its Book, and/or from its well recognized authorities, and staunch followers. Every religion has more or less followers who do not know their own religion correctly, or they malpractice it. A religion is what is stated in its authorized Book.

Now, most democratic countries at this time (except Hamas perhaps) give freedom of religion. They say something like this: “Anyone can follow any religion. All religions are legal. Government does not prefer or favor one religion over another.” This law basically says that you as a citizen could follow any religion, good or bad; and you are free to quit a religion and follow another religion as well any time.

Now think. Is it rational, or safe, to say that you living in a democratic country could follow a religion that says: “Any democratic government is illegal and must be replaced; or, you kill the followers of other religions, and doing so you will go heaven; or, accept this religion, or else you will go to hell or will be killed; or, no woman could go out of home without fully covering her body from head to toe; or, no woman could go to schools, etc.? It certainly is not rational.

Therefore, the constitution or the law needs to be changed to say that any intolerant religion is illegal. If you are living in a democracy, and not following a barbaric religion, and your country’s majority people are not following a barbaric religion, then please tell the majority to unite and change the law or constitution as soon as possible before a barbaric religion could take over your country or take away your freedom.

No democratic constitution should allow a barbaric and intolerant or anti-democracy religion⁷

Bibliography or Notes

1. "They have called him Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, and the divine fine-winged Garuda; They speak of Indra, Yama, Matrarisvan: the One Being sages call by many names." - Rig Veda 1.164.46
2. "As all surrender unto Me, I reward accordingly. Everyone follows My path in all respects, O son of Prtha." – Bhagavad Gita 4.11
3. "The Blessed Lord said: I instructed this imperishable science of yoga to the sun-god Vivasvan, and Vivasvan instructed it to Manu, the father of mankind, and Manu in turn instructed it to Ikshvaku." -Bhagabad Gita 4.1
4. "...when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death." A non-Israelite who comes too close to the Jewish temple is to be executed." - Old Testament 1:51
5. "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...*" Beliefs of other religions are described as coming from evil spirits and devils." -Timothy 4:1
6. "Allah forgiveth not that partners should be set up with Him; but He forgiveth anything else, to whom He pleaseth; to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin most heinous indeed." - Koran 004.048 YUSUF ALI
7. This is self evident. A sane and sober person with rational mind would readily agree to it.
8. God has purpose in creating animals; animals are part of the eco system; the world existed before we were born, and will exist after we die. Our existence here is temporary. So, if we cannot create animals, we should not kill them just for fun. – Suresh Vyas
9. Compassion is life supporting feeling than cruelty. Therefore, it ought to be more desirable than cruelty or neutrality. - - Gambling does not produce any useful service or product to the society. Intoxication makes one just feel good, but does not solve any real problem; and it makes one addicted. An intoxicated person hardly does any good to others or the self. -Suresh Vyas