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Philosophy

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The Sikh View

The introduction and growth of Sikhism is a dilemma to myriads even today. This is because, it tends to embrace all other form of religion but also strongly contrasts some of the beliefs and practices. In as much as Sikhism takes a miniature percentile in religious prevalence, most of their statutes are actually worth considering as true, if not believing. In a bid to integrate all these diverse beliefs and religions into society, there arises a constant need to quell the subsequent melee. Sikhs, Jews, Christians, Muslims, and/or non-religious people should deal with such religious differences in a thoughtful and considerate manner.

The Sikhs, just like all other religions, believe in the presence of a supernatural being (this unlike the atheists, who believe in anything but the presence of a God). Sikhs have the most unique beliefs, which they follow to the letter. This alludes to the meaning of their name, disciples. Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. During his initial travels, he went to bathe in a river, but was instead taken down to God's chambers (Brodd Jeffrey 220). It was during this encounter with God that Guru Nanak learnt all about the religion he preached. As a result, he went around preaching his new found beliefs and gathering followers. Guru Nanak's teachings clearly illustrate the presence of God. It is, therefore, possible for people with different cultural and religious beliefs to have one common belief that can bring and make them work together.

Like all other religions, the Sikhs have a common sacred book from where all their beliefs transcend. The Christians, have the Bible. The Muslims, have the Quran. The Sikhs have the Adi Granth (Brodd Jeffrey 222). Sikhism as well, presents a wide range of religious content through this book. It also contains works from several gurus. The Adi Granth contains 1430 pages in each copy. Several foreign languages have been used in its writing, but most prevalently, Punjabi (Brodd Jeffrey 223). It is very clear that the Sikh religion tries to embrace diversity in its entire setting. This shows that Sikhism is as inclusive as all other religions. There is acceptance of people from different cultural, tribal and family backgrounds into a similar faith. If such a step is taken, it will bring the much needed peace, cohesion and harmony that the community longs for.

Despite the several similarities between Sikhism and other religions, there exist certain differences. After a person's death, different religions offer different solutions as to where and

how the body should be disposed. This being the case, there also exists a different placement value for the dead. Some religions value their dead to the point of worshipping them, while others view the dead as valueless. Brodd Jeffrey cites a case in time towards the demise of Guru Nanak. Before his death, there was a conflict on whether Guru Nanak's body should be cremated or buried. The solution that Guru Nanak gave brought a long lasting sense of peace and unity between the two different religious groups (222). In spite of all the differences in religious beliefs among communities, the enhancement of harmony remains a constant. It is through Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, that two religions with diverse beliefs, ended up accepting this difference and became united. This shows that, despite all the forces against unity, it is possible to make a unique decision, that causes a great impact in the community.

It is crystal clear that the world would never be as interesting as it is without diversity. Different people with different beliefs, ways of life and religion, exist in our midst. Acceptance of this fact is a huge step towards the betterment of our world. In as much as people do things differently as compared to others, does not necessarily mean that their way is wrong. It is just an indication of how best we work together as a team, doing things in our own unique techniques, but still maintaining efficiency. Guru Nanak provides an astute example of a man with informed religious beliefs and principles. This is highlighted greatly during his death (Brodd Jeffrey 222). By this illustration, he showed that he understood the real meaning and importance of religion in the world today. Diversity in the community, is surely unity.

The Sikh view accurately provides an illuminating form of knowledge to the world today. Given the fact that they still follow the statutes imparted to them by the ten gurus, they provide wisdom and guidance that is precious and rare. Guru Nanak remains a strong religious leader who stood up for peace and harmony despite all religious differences. Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and all other religions, should embrace certain priceless teachings in the Sikh religion. It is actually safe to say that, the Sikhs have the right idea.

Works Cited

Jeffrey Brodd, Richard Shek *Invitation to World Religions* Oxford University Press,
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