

# The Necessity of religion

- All social organizations have their background for development. The bond of religion is stronger than other bonds.
- The origin of all religions is supernatural. They have originated somewhere outside the human brain.

There are two theories about the origin of religion:

- Ancestor worship/ spirit theory
- Personification of the powers of nature/ the idea of the infinite
- With the ancient Egyptians the idea of soul was that of a double. Every human body contained in it another being very similar to it

- Egyptians built huge pyramids to keep the dead bodies safe so that the double could also be safe.
- The ancient Babylonians also had the idea of double but with a variation. The double frightened the living to give it food, drink and all kinds of help.
- In many other religious communities we find the traces of ancestor worship

- There are many scholars who believe that religion originated in the nature worship. Human mind seems to struggle to get a peep behind the scenes. There must be some unseen supernatural power behind every natural happening.
- Swami Vivekananda proposes a third basis to reconcile the two views. He calls it the struggle to transcend the limitations of the senses.

- Man cannot remain satisfied with his senses; he wants to go behind them.
- The first glimpse of religion should come through dreams. The first idea of immortality may have come from dream.
- Man continued inquiring more deeply into the different stages of the mind and discovered higher states than either the waking or the dreaming.

- Those who reach that state of mind realize things more intensely than we realize facts around us in our waking state. Vedas are said to be written by Rishis who had reached that supersensuous state of mind.
- Buddha reached that supersensuous state of mind and all his teachings came through this.

- The human mind transcends not only the limitations of senses but also the power of reasoning.
- In all the highly organized religions they take the purest form of Unit Abstraction, either in the form of an abstracted presence, as an Omnipresent Being or in the form of an Abstract Essence.

- To manifest the infinite through the finite is impossible. Sooner or later man learns to give up the attempt to express the infinite through the finite. The giving up, this renunciation of attempt is the background of ethics. Ethics always says “ Not I but thou”.
- All ethical laws are moulded on this ground. The central idea of all ethical laws is eternal self-abnegation.



- The Utilitarian wants maximum pleasure through exploitation of matter. But man cannot always think of matter, however pleasurable it may be. There should be a good balance between our attention to this world and the other world.
- Man is man so long as he is struggling to rise above nature.
- Every success story has spirituality as its basis.

- Religion, as a science, as a study, is the greatest and healthiest exercise that human mind can have.
- The lower types of humanity find pleasure in the senses, while the cultured and the educated find it in thought, in philosophy, in arts and sciences.
- Religion, as a study, is absolutely necessary.

- Religion is the greatest motive power that move the human mind.
- Religion must be studied on a broader basis than formerly. All narrow, limited, fighting ideas of religion, sect ideas, tribal or national ideas of religion must be given up.

- Religion must be universal, broad, inclusive, open, infinite, pure, living.