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Reflection Paper

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Religion has always been tricky to understand and even trickier when it comes to implementing it. Coming from a religious background, growing up, I have seen multiple examples of people literally doing something nonsensical in order to achieve something, even they don’t completely understand. Growing up in a dynamically religious country India, I have seen many people following different organizations blindly, to try and achieve something bigger. Watching these films make me angry and fortunate at the same time. I feel angry because I can’t believe how people can be so naïve that they chose to kill themselves and choosing to die for a cause instead of living for one. On the other hand, I feel fortunate that my upbringing has taught me to understand the difference between right and wrong and faith and mistrust.

I got to understand why people do what they did. In the *Jonestown: The Life and Death of a Peoples Temple* film*,* people joined the cult because they felt left out from the society because of whatever reasons. Society neglected them and they fell for what those cult leaders said. NRMs are nothing but some rebellious organizations who try to gain attention by rebelling or contradicting with the government or any religion. They force us to believe that the religions we follow have flaws and they can help fixing it. People who joined these cults, also, in the end, realized that they had made a mistake and wanted to get out of it. We saw that some made out of it, but most ended up losing their lives. I also feel sorry for the parents who involved their children with them in such organizations. How a five-year-old could understand something that doesn’t even have a universally accepted definition! I am not saying that all these NRMs are bad and manipulating people, but I think its for people to decide what they should believe in rather than letting others make decisions about it for them.

I believe that they are not the only one to blame here. We as a society, also equally share the blame. We saw people around us making these kinds of mistakes and probably didn’t stop or help them. At the end of the day, as I mentioned earlier, it is up to the people to decide what they should and shouldn’t believe in. We need to understand that religion is not the only thing, it is not the end of the world, and it shouldn’t be important to end up in, so called, “heaven”. People should understand that religion is for them to feel peaceful and motivated both spiritually and physically. I personally would not believe in religion or god than doing something stupid like killing myself or someone else.