

RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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Religion

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What all religions have in common is that they have a God that doesn't tolerate sin. Sin cannot exist in God's presence because sin and God are incompatible. There is nothing complicated or judgmental about this. This is very simple and easy to reason out. If it can be said that God is perfection, and sin is imperfection; and further, that God is completeness and sin is incompleteness, it is obvious that they cannot be in each other's presence. There is no communication between the two because one lacks a certain capacity. Sin falls short of communion with God. Of course, then, if it is true that God created man to have fellowship with him, a concession on the part of God is necessary. Otherwise, all imperfection and carriers of imperfection, also known as sinners, must be destroyed. All religions have this principle in common. It stands to reason that only perfection can stand in the presence of perfection.

Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Islam, New Ageism, Humanism, Psychologyism they all share this doctrine of perfection. Hinduism attains enlightenment of perfection through wisdom acquired in the course of many lives. Buddhism says that enlightenment can be obtained now by simply realizing that we have already lived many lives and we are perfect right this minute. It's time to wake up. Of course, right now we are still all tied up with cravings and desires acquired when we were asleep, these we must get rid of in order to attain perfection. Zoroastrianism and Islam share a basic concept of a bridge over Hell, even though a bit different in approach; still, your good deeds must surpass your bad deeds in order to make it over that bridge and not fall into Hell, but gain admission into God's presence. New Ageism springs from a soup of these different points of view; everything is looked at, established religions, a bit of the occult, light witchcraft, mainly astrology, cards, Ouija boards. There is a vague sense that good deeds have to be done to offset bad deeds, there is a remote belief, and hope, in an after life, most likely by reincarnation, and there is a sense of wanting to get rid of cravings and desires that keep the individual from (dare we say it?) becoming perfect, or at least acceptable (in the long run, of course) to that vague nebulous Tao, or some other such. Humanism is very close to New Ageism, except perhaps that Psychologyism enters the picture. Now we got it all together.

Humanism is simply more pragmatic about imperfections, there is not so much reading of tarot cards, or consulting Ouija boards, as there are philosophical discussions, coupled with therapy sessions aimed, primarily, at acquiring the ability to make the proper judgment according to the situation, unimpaired by the rule of ethics designed in other times for other times. This is the 21st century and we have the responsibility, not some God that nobody knows if it exists. Perfection, or a reasonable facsimile thereof, is ours to attain.

Psychologyism is the tip of the arrow, the specialty, the final filter of reason. It looks at all the others and takes them into account, but it narrows and sharpens the focus. It explores the nurture-nature aspect of the individual, what is taught and what is innate, in search for clues to explain and, consequently, modify behaviour. All that religion stuff is not necessary. It goes beyond the tensions of dealing with good and bad deeds, cravings and desires, or even situational ethics. It just wades right into the human brain to explain the different functions of certain divisions in the brain, left and right brain, reptilian brain, upper cortex, front lobes, hypothalamus, etc., and the effect of these functions on cravings and desires, and good and bad deeds. Perfection, or at least enough to have peace, is a balance that can be obtained with hard work and the attitude of "I'm O.K., you're O.K."

But you can't come to God and look'im in the eye and tell'im "I'm O.K., you're O.K."