

Religion – Why We Need And Which

Religion is a particular system of faith and worship. It is human recognition of super-human controlling power. Man by nature, has to have a pattern of life based upon some spiritual ideals which we call 'belief'.

If a child tells you that a scorpion (a poisonous small animal) is hidden in your clothes, you will promptly stand up, take off the clothes in search of it till you are satisfied that this dangerous animal is not there.

Similarly, whilst going on a journey in the dark of a night, you suddenly hear that there are robbers around, you would not proceed further till you have investigated the fact and taken precaution for your safety.

From these examples, it is evident that it is in human nature to safeguard himself and take precaution against any possible danger or loss. From the life history of important men, we read or hear about certain truthful and righteous persons who had claimed to have been God-sent and invited mankind to a certain way of belief and practice. Millions of people can be seen to follow them. The birth of Jesus is considered to be the starting point of Christian era whilst the migration of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) from Mecca, the beginning of Islamic era.

Now let us ask ourselves that, are not the words of such persons inviting us towards the path of God and their frightening us of God's punishment against vices and sins, sufficient signs of warning to us against possible danger, in the same way as the attention drawn by the child of the presence of a scorpion in the clothes?

Should we not give serious thought to the message of these Godly persons considering their firm stand on the belief and principles they taught people with great sacrifices and search for a right path to follow?

Moreover, Man is a social animal, depending upon millions of people for his life necessities. Every society needs laws to prevent injustice and preserve the rights of all members.

But the question arises as who is the right authority to make these laws.? Experience shows that no one man or a group of people are able to make perfect laws, without any self-interest, defect, wrong judgement e.t.c. The only ONE who can is 'Allah' the Almighty God.

Thus religion is a system of faith and worship and the need of religion is the natural instinct of man to safeguard against any possible harm or danger. But in this world of ours, we see different religions, each of which claiming to be the true path of God. Naturally, the question arises as to what should be the criteria and the qualities, based on which one can differentiate between the true divine religion and the false man-made religions. In his book 'Need of Religion', the author Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi has clearly defined them and I quote them in brief as under:

- a) It must satisfy common-sense and intelligence of man
- b) It must be a complete guide for development of human body, mind and soul
- c) It must be a complete code and way of life
- d) It must be in conformity with human nature
- e) It must teach and practice dignity of man
- f) (illegible in original article)

At this stage, I should like to leave it to the readers to judge for themselves how the religion of Islam through its invaluable fundamentals and teachings, can be readily be seen to fully conform with the abovementioned qualities of a true religion.