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## TRUE RELIGION: A SOLUTION TO THE SOCIO-ETHICAL PROBLEMS OF THE DAY

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### Abstract:

*This paper focuses on religion as a counter-force against the rising socio-ethical problems of today's world caused by decadent culture of consumerism and materialism, breeding and creating mutual suspicion and violence at every sphere of life by replacing the spiritual and ethical foundations handed down through the ages for forging fraternity and happy camaraderie among the members of our society. So there is need for refocusing and transmitting the religio-ethico ideas and ideals across the corners of the worlds as an emotional approach which should hand in hand with the rational enquiries in the established social studies to counter this mounting problem.*

### KEYWORDS:

True Religion; Socio-ethical Problems; Erosion of Values; Consumerism; Cultivation of Emotions

### INTRODUCTION :

Religion is one of the oldest institutions in human society. Since the primitive stage of its emergence, it has been developing with psychical and physical elements like faith, fear and feeling as well as awful wonders at the mighty power of the nature that may cause good and bad to man. Thus religion has its both physical and psychological foundations dominating one over the other at times. Philosophers so far have taken pain in analyzing into the nature of religion and its origin. Viewed anthropologically, religion is a cup-board love and spiritually it is an attempt of the finite men to transcend their finitudes. However, glorification and vilification run till now centering religion and nobody can deny its existence as a social institution.

### DISCUSSIONS

My thesis here is to explore and establish the positive aspects of religion in favour of the socio-ethical development of man. By man is meant here social man.

Religion plays an important role in our society as a cohesive force. It brings the members under one umbrella and gets them initiated on a common faith. It imparts among its members sense of fraternity and fellow feeling. It teaches tolerance and patience. It instructs man to give up arrogance and surrender to the almighty infinite. It wipes of the narrow boundary of individual man and provides unbounded space where differences among the individuals are lost but their identities are kept. It lifts man above mundane, limitations and help rise to the level of humanity. Thus, religion is a spiritual cultivation where individuality attains generality. At this stage man transcends his finite ego and realizes his bigger self and in this bigger

self emerges human values like fraternity, sympathy, feeling for others, kindness and new look for a bright and beautiful happy society. This purified man is the product of religion. Thus religion serves the society by providing with its proud product that mould the society and make it a heaven for others. This contention is evidenced from the fact that no artist or poet or creator in the history of civilization are found to be deady a materialist exclusively sensationalist- may be he is Rabindranath or Gandhi or Vivekananda or Plato or Socrates or Hegel and or even David Hume.

Names of Karl Marx and the like may be cited against my contention. But I say that I am not talking about 'theism' and 'atheism'- but I am talking about religion as a spiritual cultivation and culture, not as a creed and cult. Nor I am talking about any organized religion like Islam, Hinduism or Christianity. I am in the talking as Rabindranath thought in his 'Religion of Man'. So, I leave here Karl Marx and the like un-discussed.

The 'Summum bonum' i.e, if truth, beauty and goodness is the ultimate end of ethics then this can be best realized in and through religion.

Today, our society is suffering from mutual distrust among the communities, intolerance, hatred, greed and consumerism. Poverty, exploitation and power-mongering are the social pathologies. Sex and violence are direct threats to our time-honored culture. Culture is now decadent and civilization is crippled. Competition is the means and victory at the cost of other's destruction is the end. Values being totally eroded, the society is left bankrupted and social bond being damaged the world are made an anarchic one. The crying need of the society is now for re-habilitation of values of loves for others.

This being the need of time and people, being in general only in logical studies in the established social branches, shall remain insufficient to solution. Only rational enquiries in the cause of the social evils shall play very poor. The needed approach must be emotional. Fraternity and fellow-feeling are not logical products, but are emotional realizations. Values are not rational categories, but are assets of emotion. To protect the society from its impending destruction and defend the humanity from pollution, let all the organs of our mind play their role. Let cognition and volition do their due. But let emotion be allowed to dominate over them, i.e, knowledge and its application be placed under value of feeling. Religion is the cultivation of this feeling. There is abundance of logic and plenty of reasoning in the world of knowledge, but their dearth of feeling in the world of men. Let religion impart within us the feeling of 'oneness' so that we can rise above the level of meanness and divisions. Let religion make the society a heaven- "yatra viswavabati ekom nirob".

Religion is not necessarily a divisive force as it is condemned often to be. I cite one instance from history in the one 150th year of 1857 great revolt. Karl Marx in 'Daily Network Tribune' marked the revolt to be the first Indian freedom struggle. The revolting Indian sepoys mostly Hindu Brahmin by caste, along with the Muslim Sepoys jointly requested Bahadur Shah Alam Nawab to give leadership to their movement. They jointly declared Bahadur Shah to be the ruler of India against the British. While attacking Delhi, the Hindu sepoys took oath by citing "Ganga mai ki joy" and Muslim sepoys by citing from the Koran. This incidence proves that faith in religion does not necessarily stand in the way of unity when the purpose is noble and motivation is justified.

Religion designed by the priests and Mullahs is organized religion. This organized religion is always a bar on the progress and a tool for exploitation. But religion free from the clutches of priest is natural religion of people. This religion speaks of universality and humanity. It is not any sectional religion but the "Religion of Man" as cited by Rabindranath. This religion teaches us-

"pather prante amar tirtha noy  
Pather du pashe ache mor debalay"

No mosque, no church and no temple are the abode of god. But god resides in the cottage of the poor and among the oppressed and exploited.

Thus religion can be made a platform and source spring where from can flow the values and feelings which can re-construct our society as abode of the angles. Members shall be born and live happily in this society and die peacefully in its lap.

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