

The Necessity of Religion

By Chanan Singh B. A.

Of late years, there has been raging a sweeping wave of irreligion of extremism that has tossed the mind of common man and he stands on the cross-roads. He is in a state of utter bewilderment and does not know whether he should owe his religious allegiance to God, or to the state or he should apply the Kropotkinian political theory to religion and become his own religion. The causes of this development are not far to seek. Man's mastery of the Forces of Nature which were once worshipped as the manifestations of God has shattered his faith in Him. The evolution of the all-adumbrating state which guarantees his economic safety has rendered it anachronistic to pray to God for one's well-being. And religion has suffered not a little at the hands of its so called protagonists who have exploited it for their own petty and sordid ends and the result has been spread of hatred leading to blood-shed between man and man and nation and nation.

The situation is fraught with danger and confronts us with these questions. Has the world reached a stage where all religion is redundant and needs to be eliminated? Has our civilisation reached such a pitch as renders the modern man independent of the guidance of the light of religion? Can the elimination of religion make human life more blissful and happy?

At the present stage when the world is torn by political and racial dissensions, when with the same political and social groups there exists deadly enmity between the 'have' and the 'have-nots', when life within a family has been disrupted by lack of faith, humanity stands in need of religion all the more. Religion is the panacea for the ills of humanity. Every religion preaches the universal brotherhood of man. Every religion says 'God is thy father, and man is thy brother'. If the members of all religious groups were true to the tenets of their respective religions, all strifes and feuds would disappear from the face of this earth and the world would be a happy place to live in. Religion can succeed where the nations have failed and the UNO is not as effective as many nations thought it would be.

Civilisation is only skin deep. Under the cover of the glamorous exterior lies the real man – revengeful, greedy, spiteful, vain, weak, unreasonable, unjust, cruel and selfish, a bundle of all the vices without a single virtue. The laws made by the Governments regulate his external behaviour, but what about the moral world that lies within each individual? Are there any governmental laws to regulate its affairs? No, it is the laws of religion that hold their sway here. Thus, without religion, the diabolical propensities in Man will get the upper hand and the whole superstructure of civilisation will go to pieces.

All that man has achieved has been possible, because of his living in society and religion was a cementing force to weld together individuals long before political consciousness dawned among different social groups. Thus religion has been the basis of all social organisations which have been instrumental in bringing about happiness in human life. The present mistrust that permeates the political atmosphere in all the countries augurs ill for the existence of the political groups and threatens them with extinction. When the bond of political union disintegrates, religion will still continue to hold together individuals in social groups and assure for them all the bliss of corporate life on this earth.