



## Religion: Understand the other God(s)

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### Introduction

As a teacher and management practitioner, I often come across excited debate over religion. That too, takes a fiery shape when there is a terror attack particularly, on innocent people. The other occasions were, when the so called spiritual (or ritual) leaders or atheist leaders were caught for infamous reasons by (moral) police or media.

### Methods and Materials

The study is an attempt to highlight the similarity in the pattern of belief of people following different faith. The study is based on the inputs available from the secondary data sources. The information thus collected from various literatures are used as the based to write this article.

### Background Note

The religions like Christianity with 2.2 bn followers followed by Islam 1.6 bn and Hinduism 1.1 bn followers has become inseparable part of the human race (wikipedia, 2015). On the other hand, philosophers like Socrates, Theodorus, Sigmund Freud, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, E.K.V.Ramasamy (read as Periyar) etc (nearly 1.1 bn people in the world are atheist (adherents, 2015)) believed that the concept of God had arisen because of human beings fear in inexplicable and uncontrollable phenomenon that occurs every fraction of time, everywhere.

Religion plays a vital role in organizing people enmass, establishing a required level of discipline (Military like discipline in some cases) among members,

consoling, motivating and by relating good/fortunes with after-life they direct human beings at individual and also at group level. Religions are also used as a tool in the international political arena. The religion (read religious leaders) after got established in the system wants to establish their supremacy over other religions/faiths (read religious leaders).

The sad part of this is, “Terrorists” have started using religion to achieve their myopic goals. Islam is criticized very often on this ground. A Muslim Indian seminary, Darul Uloom Deoband, issued fatwa against terrorism on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008 to clearly pass a message to terrorist and criticizer of religion that religion would not tolerate misuse of its name (The Times of India, 2008).

In this backdrop, the column focuses on some of the key aspects that bind these religions though they may be followed by people in different and far places.

### Common Strands

**First**, most of the religions point out a saviour, traitor or king as the God or incarnation or messenger of god. Ram, Akbar the Great (his religion failed to get blossomed), Buddha, Siddhartha were kings. Mohammed and Jesus were messengers, Lord Krishna and Jesus fall in the category of Rebels fought against the unruly kings.

**Second**, many of the religions have the genesis theory that starts with earth being submerged in the ocean (water) was



taken/ lifted by God or done so by his order.

**Third**, Hindusim, Sumerian faith, Christianity and Greek faith shares the story of big flood and a life-saving boat that saves life one pair of all living beings in the world for the next cycle (sarissa, 2015).

**Fourth**, nearly all the religions have after-worlds, Heavens and Hells. The Voodoo faith talks about “Ginen” (the after-world, said to be under the water below earth) (dreamsofginen, 2012), Ainu faith explains Six heavens and Six Hells where god and lesser gods and other animals live (d). The Hinduism and Christianity also acknowledge their belief in Heaven and Hell.

**Finally**, most of the religions say somebody (God or messenger or lesser god) has come down from sky to create. The Yoruba faith explains that the god (Olorun or Olodumare) sent Obatala from the sky to create earth. In the Mandinka faith the magical god “Sourakata” arrived (to earth) from the sky with sacred drum and hammer. In Ainu faith Kamui, the creator, has sent Aioina. In Hinduism too, there are stories where Purusha (God) was traveling in the space and suddenly woke up and created the universe.

## Conclusion

Those who travel in these stories and unravel the link between religions and faiths would tend to fight for the accumulation of knowledge or wisdom and

not for killing innocents in the name of God.

## References

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