

On the Significance of Human Self-Consciousness to Religion

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Abstract: In philosophy, “self-consciousness” is carried out in the process of mutual alternation between the outward and inward cognitive lines of rationality. The emergence of human self-consciousness gives people a sense of existence, which brings the deep pain of human death consciousness, which makes human beings fall into a two-way contradiction. On the one hand, it makes human beings have a difficult and joyful civilization process, on the other hand, it cuts off the link between human beings and the universe, and makes human beings independent. Religion, with its utopian theory, has created the ultimate dream for people, and once again has a connection with the “most perfect” universe, which is an existence that can not be ignored. As a kind of belief, Marxist belief has some superficial similarities with religious belief. This paper explores the significance of human self-consciousness to religion, and the root and essence of religion from the perspective of the relationship between Marxist belief and religious belief, as well as the freedom of religious belief.

1. Introduction

The initial emergence of human self-consciousness, that is, the initial emergence of reason, led to the breakdown of the chaotic and harmonious state between man and nature, and made human beings fall into the contradictory struggle caused by the two diametrically opposite temptations of returning to nature and moving towards civilization. The human consciousness of death brought about by the emergence of self-consciousness has further aggravated this deep pain [1]. Different beliefs can enrich people's spiritual world, enhance the realm of people's moral pursuit and their ability to transform themselves and the world. They can also make people indulge in vanity and absurdity, do not want to make progress, and even do harm to themselves, others and society. As the main form of current belief, Marxist belief and religious belief are two completely different beliefs, which have substantial differences in the background, object, way, nature, goal and result of belief. In religious life, morality and belief actually exist as one. Without morality, faith can't be implemented; Without faith, morality has nothing to place on [2]. China will, as always, respect and protect citizens' freedom of religious belief, and strive to build a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful socialist modernization power [3].

How to establish a balance between freedom of religious belief and other fundamental rights or legal values protected by law within the framework of the rule of law is one of the most important legal issues. As a kind of belief, Marxist belief does have some superficial similarities and even similarities with religious belief, but it is very difficult to equate Marxist belief with religious belief on the pretext that different beliefs have certain common characteristics [4]. China's policy of freedom of religious belief has experienced twists and turns in practice, but it still maintains considerable continuity and stability. In the view of many religious circles, since the reform and opening up, Chinese religion has ushered in the best period in history [5]. This paper explores the significance of human self-consciousness to religion from the perspective of Marxist belief and freedom of religious belief, and discusses the root and essence of religion.

2. The Connection between Marxist Belief and Religious Belief

2.1 The Background and Nature of Belief

In the early development of human society, in the practice of transforming nature, human beings appeared to worship natural objects and totems, and gradually evolved into religious beliefs [6]. Religious belief and Marxist belief are both forms of belief. Religious beliefs regard supernatural and supersocial deities and the afterlife as the highest pursuit of value, gradually occupying people's spiritual world and controlling people's minds and souls. Marx deeply criticized religion in his works, but in his works, there is no lack of description of the positive role of religion. In the Marxist view of religion, Marx and Engels put forward the basic attitudes and principles that Marxists and political parties should hold towards religion. Engels pointed out: "all religions are just the reflection of the illusion in the human brain of the external forces that dominate people's daily life. In this reflection, the human power takes the form of super human power." In this passage, Engels profoundly revealed the essence of religion and distinguished religious belief from other consciousness. Then Lenin adhered to and developed the Marxist religious view in continuous practice.

Faith is the unswerving trust and persistent pursuit of people who are extremely convinced and cherished. It condenses various elements such as cognition, emotion, will and behavior. Belief is the most fundamental, dominant and core belief that oversees all beliefs, and is the belief in beliefs, with the highest value characteristics and the infinite spiritual pursuit of the subject beyond reality and self. Faith is the unswerving trust and persistent pursuit of people who are extremely convinced and cherished. It condenses various elements such as cognition, emotion, will and behavior. Marxist belief came into being in the development of secularization of modern belief. The emergence of Marxist belief is not only the result of secularization of belief, but also the overcoming and sublation of bad results brought by secularization of belief. The birth of Marxist belief liberates people from unscientific belief, which solves the biggest confusion in the history of human belief, guides people's life as the highest belief of mankind, and promotes human progress. Nowadays, we must look at religion from an objective angle, and realize that religious belief is a cultural phenomenon and a kind of human civilization, which has a very important influence on the progress of social civilization and social development.

2.2 The Difference between Marxist Belief and Religious Belief

Although there are in fact essential differences between Marxist belief and religious belief, in real life, some people have some misunderstandings about the relationship between them. This distinction is not only a subtle distinction between the same kind of beliefs (such as different religious beliefs), but an essential difference between two different kinds of beliefs. Confusing the essential difference between Marxist belief and religious belief is not only misleading in theory, but also leads to many wrong directions in practice. The study of Marxist religious view is a basic work in the research field of Chinese religious theory. Therefore, accurately grasping the relationship between Marxist belief and religious belief has become an important theoretical and practical problem to be solved urgently in the field of ideological and theoretical education.

"Any belief has its own specific object of belief, and the difference in the object of belief is the main sign to distinguish different beliefs." [7] The object of religious belief is supernatural gods or idols, which are illusory. "Religious belief puts aside what has been proved correct by science, and directly uses the conclusions that have not been proved or cannot be proved at all, making it something original, beyond epistemology, and putting absolute belief in it. ." Compared with religious belief, what Marxist belief believes in is the scientific truth of Marxism that has been proved by practice, which is realistic and scientific. "The lofty goal pursued by Marxists is people's own liberation - communism. The essence of the spiritual pursuit of Marxism is not only the liberation of individuals, but also the liberation and release of all mankind." the proletariat can finally liberate itself only by liberating all mankind "is the basic principle on which Marxism relies [8]. Marxism is not a religion, and Marxist belief cannot be equated with religious belief. The inference that religion is a kind of belief and Marxism is also a kind of belief, so Marxism is a religion and Marxist belief is a religious belief is not only untenable, but also extremely absurd.

3. The Relationship between Freedom of Religious Belief and Self-Consciousness

3.1 The Significance of Freedom of Religious Belief

In China, freedom of religious belief is a basic human right guaranteed by the Constitution. Respecting and safeguarding freedom of religious belief is the basic policy of the Chinese Communist Party and government regarding religion. Freedom of religious belief means that every citizen has both the freedom to believe in religion and the freedom not to believe in religion; the freedom to believe in one religion and the freedom not to believe in another religion. Respecting and protecting the freedom of belief and freedom of non-belief are two aspects of China's policy on freedom of religious belief. In the British and American legal tradition, freedom of religious belief is also an important constitutional right, which is placed in a very important position. The state usually adopts a non-interference attitude towards freedom of religious belief, whether legislative or administrative. For such cases that are going to litigation, the courts are mostly on the side of freedom of religious belief.

Freedom of religious belief protects the basic rights of the people and is also conducive to the development of the country. The policy of freedom of religious belief can unite believers and non-believers to the greatest extent, and obey and serve the central task of the party. In reality, the Communist Party of China is not divorced from the special interests of the people. Only by respecting citizens' freedom of religious belief can more people unite to work together for socialist modernization and realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China's religious research adheres to the historical view that freedom of religious belief cannot be divorced from the actual development of the country, the human rights view that people's livelihood development promotes the progress of civil rights, the overall view that balances individual rights and collective rights, and the political and religious view that takes health and harmony as a higher pursuit of political and religious relations, which is not only suitable for China's national conditions, but also more in line with the experience and demands of other countries and regions in the world. Chinese religions and religious groups are increasingly going abroad to the world, becoming a beautiful sight in China's foreign non-governmental exchanges and public diplomacy. In foreign exchanges, China actively advocates the religious tradition of modesty and tolerance and the religious wisdom of the Middle Way, and has increasingly become an important practitioner and promoter of the "Belt and Road" advocated by China and the construction of a community of shared future for mankind.

3.2 The Influence of Self-Consciousness on Belief

Religious belief is a unique psychological phenomenon of human beings and a high-level self-ideology that dominates all other forms of ideology. Self-awareness refers to an individual's awareness of his own thoughts and behaviors, including his own existence and the relationship between people and things around him. The ancient Greek philosopher said, "Man is a rational animal." [9] Reason is rooted in self-awareness, and self-awareness is the first stipulation of being human. In philosophy, "self-awareness" is carried out in the process of mutual alternation between the outward and inward cognitive lines of rationality. Outward is the consciousness of other things, inward is the consciousness of thinking itself. The sign that man becomes a man is that he separates from the chaotic state of being in one with the world, forms the difference between things and me, has a "first fracture", and becomes an existence supported by self-consciousness [10]. When human beings have to face death, they resort to logic different from rationality to seek to surpass death - thus hollowing out or nullifying the iron fact of death, which is the logic of religion. At this level, we say that religion is an alternative continuation of human rational culture.

Self-awareness enables people to acquire awareness of their own existence, and also acquires a sense of dimension that cannot be avoided or reversed from birth to death-the experience of life itself has repeatedly confirmed to him. The ultimate concern points to the ultimate possibility or the ultimate meaning of human beings. This is a question that every religion in history has had to answer. Religion promises people an eternal path from the present to the afterlife, thus leading people's life in this world. In fact, from any kind of cultural process that can be verified as a religious ceremony, we will find the internal construction throughout, that is, absurd logic. This is

the internal supporting structure of every religious ceremony. From the perspective of its internal structure, all religions are just grey boxes constructed by human beings to resist self-consciousness and respond to the needs of their ultimate care. This grey box is a meaningful and noble system composed of super-rational logic and mysterious rituals. The initial awakening of human self-consciousness is the source of all religions, from which the ultimate concern germinates; Resorting to “absurd logic” is a unique response of religion. It is the most important component of religion.

4. Conclusions

It is true that although the way religion explains the world is non-scientific, the moral content contained in it has a positive effect. Now many people accept religion mostly only on the moral level. Marxism is not only a kind of human belief, but also a brand-new belief, which realizes the great change of human belief.

The essence of religion is to respond to the suffering situation caused by the challenge of self-consciousness to people with a logic that is “absurd” in rational thinking, so as to construct the ultimate picture of beauty and subtlety. The emergence of self-consciousness has a two-sided influence on human beings. On the one hand, it makes human beings have a difficult and joyful civilization process, on the other hand, it cuts off the link between human beings and the universe, and makes human beings independent. Therefore, as long as the root of self-awareness exists, people need to go beyond it, and religion will exist. Human's self-consciousness will never stop exploring the religious significance.

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