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**REACTION AND INNOVATIVE ANALYSIS
ON WORLD RELIGIONS VIA LONG SEARCH
DOCUMENTARY SERIES AND VARIOUS
SCRIPTURES**

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Abstract: - Throughout the world, it has expressed the deepest questions human beings can ask, and it has taken a central place in the lives of virtually all civilizations and cultures by personal reaction and analysis of the long search documentary series of 1977 presented by Ronald Eyre and scriptures of different world religions. That best tool is a religion that helps us to think all the way back to the dawn of human consciousness. We see religion in the lives of the people, we know and love, and in ourselves, as we live out and wrestle with our own religious faith. Although, there are countless religions, each different from the other, they all serve the same purpose. Religion helps us to transmit our values from one generation to another and influences the way; we interact with the natural environment. It teaches us how to see ourselves in light of the universe and gives purpose and meaning to life. Theoretically, religion is limited by our human understanding to either accept or reject the ideology of that religion; however, religion also takes one to think in practical, logical, spiritual, and emotional perspective as analyzed in this research paper. In this research paper, it is a religion, which leads people to believe that agreement with a creedal statement is all that God requires

Keywords:- World Religions, Documentary series, Scriptures, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Muslims, Taoism, Zionism

(1) Innovative Analysis and Reaction of scriptures from religion

In this section, analysis and reaction were discussed from different scriptures of world religion

1.1 Bhagavad-Gita

(a) Summary:

I read the first three chapters of book “Bhagavad-Gita” [20] that came to understand that in the first chapter, “Observing the Armies on the Battlefield of Kurukshetra” that Arjuna sees his family, relatives and friends in both armies ready to fight and sacrifice their lives. Seeing his world at war, Arjuna was filled with grief and

piety, which ultimately bewilders his mind and gives up his determination to fight. In the second chapter, "Contents of the Gita summarized", Arjuna thirsts for spiritual knowledge as a disciple. Lord Krishna begins his teachings to Arjuna by teaching him the distinction between temporal body and eternal spiritual soul. Moreover, Krishna also explained to him the nature of selfless service, the process of reincarnation, and the signs of an enlightened person. In the third chapter, "Karma Yoga", Krishna explains his teachings based on acting without selfish motive for one to be released from karma and attain enlightenment.

(b) Reaction:

I found Bhagavad-Gita very interesting. It seemed to give me the concept of God's ultimate supremacy and human behavior. Moreover, I learned the concepts between the temporal material body and the eternal soul, characteristics of a self-realized person, of passion and of ignorance and law of Karma yoga that the writer used in the story of Lord Krishna and Arjuna. To me, Bhagavad-Gita also contained the knowledge of Vedic wisdom. I personally realized that the Bhagavad-Gita teaches one how to absorb the mind and intelligence in the thought of the Lord Krishna. One more thing that is more important in the story is that Lord Krishna repeatedly emphasizes the fact that are those who do not believe in God and his existence, so such people can never know the absolute truth. Lord Krishna's teachings were not intended only for Arjuna or his religion, but for all human beings; moreover, his teachings make sense in some manner to me. Finally, my overall personal reaction about this book is the realization of the true nature of divinity, of the highest spiritual conception, and of the greatest material perfection to attain love of God out of extreme passion and love, right knowledge, right devotion, and the path of right actions.

1.2 Judaism and Christianity: The Differences

(a) Summary:

I read the whole book "Judaism and Christianity: The Differences" by Trude [24] to seek out the key differences between Judaism and Christianity. The most common difference that Jews and Christian have is the concept of God. Jews believe in one God; on the contrary, Christians have the concept of the Trinity. Judaists have a reserved attitude toward miracles; however, Christianity postulates the superiority of belief in miracles. Judaism perceives no antagonism between body and soul, but Christianity regards flesh as the cause and the seat of original sin and condemns the body as evil incarnate, opposed and hostile to the spirit. Moreover, Christian attitude of asceticism, which regards abstinence from life necessities as pious and pleasing to God, in contrast to Judaism. The Christianity view is that the law is a force or darkness in opposition to the new Christian light of faith and love, but Judaism holds ethics and morality as safeguards and advances by the law. Another difference is the interpretation of the identical text that really makes the Christian version of the Hebrew Bible an altogether different book. Jesus can qualify neither as a prophet, rabbi or teacher in the Jewish sense, but Christianity thinks in an opposite way.

(b) Reaction:

After reading this book, provided me with the biased account of the theological differences between Judaism and Christianity. I think that the readers of this book will not gain any sense of Christianity's role in civilizing the West or, indeed, much of anything positive about it at all. I personally realized that this book could help to protect Jews near the margins against Christian evangelization efforts; moreover, it can also stimulate Christians to think about their own theology, which brings its view into the line with the Torah, in which Jesus himself believed. One main thing, I disagree with the sentence the author said in the last chapter that Jesus declared the ritual washing of hands before meals is unimportant. To my logical thinking, this statement was never declared by Jesus; in addition, I never read this statement in Old & New Bible and in my own religion book. To me, this book seems to be mandatory reading for fundamentalist Christian. Moreover, I learned that this book deals with more concepts and theologies rather than practices between the Judaism and Christianity. I analyzed that Trude lays out the particular issues in detail between these two religions. My personal opinion is that the author wrote this book based on Jews perspective.

1.3 Everyman's Talmud

(a) Summary:

The author of this book "Everyman's Talmud" [3] summarizes its wisdom on the dominant themes of Judaism. Jewish people indicate that the existence of God is regarded as an axiomatic truth; in addition, they view that the existence of God follows inevitably from the existence of the universe. Jewish people strove to keep their doctrine of God pure and un-defiled, so that it might become a refining and elevating force in the lives of those who acclaimed God. Moreover, the author explains in the second chapter "God and the Universe" that God pre-existed all things as we have seen as one of his attributes. In fact, God created man with a purpose because God first created the necessities for his sustenance before creating him. Jewish people describe "The Doctrine of Man" as the human being, the soul, free will, sin, reward, and punishment, and therefore, faith and prayer. The fourth chapter "Revelation" is central to understanding God and spirituality. Jews believe that God communicates with humans especially through scripture called the Torah. The author discusses the study and practice of written and oral Torah and prophecy. Abraham Cohen also discusses that Moses received the Torah on Mount Sinai and handed it down to Joshua, Joshua to the Elders, the Elders to the prophets, and the prophets handed it down to the men of the Great Assembly.

(b) Reaction:

I found out that this Jewish book teaches people to do acts of kindness, to achieve personal growth in order to study Torah, and therefore, to pray to the one God, the creator of the universe. To me, this book seemed to be a unified vision of what history has to say on any given subject. I learned that the author has taken great pain to summarize the views of the Rabbis on a variety of subjects. I personally think that it also enhanced the study of the Talmud enormously. Moreover, I analyzed that this book gave me a great insight in Jewish life, tradition and thinking. I also realized after reading this book that it gave me interesting collections and admirable thoughts of rabbinic discussions on oral tradition, Halachah (law), and Torah, and therefore, Talmudic themes: God and man, revelation, and Jewish practice including ethics. To my analysis, this book guides us through all the questions that really matter, from God to everyday life. My personal reaction after reading this book was that the author failed to accept Jesus as the Messiah; however, it was a sad reflection from the Christianity perspective too.

1.4 The New English Bible: New Testament

(a) Summary:

Mathew's Gospel book "The New English Bible: New Testament." [21] summarizes an account of the life of Jesus and his disciples. Moreover, he also described Jesus miraculous birth and childhood, his ministry of healing and preaching, his baptism and temptation, his genealogy, and finally crucifixion and resurrection. Mathew also included the speech by Jesus called "The Sermon on the Mount;" in addition, Mathew also discussed about Missionary Discourse. Jesus gave his Twelve Apostles concerning their mission, as well as stories that teach about the kingdom of heaven. Mark's Gospel described Jesus' adult life, not the stories of Jesus birth. In short, Mark's Gospel about Jesus' life is brief and concise. Moreover, his gospel aimed to stress the deeds, strengths and determination of Jesus in overcoming evil forces and defying the power of imperial Rome; in addition, he discussed that Jesus preached the human intentions, not the behavior, which determines righteousness. Luke's Gospel records seven of the Lord's miracles that were finished by Mathew and Mark in their Gospels. His gospel promotes the message of universal salvation addressed to all people about the grace of God. Jesus wanted people to trust in God and to confess their evil deeds. Therefore, Luke's gospel is also unique in its perspective; in addition, it gives details of Jesus infancy found in no other gospels. Finally, John's Gospel promotes Jesus as the pre-existent and incarnate word of God who has revealed the father to us.

(b) Reaction:

After reading this book, I am inspired from all of Jesus' teachings and his miracles. The main thing, I disagreed with was that Jesus was the son of God because in the old Bible presented by God to his holy prophet, Jesus never claimed to be the son of God or God. That is what I disagreed with after reading this book and comparing with the

old Bible. I learned from this book that Jesus' teachings were very much related to forgiveness; however, on numerous occasions he rebuffed people for their unbending interpretation of sin and punishment. Moreover, I was also amazed by how greatly these four gospels explained the interesting and sensible messages of Jesus Christ. Reading this New English Bible also helped me realize a historical and a theological study of the life of Jesus Christ. To my analysis, this Bible honors the God in terms of the excellence, beauty, and accuracy of its content and design, and also in terms of helping people come to a deeper understanding of the Bible. This Bible also focuses on the ways of wisdom in some manner to me.

1.5 Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching

(a) Summary:

Tao Te Ching book "Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching" [5] classic teachings were divided into philosophical, monastic, and folk religious forms. Tao Te Ching believed the world was in perfect order, but man's actions did not correspond with the flow of the universe. Lao Tzu, the author of Tao Te Ching emphasizes that the concept of Dao is elusive. Dao is full of gods, saints, miracles, prayers, powers, and so forth. Tao Te Ching even asserts that the creation of social values is destructive; however, creation of such values is in opposition to the way of nature or the Dao and can only cause harm. Wu Wei means "non-action," is a concept which promotes harmony with the Dao. The basic aim of the Daoist is the attaining of balance and harmony between the *yin* and the *yang*. Tao Te Ching teachings also states that this way of the universe could not be adequately described in words, that it would be insulting both to its unlimited power and to the intelligent human mind to attempt to do so; in addition, Tao Te Ching teachings also served as a starting point for introspective meditations.

(b) Reaction:

I personally learned that this book gives a peek into the unpretentious ways of the early Chinese thinkers and gives understanding the principles of divine logic. I analyzed that author begins with a discussion of the uncomplicated life of Confucius' teaching; therefore, I felt interested to read the simple explanation of the famous yin/yang theories. The author explains very well the expressed meaning of the Tao Te Ching without destroying the beautiful poetry that makes sense in some manner to me. This poetry also seemed to me to be the way of knowledge, not the way of knowing it. Moreover, Tao Te Ching poetry is funny, delightful, and nurturing. I also realized that Tao Te Ching leans more towards philosophy than towards religion. To me, Tao Te Ching teachings inspired me. My final response after reading this philosophical book is that this brought harmony and had taken me into the depths of consciousness. To my logical perspective, Tao Te Ching teachings had some connections with the philosophy of religious beliefs.

2. Documentary analysis

This Long Search documentary analysis was a 1977 BBC documentary television series presented by Ronald Eyre, the series surveyed several major world religions. In this section, analysis and personal reaction were discussed for each series.

(a) Protestant Spirit, U.S.A

The documentary "Protestant Spirit, U.S.A" had made a very strange impact on me. To me, I learned from this documentary that there are different things going on these three protestant churches, when I compared with my own religion "Islam". Protestant churches reject the idea of a celibate priesthood and thus allow their clergy to marry [19]. Since about 1950, women have entered the ministry, and some have assumed leading positions (e.g. bishops), in most Protestant churches [22]. These churches seemed to acknowledge me the justification by faith, priesthood of all believers, authority of the New Testament, and freedom of conscience. Analyzing this documentary video made me realized that singing loud and using musical instrument on ritual grounds is a formality for the churches, but offensive acts in Islamic mosque. Religious concepts and practices include the five pillars of Islam, which are basic concepts and obligatory acts of worship, and following Islamic law, which touches on virtually every aspect of life and society, providing guidance on multifarious topics from banking and welfare, to family life and the environment.[11][18]. Furthermore, I also observed and analyzed from the documentary that there is a significant

difference between the ideologies of two types of churches i.e. protestant and fundamentalist where as in Islam, all mosques promote fundamentalism.

(b) Religion in Indonesia: The Way of the Ancestors

Reading about Indigenous religion does not make as strong impact on my practical and logical perspective, but the documentary “Religion in Indonesia: The Way of the Ancestors” seemed me to be complex, spiritual, and practical in terms of ethnic group of indigenous religion. Toraja society had changed significantly, from an agrarian model — in which social life and customs were outgrowths of the Aluk To Dolo—to a largely Christian society [8]. Today, tourism and remittances from migrant Torajans have made for major changes in the Toraja highland, giving the Toraja a celebrity status within Indonesia and enhancing Toraja ethnic group pride [9]. Analyzing this documentary video realized me that Toraja people consider that the soul is the most important notion. Moreover, I personally react that their religion is connected to one of the most spectacular burial rituals in the world, aimed to save the soul of the deceased, easing its way to the other world, that of the gods and spirits of the ancestors. To my spiritual perspective, ancestors are highly respected and the living and the dead, in the form of spirits, are deeply combined in all aspects of everyday life. Personally, I feel that nature is frequently used as the basis of Toraja's ornaments, because nature is full of abstractions and geometries with regularities and ordering. To my analysis, Toraja funeral rites are important social events, usually attended by hundreds of people and lasting for several days. However, their funerals are very different from Islamic, Christianity, and Jewish funerals. Analyzing this documentary failed to response or understands me in logical perspective in all aspects.

(c) Hinduism: 330 Million Gods

To my logical perspective, the documentary “Hinduism: 330 Million Gods”, the complexity of their ideology confuses me. I personally realized after watching a documentary video that their concept of 330 Million gods is merely the form of deity to worship the ultimate God the Creator of the cosmos. Moreover, I analyzed from this documentary that Hinduism belief that life is a part of continuing process in the cosmic system. Although Hinduism contains different philosophies, it is united by shared concepts, same textual resources, common ritual techniques, cosmology and pilgrimage to sacred sites [23]. Observing all related phenomenon's like reincarnation, presence of an atman the soul within every living body and the theory of Karma seemed to analyze me in deep thoughts. To me, burning the death, long rituals at marriage, and most important of all taking bath in a river that is full of germs felt to have a very bad impact on me. The most interesting thing, I realized in the documentary is the Yoga practices which seems practical to me, but failed to understand my logical perspective. My personal reaction to analyze those 330 million Gods was simply used to give a symbolic expression to the fundamental Hindu doctrine that God lives in the hearts of all living beings. Furthermore, analyzing the documentary through spiritual perspective makes this fact evident that Hindus considered themselves polytheists and considered all the 330 million gods to be separate gods; however, I also failed to analyzed some Hindus consider themselves monotheists and consider the 330 million gods as really many different names and aspects of one God.

(d) Buddhism: Footprint of the Buddha

Studying about Buddhism and analyzing the documentary “Buddhism: Footprint of the Buddha—India” acknowledged me to gain the ability and the confidence to let go and realize this kind of total awareness. Gautama taught a middle way between sensual indulgence and the severe asceticism found in the śramaṇa movement [1] common in his region. He later taught throughout regions of eastern India such as Magadha and Kosala [2][4]. I personally analyzed from the documentary that Buddha's teaching can simply promote stress reduction through basic meditation or it can take a practitioner to the ultimate spiritual awakening of full enlightenment. I also personally felt that Buddha's eight fold path of liberation has many features that Islam also propagates; for instance, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right understanding etc. Thinking as a logical, practical, and spiritual perspective, I finally react from the documentary that all our problems and suffering arise from confused and negative states of mind, and that all our happiness and good fortune arise from peaceful and positive states of mind. To me, his teaching makes no harm on my faith; in addition, his teachings revealed me step-by-step path to lasting happiness to my analysis.

(e) Taoism: A Question of balance

Therefore, analyzing the religion of China documentary “Taoism: A Question of balance—China” seemed as interesting, logical, and practical impact on me. Today, Taoism is one of five religions officially recognized in China, and although it does not travel readily from its Asian roots, claims adherents in a number of societies [6]. From Chinese religion, the concept of Dao also helped me analyze the natural flow of universe. Tao Te Ching teachings also inspired me; however, his teachings realized me to be the way of knowledge, not the way of knowing it. Moreover, the concept of Yin & Yang and lure for immortality also seemed interesting to my logical and practical perspective, which I analyzed from the documentary. What I analyzed from Ying & Yang concept in the documentary was that the principle of natural and complementing forces, patterns or things that individually makes no sense to me in some aspects, but together completes their meaning. In fact, I personally realized that imbalance between them is wrong and evil. On the other hand, the concept of lure for immortality seemed to be mystic, physical, and spiritual that merging the greater way of Dao for vitality. My final response from analyzing the Chinese documentary was that this religion brought harmony and had taken me into the depths of consciousness. Before taking this class, reading about the religion of Shinto made me confused with the religion of China and Buddhism.

(f) Buddhism: The Land of the disappearing Buddha

Personally, after analyzing the documentary “Buddhism: The Land of the disappearing Buddha—Japan” and reading from text-book, I came to know that Shinto religion basically a Japanese indigenous religion and very different religion from other world religions. From the documentary, I analyzed that their religion based on spiritual world, but not on anybody of religious law. The concept behind the Japanese religion that Impurity can anger Kami, which can bring disaster and sprinkling salts standing under waterfall, also seemed to think me in deep thoughts, but I failed to analyze in spiritual perspective. However, I also realized that their rituals are very noisy like funeral services. The most important things from the documentary, I personally felt was the priest or priestess to learn those ceremonies in more than 10 years and their words having very powerful meanings.

(g) Judaism: The Chosen People

Thinking as a logical perspective, the religion of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam inspired me because the divine power is all powerful and is good. The most common thing, I realized that these three religions share the recognition of a divine power, which is capable of fate and destiny. Analyzing, the documentary “Judaism: The Chosen People” seemed little bit interesting to me in some manner. However, I personally felt that the concept of chosen people behind the Jews people was a key element of the Jewish faith and identity. Judaism is considered by religious Jews to be the expression of the covenantal relationship that God established with the Children of Israel [7]. Furthermore, my personal reaction of watching this documentary was that Jewish people have been chosen by one God to worship only him and to fulfill the mission of proclaiming his truth among all the nations of the world. Moreover, I personally analyzed that the Holocaust and the re-creation of the state of Israel have significantly affected Judaism to be chosen people.

(h) Roman Catholicism: Roman, Leeds, and the Desert

Analyzing Christianity documentary “Roman Catholicism: Roman, Leeds, and the Desert” tends to believed me that God is one in nature, essence, and being; however, this one God exists in three divine persons. The Latin and Eastern Catholic Churches together form the "Catholic Church", [12] or "Roman Catholic Church", [13] the world's largest single religious body and the largest Christian church, comprising over half of all Christians (1.1 billion Christians of 2.1 billion) and nearly one-sixth of the world's population [14][15][16]. Watching this documentary also seemed to think me broadly that Jesus won for humanity by sacrificing himself on the cross; salvation is possible even for those outside the visible boundaries of the Church. To my logical perspective, I felt inspired that Christian seek forgiveness of their sins and follow the example and teaching of Jesus. Therefore, I also found interesting to learn from this documentary about the sacramental life of the Church, and through prayer, the work of mercy, and spiritual disciplines such as fasting and pilgrimage.

(i) Orthodox Christianity: The Romanian Solution

Another Christianity documentary “Orthodox Christianity: The Romanian Solution” seemed to analyzed me with the different concept than the Catholic Christianity. This is one of the distinctive features of Orthodox Christianity, to such a degree that some dictionaries define an "Orthodox Church" as a Christian organization "not accepting the authority of the Pope of Rome, and using elaborate and archaic forms of service" [17]. I believed from this documentary that these Orthodox Christian maintained true Christian practice since the time of Jesus; in addition, I also personally realized that they believe that spiritual development is hard and can achieved, when God and humans work together.

(j) Islam: There is No God but God

Analyzing Islamic documentary “Islam: There is No God but God” acknowledged me with full sincerity and devotion, giving their hearts and their worship to no other. Personally, I analyzed that along with Judaism and Christianity, Islam belongs to the religious category of ethical monotheism.

(k) African Religions: Zulu Zion

Watching the documentary “African Religions: Zulu Zion” analyzed me that these African churches have become syncretistic; however, combining what they know about Christianity with traditional African religious beliefs, to form a new religion. Zionism blends traditional African beliefs with faith-healing and water baptism. Some members wear white robes and carry staffs [10]. I personally realized after my analysis that these churches also reject many of the teachings and theologies of the mainline, mission-seeded churches. Therefore, my overall reaction to this documentary came far to response me that these churches call for a through indigenization of the Gospel in terms of African religious realities and cultural forms.

(l) Alternative Life Styles in California: West Meets East

To my logical perspective, I analyzed from the documentary “Alternative Life Styles in California: West Meets East” that problems arising from mingling East and West is that of distinguishing between teachings and teachers that are religiously helpful and those that are religiously harmful; in addition, I also analyzed that this religion is essence of search in some aspects. Finally, analyzing the last documentary “Loose Ends: Reflections on the long Search” felt interesting in a very expressed manner to me. I realized that the spiritual dimension of life is at least as important to person as is the religion. My personal opinion from the last documentary also analyzed me that religions will satisfy that craving within us for meaning in this life and ultimately.

4. Conclusion:-

In this research paper, religion is the best tool for explaining things, which we do not understand through the context the known physical world to my logical perspective. Islam and Buddhism are one of my best religions in this World Religion class to my logical and practical approach through analysis of long search documentary series and scriptures of different religion. (i) Islam is the religion with Holy Quran presented to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). However, Islam is the religion of peace, strength of heart, purity in faith, self-sacrifice, willing obedience, and feast of commitment that Allah (one God) desires from Muslims. (ii) Buddhism teachings also propagate towards Islam for instance, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right understanding etc. Consequently, it promotes stress reduction through basic meditation or also takes spiritual awakening of full enlightenment.

Academically, I personally believed that religion is powerful and persistent, and it shows no signs of disappearing. To me, the most important thing to understand religion is a metaphor for life lived in a vital connection with God. **To my spiritual perspective, I personally believed that** everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Personally, I also felt that this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others to manifest his/her religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. Analyzing and realizing from all long search documentaries, I personally think that we have two sets of senses connected with the religion. Hence, the first set of senses is the five with the physical world and others that connect us with the spiritual world. To my analysis, religion is an expression of the

physical side of our nature, while spirituality connected to our divine nature. Moreover, reading, understanding, and analyzing about all the world religion realized me to turn away from human/intellectual images of God, a broader understanding of divine truth and strengthened my faith and devotion to my own religion Islam. However, I want to quote one phrase from **Richard F Burton stated religion as** “The more I study religions the more I am convinced that man never worshipped anything but himself.” One more quote from the last documentary “Loose Ends: Reflection on the Long Search” that is, “We all are mountaineers and searching for the best climbing,” seemed to satisfy me in practical, logical, and spiritual perspective in all aspects.

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This research paper took lot of time to study each chapter from the scriptures and understanding the documentary series. However, this research paper is with innovative analysis and reactions of different world religions. I am dedicating this paper to those one, who can learn, give respect, right to choose their religion, and have clear spiritual understanding about different world religion.

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Biography



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