

## On World Recovery from Religion

The World is Sick. It suffers from virulent forms of extreme fundamentalist Religions which are endemic in numerous populations.

In its extreme forms religion becomes a psychological illness which is; inherited from various socio religious environments, is generational, is psychologically and socially contagious, and which, in its aggressive forms, are life threatening to those who do not share its various convictions.

In their malign forms they have become a social malignancy which sees populations driven from their homes, slaughtered and beheaded. In the current context Modern Humanity finds it cannot quite let religion go. The outcome is horrific.

While Religion can be relatively benign, the ethics of its fundamentalist dimensions have become such a curse on much of Humanity, that there is the increasing sense in which the humanity needs to be “saved” from Religion. When, a President of a world super power, goes to war because God told him to, and Jihadists and Isis terrorists of the Islamic state go to it for the same reason it is ceasing to be matter of doubt!

Currently (2015), the near East is awash with sectarian warfare; Syria, Iraq, and Kurdistan are completely mired in it, fleeing refugees are numbered by the million, and death and destruction are everywhere. We see “religion,” quite literally, falling upon nations and killing Men, Women and children by the thousand.

After several thousand years, whatever it has done, religion certainly has not healed the nations.

Humanity needs to recover from religion. More, as the Dalai Lama suggests, it needs to get “Beyond Religion”. Thankfully it is already a work in progress. Across the world there is a collective dawning that the positive ethic of the world religions needs to be excised from them and stood on its own two feet.

Humanity is embarking on a new spiritual project. We are recovering from religion to the point where, in spite of living in an inscrutable and inexplicable cosmos we are, in the words of Paul Tillich, finding, “the courage to be”.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts it, “Man has come of age”. We are watching the Globalisation of Spiritual Secularism.

### The New Project

Humanity’s new, and current, spiritual project is the establishment of “Secular Ethics”. As advancing scientific knowledge seeps into world consciousness “The Globalisation of Ethical and Spiritual Secularism” is already a work in progress. While the dissolution of religion in the West is a feature of our times, the saving, indeed the “salvation” of Humanity, is still on the agenda. Humanity is realizing; that it must save itself, that the practice of ethics is of supreme value in its own right, and that it has to be brought to bear on its current situation. Our collective avarice, greed and thoughtlessness, which are worldwide, have simply got to be addressed.

In the current context of our age the new, the immediate spiritual agenda, is nothing less than the “salvation” of the planet.

The saving of humanity and of the planet are inextricably linked; the role of spiritual secularism is germane to both. The Geologist tell us that historically there have been five mass extinctions. All of these were caused by natural phenomena. The next is on its way and unless humanity addresses the ethical issues associated with climate change it will be caused, not by natural phenomena, but by Humanity itself.

We are in no doubt. Readers know what is being spoken about here. This is not an abstruse or esoteric issue. We are talking about the ultimate destruction of life on the planet. We are talking about extinction of the human race. It is a moral, and as far as the human race is concerned, a mortal issue.

If we are going to survive we cannot escape the spiritual imperatives that continuing life on the planet requires of us.

We cannot neglect or defer them or any longer. We stand on the cusp of human destiny. The trouble is that many of us do not really believe it; for multitudes it is purely cerebral concept. We must deal with it, or enter an ecological winter from which our world will never recover.

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