# Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism

This course has been a major eye-opener for me. It has given me an in-depth understanding of some important aspects of religion for example, what is religion? What is deep down? What is real? The role of escape in religion and the physical impact religion. These concepts have impacted my ability to discuss the religious groups in the context of both social lives, from simple discussions at a party to watching the news with others, and academic life in other classes and further studies as discussed below.

The question, what is religion, has enabled me to understand the existence of the various religious groups; Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. This lesson has enabled me to understand that religion is a set of beliefs on the existence a Supreme Being (God) that should be worshipped (Christiano, Swatos, & Kivisto, 2016). This has enhanced my understanding that the various religious groups exist because they have different sets of beliefs that guide their worship of God.

The question regarding what is deep down has enabled me to understand the uniqueness of every religion in the world. The concept of deep down is concerned with whether all religious groups have the same beliefs and practices. While examining this concept, it clearly emerged that deep down, the various religious groups are unique and different from one another (Woodhead, 2004). For example, while all Islam and Christianity believe that only God is worth worshipping, deep down, these religious groups are different from one another as Christian believes in Jesus who is the Son of God and God at the same time, while Islam followers believe that Prophet Mohamed is the greatest messenger of God.

While examining the concept of what is real, I gained an in-depth understanding of the various set of beliefs of the major religious groups across the globe. This question deals with which religion is real and should be followed. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism have different dogmas and doctrines that teach them about God and how to worship (Christiano, Swatos, & Kivisto, 2016). The differences in these dogmas have raised the question of what is real, and therefore, the examination of this concept has enabled me to understand the different perspectives of the major religious groups regarding what is the real religion.

This class has equipped me with an in-depth understanding of the role of escape in religion. According to Woodhead (2004), the concept or escapism refers to the act of human beings to find refuge from their problems in something. This concept applies directly to the role of religion in the society. Despite the differences in the dogmas, the major global religious groups play a significant role in escapism. These religious groups help their followers find answers to some of the social and spiritual issues affecting them, and therefore, people escape to religion to find solutions to their problems. Besides, religious escapism plays a significant role in the maintenance of social order in the larger society.

Finally, this lesson has enabled me to understand how the physical impacts religion. Human beings are physical in nature, and therefore, their spirituality is directly impacted by the physical things that they witness. The physical, for example, the physical miracles such as the healing of the sick and supernatural events that human beings witness in their daily lives strengthens their faith in God, and this play a major role in bolstering religion (Woodhead, 2004).

References

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Woodhead, L. (2004). Christianity: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press.