

## **The concept of God in Hindusim, christianity and Islam**

**Taru Tiwari**

*D.phil Scholar(NET JRF)Department of Philosophy University of Allahabad*

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### **Abstract**

In probably all the major contemporary religions there is concept of God though there are some major differences between them however they all talk about only one God and this conception of God is more or less same for all of them. Hinduism, Christianity and Islam these three contemporary religion are way different from each other in every field except one and that is God. They all discuss the concept of God though they all come from different parts of the world and with entirely differently community.

Hinduism being a polytheistic as well as monotheistic religion, Christianity being Trinitarian monotheistic and Islam being absolute monotheistic in true sense are alot different from each other but they all talk of one God. In Hinduism there are two different trends present in Upanishads which give rise two Hindu philosophic systems. **Sankar's Advaita Vedanta** is an example of absolute monism and **Ramanuja's Visistadvaita** as a full-fledged theism. The God in Christainity is of the nature of pure spirit. Christianity accepts God as unlimited, infinite, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. He is eternal and his necessary existence. Whereas Islam which is known for its strict monotheistic conception of God also considers it as all powerful and omnipotent. The very personal name given by them to God, 'Allah' also means 'The strong', 'The mighty', 'The powerful'.

All these major contemporary religions Hinduism, Christianity and Islam accept God as loving, kind and all mercy. God is endowed with various qualities such as truthfulness, knowledge, bless, tenderness, compassion etc. In Christianity, God is considered as a loving Father who loves his children unconditionally without any sense of return or precondition. In Islam also, Allah is accepted with various ethical attributes such as compassion, mercy and justice. All these religion accept God as all loving, all mercy and all compassionate.

**Key word**– Hindusim, christianity and Islam

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

As we all know that there are so many different religions in this world. Religion is a culture system of designated behaviours and practices, morals, worldviews, texts, sanetified places, prophecies, ethics, or organization, that relates humanity to supernatural, transcendental, or spiritual elements. However, there is no scholarly consensus over what precisely constitutes a religion.

“The lampes are different , but light is the same” (**jalalul-Din Rumi**). Religion usually has to do with man’s relationship to the unseen world, to the world to spirits, demons, and gods. A second elements common to all religions.....is the term salvation. All religion seek to help man find meaning in a universe. Which all too often appears to be hostile to his interest. The world salvation means, basically, health. It means one is saved from disaster, fear, hunger, and a meaningless life. It means one is saved from hope, love, security, and the fulfillment of purpose. (**Bradely**).

However there is no religion. There is so much of plurality which is visible in faith and culture they follow as they all differ from one another. There is no religion in the world which is one and universal however religion is a thing which cannot be dismissed. It is to be believed that though there is no such religion which is one and universal as well as accepted by all yet it is inherent in the constitution of human beings, it belongs to the psychology of human beings. It is considered to be a passion or a craving or a desire for something universal. It is regarded as the longing for the infinite which can explain the mystery of the infinite or is often considered as a striving towards teaching something which can solve the riddle of having the idea of the infinite in the frame of finite. And this universal and infinite thing is God which is prevalent across all the religion and is accepted as Being which can explain the mystery of infinite by solving the riddle. In this paper I have emphasized upon the underlying universal concept regarding God in all these different contemporary religions which no matter differ from each other in every aspect yet it is the concept of God which explains the underlying unity in them.

### **Concept of God**

The concept of God is widely explained in Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. All these three religions are very different from each other in almost every field however a point of view about these religions takes a shift while analyzing the concept of God prevalent in them. Through Hinduism being a polytheistic as well as monotheistic religion, Christianity being Trinitarian monotheistic and Islam being monotheistic in true sense are a lot different from each other but they all talk of one God. Here I would be explaining this underlying unity regarding the concept of God in all these three religions through the help of various unique attributes of God.

- \* God is absolute, infinite and eternal
- \* God as Creator, Destroyer and Preserver
- \* God is loving, kind and merciful
- \* God as Judge
- \* Unity of God (One).

### **Absolute, Infinite and Eternal**

In Hinduism there are two different trends present in Upanishads which give rise two Hindu philosophic systems. Sankar's Advaita Vedanta is an example of absolute monism and Ramanuja's Visistadvaita as a full-fledged theism. In Sankara's Advaita Vedanta defines God as attributeless Absolute i.e. Nirguna Brahma and Ramanuja as inner controller', the only Supreme Being, omnipotent, omniscient, so God here is Saguna Brahma.

The God in Christianity is of the nature of pure spirit. Christianity accepts God as unlimited, infinite, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. He is eternal and his necessary existence. Whereas Islam which is known for its strict monotheistic conception of God also considers it as all powerful and omnipotent. The very personal name given by them to God, 'Allah' also means 'The strong', 'The mighty', 'the powerful'. They define God's divine will as absolute and perfectly arbitrary and is not bound by any law. So, in this sense Allah in Islam is all-powerful and absolute.

### **Creator, Destroyer and Preserver**

Hinduism explains the concepts of creation of world with the help of conception of God. The biggest question prevalent till now is who created the world? Hinduism answers this question by considering God as the creator, preserver and destroyer of the world. God in Hinduism creates the world out of the material of his own being. Here Christianity also accepts God as creator and sustainer of this world however unlike Hinduism, they accept the creation of world out of nothing. Whereas Islam considers the theory of creation as a mystery but does not deny God as a Creator. According to them, God has created everything around us and mentioned this genesis theory of creation in Quran. They simply accept the creation of earth and heaven by God alone.

Both Hinduism and Christianity accept God, the creator as immanent in the world as well as transcendent from the world. God lives within this world and also beyond it.

### **Loving and Kind**

All these major contemporary religions Hinduism, Christianity and Islam accept God as loving, kind and all mercy. God is endowed with various qualities such as truthfulness, knowledge, bless, tenderness, compassion etc. In Christianity, God is considered as a loving Father who loves his children unconditionally without any sense of return or precondition. In Islam also, Allah is accepted with various ethical attributes such as compassion, mercy and justice. All these religion accept God as all loving, all mercy and all compassionate.

### **God as Judge**

Judgment God rewards people on the basis of their deeds heaven and hell. Christianity and Islam both of which are greatly influenced by Judaism and Zoroastrianism accept the theory of Judgment day where on the final Day of Judgment God on the basis of the deeds of people award them with heaven and hell. Whereas Hinduism accepts the idea of Karma bound up with the idea of rebirth. The idea of Karma means what one sows, so he reaps, which means one has to undergo the following consequences of whatever actions one performs. However in Vedas it is believed that the spirit of man on the basis of good and bad actions done by him on earth is sent to heaven or hell, where very little is known about miseries of hell in comparison to heaven which is known for its pleasure and where soul receives new body free from all imperfections.

### **Concept of God in other Contemporary Religions**

Apart from the major contemporary religions Hinduism, Christianity and Islam, I would also like to mention the concept of God prevalent in other contemporary religious such as Zoroastrianism, Judaism and Sikhism.

Zoroastrianism is known for its strict monotheism. They consider Ahura Mazda as the only God whom they adore and worship. Here 'Ahura' means lord and 'Mazda' means 'All-wise', so etymologically it means Ahura Mazda is all-wise lord. According to them, God is all-good, perfectly holy, all-strong, powerful, unconquerable and kind etc. In Zoroastrianism, God reveals himself to mankind through six different modes, these are known as Ameesha Spentas. God often reveals himself through six modes regarded as six aspects which are named as Asha, Vohu, Mano, Kshathra, Armaiti, Haurvataf and Ameretat. Zoroastrianism talks of two gods – one is good God and other evil God, where former is known as Spenta Mainya often identified with Ahura Mazda and latter is known as Angra Mainyu or Ahriman also known as Shaitin or Satan. However according to Zoroaster, this is not an example of ditheism whereas these two spirits are emanation from Ahura Mazda himself, and so none is independent of the Supreme God.

Judaism being a strictly monotheistic religion like Islam believe in one and only one God which is supported by the opening Jewish confession of faith where Shema declares, "Hear O Israel, the Lord, our God, the Lord is one." According to Judaism, God is personal, omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent. Their God is full of ethical qualities such as justice, mercy, righteousness etc. above all holiness.

**Prof. Bahm observes the nature of Judaic God,**

**"There is but one God, who is an essentially ethical being dealing ethically with men and expecting them to deal ethically with him."**

From the very opening hymn of the Adi Granth which is known as Mūla Mantra of Sikhism one can have a precise idea about the God of Sikhism.

"I oṅkar satnām karatā purukh nirabhav niravair akāl mūrāt ajūni saibhang gur prasād."

The mantra may be paraphrased as follows-

"This being is one. He is eternal. He is immanent in all things and is the sustainer of all things. He is the creator of the all things. He is immanent in His creation. He is without fear and without enmity. This being is not subject to time. He is beyond birth and death. He is Himself responsible for His own manifestation (He is known) by the grace of the Guru."<sup>1</sup>

**As the Adi Granth says,**

"Beyond human grasp, boundless, infinite, the all-powerful, Supreme God. He who existed before time began, who has existed throughout all ages and who shall eternally exist. He alone is true. Spurn all else as false."<sup>2</sup>

**Unity of God**

So far we have studied the concept of God in all major contemporary religion and I have personally come across the conclusion where God in all different religions are one. There is unity of God in all of these religions. All these major religions that believe in the existence of God, ultimately believe in one Supreme God and all their religious scriptures actually speak about monotheism i.e. belief in only one true God whether it is Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Judaism or Sikhism. In Hinduism we talk of many Gods but there is one God behind them whom we all worship. One God who is Brahman. Similarly in Christianity there is Trinitarian conception of God however, we accept it as one God which is all powerful and loving. Like Hinduism and Christianity, Islam also believes in 'Tawheed' which means not only belief in one unique God, it literally means "unification" that is "asserting oneness". This word is derived from the Arabic word 'Wahhada' which means unite, unify or consolidate. They all talk about one and only one God.

Beside this general point of unity, these contemporary religions also unite together in attributing metaphysical qualities of God such as infinity, all powerfulness, all-knowingness and all pervasiveness together with it some of the ethical qualities like mercy, benevolence, justice etc. Further, God is considered as creator and destroyer of world and is both transcendent and immanent. Here one can also witness the striking similarity between Hinduism and Christianity on the point of Trinity. Where Christian conception of Trinity talks about God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and Trinitarian concept of Hinduism includes Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh.

## II. CONCLUSION

It was concluded that there are so many different religion in this world. There is so much of plurality which is visual in faith and culture they follow as they all differ from one another. These religions are followed by different people residing in different parts of world and belonging to different communities accepts one God in different forms. We worship God by different names and forms some call it Brahma, some Allah, some Jesus,

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some Jehovah however all these are different names of one God which is given by us. God in every religion is considered to be all powerful, all –knowing, all-present, all-love, merciful, kind, just etc. Every religion accepts God completely kind and loving who even loves the worst of sinners. The concept of God constitutes the most important and core of any theistic religion and it is the conception which binds people all over the world with one string of love. There is no religion which teaches hatred, everyone talks of all-loving God who is the creator of this whole world. No matter how different culture of religion is from the other but they all talk of one God. They all talk about one true God and there is no boundary and religion which can divide or differentiate the basic conception and nature of God, it is same for all of us. God is God. There is nothing like Hindu, Christian or Muslim God. When we say God we only mean one true God who has created all of us and is above every boundary. It is us who every religion but we cannot divide God as he is above all of us and this conception binds every religion in one single string. Thus at last I would like to sum up my words by saying that there is only one religion and that is God rest everything are our habits and cultures which we have named as our religion.

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