

Monism is an atheistic philosophy which will divide society, and many are deceived thinking that it is a "scientific" justification for rejecting God and His authority as Creator. Monism leads to a series of beliefs about the past and future in explaining facts that are observable in the present. It is a religion since it can be defined as a concept or system of belief that is held to with ardor and faith. Thus ultimately monism is a religious view concerning life.

Monism quite naturally leads to Pantheism, which teaches that all religious paths lead to the same ultimate end, since there is (according to monism) only one ultimate reality and everything else is illusion. This has led many to think that these paths are like rivers that finally lead to the same ocean. This is error since all religions are not the same, and, when two paths contradict each other, both cannot be right.

Many have deceptively tried to prove that all religions are the same especially by pointing out the Christian Gospel similarities in Hinduism, for example the Bagavad Gita. False claims are made that the Gita was written in the pre-Christian era and hence all religions teach the same thing. However, this is not true. The Gita is written in good classical Sanskrit, and epigraphic evidence clearly shows that the Gita could not have been written before the 2<sup>nd</sup> c AD, and under the influence of early Indian Christianity.

Man was created in the image of God, but was never God. Jesus Christ said, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man comes to the Father, but by me. It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. We have one life to choose.

# Let's Reason Together

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# *Monism*

*or*

# *Monotheism*

All religious thought can be classified into two distinct mutually exclusive classes – Monotheism and Monism.

*The school of Monotheism teaches that there is One God, the creator of all things including man. However, man having sinned is separated from God, and, God provides a unique Way of Salvation to man for restore his/her relationship back to God.*

*The school of Monism teaches that there is only one reality or thing or substance; everything else is 'maya' or illusion. If we call this 'one thing' God, then man becomes God since there cannot be God and man (two things or dualism). So in the school of monism, we become God! The cycle of birth or reincarnation is the process/vehicle through which man unites into God.*

Thus in the school of Monism, man declares that 'I am God', just as Lucifer (as recorded by Isaiah) said in his heart I will be like the most High! In the 'Dictionary of Cults, Sects, Religious and the Occult', by George A Mather and Larry A Nichols, the authors indicate that cults typically operate by personal transformation,

*PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION. Whichever path an individual chooses, several goals are on the horizon. The first is "personal transformation." This entails undergoing a person mystical or psychic experience that will usually result in a paradigm shift from an "old world" belief system to a realization of "New Age" or "Aquarian" beliefs. The first step in this transformational process is to embrace a monistic worldview. Again, this does not come through cognition of propositional truths or creedal formulations, but rather, through mystical experience.*

The goal is to embrace a monistic school of thought and this is achieved through seemingly harmless mystical practices. Monism teaches that the mind awakes or dreaming moves through maya (illusion) and only nonduality is the final truth. A key underlying practice is to 'tap' into that reality or god within oneself especially by meditation.

The dangers of Monism can be seen when we study historically its impact on India. Scholars define that while worship is universal, a religion requires literature and philosophy or theology. Before the Christian era, only two religions existed in India, Buddhism and Jainism, and they were agnostic religions. The worships could be broadly classified as Dravidian worship, which is evidenced from the Indus Valley civilization, and the later Vedic worship. The Vedic worship reflected in the RgVeda is mainly concerned with the propitiation of divinities associated with nature. The important ones were such gods as Indra, Varuna, Agni, and Surya, who later lost their significance and merged into sun worship. In India before the Christian era, we find that Buddhism was the dominant religion. Buddhism arose around 6<sup>th</sup> c BC when Israel, the messengers of God's revelation to the world at that time, went completely into captivity. Buddhism was an ethical agnostic religion with strong compassion for all creation, but no room for God.

After the Christian era, we see a new religion arise in India based on a monotheistic doctrine. Scholars indicate that the religion of Siva or Saivism emerged first, and the Vishnu-Krishna religion or Vaishnavism came later as another denomination. Siva was probably the first and only God of the monotheistic religion of the Hindus.

How did this religion arise, since there was nothing in India before the Christian era to catalyze it? The Dravidian and Vedic worships were polytheistic, and the two religions, Buddhism and Jainism, were agnostic with no room for God. The only logical answer is Christianity in India by the apostles of Christ. There is firm evidence for the Apostle Thomas in India, and, South India had excellent trade relations with the Roman Empire during the 1<sup>st</sup> c AD, which leads to cultural and religious exchanges. The influence of Gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly seen in many Indian literature like the Bagavad Gita, Saiva Siddhanta, Rg Veda, Brahma Sutras, etc.

However, Monism entered India after the 8<sup>th</sup> c AD as a philosophy called Advaita developed by Adi Sankara. Advaita claims that this truth is concealed by the ignorance of illusion. Advaita teaches that there is no becoming either of a thing by itself or out of some other thing. It teaches that there is no individual self or soul (jiva), only the atman (all-soul). Individuals may be temporarily delineated from 'all-soul' just as the space in a jar delineates a part of main space. When the jar is broken, the individual space becomes once more part of the main space.

Advaita affected India in several ways. It destroyed the theistic faith of the Hindus by leading to Pantheism - many paths, individual worships and polytheism. Advaita also taught that the process of reaching the 'all-soul' is achieved by Reincarnation or Cycle of Birth, which is the cyclic return of a soul to live another life in a new body. This led to development of Caste System which further enslaved and oppressed the Hindus.

Monism brings a false sense of unity and hope by the deception that no matter what path is chosen, ultimately we will all end up in the same place. However this false sense of unity is soon disturbed by the social disparity which becomes apparent, and this is where the cycle of birth is utilized. It is then taught that the one enjoying the higher status is due to his/her karma in the previous birth, and if one would presently follow dharma, i.e. Varnashrama Dharma (the law of the ones skin color) in this birth, then he/she could also enjoy the higher status in their next birth. Amusing! Over the years, the caste system was in this manner deceptively maintained by the philosophies of monism and cycle of birth.

Today in America, the philosophy of Monism and Reincarnation is the underlying foundation of many cults or groups. The followers within these groups do not even realize this and are often deceived by high sounding words and mystical actions. As indicated earlier, they are unaware that the goal of their cult or group is to embrace a monistic school of thought through seemingly harmless mystical practices.

Also, global racism based on ones skin color entered the world society when William Jones translated Varnashrama Dharma, the law of the Caste system from Sanskrit to English about 200 years ago. Hence, it is important to ask if it is being used within these cults or groups today for the same purpose?