

Religion in Everyday Life

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(Abstract)

I. While religion, apparently, is a concept that evokes a sense of peace, tranquility and tolerance and is a matter of personal choice and faith in one's life, why is history replete with tales of violence in the name of religion ? Distinction between religion as a value, a way of life and religious practices. Exploring the universal inclination towards religion in everyday life : insecurity, uncertainty. Religion identified with a sense of morality, justice. Religion intertwined with aesthetics (art, music) in India. Religion : its emotive aspect and implications in our everyday life.

II. Transfer of religion from the private to the public domain and regulation of private, daily life by the way religion thrives in the public domain and its implications. The role of scriptures, religious institutions and personnel (priests, maulavis, clergy). Religious texts and thereby the essence of religion subjected to 'popular' interpretation which robs the text of its core , essentialist meaning and reduces religion to a kind of cult.

III. This domination of the private domain by the publicdomain transforms the role of religion in everyday life and religion assumes new aspects : closure of boundaries, intolerance, claim of superiority, exclusiveness. This, together with its linkage with power leads to the rise of religious fundamentalism, violence and ultimately distortion and loss of the self in one's everyday life.

IV. Cultivation of reason and science in everyday life : a necessary solution for the resurrection of the self ? The dilemma of an atheist, while confronting this problem.