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1. 2016

1.1 March

Christianity and the Afterlife (2016-03-21 23:37)

Afterlife seems to be an open ended mystery to most people, me included that is. Every faith, scratch that, not just every faith but every person has different thoughts on what is to come after we pass. How is anyone supposed to know where we end up? Do we all go different places depending on our faith, lifestyles, families, personal choices even? Well the Christian faith has their own views on what goes on after death. Although some of the small details do vary throughout the different groups of Christians the majority if not all believe in a heaven where they will live in total happiness with God and all those who have passed before them and those who will pass after. The idea of this happily ever after comes with a downside that being the other option, hell. Not all Christians believe that there is a hell but Catholics believe not only in heaven and hell but also in a strange place called purgatory where one may go for a temporary period of time due to unforgiven or unprofessed sins. You have to keep in mind that no matter which of these you end up in it is simply your soul that goes while your body stays on earth. One confusing thing about all this is that these three different places in the afterlife come with no one set of rules as to why or what lands a person in one or the other but sinning seems to be a big one that one would want to avoid or you could land in the wrong place at the wrong time, for more than a lifetime that is.

1.2 April

What's What: The Afterlife Addition (2016-04-02 12:00)

Me again, so more about this thing called the 'afterlife' and what it's all about. Now I don't know about you but when I think about the afterlife I still think about Hades from the movie Hercules where everyone's souls are just kind of floating around in ghost like figures. That may not be the most accurate description of what it is like but for many like myself and I'm sure some of you out there that's all we really know and understand because it was shown to us through a childhood movie and when you're a kid you believe that everything they say is true. When it comes to Christianity there is never really a full description as to exactly what heaven, hell and purgatory consist of. So why not believe that the Hercules way is right? But lets get down to what it is actually believed to be.

The Facts:

Heaven- a place where either your physical or spiritual self (up to each persons belief) where one goes after death to live with God eternally....Yes that is ALL we know.

Hell- Well if you thought that was brief even LESS is known about hell, can you believe that? Ultimately it is a

place of suffering for those who have done something bad enough in their lifetime that it landed them there.

Purgatory- Then there is purgatory, an odd idea if you ask me. This is apparently an in-between place where you can be cleansed of sins and potentially make it into heaven.

Keep coming back for more thoughts on after life and future topics to come!

Who/What Will You Be In Your Next Life? (2016-04-08 01:14)

So let's talk about this whole idea of being a woman or man in one life and after death moving on and becoming either another human or any living creature. This is something that really gets my mind going....How and why is this believed by some religions? Well I've talked about how Christians feel and what they believe in when it comes to the afterlife but now I'm going to get into something a little bit different, reincarnation. Particularly Hindus and their belief in reincarnation.

THE FACTS:

The main belief behind this concept for Hindus is that one must go through many different lives and experiences before uniting with God or their Supreme Being in the afterlife. This is believed to be true because of the fact that one must attain perfection through their different lives and the struggles that they face throughout them before they are considered liberated and ready. Now this is a strange concept to understand that based solely off of your past life and your decisions made during that time, it is decided within what living being you will have your next life. Some souls will through more lives than others and most have different outcomes. All of these different details can confuse what reincarnation actually is. To me the perfect description in terms most people would understand comes straight out of the Bhagavad Gita and it says, "Just as a man discards worn out clothes and puts on new clothes, the soul discards worn out bodies and wears new ones." This may seem very casual and almost too simple for something that was just described in so much detail but when it comes down to it that is the simplest explanation.

In my opinion the idea behind reincarnation within the Hindu religion makes a lot of sense when you really read into it. Having grown up a Christian myself it is a concept that is fairly new to me and hard to place myself in but I find it incredibly intriguing and only find myself wanting to learn more. Who knows maybe we will all get to be famous or do something world changing in our next lives!

Sources:

<http://hinduwebsite.com/reincarnation.asp>

Jehovah's Witness vs. Christianity (2016-04-11 17:08)

Growing up in the Christian faith I learned about God, Jesus, the Holy Trinity and everything in the Bible from start to finish. It is something that has become second nature to me while going to private school with religion classes my whole life. On the other hand I never really knew much of really any other religions. One in particular that I never knew about was Jehovah Witness. Once I started to look into the Jehovah witness faith I realized it has a lot of similarities with Christianity. This being said it also has its strong differences.

SIMILARITIES:

Both religions start with their belief in Adam and Eve and how the sickness and old age comes from their disobedience in God's requests but there are some differences that go along with that story. The belief in one God is a huge similarity between the two faiths in worshipping one God as their Supreme Being. Both religions also believe in the importance of the bible and the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Bible is the main teaching artifact of the Christian faith and has a strong importance within the culture. The death and resurrection of Jesus is celebrated strongly in the Christian faith on a holiday known as Easter and the days leading up to it.

DIFFERENCES:

Although one of their similarities is the belief in Adam and Eve and that sickness and old age comes from their disobedience the Witnesses do not believe that the sin of the world goes along with this like the Christians believe. One of the biggest differences between these two faiths is that Witnesses do not see Jesus as God but instead as God's first creation on earth. This is a total different view from Christianity since Jesus is seen as God's son sent down to earth to save the people from sin. The Witnesses also reject the idea of the Holy Trinity that is believed within Christianity because they do not believe in the three persons in one rather that it is a force of God himself.

All of this being said Jehovah's Witness see themselves as Christians despite all their differences. It is hard to say whether this is true one way or the other while majority of Christians do deny this to be true. With so many strong base similarities I see the way they fit into the Christian faith.

Sources:

<http://www.religionfacts.com/jehovahs-witnesses/beliefs>

Witnesses & The After Life (2016-04-13 20:50)

Jehovah's Witness may be similar to Christianity in a few ways but when it comes to the afterlife their beliefs are very different. Witnesses do not believe in hell as a place that people who do wrong while on earth end up, instead they believe that those who would end up there simply have their souls annihilated upon their death on earth. This being said it is also believed that this decision of where ones soul ends up does not happen right away rather everyone will be resurrected and given the opportunity to receive eternal life. This is an interesting way to look at the afterlife and where ones soul lands because what is the final judgment that decides this hugely altering decision? All that aside it is believed that when all is said and done only 144,000 people will actually end up in heaven with God while everyone else will find their homes back on earth in a place somewhat like a restored Garden of Eden for people to live contently for eternity. I'm not entirely sure how I feel about the idea of heaven being an exclusive thing for such a small amount of people in the world. I feel as if it is unfair or unjust to expect those of equal importance and equally as loyal do not end up receiving the same end result.

On the other hand I can't really argue with the fact that those of evil mind and spirit are vanquished completely rather than punished eternally. But who am I or anyone else to judge a religion by its cover? To fully understand a religion's beliefs and culture you have to become fully involved not just with research and readings as I have but by participating fully within them.

Sources:

<http://www.religionfacts.com/jehovahs-witnesses/beliefs>



BlogBook v0.9,
 \LaTeX 2 ϵ & GNU/Linux.
<https://www.blogbooker.com>

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