A Brief Introduction to Religious Fanaticism and Islamic Religious Fanaticism

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Introduction

There are so many religions all over the world. Therefore, we should recognize firstly what is the religion? The word of religion has been analysed etymologically and presented a lot of definitions regarding that word. It is obvious that the word religion is derived from Latin "religio" used by the Romans to indicate the worship of the demons, before Jesus Christ. The origin of "religio" is debated since antiquity. The scholar Cicero said it comes from "relegere" in the meaning "to carefully consider the things related to the worship of gods." Later, Lucretius, Lactancius and Tertullianus scholars see its origin in "religare" to refer "the bond of piety that binds to God". The word religion seems to imply mandatory beliefs and practices. In another way of thinking, Religion is a fundamental set of beliefs and practices generally agreed upon by a group of people. It is clear that "a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs." This definition covers the vast area of human mind and the process of nature with regard to religion. Most of dictionaries have presented various kinds of definitions regarding the religion. It is true that the Oxford Dictionary defines religion "as the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods." The Collins English Dictionary defined that "Religion is belief in a god or gods and the activities that are connected with this belief, such as praying or worshipping in a building such as a church or temple." Whereas there have been presented obviously a lot of definitions regarding the religion, aforementioned definitions are enough to get clear idea about religion.

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Methodology

I have used primary and secondary sources as well as e sources such as e journals. I have used hermeneutics approach for this research. Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology or approach.

Objective

Herein, I pay deep attention especially with regard to the religious fanaticism or extremism focusing on Islamic religious.

Result and Discussion

The terms fanaticism and fanatic come from the Latin adverb fānātice and the adjective fānāticus. The adjective is based on the noun. Both the noun fānum and adjective fānāticus mean "a temple devotee who is orgiastic, inspired, frantic or frenzied". Psychologist of religion Tõnu Lehtsaar has defined the term fanaticism as "the pursuit or defence of something in an extreme and passionate way that goes beyond normality." The origins of fanaticism are based in the mind but it always manifests itself through actions. Religious fanaticism is defined by blind faith, the persecution of dissents and the absence of reality. The meaning of adjective Fanatic is similar to these terms such as extreme, extremist, rabid, radical, revolutionary, revolutionist, ultra and fundamentalist which can be considered as synonymous. The difference between religious fundamentalism and fanaticism is belief and action. One could be a fundamentalist in any given religion and believe in the literal truth of their holy scriptures. Most Christians, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, and Jewish people follow this strict dogma. On the other hand, Fanatics are an extremist sub-set of fundamentalists who see only their own point of view. They seek to force their ideology on others through intimidation and are more than happy to break the law and commit religious blasphemy, including, murder in the name of their God.

Islamic fundamentalists believe in literal interpretation of the Quran and Hadith and attempt to enforce the Sharia law into every aspect of the Islamic life. One of the early Islamic Fundamentalist was Ibn Taymiyyah (13th century) who not only initiated a reform movement but also triggered a Jihad against Mongols.

However, the modern Islamic fundamentalism originated in 19th century as an Arabian (Wahhabi Movement) fundamentalist movement, this is called Wahhabism that was founded by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab and got nurtured with the overt and covert support of western powers. Thus, the Wahhabi movement supported by Saudi Arabia is often described as being responsible for the popularity of contemporary Islamic fundamentalism. Islamic fundamentalist groups include Al-Qaeda, Army of Islam, Boko Haram, Taliban, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Hamas, Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islamic, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Islamic State of Iraq and the

Levant, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan among many others.

Conclusion

As the above discussions attest, religious fundamentalism is intertwined with many different motives and can be a serious source of intolerance and conflict. Actually, this is not to argue that religion itself has no positive functions at all. In fact, a well-interpreted religion can foster inner peace, tolerance, and love, feeding, thus, outer peace and social harmony in their broader sense. In the final analysis, religion is a dual-sided sword. How it is interpreted depends on human mind, as well as social conditions. These various kinds of religious fundamentalism groups have been arisen mostly in current society because of faddy extremists or fundamentalists and group of extremist persons. They practise some radical statements of their sacred religious texts or religious leaders to achieve their extremist goals or objectives. However, every religious fundamentalism organization which are very dangerous and harmful damage the society and break the peace of world. If we want to establish the peace of world, we have to stop our extremist religious activities separate and abandon our extremist religious thoughts. Herein, all human being should follow peace and non-violence teachings of religions.

Keywords: Religious, Fanaticism, Religious Fanaticism, Islamic Religious, Fanaticism

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