
Original Paper

Ethical Ideas of Nation Religions

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Abstract

The article briefly outlines several national religions and their ethical ideas.

Keywords: religion, nation, moral, teaching, ethics,

Modern scholars confirm that in the history of humanity each nation has been its religious thinking. Folk religion shows up with the formation of the first states. These religions reflected the ideology and culture of individual nationalities. Folk and nation religions appeared based on geographic, economic, social, and psychological factors.

Religion and morals are connected. All religions have their ethical ideas and they are directed at improving morality. Nation religions consider kindness a way of finding the well-being of humanity.

Confucianism is the ancient religion of China. The founder was Kun Fu Tzu, and in European transcription - Confucius, who lived in the VI-V centuries BC. In childhood, he related to his elders with love and respect. He wrote principles of ethics. The books compiled by Confucius and his learners were considered sacred in old times. Confucius researched problems of morality and the relationship between man and society. Confucius said: *"Respect for parents and respect for elders is the essence of life"*. Humanism is the base of Confucianism. According to its, a person can achieve a decent life only through love. One of the principles of Confucianism is *"Do not do to others what you do not want to do to yourself"*. At the center of the Confucian doctrine is a man. Man's self-knowledge is reflected in his manners and it is realized through his recognition of good and evil. Self-government and kindness are the main ethical norms of Confucianism.

Zoroastrianism is the pre-Islamic religion of the Iranian people. Zoroastrian religion appeared in the VII-VI centuries BC in Bactria. Then it spread to Iran and all-around Central Asia. Its founder is Zarathushtra, or, in European transcription Zoroaster. The word Zoroaster means "camel breeder". As a child, he was a camel breeder. Zoroaster went to school at the age of eight and studied for eight years and became a saint. At that time there were wars always between the Kayani kings (Turanians and Iranians) and Zoroaster became a doctor in battle and helped the sick. From childhood, he fought against ignorance and always searched for the truth. Zoroaster was thinking of ending the war and peace, and unity. And when he was 30 years old, he received a revelation. He spent 10 years in the mountains praying and receiving messages from the Creator. At the age of 40, Zoroaster proclaimed his religion and began to call people to the worship of one God - Ahuramazda, and denied all the false gods that people worshipped at that time. Zoroaster was speaking loudly to the people: *"There is only one Creator, and no one else deserves worship. Good thoughts, good words, good deeds are the way to the Creator"* (Yasno 30/21; Goths, 34). Zoroaster called his teaching "Good Faith", or «Good seeing», "Good worldview", and "Good consciousness".

The Zoroastrian religion is also called Mazdayaso, which means "the one, wise" and "praise". There are 2 opposing forces in this religion - Ahura Mazda (symbol of kindness) and Ahriman (symbol of anger). According to Zoroastrianism, this world is a place of the endless struggle between good and evil, kind is mercy, honesty, warmth, light; evil is cold, poverty, sin, disease; an Ahuramazda is a symbol of a good, Ahriman is a symbol of evil. Humans must try for good and reject evil. Each person should control the correctness of his thoughts, words and deeds. In the future, each person will be judged by

how he used his free will, the righteous will go to Paradise, sinners - to hell.

Zoroastrianism has simple concepts like Good and Evil, Truth and Falsehood, and Light and Darkness. The basis of the Zoroastrian religion is "good thoughts, a good word, good deed". According to the Zoroastrian religion, water, fire, air and earth are sacred, because they are the foundation of life. The Holy book of Zoroastrianism is "Avesta". The word "Avesta" means "knowledge," or "law." All teachings of the Zoroastrian religion are written in this book. The Avesta consisted of 2 million couplets poems or 21 parts, but many of them were lost, 5 parts of this book have survived. The content of the Avesta is very rich, and it was the way of life of our ancestors, their knowledge in the fields of science - philosophy, law, geography, mathematics, astrology, history, language, literature, and medicine.

Zoroastrianism is the first religion its main postulates were sent to people as a result of communication between the Ahura Mazda and the man, the prophet Zoroaster. In Zoroastrianism, there are theories about the five times of prayer, hell, paradise, the bridge of Sirat, the Day of Judgment, the eternity of the human soul, etc., which are also found in Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Some customs, rituals and holidays of the Zoroastrian religion are still preserved among some people of the East.

Judaism is a national religion of ancient Israel and originated in the second millennium BC. Judaism is a monotheistic religion. The holy book of Judaism is the Torah, its language is Hebrew. The teaching of Judaism is as follows: God is one, and humans must pray only to him. God is without beginning or end. He created the Universe and controls it. God is attentive both to the fate of each person and of each nation. He is just and merciless, and there is a reward for good deeds and punishment for evil. Enliven after death is a truth. The fate of a person after death depends on the actions of his lifetime.

Judaism says: do not pray to other gods, do not make a picture of God, do not swear by the name of God, remember Sunday to think about God, honour your father and your mother, don't kill, do not adulterate, do not plunder, do not pretend, do not express dissatisfaction.

Manichaeism is religious and philosophical teaching. Its founder is Moni - a philosopher, priest, linguist and artist who lived in the III century. His teaching says that a human should protect his tongue from evil speech, his hand from evil deeds and the heart from evil wishes.

Mazdakism is a religious philosophical and social doctrine, which appeared in the V-VI centuries in Iran. Its founder was Mazdak. He was a leader of the religion and a reformer. Mazdak's teachings were against the oppression of the feudal system and private property. He calls for reform of social equality from the emperors of the Sasanid state. According to his teaching, a life is a fight between good and evil.

Thus, nation religions had ethical terms like good, evil, conscience, equality, freedom and so on. The nation religions fought with their ideas for the restoration of justice. So it was the dream and goal of people at all times of history. Nation religions reflect the spiritual and philosophical worldview of a definite nation. Many nation religions have lost their importance over the centuries and their places were taken by world religions.

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