

Unit-1

Comparative Religion

Answer the following questions:-

① What is Comparative Religion? Explain briefly.

Ans: Comparative Religion is the branch of the study of religions with the systematic comparison of the doctrine and practices, themes and impacts of the world's religions. In general, the comparative study of religion yields a deeper understanding of the fundamental philosophical concerns of religion such as Ethics, Metaphysics and the nature and forms of Salvation. It also considers and compares the origins and similarities shared between the various religions of the world. Studying such material facilitates a broadened and more sophisticated understanding of human beliefs and practices regarding the Sacred, Numerous, spiritual and divine.

The Comparative Religion minor provides for the non-Sectarian study of religious traditions and beliefs - by studying a variety of religions, students gain a broad understanding and appreciation of spiritual perspective, both individually and collectively.

Comparability refers to the comparison that might be made between different faith, groups or religions institutions. Comparability means that two or more religions are able to be compared in order to establish the similarities and differences.

Comparative Religion is an academic discipline devoted to the study of religion in general and specific world religions is particularly investigating such dimensions of religions as scriptive and myth, experience, belief, ritual ethics, institutions and material culture. However, in contrast to comparative religion, which seeks to examine the similarities and differences between a religious traditions from a neutral point of view, comparative theology focuses in light of the insights from another religious tradition.

Max Müller is regarded as the father of Comparative Religion. However, in contrast to comparative religious traditions from a neutral point of view, Comparative Theology focuses on the theological reflection of one's own religion in light of the insights from another religious tradition. Thus, Comparative Religion is an academic discipline devoted to the study of religion in general and specific world religions in particular.

② Explain the Method of Comparative Religion.

OR

Explain and examine various Methods of Comparative Religion.

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Ans: The method of any Subject of Study implies a well define, systematic course or procedure, which it should follow from the attainment of a definite end. The end may be theoretical or practical - acquisition of knowledge for its own sake or application of knowledge, but whatever be the end, and orderly procedure is more conducive to the desired end than a haphazard treatment.

Our question here is: What should be the ideal method of Comparative religion? The answer that suggest itself as soon as the question is put is - Comparative Religion should follow Comparative Method. But as we try to determine the exact nature and scope of this comparison a number of difficulties crop up and we are bound to give up our initial complacency about the very simple character of Comparison.

The nature of Comparative method has different views - regarding the nature and possibility of the application of the comparative method, three different attitude has been taken:-

- (i) Some thinkers doubt the very possibility of any effective comparison in the field of comparative study of different religions on ground of practical difficulty.
- (ii) Some again would say that the method of comparative religion is bound to be

Suigeneris on a class by itself and is that on the same plane with the comparative method followed by any Science.

- (iii) Others speak of the possibility as well as the desirability of applying the comparative method on a Scientific basis in the field of Religion.

Comparative Religion is the study of the religious belief and practices of man kind, conducting in the same spirit as comparative anatomy, which is the comparative study of the structure and plan of animals and plants. But there are many approaches regarding the study of Comparative Religion like : (i) The primitive religions : Anthro-
- logical Approach.

(ii) The Historical Approach

(iii) The Sociological Approach

(iv) Comparison on the Psychological Plane.

(v) The Theological Approach

(vi) The Philosophical Approach.

We concluded then that the method of Comparative Religion is no doubt Comparative; but it is no more aimless comparison. It is systematic and Scientific. It is comprehensive it makes comparison from diverse perspective and on different planes. The results of Comparison

from different perspectives are to be further compared and collected; in other words, there should be comparison of comparisons finally, the result of comparison are to be appreciated and synthesised philosophically.

This type of rigorous, comprehensive, and reflective comparison can alone lead to a proper understanding of the different religions, ancient and modern.

3. Briefly explain the conflict of Religion.

Ans: Religious conflicts are a situation in which religious adherents are involved in a serious disagreement or argument with one religious group and another, is a situation in which there are opposition in ideas, opinions, feelings and wishes. Although some religions are fighting over doctrinal differences, most conflict stems from more secular causes, a desire for political power, a struggle for resources, ethnic rivalries and economic competition.

Religion, however, can play an important role in peace making and conflict prevention and resolution. Religion connects with peace in four major ways, the idea of human dignity and the common humanity of all, derived from the notion that all are created in the image of the Divine, are foundational to true peace.

The opposing force created

the conflict within the story generally comes in four basic types :-

- (i) Conflict with the Self
- (ii) Conflict with others
- (iii) Conflict with the environment
- (iv) Conflict with the Super Natural

Although not necessarily so, there are some aspects of religion that make it susceptible to being a latent source of conflict. All religions have their accepted dogma, or antiques of belief, that followers must accept without question. This can lead to inflexibility and intolerance in the face of other beliefs. After all, if it is the word of God, how can one compromise it? At the same time, scripture and dogma are often vague and open to interpretation. If there is no correct one, a conflict that ultimately cannot be solved because there is no arbiter.

Religious extremists can contribute to conflict escalation. They see radical measures as necessary to fulfilling God's wishes. Fundamentalists of any religion tend to take a Manichean view of the world. If the world is a struggle between good and evil, it is hard to justify compromising with the devil. Any sign of moderating can be denounced as selling out, more importantly, of abandoning God's will.

Thus, religion, church and do the over may cause

4. Briefly exp
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Ans: Comparative study of comparison themes and from the to explicitly -ic version emerged. expanding religions also by views of variety of broad u spiritual collectively

is an ideas for Religion for people condition means others purpose.

Thus, religious conflicts and conflict between Church and State. Such conflict is harmful to the overall credibility of religion and may cause religions apathy or disintegration.

④ Briefly explain the Possibility of Comparative Religion.

Ans: Comparative Religion is the branch of the study of religions with the systematic comparison of the doctrines and practices, themes and impacts of the world's religions from the mid-nineteenth century in contrast to explicitly formative approaches an academic version of comparative religion emerged. This was made possible by expanding knowledge of non-western religions and preliterate culture, and also by evolutionary rather than scriptural views of human history. By studying a variety of religions, students gain a broad understanding and appreciation of spiritual perspective, both individually and collectively.

The academic study of religion is an ideal way to explore religious ideas from a variety of perspectives. Religion is one of the primary means for people wanting to explore the human condition of existence. Researching religion means having the chance to learn how others understand existence and our purpose.