Final word (from me) on religion



See also:

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20061203073051AApmXbX>

<http://youtu.be/DCG4qryy1Dg>

<http://youtu.be/wktlwCPDd94>

<http://youtu.be/DrtxUX65QA4>

http://youtu.be/4xjPODksI08

So, we have a dilemma:

If we take what different religions promote, we recognize contradictions among them.

As many different religions present different views about God, about death, about the teachings and scripts and religious figures (prophets).

And, thus, there are three ways to approach the contradictions concerning different religions:

1. One is true; all others are false

BUT how do we determine the “right” one?

Furthermore, within religions themselves are many, many sects, which is the ultimate “right” one?

1. All are false

Evidence for one counters evidence for all others, so it would be easier to accept all as false, as they appear to cancel each other.

And it isn’t a popularity contest! Part of faith is passion; numbers do not determine passion; one can accept that all adherents feel passion concerning their different (opposing) religions.

And, it can be seen that religion stems from (in larger part) from culture and community, thus one could, as was raised in class discussion, posit that religions are simply culturally conditions beliefs and practices.

1. All religions indicate the same underlying truths:

This can be considered religious pluralism:



**Religious pluralism** enables us to accept the belief systems of millions while also considering the cultural conditioning aspect. It enables us to accept that religious practices are genuine actions to the same underlying truth (and yes, we could lean toward the Golden Rule). It could offer opportunity, as Karen Armstrong wishes, for genuine consideration of the points of view of others.

But, how then to tackle the contradictions?

Let us accept the statements, the Bible being one, as metaphoric rather than literal. We need story but we do not have to accept story as fact. Do you know the way to Platform 9and 3/4?

So, if you do not believe but experience some innate draw and spiritual sense in the natural world, perhaps you are a pantheist, which Schopenhauer called: a polite atheist. Many scientists are. A good segue to our next unit…



<http://youtu.be/QUzsOffAZ3U>