Towards the Recognition of Pragmatics and Totality of Religion

Baber Rehman University of Hong Kong brehman@connect.hku.hk

Historically, religion has been an integral part of human society in some form or the other. Normally considered as a collection of hypothetical statements and theories, religion usually has a disconnect from the practical problems faced today. Various groups argue that religion forces its followers to detach from worldly belongings. A few others limit the religion to certain rituals. In this paper we intend to establish the connection of religion with political and social theories. A foundational question that raised the quest for this work is: why would one believe in or follow a system in this world if it does not benefit this world? The principles of various religious, political, and fiscal theories are often blended together to govern a society. Occasionally, the principles of variant school of thoughts contradict. When blended together, such contradictory principles result in widespread confusion among the individuals and fail to guide towards a prosperous society. A religion needs to be a complete system in itself. At the minimum, religion has to provide first principles. It must cover all the aspects of life. This includes social, political, and fiscal aspects among others. If a religion does not provide a financial system then it must borrow the one from another theory. The borrowed part of another theory may not be consistent with the fundamentals of the religion. The blend of such inconsistent principles causes more damage than good. Therefore, we believe that it is important to recognize the pragmatics and totality of religion in relation to the social and political theories in the modern era.

Keywords: Religion, System, Totality, Prosperity

Disclaimer: We do not advocate for the truth of a particular religious, political, or social theory. On the contrary, we intend to highlight the significance and necessity of the totality of a system. We further explore the pros and cons of blending multiple theories together.

Abstract accepted at 18th International Conference on Philosophy. Athens, Greece.