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How Would the Development of Society Look Like in the Absence of Religion and Faith?

It would be reasonable to say that human civilization is unimaginable without aspects like faith and reason. However, when it comes to correlating such elements to a particular society, one should admit that history shows faith always standing against reason as well as vice versa. While some argue that a world without faith and religion is a dark dystopian place ruled by rationalism, people who prefer reason to religion think that faith is about dragging the development of civilization behind. In such a sense, one should argue that while imagining the world without faith and religion, it is crucial to think about factors that can offer such a society firm moral ground—something which beliefs are often sources of.

According to Philip Ball, the proponent of the idea that complex societies emerged without a belief in deities, religion was necessary when it came to bringing social and political complexity in human cultures (Ball). However, when the mission of religion was completed, and complex society emerged, faith became obsolete. In such a context, the author appeals to the idea of cultural revolution, arguing that the notion of God is something that constituted a transitional period in the evolution of human society (Ball). Following such a premise, one can say that modern technological society is sophisticated and evolved enough to deem the idea of religion and faith as unnecessary. In fact, from such a standpoint, one can imagine a society of the future

governed by science, reason, and common sense, without appealing to something abstract and unnatural.

On another hand, there are naysayers arguing that without religion and faith, any society will be stripped from any moral grounds—something that is extremely crucial for the survival of humanity. In the article "A World Without Religion is a World Without a Future" by author Jack Preston King, it is stated that religion and faith not only granted people an opportunity to be emphatic toward others but also created the Golden Rule—a doctrine essential for building a fair society that is rooted in equality, the equitable distribution of resources, and respectful attitudes to one another (King). From such a perspective, it seems that reason and cold calculation are not enough for building a just and decent society. In fact, one can argue that faith and religion offer people a new outlook on reality—something that can be viewed from an compassionate point of view.

While considering both sides of the argument, it seems the future of society is about keeping a balance between faith and reason—not giving an opportunity for one to dominate over the other. While usurpation of religious principles can lead to fundamentalism and indoctrination, similarly, a solemn appeal to reason and science can lead to the objectification of people—something that can have adverse consequences for everyone. Instead, the world of the future is a place where people can benefit from both faith and reason. The only problem is determining shareholders who will maintain the balance between the two.

Considering all of the above, it seems the essence of society is to include both faith and reason as two sides of one coin. While religious doctrines help people develop as emphatic beings, reason is crucial for practical means—ones focusing on the building of social

infrastructure. As a result, while a world without faith and religion is unimaginable, it is apparent that such elements should be balanced to avoid the emergence of societies that abandon reason and exploit others in the name of deities.

Works Cited

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