

Every man who steeps himself
in the spiritual possibilities of
his heart is a valuable helper in
the building of the spiritual
pyramid which will someday
reach to heaven

Wassily Kandinsky

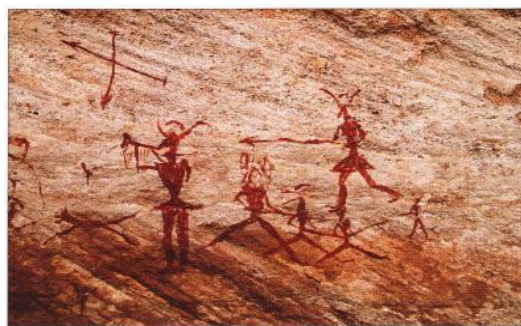
RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY



Art is the result of inspiration, and inspiration in itself has its basis in spirituality. So any definition of art must include the understanding that it is a form of communication that delivers the artist's understanding of existence, the source of all things. And the theme of any particular piece of artwork, along with the techniques and style used, are just the means for communicating that message. Usually the form chosen, along with the subject matter of the artwork, has been imposed by whatever society the artist was a part of. In primitive societies, the content of artwork was often religion and religious intuitions, but over time artists have gradually expanded upon those themes to include limitless implementations of individuality.

Yet religion and spirituality have made the deepest impact on art throughout history, and this is certainly the result of the fact that throughout history man has continuously sought to express himself through both art and religion. The principal subject matter of the world's artistic treasures is religious. The experience of faith and the experience of beauty are in some measure identical. In these three ways there is displayed the unity of religion and art.

The beginnings of religion and of art alike lie far back and hidden in the immemorial life of primitive man. In primitive societies, the pursuits of hunting, agriculture, procreation, natural seasons and forces of nature, and even healing linked in various ways the areas of spirituality and art. Even at the dawn of civilization, cave paintings were created to depict the activities of daily life. The painted stick or bunch of feathers which as a fetish was utilized for its magical powers was also in some sense a work of art. The dances and pantomimes of early tribal life were attempts at the magical control of nature or nature divinities. Exercises in frenzy were both religious and artistic, primitive forms of ritual, primitive forms of drama. "This common emotional factor it is that makes art and ritual in their beginnings well-nigh indistinguishable." In the earliest historic times they were interwoven and no one can say which was first, for they were not two, but one.



What do we mean by the word *Religion*?

It comes from an ancient Latin word that means simply "to tie things together." Religion is the human quest for coherence and meaning in the understanding of the world. When the most primitive cultures first sought to see some connection between birth and death and the seasons of the year, they were constructing a religious view. When various forms of idolatry became part of their effort to influence the world, they were merely trying to tie all things together, to make sense out of a world that often proved hostile to human feelings.

"All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom."

Albert Einstein

It is extremely difficult to define religion, as it is a composite of the narratives, symbols, beliefs and practices that shape the lives and lifestyles of individuals belonging to that religion. Generally, every religion is based on the concept of an ultimate truth, a supreme power, which is believed to guide the course of one's life. Religion is expressed through rituals, traditions and cultural values and also through convictions that serve as the guiding principles of one's life. A religion influences the patterns of thinking and behavior of its practitioners.

Religion has been historically the great fountain source of art, and the art of worship the mother of all arts. "Ritual and art have, in emotion towards life, a common root, and primitive art develops emotionally, at least in the case of drama, straight out of ritual." (Jane Harrison, "Art and Ritual," p. 42)

It is sufficient for our purpose to accept the judgment of anthropologists that in one way or another most of the arts--music, dancing, sculpture, poetry, drama, architecture --were developed out of exercises and objects originally devised for the magical control of divinities, the celebration of seasonal feasts or the production of ecstasy for its own sake or for power in war--all exercises of primitive religion. "Art will then never arise and develop among men unless it has a foundation in religion.

Art absolutely profane in origin, art born to satisfy the aesthetic taste of the spectator, art which seeks for expressiveness rather than for the material utility of its products, even if this be a spiritual utility, is inconceivable in human history and has absolutely never existed." (Alessandro Della Seta, "Religion and Art," p. 35)

The second consideration in noting the unity of religion and art is the fact that in all human history the principal subject matter of the arts has been religious. All the art of the human race is essentially religious art.

Ancient Mayan Religion

Mayan civilization is one of the ancient civilizations of Mayans who lived in southern Mexico and northern Central America around 3,000 years ago. The Mayan tribes have left behind a grand and awe-inspiring culture and traditions. The Mayan culture supported religion and the Mayan tribes worshiped nature gods such as God of Rain, God of Sun and God of Corn. The Mayans gave importance to astronomy and astrology. Human sacrifice was a part of the ancient Mayan religion.

The Mayan temples followed the architectural style of step pyramids. The religious writings of the Mayan culture included "hieroglyphic writing, art and literature and architecture". The Mayan temples followed the architectural style of step pyramids. Religion was an integral part of the day-to-day life of the Mayan tribes. The religious writings of the Mayan culture included "hieroglyphic writing, art and literature and architecture".

The art works that were the integral part of ancient religion is not only sophisticated but also beautiful. Maya art that survived include funerary pottery, ceramic work and murals that survived by serendipity. The Maya blue, a beautiful turquoise blue color was associated with the Mayan art and has survived through the centuries.



Ancient Egypt

Egypt, the land of the pharaohs and pyramids. The pharaohs said they ruled the land with the help of the Egyptian gods and goddess. The belief in these gods was so strong that general masses considered the pharaohs to be sent by the gods themselves to rule over them. The center of their religion was the pharaoh, the king of Egypt himself. As he had descended from the gods, he was nothing less than 'God' themselves. People constructed temples and pyramids for these ancient Egyptian gods and goddess. They had elaborate funeral rituals that helped ease the passage of the souls of the dead pharaohs and his close family pass on to the world of the dead.

The number of Egyptian gods is said to be over 2000. These gods were inspired by the forces of nature. Ancient Egyptian religion is very complex and intriguing. In order to explain the various forces of nature, Egyptian gods were created. They helped explain the existence of life and answered many unsolved or unexplained mysteries of the world. Let us go through the ancient Egyptian gods list in the following table and know a bit about these gods that shaped ancient Egypt.



Every aspect of Egyptian life was guided by religion. Egyptian religion was based on polytheism that means the worship of many deities. The Egyptians had as many as 2000 gods and goddesses such as Amun, who was worshiped throughout the whole country. Some of the Egyptian gods and goddesses were represented as part animal and human.

Egyptians considered animals like the bull, the cat and the crocodile to be holy. Amon-Ra and Osiris were their two chief gods. The Egyptian Book of the Dead contains the major ideas and beliefs of the ancient religion. Egyptian religion stressed an afterlife, because of which Egyptians spent much wealth and time to prepare for survival in the next world.

The temples were considered the dwelling places for the gods, and were constructed everywhere. The purpose of the temple was to be a cosmic center to be used by men to communicate with the gods. As the priests gained more power, tombs became a part of the great temple. The duties of the priest involved taking care of the gods and attending to their need. Priests also had other duties such as teaching in school, performing the funeral rites, supervising artists and their work and advising people on their problems.

Greek Gods and Goddesses

There is no specified data or information on Greek gods and goddesses that exist. Whatever we know about the Greek deities is from Homeric poems such as Iliad, Odyssey and the other poems that are related to the Greek Epic Cycle. A large contributing work that dates, specifies and provides a narration about the Greek gods and goddesses is the Theogony, a large scale synthesis, written in poetic form using the Greek Epic dialect. This poem, which was written by the famed poet and writer Hesiod, narrates the 3 generations of Greek gods and goddesses and their power.

Apart from the 3 generations, a description of several significant and important events relating to gods and goddesses, in the Greek mythology, have also been included. Theogony is today connoted to be an accurate source of information about the Greek gods and goddesses. The poem begins with the cosmology as stated by Greek mythology, and ends with some of the events of Odyssey, instrumentally covering 3 generations and their lifetimes. The poem is written from the point of view of narration.



Ancient Rome

Ancient Roman art was influenced by culture and tradition of the countries that were part of the ancient Roman Empire. One of the countries that influenced the art of ancient Rome was Greece. The golden period of ancient Roman art was between 750 BC and 410 AD. Architecture, painting, mosaic work and sculpture were the prominent art forms of ancient Rome. While, ivory carving, figurine glass, pottery, metal work, gem engraving and coin-die were the less significant art forms of ancient Roman culture.



Roman Emperors such as Constantine and Justine promoted many forms of arts. Many of the paintings, sculptures and mosaics of ancient Romans had a touch and charm of Greek culture. The Greeks who had migrated to Rome from Greek colonies and provinces created many of the artworks of ancient Rome. Some of the famous Greek sculptors were Skopas, Phidas, Lysippos and Praxitele. The Greek artists were held in high esteem by the Roman artists and the latter copied their style. Many of the major and the minor artworks of the ancient Romans such as mosaic, coin die, landscape painting, were wholly borrowed from the Greeks.



Roman art was very colorful and decorative. It mainly indicated the wealth and status of the subject. Whereas, the Greeks paid more attention to the aesthetic and natural beauty and qualities of a subject.

Wealthy Romans promoted art and architecture. The Romans loved to decorate the walls of their homes and offices with beautiful sculptures and mural paintings. Ancient Roman women were also fond of fine jewelry and clothes. These factors assisted in the growth of Roman art.



Between the 4th and the 6th century, panel painting and the wooden painting had died; while art forms such as wall paintings, mosaic ceiling and floor work thrived. Historians opine panel painting became unpopular due to religious reasons.



Emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium and renamed the city as Constantinople. During this period, the Roman art form incorporated the best of the styles of Eastern Europe. This style came to be known as Byzantine art. In the sixth century, Emperor Justinian, employed as many as 10,000 laborers and artisans to build the Church of Hagia Sophia, in Constantinople. He also ordered the artisans to create wall and ceiling mosaics in Ravenna, the capital of Western Roman Empire.

Roman artists used paints and brushes made from natural materials. Leaves and powdered rocks were used to make paint colors. Ochre (combination of alumina, silica and ferric oxide) was used to develop the shades of red and yellow. Chalk was used for white color. The Romans used seashells to get purple shade and blue shade was made from a combination of copper and glass. Soot was used for color black. Twigs, reeds and wood were used to make paintbrushes. Ivory and quality woods were used to make pens for writing.

To sum up, ancient Roman art also included Roman architecture. Ancient Romans had great architectural skills. The Aqueduct is one of the ancient Roman architectural marvels.



The Romans believed a lot in different Gods and Goddesses, which is quite obvious from the Roman Mythology! There is a unique mixture of various cultures when it comes to the emergence of Roman Gods and Goddesses. The entire collection of the Roman Gods is known as the Pantheon. There is a great influence of Latin and Greek culture as they too had pantheons (Greek Gods and Goddesses) of their own. This is the reason why the Roman and Greek Gods are generally one God with different names.



Early Christian Art

Before the Edict of Milan (313), which made Christianity the Roman Empire's state religion, Christian art was restricted to the decoration of the hidden places of worship. Most early religious artists worked in manner that was derived from Roman art, appropriately stylized to suit the spirituality of the religion. These artists chose to reject the ideals of perfection in form and technique. They rather sought to present images which would draw the spectator into the inner eye of their work, pointing to its spiritual significance. An iconography was devised to visualize Christian concepts. The first Christians don't see in art a way of expressing beauty, but one of transmitting their faith and beliefs as well as to teach them.



Rebekah and Abraham's
Servant, p 13, Vienna
Genesis, 6th cent.



Jacob Blesses the Sons of
Joseph, p 45, Vienna
Genesis, 6th cent.



After the fourth century, with the adoption of **Christianity** as the official religion, art was able, so to speak, to come above ground in the old pagan city of Rome, and painting, instead of being restricted to the decoration of the walls of the Catacombs or of small chambers and chapels, came into use on a large scale in the new churches that were at once set up. At the same time patronage moved from the hands of the poorer classes to the richer, and artists of outstanding quality came to be employed as well as those of obscurer character, who would work for small fees. To wall painting was added the more luxurious art of mosaic; numerous sculptures were done, and minor objects, often in expensive materials, were in addition produced in the service of the Church, so that art production became at the same time both more extensive and more luxurious. A great deal of the work that was done at this time has of course perished, more especially that in fragile materials, such as textiles or paintings on panels, but a few mosaics of the fourth century and a good many more of the fifth survive in Rome, and there is quite a lot of sculpture, both on a large scale in stone and on a small in ivory. Here we are concerned not so much with these things as with works which are essentially Christian and also undoubtedly Roman, such as the mosaics and wall painting, which are necessarily immovable, or stone sculptures on a large scale in a material which was carved on the spot and quarried in the neighborhood.

Art in the renaissance emphasized Christianity and the rebirthing process Europe went through after the middle ages. Good intro This can be seen in **Michelangelo's Creation of Adam**. The details in the artwork is a reflection of the time. In the 16th century when the artwork was created the world was mostly Christian. This artwork represents the beginning of human life in the eyes of the Christian faith, and can compare to the birth or rebirth of life in the Renaissance time. The artwork is displayed on the roof inside the **Sistine Chapel** in Vatican City. It depicts a story in the book Genesis written in the New Testament in which God gives life to Adam. Other than the Christian story being depicted in the painting there are many other renaissance age themes. For instance the artwork was painted with extreme realism which was a style of painting during the renaissance age. The shading and tone of the artwork is very realistic. For instance shadows are everywhere in the painting, and glare from the sun in the artwork makes some areas brighter than others. Another theme Don't jump around, you addressed Christianity, wnet to realism and are now back on Christianity that emerged was the higher all-powerful image of God and his superiority to man. In Michelangelo's Creation of Adam God is displayed at a higher vantage point than Adam displaying power and control.



Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), famous Sistine Chapel in Vatican City

God is also the only one clothed in the painting also showing control. God also has a beard and a mustache in the painting, which demonstrates knowledge and wisdom. Adam is lower in the picture, does not have facial hair, and is unclothed completely, demonstrating that God is superior to man in many ways. In the painting both God and Adam share many similarities in posture. God and Adam have their chests facing towards the viewer of the painting. Their hands are both outreached, heads aimed at each other and their outside arms are very similar in appearance and posture. These similarities show the likeness and mirror image of God and man. The artist who painted this, Michelangelo, how does this fit you intro? was a true renaissance man, mastering architecture, sculpture, art, poetry, and engineering. He was incredibly talented in each of these fields and has at least one incredible example of his talent in each area. He was respected by almost everyone during the renaissance period with the exception of Leonardo Di Vinci. This artwork depicts major themes of the renaissance era, such as Christianity, realism, and the all-powerful and superior image of God.



Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), famous Sistine Chapel in Vatican City

The painting of the **Last Supper** shows the importance of Christianity to the people of the Renaissance as well as the different ways of painting during that time period. Good intro The last supper is a mural painted by **Leonardo da Vinci** in the fifteenth century in Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy. The mural depicts the messiah Jesus and his twelve disciples breaking bread and drinking wine. The bread represents the body of Christ and the wine, Christ's blood. The painting is called the last supper because it depicts the last supper Jesus had which he knew it would be at the time. It shows how Jesus chose common foods in order for people to be able to remember him and be a part of him. Though Jesus had only a bottle of wine and a loaf of bread, he managed to feed all thirteen people plentifully. This is extremely significant to the Christian religion because it was a very ceremonial event. The painting has a deep underlying meaning as well. The twelve disciples surrounding Jesus are busy talking among each other while the messiah is somewhat isolated. This represents his devotion and concentration on his divine mission. The disciples represent the common people, devoted, yet somewhat distracted from the divine cause. This painting also represents many of the different painting techniques developed I the time of the renaissance.



Leonardo da Vinci (Italian, 1452-1519). Last Supper, 1495-98. Tempera and mixed media on plaster. 460 x 880 cm (15.09 x 28.87 ft.).

Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan

"The Four Apostles," painted by Albrecht Durer is a painting that is not to be taken at face value. Too vague - relate to Renaissance During the 1600's when this masterpiece was painted, the widely accepted cause of illness was the body's lack of the four temperaments. The four temperaments in turn come from the theory of the four "humors" or bodily fluids: blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm. These temperaments were named sanguine, melancholic, choleric, and phlegmatic. A sanguine (meaning blood) was outgoing, and courageous. His opposite, a melancholic, was prone to gloominess and insecurity. A choleric was aggressive and easily angered, and his opposite, the phlegmatic was calm and showed little emotion. The Four Apostles (from left to right: John, Peter, Mark and Paul) shown in the picture represent each temperament. John resembles a sanguine as he wears a bold red robe, showing he is outgoing. Peter resembles a phlegmatic, as he is oldest. He has learned to hide his emotions. Mark resembles a melancholic.

He stares into the distance as though he wishes to find truth that no one else cares to find. And lastly, Paul resembles a choleric. He wields a sword and looks at the viewer viciously as though he is ready to act in an aggressive manner. These representations of the temperaments were invaluable to the Christian religion in the 1600's. It changed the style in which many people lived because if they became ill they would search within them self to find that imbalance in their body's temperaments. People found the need to be balanced and the temperaments eventually formed many of the morals in Christian and all society Society we see today.



Religion, realism and humanity are some of the most important characteristics of the renaissance art. Great intro. **Michelangelo's The Pieta**, is an excellent example because it demonstrates all three. The famous sculpture was created in 1499 after being commissioned by the French cardinal Jean de Billheres. It shows Jesus, the son of God, being held by his mother, Mary, after being crucified by the Romans. Renaissance art began to reflect Christianity instead of mythology as it became the main religion during the Roman Empire, and remained so after the Roman Empire ended. Important religious patrons, such as cardinals, would commission artists to create these artworks. Realism was used by the artists to bring religious concepts to life.



The sculpture shows great detail in capturing the human form and the relationship that the subjects had with one another. This was so that the viewer would relate to the subject in the sculpture. Mary is holding Jesus the way that a mother would a small child, even though he is a grown man. The sculpture captures the love Mary had for her Son. The Pieta sculpture resides in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Italy.

The God of Christianity

According to the **Bible and Torah**, the Uncreated One decided to create. From nothing, only through the power of His Word, God created the whole Universe, crowning the creation with His masterpiece: the man. After He gave life to Adam and then to Eve, He spent every day with them, making the communion between men and God a normality but everything changed when the first couple decided to disobey their Father and gave credit to Satan-the great angel who rebelled against God.

From this moment man committed sin and had to be cast out from the presence of the Holy God and since, the whole Universe was and still is affected by the battle between good and evil. The Bible says that the Creator knew all this was going to happen and before He even started to create He had made a plan of salvation



Therefore, after the great fall He started to repair the broken relationship between Him and the people He created. This was and is a slow and hard process because of sin and of the free will. People living on Earth began to forget about God, so He decided to choose a nation and make Himself known to them and eventually to the whole world. This people were the Hebrews and Yahweh (God) revealed Himself to them in a unique way.

He firstly presented His high standards throughout the Ten Commandments and the Law of Moses. The main goal was to show people how Holy He was and also to show them they couldn't keep the commandments through their own strength. Secondly, God revealed another part of His personality through what He did. He demonstrated with Abraham and all His people that He always keeps His promises and never lets His children down, then He showed He hated sin by punishing those who rebelled against Him, afterward He pointed out His great mercy and care towards the people by taking them out of slavery and then providing for them in the desert. Although people continued to disobey Him, He made a demonstration of His patience using prophet Hosea. God told this prophet to marry a prostitute and not only to do this, but also to love her. He listened but the prostitute didn't give up her habits, so one day she was sold to be a slave. God didn't stop here; He told Hosea to go and redeem his wife with his own money. The prophet sold some of his goods in order to do this.

Afterward, God sent the prophet to tell His people that in the same way, He loves them, in spite of how they treated Him. That doesn't mean God can be mocked. No, what we sow is what we reap.

Fulfilling the prophecies regarding The Savior's coming, God completely revealed Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ. According to the Bible, "Christ was the exact representation of His being and the radiance of His glory". By this, God made the most important step in the plan of redemption. Jesus lived without sin and by this He totally fulfilled the Law. He was condemned to crucifixion and by His death He made us right with God Almighty.

During His 33 years on Earth HE brought the ultimate form of morality and love for one another. Jesus is historically proven to have existed and some consider Him who He said He was, the Son of God, but others refer to Him as the great Teacher. God's plan of salvation has its essence in the death and resurrection of Jesus so that whosoever believes may have eternal life and a close relationship with God here on earth.



Major Religions of the World

Christianity:

Christianity is the largest religion in the world. It began in the eastern Mediterranean region and managed to spread its influence across the globe within a few decades from its creation. The teachings of Jesus Christ are central to this religion. The followers of Christianity, Christians, as they are called, believe that Jesus is the revealer of God as also His incarnation. Most of them also believe in the return of Jesus to judge the living and the dead. **Bible**, the sacred book of Christianity, is composed of two parts, the Old Testament that describes life before the birth of **Jesus** and the New Testament describing the life and teachings of Jesus. There are around 2 billion followers of Christianity around the world.



Buddhism:

Buddhism is a system of beliefs based on the teachings of **Buddha**. It is categorized as Theravada, which boasts of a large following in Southeast Asia and Mahayana that predominates East Asia. Gautama Buddha was born in southern Nepal. He spent his lifetime in the north-eastern region of the Indian subcontinent, preaching people about the philosophies of life. His teachings preached the way out of sufferings of Samsara. Buddha is believed to have died in 400 BCE. An estimated 300-400 million people in Asia as well as in many other parts of the world, practice Buddhism



Islam:

Islam, meaning 'surrender to God', is an Abraham religion that originated from the teachings of Islamic prophet Muhammad. Prophet Muhammad was an Arab, born in Mecca, who believed that he had been sent to Earth by Allah as his apostle. The sacred book of Islam is called Quran, which is believed to have been revealed to Muhammad through Angel Gabriel. The followers of Islam are known as Muslims. They are expected to follow the Five Pillars of Islam, which represent the five duties in the life of a Muslim. There are about 1 to 1.3 billion Muslims, mostly in the Middle East, Africa and parts of Asia, making Islam, the second largest religion.



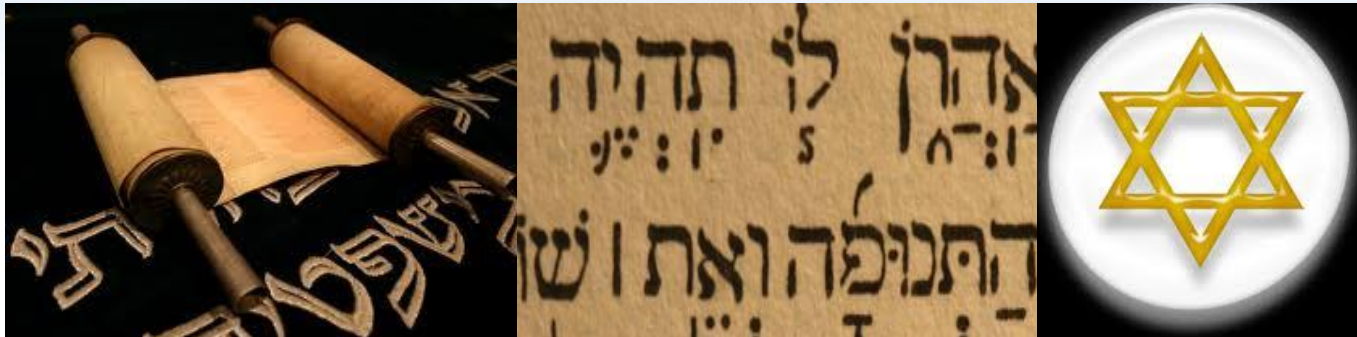
Hinduism:

The Hindu religion is referred to as 'Santana Dharma', meaning 'the eternal law'. It is often described as the oldest living tradition. Hindu beliefs vary widely across different regions of the world. The teachings of Hinduism are found compiled in scriptures such as the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puranas and the epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. Philosophy, theology and mythology form the important constituents of the scriptures of Hinduism. A discussion on Hinduism is incomplete without the mention of Bhagavad Gita, a part of the Mahabharata that comprises the teachings of Lord Krishna. It summarizes the principles stated in the Vedas. Hinduism prevails in the Indian subcontinent and some parts of South Asia. It is practiced by about 828 million Hindus, making it the third largest religion.



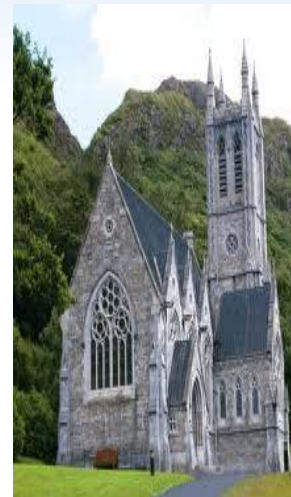
Judaism:

Judaism is a set of beliefs that have originated from the Hebrew Bible. Judaism establishes a relationship between Israelites, the Children of Israel and **God**. The western concepts of ethics and civic law are largely similar to the principles of Judaism. Judaism has also influenced Christianity and Islam. Those adhering to Judaism are called Jews. They believe in the existence of God, who created the universe and continues to rule it. Judaism says that death is not the end of the world and that a new world is yet to come into existence. Torah, the five books of the Hebrew Bible form the most important constituent of the scriptures of Judaism. Today, there are about 13 million Jews across the globe with a large number of them, inhabiting Israel. Many people consider Judaism to be the oldest religion in the world.



Places of worship - the significance

The temple is not a flight of fancy of man. Its roots lie deep in man's inner unconscious. Right from ancient times, wherever man has lived in whichever stage, he has constructed something resembling a temple somewhere close by. There is no race on earth which has not built a temple, a church, a mosque and so on. There is no resemblance between the arrangement and design of a temple and a church but the inner aspiration and urge of man whether Hindu or Christian remains the same. Another point to note is that the universal urge to build places of worship lies only in man. Animals build only dwellings, shelter but no temples. Without man having a deep awareness of the God, a temple could not be built. It is necessary to make an inquiry into the significance of building a temple. Just like we build guesthouses for guests, the idea of building temples must have been conceived in a moment, when the divine was not a figment of imagination but a living experience.



There are as many as four thousand and two religions in this world. Each of these religions indulge in certain practices of worship, to reach God. Whether it's idol worship or worshiping nature or worshiping scriptures, each of these religion is guideline for worshiping.

Religion defines who you are, what you are, and your views about the world around you. Religion is the philosophy of life and a belief system what includes study of doctrines, religious scriptures, religious stories, religious beliefs and practices, religious history, and religious arguments, etc. that determine and influence the way we live.

* * *

Many look to the world around them for ideas and images; some look to myths, stories or events of the past; still others look within themselves to their inner thoughts and feelings, their imagination and their dreams. While the world can be a good place to look as well as the others, one can never go wrong looking to the bible and the art that was and is being created from it. As long as art stays in the church the word of God will be more understood and respected. The times of hardships represented in paintings or sculptures will remain in the memories of the ones who have seen them. Also the people will be lifted to closeness with God as well as themselves.

In modern times, artists have become completely independent from societal ideologies, and instead of communicating the realities of life, artwork has become a means for the artist to communicate personal ideologies and spiritual themes through visual and other elements. Modern art is often characterized by abstract concepts, constructivism, and formal and technological researches, which make the artwork a reality unto itself, more complex and independent than the artwork of centuries past that reflected societal influences. Today's mental and spiritual art, where the idea of the artist has become more relevant than the materialization or crafting of the art itself, has sharpened the understanding of art's sense and place in society. The craftsmanship is often completely neglected because of the assistance provided by modern technology such as computers, photography, video systems, and telecommunication, all of which enable instant simple expression with merely the press of a button. New art forms have come into existence that more closely resemble the manifestations of everyday life, and as a result, they in essence transform everyday life into a form of art.

Since artistic inspiration is the base of every work of art, the ideal form of art is the direct transmission of the artist's enlightenment into the mind of the spectator. The two fields of art and spirituality merge to enable the artist to function as both a craftsman and a philosopher, with spirituality infusing every moment of artistic creation. For an artist to achieve the goals set out during the creation of artwork, the viewer of the piece should experience the same passion, inspiration, and spirituality felt by the artist during the creation of the piece—and such an accomplishment is, by definition, the origin and purpose of art.