

Monotheism

Cha-am Jamal, 2004

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Islam, Christianity, and Judaism are similar in that they are monotheistic and each contains both the heaven-hell and the God-Satan dualities. Their one and only Creator and God demands to be worshipped and is represented on earth by a Prophet and each religion anticipates an apocalyptic Judgement Day. They subscribe to an almost identical version of Creation that includes the story about Adam and Eve, their desire for the forbidden fruit, and their eventual descent from heaven to earth. If you trace this model of religion all the way back it will take you to Egypt in 1300 BC and a small monotheistic cult known as the cult of Aton.

Egypt had practiced a stable and adaptive form of multi-deism for millennia. The stability was shaken when Akhenaton became Pharaoh and adopted the cult of Aton after having appointed himself as the Prophet figure of the cult, that is to say, Aton's representative on earth. Akhenaton unleashed a kind of madness upon the kingdom when he tried to establish the cult of Aton as the state religion. Monotheism by its very nature is singular and exclusive as the many convulsive letters to Aton will attest.

Upon Akhenaton's death normalcy was restored to the kingdom and the remnants of the cult of Aton were rounded up and expelled. They settled in what is now Palestine and from them have evolved the three great monotheistic religions of our time. Each is patterned after the cult of Aton but there are sufficient differences in the details to have sown the seeds of calamity throughout their history. Three different gods cannot coexist in a monotheist's world. The Akhenaton nightmare is still with us for this reason. Monotheistic religions are singular and exclusive. Each is the only correct version of reality and all others are therefore necessarily wrong.

My hope is that some day soon, perhaps in the next thousand years or so, followers of these three religions will discover that they have more in common than they have differences and that the three religions are, in reality, the same religion. It would be the end of a tormented history. What a wonderful day that would be.

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