The Concept of Religiosity in Classical and Modern Philosophy of Religion

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Abstract

This study explores the concept of religiosity through general, Islamic, and secular perspectives. Religiosity encompasses the impact of beliefs, emotions, rituals, and communal ties on both individual and collective life. Theoretical frameworks commonly distinguish between cognitive (belief), affective (emotional), and behavioral (ritual and institutional) dimensions, with integrative models addressing the interplay between personal and institutional expressions of faith. Within Islam, religiosity is embodied in the holistic notion of al-Dīn, which unites īmān (faith), ʿibādah (worship), and akhlāq (ethical conduct), rooted in the Qur'an and Sunnah. These elements cultivate taqwā (God-consciousness), foster communal solidarity, and promote moral excellence. Empirical research further affirms that Islamic belief (ʿaqīdah), worship, and ethics are positively correlated with individual well-being and social cohesion, underscoring the integrated nature of Islamic religiosity. In secular contexts, however, religiosity is reframed as religion becomes privatized and detached from state and civic affairs. While secularism often challenges traditional religious authority, post-secular dynamics enable religiosity to re-emerge within pluralistic societies, where individuals negotiate their identity through personal worship, ethical frameworks, and community engagement. This demonstrates religion's adaptability, surviving in both private and public spheres under changing socio-cultural conditions. This analysis highlights religiosity as a multifaceted and resilient phenomenon—shaping identity, guiding morality, and adapting to diverse cultural landscapes. In Islam, it manifests as a unified system of belief, practice, and ethics, while in secular societies, it persists in reinterpreted forms, reflecting the enduring relevance of religious commitment in human life.

Key Words: Religiosity, Perspective, Consciousness, Dynamic, Cognitive, Ceremonial, Adaptability.

Introduction

Many academic fields, including theology, psychology, sociology, and religious education, have been interested in the complex idea of religiosity. Although the phrases religiousness, faith, and

devotion are sometimes used interchangeably, its exact meaning is nuanced and contingent on the circumstances. Through an examination of definitions, dimensions, and interpretations from many academic fields, this chapter explores the topic of religiosity.

Definition of Religiosity

A multidimensional concept reflecting various aspects of religious life, including faith, belief, devotion, holiness, orthodoxy, and piousness. Its understanding varies across disciplines such as theology, religious education, psychology, and sociology, each emphasizing different dimensions like church membership, doctrinal knowledge, or lived faith.[1] Religiosity is the extent to which a person clings to and observes religious beliefs, rituals, and behaviors. It has multiple aspects, including intellectual, affective, and behavioral components. Individual meaning-making and identity construction anchored in religious contexts are also aspects of religiosity.[2]

Importance of Studying Religiosity

A fundamental component of human civilization, religion has shaped communities, directed personal conduct, and promoted a feeling of belonging. Religion's importance can be examined from a number of angles, such as how it affects morals, culture, mental health, and the advancement of society.

Cultural and Historical Significance of Religion

Religion has had an important influence in the development of human history and society. It has inspired artistic expression, shaped cultures, and created universal identities throughout civilizations. This influence is discussed in detail below:

Art of Development

Some of the most notable masterpieces of art in human history have been influenced by religious ideas and practices; art has represented religious narratives, spiritual themes, and devotion.

- **Christianity:** Michelangelo's The Creation of Adam, housed in the Sistine Chapel, is one of the most notable religious works from the Renaissance that depicts Christian cosmology and the relationship between humans and God.
- **Islam:** Calligraphy, arabesques, and geometric designs are characteristics of Islamic art. Islam forbids the representation of human beings in religious settings, therefore these forms emerged as significant manifestations of divine order and spiritual beauty. The elaborate mosaics in the Alhambra in Spain are a notable example.

Influence on Literature

From sacred texts to religious allegories and poetry, religion has had a profound impact on literature.

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[1] Fisher, Steve D. "Religiosity in Higher Education: An Analysis of Four Factors." *ERIC*, 2013.
[2] Beit-Hallahmi, Benjamin. *Psychological Perspectives on Religion and Religiosity*. New York: Routledge, 2014.

- Scriptures like the Bible, Qur'an, Bhagavad Gita, and Torah are not only essential to their respective faiths but also literary masterpieces that influence entire civilizations' moral and philosophical perspectives.
- Religious themes served as inspiration for literary works that explored ideas of sin, salvation, and the afterlife.

Wonders of Architecture

Religious architecture reflects the spiritual goals of societies and is a powerful visual depiction of devotion and celestial magnificence. Gothic cathedrals, such as Notre-Dame de Paris, are imposing representations of Christianity; their pointed arches, elaborate stained glass windows, and tall spires all signify a relationship with God and the sky. Mosques are both architectural wonders and houses of prayer in Islam. Famous buildings like the Great Mosque of Córdoba and the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, with their elaborate geometric designs, calligraphic inscriptions of Qur'anic passages, and domes, demonstrate the harmonious fusion of creativity and spirituality.[3]

Traditions and Rituals

Faiths have had a profound impact on cultural conventions and behaviors, many of which are now integral parts of national identities. Religious holidays such as Christmas Day, the Islamic festival of Eid al-Fitr, Diwali, also and Passover bring communities together and foster continuity and connection across generations via shared practices. These celebrations strengthen social relationships and cultural traditions while also honoring important religious events. In a similar spirit, religious pilgrimage traditions such as the pilgrimage to Mecca in Islam and the Santiago pilgrimage route in Christianity highlight how religion creates personal and communal identities. These holy trips offer believers opportunities for spiritual growth and improve their sense of belonging in a larger religious community that transcends geographic and cultural boundaries.

Religion as a Unifying Force

Religion is a powerful unifying force that fosters a sense of community and belonging among its followers by instilling similar values, beliefs, and rituals, resulting in a collective identity that transcends personal differences. The Ummah concept in Islam emphasizes Muslim solidarity around the world, uniting believers from all nations and cultures based on their faith, a key tenet of Islam that generates a sense of international community. In a similar way Christian societies helped to develop a common identity, particularly throughout the period of the Roman Empire. As Christianity grew, it not only provided spiritual direction but also provided a significant part in the formation of Western civilizations, creating similar ideals and social conventions throughout Europe.[4]

Moral and Ethical Framework of Religion

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[3] Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion*. Translated by Willard R. Trask. New York: Harcourt, 1959
[4] Taylor, Charles. A Secular Age. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007.

Religion has a significant influence on how people and communities behave morally and ethically. Religious teachings offer a fundamental framework for social standards and individual behavior by advancing fundamental values like justice, compassion, and honesty. Followers are taught how to live morally and peacefully with others through sacred texts, religious concepts, and practices, with a focus on values that promote justice, peace, and respect.

The Role of Religious Teachings in Shaping Ethics

Religions frequently offer a thorough moral framework that covers a variety of human activities, from social justice to personal virtues. These lessons have an impact on society's larger legal and ethical frameworks in addition to individual behavior. Religions help to build a society that is more compassionate, just, and cohesive by urging people to uphold these moral principles. For example, honesty, kindness to others, and the obligation to pursue justice when oppressed are all emphasized in numerous religious texts.

The Ten Commandments in Christianity

According to Christianity, God gave the Israelites a set of moral guidelines known as the Ten Commandments, which are detailed in the Bible. By teaching believers about honesty, respect for others, and duty to God and society, these commandments establish the groundwork for moral behavior. The commandments, including "Thou shalt not kil" and "Thou shalt not bear false witness," highlight fundamental values that promote integrity and peaceful coexistence. Christian values are still shaped by the Ten Commandments' ethical framework, which has had a major impact on Western legal systems.

The Concept of "عدل" (Justice) in Islam

One of the fundamental ideas that underpins Islamic law and individual conduct is the idea of عدل or justice. The significance of justice is emphasized frequently throughout the Qur'an, which exhorts adherents to act justly and respect the rights of others. Beyond legal issues, the Adl principle encompasses social and personal ethics, such as the obligation to assist those in need, fairness in trade, and equitable treatment of others. For instance, the Qur'an instructs believers.

In Surah Nisa verse no. 58 Allah (عزوجل) emphasizes the necessity of keeping promises and reigning with justice. It emphasizes the wisdom of Allah (عزوجل) instructions, as well as His complete knowledge of all deeds and judgements.

In addition to being essential to individual behavior, this idea of justice forms the cornerstone of Sharia law, the Islamic legal code that aims to establish a just community.

Ethical Guidance and Social Justice

Religions frequently emphasize how important it is to assist others, particularly those who are dispossessed. As demonstrated by Jesus Christ's teachings, which exhorted his disciples to love their neighbors as themselves, Christianity places a strong emphasis on charity and aiding the underprivileged. Similar to this, Islam promotes justice in all spheres of life, including social and economic equity, and many of its teachings call for aiding the oppressed and the less fortunate.

Among other things, both religions emphasize the idea that moral action goes beyond individual conduct to include social responsibility.[5]

Concept of Religiosity in an Islamic Perspective

In Islam, religiosity, also known as **(الدين)** refers to a whole manner of living that combines ethics, practice, and faith. As a reflection of the complex character of religiosity in the Islamic setting, the Arabic term **(الدين)** not only denotes religion but also conformity, power, law, order, obedience, and adoration. [6]

Islamic teachings emphasize the concept of تقوى (piety), which urges Muslims to pursue lives of integrity, compassion, and fairness. This emphasis on ethical behavior emphasizes the significance of internalizing religious beliefs in promoting personal development and communal harmony. Furthermore, current discussions in Islamic philosophy emphasize the active interaction between traditional religious ideas and modern concerns. Analytic approaches in Islamic philosophy provide sophisticated concepts about faith, reason, and values, allowing for a deeper understanding of religiosity in modern times. Scholars have investigated numerous facets of Islamic religiosity, emphasizing its importance in shaping individual character and society norms.[7] Furthermore, recent discussions in Islamic philosophy emphasize the dynamic interaction between traditional religious theory with modern challenges. In Islamic philosophy, analytical strategies provide sophisticated explanations of ethics, belief, and logic, leading to an in-depth comprehension of religiosity in today world.[8]

Relevance of Religiosity in Muslim Societies

In many Muslim-majority nations, religiosity has a strong connection with national identity and public life. For example, in Kuwait, the Maliki school of jurisprudence influence the country's legal and judicial systems, reflecting the integration of religious principles into state governance. Religion is a major factor in forming the social, cultural, and political landscapes of Muslim societies.[9] Furthermore, in Muslim communities, social cohesiveness is greatly impacted by religiosity. Mutual support and a sense of belonging are fostered by shared religious activities and beliefs. The complicated function of religiosity in interfaith relations is highlighted by research that indicates strong intra-religious ties can occasionally result in negative views toward members

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[5] John Howard Yoder, The Politics of Jesus (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994).
[6] Redzuan Othman et al., eds., Measurement of Religiosity in Islamic Perspective (Kuala Lumpur: International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), 2023).
[7] Zarepour, Mohammad Saleh, ed. *Islamic Philosophy of Religion: Essays from Analytic Perspectives*. London: Routledge, 2023, 115.
[8] Yedullah Kazmi, "Articles of Faith and Organized Religion in Islam: Historicity and Faith and Its Implications," *Islamic Studies* 47, no. 2 (2008): 173–195.
[9] "Measuring Religiosity in a Majority Muslim Context: Gender, Religious Salience, and Religious Experience among Kuwaiti College Students," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion 50*, no. 2 (2011): 339–352.

of the outgroup.[10] Religion has an impact on political culture as well. Religious principles influence political movements and ideologies, influencing governmental systems and policy choices in many Muslim cultures. This interaction between politics and religion emphasizes how crucial it is to comprehend religiosity in order to analyze political dynamics in these settings[11]. Moreover, the Islamic notion of (الدين), which integrates conformity, power, law, order, obedience, and worship, demonstrates the all-encompassing character of religiosity in Muslim communities, influencing everything from individual behavior to social norms and legal systems.[12]

Islamic Framework of Religiosity

Islam regards religiosity as a comprehensive concept that includes morals (اخلاق), action (عباده), and belief (ايمان). This trinity forms the foundation of a Muslim's life, controlling moral behavior, worship, and beliefs.

- **Faith (*ايمان*): Core Beliefs and Doctrines:** Iman represents persistent adherence to Islam's essential values. This includes faith in prophets, revealed books, angels, the Day of Judgement, divine predestination, and God's oneness. The Quran explains these core concepts, and Hadith literature elaborates on them. The strength of an individual's Iman is indicated by their commitment to Islamic beliefs and faith in God.

- **Practice (*عبادة*): Rituals and Worship:** The Islamic required acts of worship, known as ibadah, are expressions of religion. The Five Pillars are among the principal acts:
  1) شهاده**:** The Shahada is a confession of faith that confirms Muhammad prophetic status as well as God's unity.
  2) الصلوة**:** The five daily prayers, which promote a continuous relationship with God.
  3) زكوة**:** The practice of almsgiving to the poor, wealth purification, and societal good.
  4) صوم**:** Ramadan fasting, developing self-control, and showing compassion for those in need.
  5) حج**:** Those who are able make the journey to Mecca at least once in their lives, signifying unity and surrender to God.

The goals of these activities are to help Muslims feel more connected to one another, grow spiritually, and reinforce their religious convictions.[13]

- **Ethics (*Akhlaq*): Morality and Interpersonal Conduct**

The moral characteristics and ethical behavior that Muslims are encouraged to demonstrate are known as (اخلاق). The Quran and the Messenger of Allah's teachings serve as the foundation for Islamic ethics, which emphasizes principles such as righteousness, humility, compassion, and honesty. The Quran emphasizes the importance of moral behavior, stating that According to the

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[10] "Faith and Friendship: Religious Bonding and Interfaith Relations in Muslim Countries," *Politics and Religion 14*, no. 1 (2021): 1–27.

[11] *Islam, Civility and Political Culture*, ed. Milad Milani and Vicki Spencer (Cham: Springer, 2020).

[12] *Measurement of Religiosity in Islamic Perspective*, ed. Redzuan Othman et al. (Kuala Lumpur: International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), 2023).

[13] Foundations of Morality in Islam: Key Principles of Islamic Ethics." IslamOnline.

Quran, Allah judges people based on their piety (تقوی)rather than their race, tribe, status, or riches. It emphasizes that true honor and nobility stem from inner faith, moral character, and obedience to Allah. The Messenger of Allah supposed comment highlights the significance of Akhlaq in Islam.[14]

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ ﷺ " إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِأُتَمِّمَ مَكَارِمَ الأَخْلَاقِ "[15]

Qur'anic and Prophetic Teachings on Religiosity
With an emphasis on fundamental principles, religious observance, and moral behavior, the book and the teachings of Allah's Messenger ﷺ offer thorough instructions for leading a religious life.

Key verses from the Qur'an about religiosity
 With an emphasis on fundamental principles, religious observance, and moral behavior, the book of Allah offers thorough instructions for leading a religious life. A few significant verses capture the spirit of Islam's religiosity:

لَّيْسَ ٱلْبِرَّ أَن تُوَلُّواْ وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ ٱلْمَشْرِقِ وَٱلْمَغْرِبِ وَلَٰكِنَّ ٱلْبِرَّ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِٱللَّهِ وَٱلْيَوْمِ ٱلْءَاخِرِ وَٱلْمَلَٰئِكَةِ وَٱلْكِتَٰبِ

وَٱلنَّبِيِّنَ وَءَاتَى ٱلْمَالَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِۦ ذَوِى ٱلْقُرْبَىٰ وَٱلْيَتَٰمَىٰ وَٱلْمَسَٰكِينَ وَٱبْنَ ٱلسَّبِيلِ وَٱلسَّآئِلِينَ وَفِى ٱلرِّقَابِ

وَ أَقَامَ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ وَءَاتَى ٱلزَّكَوٰةَ وَٱلْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَٰهَدُواْ وَٱلصَّٰبِرِينَ فِى ٱلْبَأْسَآءِ وَٱلضَّرَّآءِ وَحِينَ ٱلْبَأْسِ

أُوْلَٰئِكَ ٱلَّذِينَ صَدَقُواْ وَأُوْلَٰئِكَ هُمُ ٱلْمُتَّقُونَ[16]

The verse says that true justification is accepted faith carried out with genuine moral rectitude, as opposed to simply completing rituals like praying in a specific direction. It mentions the fundamental constituents of righteousness, which are belief in Allah (عزوجل), the Last Day, angels, books and prophets, and righteous deeds such as giving charity to help those including beggars, relatives, orphans, the poor, travelers, and slaves willingly for the sake of Allah (عزوجل). It emphasizes the significance of regular prayer, maintaining pledges, and demonstrating persistence in the face of adversity, sorrow, and fear. And those are the people who are extremely virtuous and God-fearing, as evidenced by the entire portrayal of averse, which blends piety and devotion with compassion, honesty, fortitude, and faith.

إِنَّمَا ٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ بِٱللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِۦ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُواْ وَجَٰهَدُواْ بِأَمْوَٰلِهِمْ وَ أَنفُسِهِمْ فِى سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ أُوْلَٰئِكَ

هُمُ ٱلصَّٰدِقُونَ[17]

This verse emphasizes that a Muslim should show faith with absolute and unwavering belief in Allah **(عزوجل)** and His Messenger, in action, not mere words. True devotees and believers make sacrifices of their lives, assets, and everything valuable to them in order to bump the cause of Allah

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[14] Seyyed Hossein Nasr, *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity* (New York: HarperOne, 2002), 135–160.
[15] Malik ibn Anas. *Al-Muwatta'*. Book 47, Hadith 8, in *The Book of Good Character (Kitab al-Husn al-Khuluq)*. Narrated by Abu Huraira. Translated by Aisha Bewley. London: Ta-Ha Publishers, 2004.
[16] **The Qur'an.** Surah Al-Baqarah 2:177.
[17] **Ibid.,** Surah Al-Hujurat 49:15.

(عزوجل). This verse makes it clear that the claim of any person who makes the assertion of authentic ايمان (faith) along with emotional fidelity, requires tangible suffering, proves the faith authenticity which of course should be backed and sealed with deeds instead of expression.

قَدْ اَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُوْنَۙ [18]

These verses list the qualities of effective believers, emphasizing chastity, honesty, diligence in worship, avoiding boastful speech, fulfilling charity tasks, and humility in prayer.

Prophetic Teachings on Living a Religious Life

Islamic teachings are exemplified by the life of Prophet Muhammadﷺ, who stressed the value of social duty, moral rectitude, and sincerity in worship. According to a hadith recorded in Sahih Muslim, the Prophet ﷺ stated: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ ﷺ

" لَا تَحَاسَدُوا، وَلَا تَنَاجَشُوا، وَلَا تَبَاغَضُوا، وَلَا تَدَابَرُوا، وَلَا يَبِعْ بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَيْعِ بَعْضٍ، وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللهِ إِخْوَانًا، الْمُسْلِمُ أَخُو الْمُسْلِمِ، لَا يَظْلِمُهُ، وَلَا يَخْذُلُهُ، وَلَا يَحْقِرُهُ، التَّقْوَى هَاهُنَا، وَيُشِيرُ إِلَى صَدْرِهِ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ، بِحَسْبِ امْرِئٍ مِنَ الشَّرِّ أَنْ يَحْقِرَ أَخَاهُ الْمُسْلِمَ، كُلُّ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْمُسْلِمِ حَرَامٌ: دَمُهُ، وَمَالُهُ، وَعِرْضُهُ." [19]

This hadith emphasizes the ethical and spiritual foundations of Islamic brotherhood. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ teaches Muslims to avoid negative behaviors including envy, dishonest pricing, hostility, and social estrangement, which can disrupt community harmony. Instead, believers are encouraged to regard one another as brothers, maintaining justice, honesty, and mutual respect. The hadith emphasizes that true piety (تقوى) is found in the heart, not merely in external behaviors, and cautions against arrogance and looking down on others. Finally, it declares the sanctity of every Muslim's life, riches, and dignity, emphasizing that breaching these is a significant moral offence. This emphasizes how one's inner faith and deeds reflect their level of true religiosity. The Prophetﷺ also emphasized the need of kindness and compassion. According to Al-Tirmidhi, he stated:

الرَّاحِمُونَ يَرْحَمُهُمُ الرَّحْمَٰنُ، ارْحَمُوا مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَرْحَمْكُمْ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ"۔ [20]

This hadith says that expressing charity to others attracts Allah **(عزوجل)**mercy for oneself. Compassion for all of creation leads to divine favor and forgiveness.

Promoting Religion in Muslim Societies

It takes a multidimensional strategy that includes active religious leadership, media involvement, and education to promote religiosity in Muslim communities.

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[18] Ibid., Surah Al-Mu'minun 23:1–11.

[19] Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj, Hadith 6220, narrated by Al-Aʿmash from Abu Salih from Abu Huraira, trans. Abdul Hamid Siddiqui (Riyadh: Darussalam, 2007).

[20] Muhammad ibn Isa al-Tirmidhi, *Jamiʿ al-Tirmidhi*, Hadith 1924, narrated by ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn ʿAbd Allāh ibn Abī Laylā from al-Aswad ibn Surayʿ, trans. Abu Khaliyl (Riyadh: Darussalam, 2007).

- **Role of Education:** Islamic education is essential for strengthening religion and imparting core values in Muslim societies. It generates a sense of belonging and stimulates communal involvement, which promotes social duty and spiritual development. By emphasizing character growth and lifelong study, Islamic education produces people who contribute to society.[21]

- **Media and Religiosity:** The emergence of digital media has had a big impact on Muslims' religious beliefs. Social media platforms in particular have evolved into forums for the discussion, expression, and modification of religious views. There is a new wave of Muslim social media influencers that challenge established religious leaders and present a range of viewpoints on Islamic customs. These influencers are frequently Western-educated and skilled in digital storytelling. Because of this dynamic, both the expansion of personal religious expressions and the challenge to established standards have occurred. [22]

- **Importance of Religious Leadership and Community Engagement:** Religious leaders are critical in leading and nurturing their communities' faith. They are especially important in fostering multi-cultural beliefs and religious awareness in diverse societies. By providing religious instruction and encouraging community service, these leaders help to create an environment conducive to faith. However, these activities may be impeded by factors such as religious fanaticism and varying levels of personal awareness, emphasizing the importance of continual involvement and adaptable strategies.[23]

Modern Secular Society and Religiosity

The term secularization, or the decline of faith in both private and public settings, has been a key feature of Western countries for the past two centuries, resulting in a reduction in faith authority and practice, as well as a shift towards rationalism and scientific thinking. The link between religion and contemporary secular culture is an intricate subject that has received a lot of scholarly study.[24]

Historical Development of Secularism

Secularism's origins can be found in the European Enlightenment of the 18th century, which prioritized individual rights, reason, and science over established religious authority. The idea that government should be founded on reasoned ideas rather than religious dogma was promoted by intellectuals. The foundation for contemporary secular states, where the state remains impartial in religious affairs, was established by this intellectual movement.

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[21] Global Sadaqah. 2024. *Nurturing Faith: The Role of Islamic Education in Today's World.* August 3, 2024. https://www.globalsadaqah.com/blog/nurturing-faith-role-of-islamic-education.

[22] Bouziane Zaid, Jana Fedtke, Don Donghee Shin, Abdelmalek El Kadoussi, and Mohammed Ibahrine, "Digital Islam and Muslim Millennials: How Social Media Influencers Reimagine Religious Authority and Islamic Practices," *Religions* 13, no. 4 (2022): 335.

[23] Ulfa, M., Suryana, A., & Suryadi, D. (2021). The Role of Teachers in Fostering Religious Multiculturalism. *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding*, 8(10), 350-360.

[24] Engels, Friedrich. 1986. "Religion, Secularization and Modernity." *Religion* 16 (3): 251–62.

As civilizations became increasingly industrialized and evolved in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, secularism gained popularity. The demise of monarchies, many of which were linked to religious organizations, and the rise of democratic ideas fueled the division of state and religion even more. The French principle of laïcité separates religion from public life, resulting in rules that limit the utilization of religious signs in public places. [25]

The Effect of Secularism on Spiritual Thoughts and Actions

Religious observance has diminished in certain areas as a result of the spread of secularism, as people value secular identities more than religious ones. Secularism and powerful religious practices have lived together in some cases, resulting in a wide range of religious statements, therefore this pattern is not universal. Furthermore, as a result of religious institutions' adaptation to secularism, new interpretations of faith that are consistent with modern ideals have emerged and religious practices have been reformed. The landscape of religion in contemporary countries is still shaped by this dynamic interaction.[26]

Adaptation of Religiosity to Secular Norms

In secular societies, a more personalized and varied approach to spirituality frequently replaces the traditional form of religious attendance. This process, frequently referred to as "believing without belonging," entails a number of crucial adjustments:

- **Individualized Practice:** Many people maintain their moral or spiritual convictions despite not regularly attending formal religious establishments. The emphasis on individual experience over group compliance and a larger cultural tendency toward personal autonomy are reflected in this change.

- **Recontextualization of Rituals:** Many times, religious narratives, rituals, and symbols are adapted to appeal to secular ideals. Examples of acts that were originally only found in theological contexts are today valued for their cultural legacy or as means of fostering community and introspection.[27]

Role of Religiosity in Identity Formation

Despite increasing secularization, religiosity continues to significantly influence identity through:

- **Moral Frameworks:** Religious convictions influence both social standards and individual behavior through their moral and ethical ideals. Followers of religion in public life argue that it delivers positive public goods as well as a feeling of purpose and identity.[28]

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[25] "Secularism." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, last modified December 10, 2024.

[26] Muhammad Naquib al-Attas, "The Impact of Secularism on Religious Beliefs and Practices," *Journal of Islam in Asia* 4, no. 1 (2007): 1–11.

[27] Lesley Newson and Peter Richerson, "Religion: The Dynamics of Cultural Adaptations," in *Evolution, Religion, and Cognitive Science*, ed. Fraser Watts and Léon P. Turner (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 89–106.

[28] Kettell, Steven. "Secularism and Religion." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, December 22, 2024.

- **Community and Belonging:** In secular societies where individualism is prevalent, religious affiliations provide a sense of community and belonging that can be especially appealing. The American Psychological Association emphasizes the value of incorporating religious, spiritual, and secular identities in discussions of multicultural identity, highlighting their role in promoting community cohesion.[29]
- **Conflicts and Coexistenc:** Religious people frequently face difficulties in secular settings that put their identity and religion to the test. Nonetheless, countless instances show that communication and understanding can lead to mutual respect and tolerance between religious and secular societies.

Challenges Faced by Religious Individuals in Secular Societies

- **Marginalization and Alienation:** In secular cultures, where secularism is the prevailing philosophy, religious adherents may experience alienation or marginalization, which can result in feelings of loneliness and a fight to preserve their religious identity.[30]
- **Conflicts with Societal Norms:** There can be tensions between religious views and cultural norms, generating tension and a sense of not belonging. Religious folks may confront suspicion or derision from others who hold secular viewpoints.[31]

Conclusion

The extent of religious belief, practice, and commitment in individuals and communities is referred to as religiosity. From an Islamic perspective, it combines faith (Iman), worship (Ibadah), and ethics (Akhlaq), directing followers in all areas of life. Islamic religiosity encounters difficulties and adaptations in contemporary secular societies where it is stressed to keep religion and public affairs apart. Muslims manage to preserve their religious identity while interacting with secular frameworks, resulting in a variety of religious expressions. This dynamic interaction emphasizes the constant balancing act between preserving religious traditions and taking part in pluralistic, secular settings.

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