

JAINISM. Originating from India, Jainism is one of the world's oldest religions or philosophies, with over four million devotees. Jainism is rapidly expanding in the West. Jains stress spiritual independence and equality, and the obligation to be non-judgemental. Jains view God as the pure, eternal soul - which is described chiefly as Infinite Knowledge, Consciousness and Happiness. Jain philosophy emphasizes the necessity of every individual's effort to move soul towards divine consciousness and liberation. Jainism signifies every soul as potentially divine and advocates non-violence towards all living beings ... Jains are vegetarians. Jains don't believe in a supreme being, creator or manager, but rather in an eternal universe governed by natural laws. Jains have an ancient tradition of scholarship; they are India's most literate community, while their libraries are India's oldest. Jains have an understanding of Truth different to any other religion: truth is *not-one-sidedness*: one claim or another or both may be true. Jainism denotes non-violence as one's highest religious duty.

The foundation of Jain philosophy is non-absolutism ('multiple points of view'). This philosophy allows Jains to accept the truth in other philosophies from their perspective and thus instill a tolerance for other viewpoints.

Jain scholars have devised methods to view both physical objects and abstract ideas from different perspectives simultaneously.

This search to view things from different angles leads to understanding and toleration of different, indeed even conflicting views. When this happens prejudices tend to subside and the tendency to accommodate increases.

see also THE TRUTH 3 and TRUTH

JESUS. Christians believe Jesus Christ to be the Messiah and through his crucifixion and resurrection humans can be reconciled to God and thereby are offered salvation and the promise of eternal life. Christ's teachings can be found in the Gospel according to Matthew, namely the Sermon On The Mount; they emphasize compassion, love, humility, forgiveness and are the code of conduct for Christians.

These tenets & beliefs nevertheless are universal, aspired to by most religions and civil societies.

However, the Christian faith - burdened with irrational, delusional dogmata - is bedeviled by duplicity and ignorance of its ideals.

Christianity has been in the forefront of many wars; in the past, "millions of Christians were slaughtered by Christians who believed in a slightly different interpretation of the religion of love and compassion" (Sapiens).*

Many Christians pay only lip service to their virtuous calling; they may succumb to opportunism as they judge, exploit, vilify, condemn and persecute their fellow men.

Jesus's teachings are misinterpreted or ignored.

*see also SCRIPTURE, my blogs 981 & 945 and the appendix
* from Sapiens, a Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari*