Spiritual and Moral Component of World Religions in the Education of Modern Youth

Murat Orlenbaevich Nassimov, Kainar Kaldybayuly Kaldybay,
Turbanbai Kurmanbaevich Abdassilov, Botagoz Zhapparovna Paridinova and Sagadi Bayuzakovich Bulekbayev

1University “Bolashak”, Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan
2Kazakh national pedagogical university named after Abai, Almaty, Kazakhstan
3Kazakhstan National University named after Al-Farabi, Almaty, Kazakhstan
4Kaz UIR & WL named after Abylay khan, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Submitted: Aug 5, 2013; Accepted: Sep 14, 2013; Published: Sep 22, 2013

Abstract: The problem of the interaction and dialogue of the world religions today is extremely important. In our opinion, this is because the world in terms of total globalization has become unusually interconnected and interdependent. If earlier people lived in a stable world, where everything was familiar to them and as usual, but today everything has changed. For example, if in the past, you say, born Chinese or Indian, then you most likely were destined to survive for their entire lives in one culture, one religion, often in one province, sometimes in the same house-live, love and die in several spans of the land. But today, in the context of globalization, we have not only freedom of movement, but also the opportunity to be more thoroughly acquainted with any religion of the world, or have the opportunity to immerse themselves in virtually every known culture and study it. In the ‘global village’, which is now the world, all cultures, all religions, all sciences are to some extent open and permeable to each other.

Key words: Religion · Moral · Freedom · Knowledge · Culture

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge itself is now global. This means that for the first time in history people have access to the entire sum of human knowledge: discovery, experience, wisdom and reflection of all the major world religions and civilizations. All this knowledge is now available to everyone. In short, over the past few decades of the century we have witnessed an unprecedented historical situation: when a modern man is practically available to all cultures and religions of the world. When a person already has, to some extent, the possibility to a quite selection. Reflecting on this new situation, which turned out to modern mankind, the eminent philosopher and psychologist Ken Wilber says, what would happen if we took literally everything that each of the cultures or religions can tell us about human potential-spiritual, psychological and social development and will resume it to all humanity? What happens if we, based on the sum of the total of human knowledge that is open to us, try to find important clues to the fundamental understanding of human development? What happens if on the basis of extensive cross-cultural and interreligious research, we try to use the experience of all the great traditions and religions of the world to produce all-embracing, universal, or an integrated map, manuals or guidelines that incorporate the best of what is modern humanity [1].

The Main Part: This is very interesting and attractive idea of Ken Wilber, in our view, in recent years found many of his supporters. Their arguments boil down to the following points. Firstly, the world’s religions have ceased to fully meet the spiritual needs of modern people, since they were created in a different time, in other contexts and for other people. Today the world is different, as the man himself, modern man has need another religion, or rather, some spiritual guidance, which correspond to the increased requirements. Secondly, in view of changed circumstances and changed human may be it will be very good if the best representatives of the three world
religions should come together and socialize together, forgetting for a time, historical or contemporary grievances and claims. Thirdly, perhaps, they could learn from each other and then jointly develop a new spiritual guidance and values that meet the requirements of a modern man. The goal of all religions one-using it divine word make a man more perfect, more moral, better. We start this dialogue.

First, it is beyond doubt is that the leaders of many world religions finally managed to get together for the first time in one place in one country named Kazakhstan. We mean the forum of world religions, initiated by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. By the way, this forum has become traditional, already planned for the next forums. Specially for this forum, Kazakhstan has built a unique in its architectural design the "Palace of Peace and Harmony".

Second-this is the beginning of uneasy dialogue between different religions. The outcome of this dialogue, despite the fact that it was not led to significant results was encouraging. Although it would probably naive to believe that the age-old struggle between the religions at once would lead to serious results.

Third, today, we can see the example of a productive dialogue that based on the integral method of Ken Wilber. This man has managed to create the world's first integral community of scholars-Integral University. According to this scientist, the use of an integral approach to religion and spirituality, made possible to create the Integral Spiritual Center, which brought together some of the leading spiritual teachers of the world, representing all major world religions and not just to simply listen to each other, but in the first turn to learn from each other. It could be considered as the "teaching for teachers" and it would be one of the most outstanding educational establishments, which could be imagined. In history it has never happened before. Trying to not get into an argument with these scientists, advocated the creation of new approaches in the field of religion, we can mention only that the World really has changed and it has become a product of human labor. Changes that people made in this world are so grand and ambitious that it is often compared to geological shifts. At the same time, moral and spiritual changes in the parameters of a modern man over the past two millenniums, unfortunately, according to many outstanding leaders of mankind, have not undergone any significant changes. Humanity can not create better spiritual and moral values that Buddha, Lao Tzu, Jesus and Mohamed did. As reality shows, unfortunately, material progress does not cause automatically the spiritual progress. Human consciousness and culture, as a rule do not keep up with the changes that occur in the material world. A person could not not become better morally than it was two thousand years ago. Moreover, there are some signs that it has become worse. All this was not exactly planned progress towards the goals of the great philosophers of the Enlightenment and the West. Special contribution to these processes has made by the Western economic model based on the culture of individualism, which supplanted the religious culture and provided a strong impetus for the profit and for the creation of consumer civilization. This market model is extended market relations in those areas that are not relevant to the market. We mean the areas such as state, society, group, education and culture. In the market the main purposes are the interests of a man to maximize profits, in the state, by definition, the public and collective interests should dominate. Spreading of market relations in the field of state and collective relationships inevitably leads to the creation not just a market economy, for example, like in many post-Soviet states, but also to the construction of a market society. Unfortunately this type of capitalism is very similar by the main parameters to the Latin American type, but not the liberal-democratic type of the West. History shows that in societies in which all areas dominated by market relations, as a rule, an ethical and spiritual aspects are supplanted, not to mention the sacral. Awareness of this problem, in our opinion is crucial to the future of our society. This should be done using programs based on the long and well-designed strategy. The success of many countries that have reached phenomenal success, in a relatively short period of time clearly shows that they are achieved through intelligent and farsighted program, due to people's confidence in these programs, also due to the ability to combine the interests of state and business, through intelligent policy based on seriously, theoretical and ideological grounds. In our view, it is the politics of modern China, which rate is quite consciously built on the basis of three philosophical concepts of that country: Taoism, Confucianism and the philosophy of Sun Tzu. Taoism of Lao-tzu is a theory of harmony and balance. Confucianism is a stability and order in society. Teachings of Sun Tzu's philosophy is the philosophy of the greatest success. That is how to achieve maximum success with minimal losses. This culture is consciously woven into the state education system and culture of modern China. The results of this wise and forward-looking policy whole world can see in the phenomenal success of this country in all areas.
In short, today in our society, we have the need for a large-scale and long-term national program for religious education. Program, which would be based on religious grounds, culture, psychology and the peculiarities of our peoples. In short, our believers, not in words but in deeds should feel a lively interest in them from the state, which is finally should understand that in the realm of its constitutional responsibility, as a secular state, should be provided also religious affairs. It helps to protect the spiritual health of the citizens from any kind of bacilli in a "religious cover".

It is high time the authorities take care to ensure the believers produced a strong immunity against the aggression on the basis of faith. Way to prevent such diseases is known the "spiritual vaccination" of the population [2]. The most effective way is an education. It is very important today, through competent education to reveal the philosophical, spiritual, moral, social and scientific foundations of world religions. Thereby be made a bold move to eliminate the very possibility of aging in the national youth extremists or terrorists. It is generally accepted that the great religions have not only the spiritual and ethical meaning, but also a great social and scientific sense. It is regrettable only that the educational level of our clergy, especially the representatives of Islam, not high enough. Very often, the level of preaching and worship our mullahs boils down to, either to read the Quran, or hold "Zhanaza" (The ritual removal of the body after death). Unfortunately, they can not well conceal the real meaning of this great religion, completeness of its wealth, scientific and social content. While this can be explained, but that does not get easier.

Unlike our country, we can cite many examples where many scholars in the West converted to Islam because in this religion they found answers to many scientific questions. Surprising fact of conversion to Islam of the great French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau. According to this scholar, only in the Koran, he found the answers to the questions that tormented him for years, that is the answer to the explanation of the nature of the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean. The well-known scholar of Islam Valeria Porokhova says that in the West several prominent scientists, some of them Nobel Prize winners in recent years, accepted Islam. One of the winners, explaining the reason for his conversion to Islam, said that he has found the answer to his problem in the Holy Quran. According to his statement, if he knew the Koran before he could 20 years earlier to make a discovery for which he received the Nobel Prize. In this regard, we can pay attention on the book "Business and Spirituality: Sufism in Action" [3]. The author of this book is Hendrick Johansson Vittevin. This man is a Dutchman by origin. By religion he is a Muslim, a Muslim Sufi direction. He did not simply transfer Sufism, but he deeply researched it and wrote his work on the basis of Sufism, which argues that many of the unsolved problems within Western culture have their own answers in Sufism. This statement is made not on the basis of bare assertion, but based on the deeply informed and reasoned evidence. These findings seem very powerful from the views of the outstanding economist of the world, the former finance director of the International Monetary Fund, the Minister of Finance of Netherlands, a university professor.

From the viewpoint of modern physics the most appropriate form of keeping and transmission of information is the wave hologram [4]. Using it can be compactly described not only inorganic objects, but also biological systems. Theoretically justified and experimentally proved that every biological cell it is both source and receiver of the correlation wave holographic information. Based on these representations, modern physicists constructed superstring theory, which laid the holographic principle. The basis of the latest unified field theory is the notion of elementary particles as tiny (about 10 - times smaller than an atomic nucleus), the vibrating superstrings in a loop, the model of resonance oscillations which specifies the type of a particle. "Each elementary particle is composed of a single string that is, each particle is a single string and all strings are absolutely identical. Differences between the particles arise from the fact that the corresponding string Impact exist different resonant vibrational patterns. What seems to be different particles, is in fact "notes" that were performed on the fundamental string. From the position of superstring theory Creation appears boundless orchestra, orchestrated by the transcendent Composer...” [5].

This idea of superstring theory has a striking resemblance to the mystical vision of Hazrat Inayat Khan, who was more than a half century ago, wrote this: "Life is the Absolute, from which arises all that you can feel, see, feel and in which everything goes back in time, there is a silent, motionless and unchanging life, known among the Sufis as "Zat". Every movement that appears from this silent life is vibration and creator of the vibration. Inside one vibration creates a lot of vibration. And also: "When a man observes the life space, the motion of stars and planets, he knows the law of vibration and rhythm,
where everything is perfect and unchanging, he realizes that the space system operates according to the law of music, the law of harmony" [5].

As seen from this parallels recent advances of modern science are in harmony with the spiritual worldview that is so clearly expressed in the Sufi Message.

For many modern people are not aware of such facts as something that the world-famous writers Lev Tolstoy and Ivan Bunin, by the end of his life converted to Islam. Somehow, this fact of the great Russian writers to change their religion from Christianity to Islam is almost not affected in the Russian media. It is unlikely to be called unmotivated decision. In this regard we can recall and such prominent boxers as Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson, those once shocked their fans with their original decisions. And finally, most recently the king of pop music Michael Jackson, the hero of hundreds of millions of music lovers in recent years, was also converted to Islam. What lies behind this? Spontaneous random solution, or a conscious choice? The desire to shock people with his decision, or was it a deliberate choice of a man who did not find the answers to his spiritual quest and demands within the existing culture and religion, moved to another religion like Islam, because only there he found the answers to the questions tortured him.

Scientific sense is, of course, not only Islam but other religions. Including the Bible. Take, for example, the idea of creation of a man from Adam's rib, which from the standpoint of traditional materialism, treated at best as a fantasy or imagination, at worst, the tales. However, in light of new scientific ideas cloning actually is the explanation for an act of the Creator. We have similar examples of deep scientific insights much more in the world religions, which, unfortunately, occur often because of its not deep examination by religious leaders and believers.

Summarizing the following it can be said that only in recent decades, mankind has gradually come to understand that science and religion are the only alternative ways of understanding a common reality facing the people in their life and it's hard to say which of them reflects its fullest. The deeper people penetrate into the mysteries of the universe, the more prepared grounds they get for asserting the possibility of reconciliation the knowledge with the belief, the need for their mutual benefit. Along with the scientific meaning of the great religions, in our opinion, it should be thoroughly and convincingly revealed for today's youth the idea that the great religions like Christianity and Islam are the main spiritual basis of the unity of our society. Sometimes in the media we can see the attacks on religion. Of course it should be seen as a direct attack on the unity of our people and therefore as a threat to the unity of our country. We can quite agree with the well-known Russian scholar of religion Y.A Mikhailov, who says that when we hear about the ills that plagued our society today, usually that immediately come to mind are alcoholism, drug addiction, substance abuse, low fertility, high mortality, homelessness, addiction to gambling, the fall of morality and legal culture, lack of spirituality, vagrancy, egocentrism, the degradation of the family, embezzlement, glorification and romanticization of the criminal world, low entrepreneurial activity of the population, the hypocrisy of politicians, etc. [2].

Everyone who has the edge ear heard, what intolerable, for Islam in the social sphere, call the whole or the greater part of that list. When you begin to understand, it turns out that many people, especially young people, usually don't know the religious system of social values?, in particular Islam. And finally, it's time to realize that all great religions have the same goals and objectives. It is very well illustrated by the parable of the famous Sufi Jalal al-Din Rumi. "Once upon a time four friends (Greek, Persian, Arab and Turk) found a coin and decided to buy something popular for all of them. But opinions differed: the Greek wanted to buy stafil, Persian engure, Arab eynab and Turkish raisins and as a result of that difference friends came to blows. Then a stranger offered to buy for them that thing they all like. They agreed and got bunches of grapes. "This is the same and there is a "stafil", "engure", "eynab" and "raisins" they cried. So the truth that the saints perceive in all religions and that different people called it in different ways, because of misunderstanding that leads to hostility and war [6].

In general, the address of many people to religion in the world crisis is due, probably because the only way out of this systemic crisis is seen only through religion, that is, the world can save the religion and often is seen in Islam. Mikhailov Y.A says that people have in their minds a simple idea: only Islam with its categorical rejection of mismanagement, bribery, embezzlement, all sorts of parasitism by other people will put things in order in the state [2]. Indeed, today there is a growing desire to live in a society of social justice, but the lack of clear vision how to achieve it people often see on the basis of the principles of divine law. Modern humanity for their own survival of civilization to a much greater extent than ever before, needs a guide, this divine institution. Therefore, the world's religions should join forces and develop a plan of becoming the future of an integrated
society. Combine their efforts to create a single universal civilization, which should be based on the faith and spirituality.

CONCLUSION

It is also clear that the future unified civilization must be based on generally recognized norms of international law and the Charter of Human Rights, established on the basis of elements of all religions and ideologies that guarantee the fundamental freedoms of all men, women and children regardless of their skin color or nationality and are included in this natural and social characteristics of each group of people. In short, all the world's religious doctrines have equal reason to be adequately understood by civilized humanity and its representatives to find a fair assessment and, of course, to be tolerant of religious and ideological views of each other. The latter is a key indicator of a genuine democracy in modern society. Hence, the dialogue of religions is a necessary condition and the urgent need for mental health of modern man far from the political conjuncture.

REFERENCES