Paper Three

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# The Spread of Yoruba religion

The system of Yoruba religion is based on the spiritual concepts and traditional practices that evolved into a robust religion system. The ethnic group Yoruba, resides in West Africa and are estimated currently as almost 44 million people, though their majority resides in Nigeria where they cover almost 21% population of the entire country. It is regarded as Africa's largest ethnic group who speak the language, Yoruba. The community of Yoruba also lives in other countries, which are Ghana, Ivory Coast, Dominica, Liberia, Venezuela, Tobago and Trinidad, Jamaica, Brazil, and Granda. According to this religion, every person is passed by “Ayanmo”, that translates their fate and destiny. Hence, the followers of the Yoruba religion believe that humans are going to form one spirit with a creator who is the source of all energy; this state is referred as “Olodumare”. In addition, every individuals’ thoughts and actions in the physical kingdom, interacts with other living organisms. According to the Yoruba religion system life, as well as, death is considered as the continuous existence cycle in different physical form, while the spirit of an individual evolves into transcendence. It is believed by the people of Yoruba that one who came to this world has determined their arrival themselves long before about where they will live, whom they love and how they would die. It is also stated in their religion that once the person came to this world, they forgot everything. They also believe that God lives in the skies and He has the supreme power. The communication among God and people is done through intercessors, also known as “Orishas”. In the Yoruba religion, the function of Orisha is similar to Catholic Saints they too, are intercessors among the humanity and world.

The ‘American Slave Trade’ or ‘American Slavery’ is mostly regarded as the American colonies which later formed as the States. From the 16th century beginning and the 19th-century end, the merchant of slaves brought enslaved Africans in majority into two places, Brazil and the Caribbean. From over ten million enslaved Africans who eventually reached the Western Hemisphere, only 388,747 survived, making that, 4% of the entire people who came to North America. This interactive is built and designed from Slate’s Andrew Kahn, it provides the estimation of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade with eventual destinations and transport flow. Spain and Portugal first opened the slave trade of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade by sending thousands of slaves in Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean. The role of the Portuguese would neither wane ~~as well as~~ nor enhance from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The Portuguese also brought millions of slaves from Africa to America(Kahn & Bouie, 2015). In the last decades of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, it is claimed by the Portuguese that they lead in the slave trade, they sent almost 1.3 million people towards the Western Hemisphere, as well as, mostly through Brazil. It is also regarded that Spain, at one point in time, also lead in the slave trade i.e. sending almost 400,000 towards the Western region. Through contrast, the rest of the European nations ended their roles largely, in trade. Through the slave trade of trans-Atlantic, it is noted that Europeans enslaved, as well as transported over 12.5 million Africans(Kahn & Bouie, 2015). It is estimated by historians that almost 2 million did not survive. The Yoruba religion has never done any sort of salvation, but is now focused more on living better life. The good, as well as, bad heaven are also mentioned in their religion, most of the followers believe in the reincarnation, it is considered as the good thing about their religion. Although they believe that people who commit suicide or are cruel, aren’t reborn. They also do not take account of gender as according to them it is changed in the process of reincarnation.

The descendants of the Yoruba people are resides in various communities of West Africa. They are united through History, Religion, and Geography while the most important one is of them speaking the same language. Recently, the majority of people who speaks Yoruba language are located in Benin, Togo, and Nigeria. Several years ago, before the slavery of Africa, the people of Yoruba occupied the area that stretched along the West Africa coast. In the African slavery period which started from the late 1500s and ended in the 1800s, the people of Yoruba, numbered in the millions, were taken out from Africa, forcibly(“The Yoruba Faith,” n.d.). Their numbers and land area also decreased. After the slavery, Europeans such as French, British, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish divided the African continent into various pieces as well as imposed new languages and countries in Africa. In this process, the people of Yoruba suffered badly. They can now speak different languages such as English, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and French. In the African slavery period, the African people in huge number were taken forcibly, to America. The several other Yoruba people, as well as various other Africans, worked as forced labor and slaves for different European countries. When the people of Yoruba became slaves, they didn’t remain free. As they had no permission to perform their religious practices and were unable to play drums. This was their major religious practice and they were also not engaged in various other religious practices. They were ~~also~~ forced to follow other European religions which include Catholicism, as well as other Christianity forms. The people of Yoruba kept their religious practices hidden, they accepted whatever was forced upon them as the Yoruba religion was present inside the Christianity religion. Not only had the people of Yoruba survived slavery but also they survived their religion. According to the modern Yoruba ~~believes~~ beliefs, there is a slight difference between the practices in Africa. This religion’s practices in America, are highly influenced by Christian religions. The most fundamental practices of Yoruba rituals include drumming, dancing, singing, ritual healings, divination, and their ancestors' respect. The slaves were prohibited from African religious practices. So, black people went to Catholic churches they also carried their African beliefs with them, throughout the centuries they worked on both religions as one. Its adherents mostly came from Central and West Africa.

## Obey or betray the teachings of Jesus

Through the recent horizon, funds are raised for three historical and black churches of Louisiana which were burned down because of the arson attack. The Cathedral of Notre Dame raised almost 1.9 million dollars of donations. In a very short period, the fundraiser raised a huge amount of money. Though the fire of Notre Dame was accidental, it is said by some of the scholars that by the end of slavery, it became the way for punishing and intimidating the black community. The black churches became independent after the end of slavery. Though the movement of civil rights still observed the violent rise against the black churches that were not only houses of worship, but the spaces in which people organized socially and politically. The young children fearlessly acquire education. The black churches were the community central place where young people learned the techniques of public speaking and also got musical training. Churches are regarded as the central places for community and when such places are targeted. It terrorizes the whole community. The Black churches honored blackness, where blackness is celebrated which is not admired in the society. It is also observed that there is a 17% increase in the hate crimes against racial and religious minorities in 2017 in accordance with the most recent FBI's accounting report(“Notre Dame fire inspires giving for black churches burned in Louisiana,” 2019).

Churches do not emphasize idols, they are ~~the~~ places for worship and the Lord’s house. It is considered as the sanctified and holy place. From almost 2000 years ago, Gospel of Judas which is the papyrus leather-bound fragile clutch, it is believed that it is inscribed in almost AD300 which was unveiled in Washington yesterday through the society of National Geographic and presented the radical makeover based on that part of history’s worst reputation. It is mentioned in the gospel of 26 pages which is copied through the ancient language of Coptic, came apparently through the Greek origin almost a hundred years ago. In which, Jesus was telling Judas, “Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. You can reach it, but you will grieve a great deal”(Borger & Bates, 2006).The Gospel of Judas was more focused on the gnostic attention, it is also believed that they ~~also~~ have some of the secret knowledge related to the salvation that resonates among new age mysticism. The manuscript of the Gospel of Marry, reminds us about the New Testament gospels which were not only considered as Jesus's life version from the beginning of Jesus' era. It is also said that the Gospel of Judas has existed before AD180, at that time it was heretically denounced through the Lyon Bishop Irenaeus. The manuscript of papyrus was also called the codex which was found in 1978 in Egypt. The fragments were reassembled, the manuscripts were translated and then it was authenticated. It is pointed out by most of the British scholars that the gospel of Judas is written several years after Judas Iscariot's death. The Gospel of Judas' basic contents were written in the New Testaments, the writing criteria were chosen from Mark, John, Mathews, and Luke which opposed almost 30 alternatives. In which it has authenticity as well as ~~have~~ authorial links directly for men who knew Jesus. This one was shifted from over the succeeding centuries. By the Gospel of Judas, Jesus told him, "You will be cursed by the other generations - and you will come to rule over them(“BBC - Religions - Christianity,” n.d.)."

The Independence Day celebrations mostly bring out both the anguish and pride. As when a Dalit's even acquire higher education they are unable to get a jobs based on their qualifications and skills. The skin color and caste system are considered as the crucial criteria for the traditional marriage alliance and the exception of such issues are extremely rare(Thekaekara, 2016). In Indian society, justice is considered for the powerless and poor people while the rule is exempted for rich and powerful. Powerful people continue to walk with their crime and are protected from corrupt bureaucrats and politicians. Though the freedom celebrations are also celebrated on a different level, the enlightened parties are organized by some of the Bollywood actors and business leaders. It is required to eradicate the cast system and unbalance the justice system from society. The freedom of the country cannot be celebrated when we cannot remove the past things such as caste and untouchability.

### The imagery of Revelation Chapter 17 to 22 based on the period of Roman Empire

Historically, it was noticed that slavery was not the phenomenon of Old Testaments. In ancient times slavery is mostly practiced by societies of the Middle East such as Babylonian, Roman, Greek, Israelite, and Egyptian. It was also an integral part of taxation, commerce as well as the temple religion in the past. In Torah's rights related to kingship, marriages, as well as the legal rights related to physical protection, are already written. In Leviticus, the liberty access and the freedom of movement were also mentioned. Bible also set rules for slaves in which slaves must be regarded as the extended family part and they are allowed to celebrate festivals. It is stated clearly in the New Testament that slavery is a fundamental part of the economic and social environment. Slavery was also in the roots of the Roman Empire as well as the world economy. It is also estimated that the population of slaves in the first century was almost 1/3 of the entire population. The richest people which were 5% of the entire population of Roman owned approximately one million slaves. In the Roman Empire slavery was cruelest and were punished badly. Early Christians were kind to slaves, the consider freeing slaves as the act of charity. The Jewish also protected refugee slaves. Though slavery issues were concluded in the American Civil War. However, the war started in the form of political struggle and with the war victory as well as slavery was completely banned in constitutional. In the Civil War, several slaves were freed they defeated the Confederacy General who was Catholic.

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