

Response Essay

Student's Name:

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The Cunningham and Kelsey's

Cunningham and Kelsey's definition of a religion simply refers to various meanings such as the notion of sacred reality that has been made to manifest in human experience in a manner that it can be used to deliver the long ways of thinking, acting, and feeling in accordance to problems of ordering and understanding the existence. The text looks at theoretical issues and practices observed in high ranked world religions. The texts also tries to highlight some of the theoretical issues that are associated with the religion study while focusing mostly in fundamental issues, for instance sacred language and rituals.

Having the aim interest of values and the main ideas of Chapter 1 of these texts, it can be observed that the author displayed various ideas from that particular chapter.

In the book *The Sacred Quest*, chapter 1, the authors Lawrence Cunningham and John Kelsey discuss the ideas and values concerned with the definition of a religion.

In reading Lawrence Cunningham and John Kelsey's *The Sacred Quest*, the authors were able to point out the strong emphasis on the major themes that cut across the religious systems of the world today. They were able to dutifully dissect the major aspects of the major religions of the world. In the first chapter of their book, they define religion to be as a function of a sacred reality. This sacred reality is usually manifested in a humanistic way so that man is able to relate with divinity through a comprehensive thought life, through emotions, and through actions. These series of actions surmount to be the norms and traditions that a group of people adhere to. It is from this framework of thought-life and aggregate actions done by people that one is supposed to use to interface with the problems of the world, and to find meaning into their very own existence.

They also describes, further, to the fact that the existence of one element does not necessarily point to a religious disposition. Cunningham and Kelsey indicate several elements that constitute a religion; a belief system, emotional engagement, norms and practices, the individual, as well as the community, and the moral values resident in that particular religion. These elements are necessary for the formation of a religion. However, these elements are not sufficient enough to warrant the formation of a religion. They further indicate that religion serves both a substantive and a functionalist mandate. With regards to function, religion exists for a specific mandate. When it comes to the substantive theory, religion exists, and is distinguished by its unique content. In this case, religion is a quest for the discovery and appreciation of the sacred, also known as the ultimate reality. This reality is beyond the scope of our natural existence.

The search also gives the definition of a religion; it is defined in two elements by Cunningham and Kelsey. The main idea pointed out by these two authors was to reveal that religion can actually be defined from two different perspectives. The first element required that someone who considers to be religious must be able to confirm that a dimension of reality really exists which is surely beyond the world of experience. This actually means that the author's main idea was to show and explain that an individual can sometimes believe in something that he can neither feel, see nor touch.

They also give out the second face of religion definition "...yet with which human beings can have contact". By providing this second face of definition, the author was simply trying to explain particular value and meanings. They wanted to describe that in as much as an individual believes in this greatest power, he can as well have some forms of connection with the same power. The author goes ahead and states that "... [I] tried to tune in to the Spirit to hear what else

there might be to do in my spare time”. They also say, “Prayer has always seemed to me the most natural and spontaneous human activity...” according to this statement by the author, it indicates that the author was could have some capability of communicating with realm that is beyond our world.

Cunningham’s/Kelsey’s 4 Elements of Religion

The two authors describe certain meanings and values of the 4 elements of religion. For instance, for an individual to have true and transparent religion, then the same individual should have something to pray as well. It can be in form of objects or symbols or a form of Jesus Christ. The author also brings out the value of religion that explains that every religion shall have a written sacred text which mainly obtains the religion doctrines, and is the one responsible of providing the basis that religion shall rely upon and believes in. it will also contain mythical stories that will help uphold faith among religious individuals. This statement assists the writer in convincing the reader to believe that God is the supreme leader and the one in charge of everything.

Religion also has some opinions in after life. According to the author, a religion will sometimes imagine that when an individual dies, he will either go to rest peacefully with God or suffer in hell burning from a sculpture lake. Religious believer’s are able to be encouraged to always do good things while they are still alive, and also describes how bad things may befall an individual.

Religious also attempts to explain the real meaning of life. The author tries to explain to his readers why they were created and why they exist. The readers are able to understand that their exist something higher and superior beyond their control, and also tries to inculcate the readers with an attempt of interpreting what happens on planet earth.

The author also brings out the value and meaning concerning “Religion and Human Thought”. The author describes to his readers that every person should be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. These rights are comprised of rights to change from one religion to another, change beliefs, and also change freedom. This should happen irrespective of sex, or in group, or by doing it as an individual in public or private setting. An individual should also have the freedom to manifest their respective religions and beliefs when worshipping or teaching others about observance and or practice. This freedom for an individual to manifest his religion shall only be subject to given limitations as are outlined by law and are according the interest of society safety.

The author also tries to explain the meaning and value of religion and feeling. The readers are able to understand that religion is majorly a feeling experience. For instance, a woman may practice the commandments of a religion but in the real sense, she might not be religious indeed. She might partly be religious due to the fact that she might only accept the beliefs and practices because she might at the same time feeling very different for the universe. The author also describes religion as a "reaction of unconditional belief" according to this statement, the concept of faith is also brought into play by the author. The author also people should always not be over dependent upon certain set of beliefs or feelings, but to base their thoughts upon certain faiths such as unverified beliefs should be true and are not misleading. Religion and Actions is al so a major value and meaning that the author was trying to bring to the reader's attention.

Religion and action in fact should be considered the first on the list as according to the author Actions characteristic trait. Within a given particular religious beliefs, actions are responsible for the followers are capable of taking into consideration both the thought and

feelings and combine them to become one usually unweave the abilities to follow Gods words without considering the main interests and purposes. According to Cunningham and Kelsey. "Religion... is not only a matter of what people believes but... what people do...". The author wanted to explain that is actually action indicated on the pure sense. Actions come as a result of thought when a given individual may decide to successfully achieve something concerned with his beliefs and also entails strong feelings towards the values of their actions.