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Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge, which is power; religion gives man wisdom, which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals.

— *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the important leaders of the American civil rights movement. King was a Baptist minister and became a civil rights activist early in his career. His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. Here he raised public consciousness of the civil rights movement and established himself as one of the greatest speechmakers in U. S. history. In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a national holiday in the United States in 1986.

Text A

A story from the Holy Bible

—Man’s first sin

The serpent was more crafty than any wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Is it true that God has forbidden you to eat from any tree in

the garden?” The woman answered the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except for the tree in the middle of the garden; God has forbidden us either to eat or to touch the fruit of that; if we do, we shall die.” The serpent said, “Of course you will not die. God knows that as soon as you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods knowing both good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat, and that it was pleasing to the eye and tempting to contemplate, she took some and ate it. She also gave her husband some and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they discovered that they were naked; so they stitched fig-leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze and hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” He replied, “I heard the sound as you were walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself.” God answered, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree which I forbade you?” The man said, “The woman you gave me for a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this you are accursed more than all cattle and all wild creatures. On your belly you shall crawl, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your brood and hers. They shall strike at your head, and you shall strike at their heel.”

To the woman he said: “I will increase your labour and your groaning, and in labour you shall bear children. You shall be eager for your husband, and he shall be your master.”

And to the man he said: “Because you have listened to your wife and have eaten from the tree which I forbade you, accursed shall be the ground on your account. With labour you shall win your food from it all the days of your life. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, none but wild plants for you to eat. You shall gain your bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground; for from it you were taken. Dust you are, to dust you shall return.”

The man called his wife Eve because she was the mother of all who live. The Lord God made tunics of skins for Adam and his wife and clothed them. He said, “The

man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; what if he now reaches out his hand and takes fruit from the tree of life also, eats it and lives for ever?" So the Lord God drove him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he had been taken. He cast him out, and to the east of the garden of Eden he stationed the cherubim and a sword whirling and flashing to guard the way to the tree of life.

(639 words)



Word bank

serpent [ˈsɜ:pənt]	<i>n.</i>	蛇; 狡猾的人
crafty [ˈkrɑ:ftɪ]	<i>adj.</i>	狡猾的, 狡诈的; 巧妙的, 灵巧的
tempt [tempt]	<i>v.</i>	引诱; 吸引
contemplate [ˈkɒntemplət]	<i>vt.</i>	注视, 凝视; 盘算, 计议; 周密考虑
stitch [stɪtʃ]	<i>vt.</i>	缝; 缝补; 缝合裂口; 缝缀
loincloth [ˈlɔɪŋklɒθ]	<i>n.</i>	缠腰带
accursed [əˈkɜ:sɪd, əˈkɜ:st]	<i>adj.</i>	被咒的, 可憎的
enmity [ˈenmɪtɪ]	<i>n.</i>	仇恨; 敌意; 敌视; 敌对的状态
brood [brud]	<i>n.</i>	一家的孩子
groan [grəʊn]	<i>vi.</i>	呻吟; 发牢骚; 抱怨; 吱嘎声
thistles [ˈθɪsl]	<i>n.</i>	蓟(叶片带刺、开紫色花的野生植物)
tunic [ˈtju:nɪk]	<i>n.</i>	束腰宽松外衣; 一套制服的短上衣
cherubim [ˈtʃerəbɪm]	<i>n.</i>	小天使, 智天使
whirl [wɜ:l]	<i>vi.</i>	旋转, 回旋
cast...out		驱逐出去, 赶走

Exercises



I . Answer the following questions after you read the text.

1. Which tree is forbidden to touch in the garden of Eden?
2. What did God tell the woman about the special tree?
3. Who ate the fruits on that tree first, the man or the woman?
4. Was there any change after they ate the fruits of the tree?
5. What did they do when they heard God came?
6. How did God punish the serpent severely?

7. Why did God drive them out of the garden of Eden at last?
8. If the man and the woman ate the fruits of tree of life, what would happen to them?

II . Decide the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the text.

- () 1. The man and the woman are the only humans in the garden of Eden.
- () 2. They may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden.
- () 3. The serpent knows the secret of the Forbidden tree.
- () 4. The man ate the forbidden fruits first and then he told the woman to eat it too.
- () 5. When God came to the garden, the man went to greet him.
- () 6. From then on, the woman and serpents began to hate each other.
- () 7. The man had to work very hard to support his family.
- () 8. The man and the woman knew what was good and evil from then on.

III . Fill in the blanks with the proper forms of the given words.

1. The _____ City is a must for all tourists to Beijing. (forbid)
2. And many people ignore the _____ behind gambling. (evil)
3. They started strolling down the _____ road in the moonlight. (dust)
4. It's good to be tall because there would be no need to wear high _____. (heel)
5. Do you want me to invite your _____ to this meeting? (account)
6. Her husband _____ at the plant for 17 years. (labour)
7. The arts and _____ of the Indians had much influence to them. (crafty)
8. The overcoats are on sale in that _____ shop. (cloth)
9. Staff at the hospital went on _____ in protest at the incidents. (strike)
10. A new _____ shop opened in the downtown last weekend. (station)

IV . Summary writing.

Write a 150-word summary of the text covering the main ideas in the text.

Text B

Religion in the United States of America

From the beginning of its history, religion has played an important role in the United States. Many early colonial settlers came to America to avoid religious persecution in Europe. They wanted to practice their belief in God in their own way in the new world. To ensure this religious freedom, Americans laid down in the Constitution the separation of church and state. The government was forbidden to establish a national church and no denomination was to be favored over the others.

The religious element can also be detected in the American Revolution. Most of the Founding Fathers of the United States were deeply religious people. They felt that God had guided them to develop a new form of government. The phrase in the declaration of independence, "All men are created equal," refers to a central belief in God as the Creator of humanity.

In fact, religion has deeply influenced American culture. It was part and parcel of the way early Americans saw life. Their lives and other aspects of the culture all reflected their religious beliefs. Today America has remained fairly religious. Religion has been one of the most powerful, deeply felt and influential forces in American society. When compared with people in other industrialized nations, the United States is the most religious country in the developed world. There is substantial evidence that this is so. In America, 44% of respondents said that they attend a religious service at least once a week, against 18% in western Germany, 14% in Britain and 10% in France. Today about 70 out of every one hundred Americans are members of one church or another, about half of the American Protestants are regular churchgoers.

For most people in China, it is mysterious that the most materialistic and highly industrial nation in the world is also one of the most religious. Why are the Americans so interested in religion? Several explanations can be offered.

Religious tradition From the very beginning as a nation, American people enjoyed complete religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. Americans are free to practice or not to practice religion, whichever they choose. This constitutional guarantee of religious freedom encouraged religious enthusiasm among the public.

Search for social conformity and emotional security The original basis of religious freedom creates a social climate in favor of religion. Most people want to identify themselves with dominant values, and going freely to the church of one's own choice is a way of doing so, and gaining acceptance in the face of a subtle demand for conformity. For some people, church helps them to feel that they have a place in the community. Identification with a religious group gives the individual a feeling of belonging and a sure clear place within the otherwise impersonal urban community. Social groups, close friendships, and marriage are usually formed with members of one's own religion.

Dissatisfied with social conditions The troubles of American family and all the social ills associated with family breakdown have prompted people to turn to religion for solution. There is some evidence that religiously based programs to deal with such social problems as drugs and alcohol abuse and homelessness are more effective than government-funded programs.

The largest religion in the United States is Christianity, practiced by the majority of the population. Due to its large population and history, the United States has more Christians than any other country in the world. After Christianity and no-religion, Judaism is the third-largest religion in the United States, though this identification is not necessarily indicative of religious beliefs or practices. A significant number of people identify themselves as American Jews on ethnic and cultural grounds, rather than religious ones. On the other hand, American Islam effectively began with the arrival of African slaves. It is estimated that about 10% of African slaves transported to the United States were Muslim. Research indicates that Muslims in the United States are generally more prosperous than Muslims in Europe.

The great diversity of ethnic backgrounds has produced religious pluralism; almost all major religions practiced around the world could be found in the United States. Religious pluralism is an attitude or policy regarding the diversity of religious belief systems co-existing in society. It is sometimes used as a synonym for interfaith dialogue, which refers to dialogues between members of different religions for the goal of reducing conflicts between their religions and to achieve agreed upon mutually desirable goals. Freedom of religion encompasses all religions acting within the law in a particular region, whether or not an individual religion accepts that other religions are legitimate or that freedom of religious choice and religious plurality, in general, are good things.

(773 words)



Word bank

persecution [ˌpɜːsɪˈkjuːʃən]	<i>n.</i>	迫害或受迫害, 烦扰; 苛求, 困扰
constitution [ˌkɒnstɪˈtjuːʃən]	<i>n.</i>	宪法
denomination [ˌdɪnəˈmeɪˈneɪʃən]	<i>n.</i>	宗派; 教派
substantial [səbˈstænjəl]	<i>adj.</i>	大量的; 牢固的; 重大的
conformity [kənˈfɔːmɪti]	<i>n.</i>	符合; 一致; 遵从
diversity [daɪˈvɜːsɪti]	<i>n.</i>	多样化, (人在种族、民族、宗教等方面的)多样性
pluralism [ˈplʊərəlɪzəm]	<i>n.</i>	多元化, 多元主义
synonym [ˈsɪnənɪm]	<i>n.</i>	同义词
encompass [ɪnˈkʌmpəs]	<i>vt.</i>	围绕, 包围; 包含或包括某事物

Exercises



I. Answer the following questions after you read the text.

1. How did the American government ensure this religious freedom?
2. What is the central belief in the declaration of independence?
3. How many Americans are regular churchgoers?
4. What religion is the most popular in the United States?
5. What are the main religious groups in the United States?
6. What are interfaith dialogues?
7. In what way the religious pluralism is a good thing?
8. Why are the Americans so religious in such a materialistic and industrial country?



II. Select one word for each blank from the given words. Change the form where necessary.

compare	influence	religion	regular	society
evidence	respondent	aspect	against	develop

In fact, religion has deeply _____ American culture. It was part and parcel of the way early Americans saw life. Their lives and other _____ of the culture all reflected their _____ beliefs. Today America has remained fairly religious. Religion has been one of the most powerful, deeply felt and influential forces in

American _____. When _____ with people in other industrialized nations, the United States is the most religious country in the _____ world. There is substantial _____ that this is so. In America, 44% of _____ said that they attend a religious service at least once a week, _____ 18% in western Germany, 14% in Britain and 10% in France. Today about 70 out of every one hundred Americans are members of one church or another, about half of the American Protestants are _____ churchgoers.

Text C

Buddhism in China

Zhang Xueying, China Today

All religions are born of concerns of the human mind, so why is Buddhism preferred by many Chinese? Lou Yulie, a famous expert on religious issues from Peking University, explains that Buddhism has both influenced, and been influenced by, traditional Chinese culture during its 2,000 years in China.

Around the first century AD, Buddhism started to spread from ancient India to central China via the Silk Road, and drew the attention of royalty. With the support of emperors, many sutras were introduced into China, and dignitaries from India were invited to preach Buddhist teachings. In the same century, the first Buddhist shrine in China—the White Horse Temple—was built in Luoyang, Henan Province.

During the first millennium, Buddhism was highly praised by Chinese royalty, but rejected and disputed by common people, who preferred Confucianism and Daoism.

Confucianism preaches person-oriented ethics and focuses on the temporal world of the present. In contrast, Buddhism values otherworldliness and believes in karma. To protect Confucian ethics and Chinese conventions, Confucians criticized Buddhist doctrines and practices, such as tonsure, celibacy, and almsgiving. The Buddhist concept that “everybody is doomed to die” was also fiercely denounced by Taoists, who have long pursued immortality. As a result, Buddhism was banned in China on four separate occasions in history.

Lou Yulie considers these episodes symptomatic of a conflict between Indian and

Chinese culture. “Gradually Chinese Buddhism abandoned concepts and regulations that did not fit Chinese society, and introduced new doctrines,” Lou points out. “Huineng (638—713), the Sixth Patriarch of Chan Buddhism, prompted the development of Chinese Buddhism by introducing Confucianist concepts into the religion.” Huineng believed that everybody had a Buddha nature and could become a Buddha. He insisted that Buddhist followers could attain Buddhahood without reciting sutras and observing other ceremonial rituals, as long as they could keep Buddha in their heart. His propositions were well received by politicians, scholar-bureaucrats and common people. What’s more, Huineng reconciled Buddhist doctrines with Confucian ethics, such as filial piety. Having passed through these cultural barriers, Buddhism finally became popular and spread quickly in China.

“Chinese intellectuals are split between Confucian secularism and the transcendental naturalism of Zhuangzi. When encountering frustrations in reality, they tend to renounce the temporal world for a life of seclusion, though it may be mental rather than physical,” says Fang Litian, director of the Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Religious Theory, Renmin University of China. Having researched Buddhism for nearly half a century, Fang has his own opinions on the religion. “Buddhism accommodates the spiritual needs of people, raising their mental realm to a higher level without isolating them physically from the real world. This is an art of life that the wisdom of Buddhism has bestowed on intellectuals.” Therefore, Buddhism was quite popular among scholar-officials in dynastic times. Buddhism helps people maintain psychological balance even when meeting setbacks. In this way, it is a necessary supplement to secularism.

Over 2,000 years, Buddhism has also revitalized Confucian culture. According to Buddhism, death means entering the Pure Land, providing an instructive supplement to Confucian culture, which values life and fears death. Many scholars believe that the Confucian school of pragmatic philosophy during the Song and Ming dynasties was a response to the influence of Chan Buddhism.

Buddhism is also preserved in many masterpieces of literature and art in China. The four-toned pronunciation of modern standard Chinese was formed from the prevalent Indian style of reading.

(571 words)

Exercises

Translate the following passage into English.

大约 2000 年前,佛教开始由印度传入中国,经过长期发展,形成了具有民族特色的中国佛教。到了中国历史上政治、经济、文化最强盛的唐朝,佛教发展到巅峰,各地兴建寺庙,信徒众多。佛教的影响不仅深入中国各阶层,而且远播至韩国、日本、越南等国家,开启了东亚各国佛教的新时代。

Time for fun

Where is God?

A couple had two little boys, age 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew that, if any mischief occurred in their town, their sons were probably involved. The boys' mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The clergyman agreed, but asked to see them individually. So the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon. The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?" The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open, wide-eyed. So the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God!!?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD!?" The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?" The younger brother gasped for breath and replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think WE did it!"