

WHAT DEFINES RELATION BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY, WAR AND STOIC PHILOSOPHY



1. Introduction

Nonapprehending phenomena brought about uncertainty and even fear in people whereas the very spectacles would be ascribed to the influence of unaccountable or unnatural powers. The introductory part of the dissertation embodies explication of the notion of religion, how Marcus Tullius Cicero and Aurelius Augustine understood the concept and its fundamental division. The attention focuses on the primary features of Christianity framing the circumstances in which this monotheistic religion came into being and further developed. Having been asked by Pontius Pilate what He had done and made the Jews heavily accuse Him, Son of God, responding, revealed the core in only several words. He pointed out He had been born and had come into the world to speak the truth. Bearing in mind the interconnection between Christianity and nonviolent opposing taking life and destruction worth noting would be to more closely analyze what essentially makes up intertwining of Christianity and Pacifism that the literature defines as theological and ethical view portraying violence as what Christian faith and teaching cannot defend. It has found its origin within the Scriptural writings that, in the Sermon on the Mount Sinai, Son of God points to in 39th and 40th verse of 5th Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. This part of the dissertation looks at the writing of Saint Thomas Aquinas and his double aftermath or double effect. Probability or, perhaps more appropriately, practicability of non-religious view derived from virtue pacifism is not infrequently seen in theoretical discussions. In the ancient cultures some Greek philosophical attitudes (Stoicism and Epicureanism) have to an extent approached this feasibility.

Working hypothesis and the objective:

Spirituality represents the fundament of being and survival influencing its deepest inner² to transform into the precious value preventing influences that strive to reformulate the core of spirituality, bring about fading away of the being and ultimately its mortification. That

¹ Sancti Irenaei (1857) "Secundum quid notus Deus, et quod ipse Pater conditor omnium per suas manus formavit hominem: et quemadmodum per actus prophetabant prophetae futura," *Adversus Haereses*, Tom II, Typis Academicis, Cantabrigiae, pp. 219 – "For the glory of God is the man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God."

² The deepest inner of spirituality

explicates, in philosophical terms, the natural structure of the associated with feelings and mind and its relation to the innermost part of a human soul essentially enabling its life.³ The hypothesis rests on the necessity of integrating or even re-questioning of already known on Christianity and how it intertwines with Stoic philosophy, war and pacifism that is, the adherents claim, the only acceptable means of the continuum of ruling human intercourse. Particular attention is drawn to the purpose of the work referring to the parallel analysis of the archival and other records which certainly would contribute to more of the equilibrium within the approach.

Significance and scientific contribution:

Contemporaries have always found the signpost in what has happened in the past. History is certainly able to help in understanding the current time to apprehend the future more. The dissertation looks primarily at the comparative examining of data thereby generating new knowledge on essentially different view of the interconnection between Christianity and pacifism on the one side and Divinity and Stoic theory on the other. The research purpose rests in the wider context these innate constituents of the work have found themselves in, enduring all the complexity of time and the being of the dissertation visualizes those circumstances. Practical contribution finds its place in both the theoretical and analytical insight into the authentic interior of the observed setting. It [practical contribution] further proceeds from the new conceptual form of critical re-scrutinizing applicability of the set analysis. It is also remarkable that this, essentially empirical, research unambiguously reaffirms the earlier mentioned hypothesis or claim on the continuum of the Christian-pacifist whole and what separates or links Stoic philosophy and religiosity.

Methodology:

“...even for practical purposes theory generally turns out the most important thing in the end.”⁴ Having in mind reciprocal permeating of living Christianity, nonviolent opposing war and Stoic philosophy it appears to be of paramount significance to point out that the essence is not coming into being without the thorough research, original and unpublished records and library stuff. Hence, the work grew from the archival funds of numerous institutions. The

³ Life of that soul

⁴ Holmes, O. W. (1899) “The Theory of Legal Interpretation,” *Harvard Law Review*, Vol. 12, No 6, pp. 420

research material and data, collected, represent the prior condition of the dissertation and thus determine the basis of the approach in the form of Grounded theory. It originated in the late 60s of the last century when Glaser and Strauss abandoned the previous praxis of explaining and interpreting social phenomena by the philosophical postulates others developed. The core of the view was the transformed elasticity in the incipency of new knowledge through the new direction of development in which the overall strategy of studious and logical integration of various components shapes the research problem. In other words, Grounded theory as a distinct part of qualitative research design, through the inductive mode,^{5, 6} generates a new state of knowing out of data unlike the compilation of fundamentals originating after constituting the theory. It provides a framework unfolding the phenomenon or phenomena being investigated. Theoretical sensitivity transforms from the descriptive into the analytical level, generating the interaction of data and researchers who examine and bring them, in a modified form, into a new state. In philosophical literature, the sensitivity is seen as the ability to find and interpret the essence of information, and Borgatti defines it as the power of perceiving variables and their relationships – theoretical sensitivity.⁷ Contrary to the general unification of the compilation and analysis process in most of the research methods, one of the elementary characteristics of Grounded theory is a somewhat more complex structure of interaction in which the researcher constantly moves from compilation to analytical interpretation to *ground* this analysis in data. Such the methodological frame of mind does not provide for stages that, if properly implemented, direct inquiry from the formulation of the research question, and the compilation, to the review, and ultimately to the report on the conducted study. Instead of that, Grounded theory creates favorable circumstances for continuous retrospective consideration, a critical evaluation of earlier phases of the scrutinizing process of inquiry and, possibly, re-particularizing its further direction and all of it creates a new value. The methodology of Grounded Theory, in its nature, is the lesson of generating a new thought-intensified concept, or, in other words, a multitude of thought relationships. They,⁸ when put forward in the form of a suggestion are, as in practically any other qualitative research, presented in a somewhat more discursive form, although these communications are grounded in the unique content of the

⁵ Borgatti, S. (2006) *Introduction to Grounded Theory*, <http://www.analytictech.com/mb870/introtoGT.htm>, Accessed on 23.06.2017

⁶ Charmaz, K. (2005) "Grounded theory in 21st century", in Denzin, N.K., Lincoln, Y. (ed.), *Strategies of Qualitative Inquiry*, Sage Publications, London, pp. 203-241

Unlike deductive research, this methodological approach is created by observation in the last stages of the research process and extends to the beginning in order to reach a hypothesis.

⁷ Borgatti, S. (2006) *op. cit.*

⁸ Relationships

narrative, and, what is very important, in the analytical form of the conceptual essence.⁹ Referring to the original records makes the applicability of the methodology in this study more solidly tangible confirming so its contextual capacity to explain, predict and interpret events, minimizing subjectivity to the least possible extent, although a subjective judgment cannot be completely excluded in any scientific work. Hermeneutic philosophy developed a focus on the interaction between the researcher and research; bearing such the reciprocal influence in mind Gadamer emphasizes that being aware of the significance and particularly the nature of a phenomenon requires researchers to recognize their prejudice and realize that being within tradition does not limit freedom of knowing, but makes it possible. Consciousness effects the third, highest, degree of hermeneutic experience: openness to a tradition characteristic in the historical sensibility. Belief in resistance to prejudice, relying on the ‘absolute objectivity’ of the proceedings and denying the conditioning of historical circumstances makes for their power [the power of prejudice] that inconspicuously master.¹⁰ Inherently, a recognition exists that rational logic must examine the source and value of meaning in the foreground of the researcher's inner self and must adapt these beliefs to a phenomenon being critically examined if the ultimate goal is truth.¹¹ The theory in that way surmounts the ability to make the elementary unknown, comprehensible in the research process as an essential category.

2. Religion

Common sense enabled humans to create an idea and vision of the world and provide answers to some questions surrounding. However, much remained unresolved as people could not comprehend *the mise en scène*. They only became aware that the term, worthy of respect and indisputable to the sight, happens as irreversibly distinguishable from how they were able to understand the nature. In some philosophical discourses hierophany or manifestation of the holy emerges to more closely determine the act of the unknown materializing out of the unknown. In the circumstances, the notion, without a subdued implication, faithfully portrays reality while indicating that sacredness shows from the above.

⁹ Glaser, B. G. and Strauss, A. L. (1967) “Generating Theory”, *The Discovery of Grounded Theory: Strategies for Qualitative Research*, Aldine Transaction, New Brunswick and London, pp. 31-32

¹⁰ Gadamer, H. G. (1975) “The Concept of Experience (Erfahrung) and the Essence of the Hermeneutic Experience”, *Truth and Method*, Translation revised by Marshal, D. G. and Weinsheimer, J., Continuum, London and New York, pp. 354-355

¹¹ Gadamer, H. G. (1975), *op. cit.*, pp. 270-272

Having all this in mind, what imposes itself is that from the most primitive forms of human organization to those [forms] of more developed features hierophany has come into existence many times. Eliade denies being of continuity from the most fundamental form of hierophany in an ordinary and more solidly tangible notion to the paramount manifestation that human mind is able to both receive and perceive as recognizable and which Christians understand as incarnation of Father in Son of God. Regardless of circumstances, human being stands against the same act creating of it the hierophany of order that cannot be compared with order of the world in which man has come into being, the world of his understanding. In other words, “In each case we are confronted by the same mysterious act – the manifestation of something of a wholly different order, a reality that does not belong to our world, in objects that are an integral part of our natural ‘profane’ world.”¹² Being not able to explain the phenomena essentially the ancestors believed that only unnatural forces, an individual depends upon and to whom they feel apprehension and respect, were what prevents them from knowing more. Hence, the need to provide propitiousness of what a man cannot influence while striving “...to secure a proper relationship between himself and the Powers upon which he feels himself in the last instance dependent ...”¹³ All lead to non-ability to unfold the core of what was happening irrespective of the real nature of how he saw the unnatural forces Jastrow writes about. Indeed, these powers certainly were not always unexplainable, but the man created the theory justifying his vision, living, and attitude towards the *correct* apprehending of how to avoid the anger of the unnatural as its might, he admits, overwhelmingly exceeds his power. These circumstances, to an extent, determine the current lexeme¹⁴ [religion] derived from the Latin term *religio*. Some philosophical attitudes, to more profoundly comprehend the complex concept of religion, resort to the attempt theoretically defining the mental image of the notion notably stressing that different frames of the elementary character or characters of religion do exist. Among those who have opened the new area of thought was certainly Edward Brunett Tylor who suggested the so-called minimal definition of believing in spiritual beings.

¹² Eliade, M. (1957) “Introduction: When the Sacred Manifests Itself,” *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion*, Translated from the French by Trask, W. R., A Harvest Book – Harcourt, Inc., New York, pp. 11

¹³ Jastrow, M. (1902) “The Origin of Religion”, *The Study of Religion*, The Walter Scott Publishing, New York, pp. 197

¹⁴ (Lexicology) Minimal unit in a language.

It bears a close resemblance to Tylor's elucidation of religion that came into being within the contemplative structure of cogitation it identifies as animism or, in other words, belief that all things, both organic and inorganic, have a soul or spirit making up their innermost nature and denominated features. The closer determining the frame of meaning¹⁵ is by no means an easy task. Frequently, boundaries of the definition are lost in the fog of uncertainty potentially creating unwanted circumstances of ascribing certain religious phenomena to the distinctiveness of religion. If that happens or if plausibility of giving both the reliable and persuasive meaning disappears, criteria for distinguishing religious from non-religious ideas, beliefs, and behaviors will pass out of sight as well. The definition is necessary since it appears as a line of demarcation, as a boundary between religion and other symbolic systems thereby determining the composing parts making up the whole and what will be excluded from it. In the very act of framing the definition, a necessary first step would be not departing from, but beginning with, reality and crossing over all prejudices freeing so a human spirit. Famous French sociologist Emil Durkheim believes the basic objective of religion is to explore social determinants conditioning the religious nature of a human being. The basic understanding of the essence and function of religion permeate his famous work *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Durkheim embarked on resolving the equation in that he systematically compared both all religions and all known general forms of religiosity, thereby separating the functioning postulates that govern them and are deemed inseparable. He further writes "Pour celui qui ne voit dans la religion qu'une manifestation naturelle de l'activité humaine, toutes les religions sont instructives sans exception d'aucune sorte; car toutes expérimentent l'homme à leur manière et peuvent ainsi nous aider à mieux comprendre cet aspect de notre nature."¹⁶ In Durkheim's definition, distinction between the sacred and the secular world was of key importance and "Une religion est un système solidaire de croyances et de pratiques relatives à des choses sacrées, c'est-à-dire séparées, interdites, croyances et pratiques qui unissent en une même communauté morale, appelée Église, tous ceux qui y adhèrent."¹⁷

¹⁵of the notion of religion

¹⁶ Durkheim, E. (1990) "Définition du Phénomène Religieux et de la Religion," *Les Formes Élémentaires de la Vie Religieuse: le Système Totémique en Australie*, Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, pp. 33

To anyone who understands that religion is nothing more than a natural materialization of human activity, all religions are, unconditionally, instructive as all of them express man, and therefore each can help more fuller understanding of that feature of human nature.

¹⁷Durkheim, E. (1990), *op. cit.*, pp. 65

Religion, he pointed out, is a unified system of beliefs and religious customs that relate to holy things being singled out and interdicted or in other words to conviction and spiritual and scriptural observances that unite all those who adhere to them within a unique moral union known as Church.

It is this extremely social character of religion that, according to Dirckheim, makes it [religion] different from magic which has no church. The wizard has only clientele they deal with individually. Religion is a matter of a community and requires gathering of the faithful or Church. Supernatural is an idea or conception frequently taken as a feature of everything religious. Power beyond natural forces is what refers to being out of the explicit world, all going beyond the limits of reason and to all that does not rule within the domain of the rational. However, following this flow of association and attempting to form the meaning of religion through it [the flow] would generate the attitude of religion bound irrevocably with fundamental assumptions of the unfathomable, irrational, mystical or miraculous. Nevertheless, framing the thought of comprehending the notion in this way imposes the caution. If defining religion is unconditionally linked with only the supernatural what might emerge as an obstacle is certainly how to defend the understanding of religious teaching that Divine Being could not be seen as separate from or beyond nature but only a part of its essence. It is the point of apprehending God manifesting¹⁸ through natural laws as the innermost postulate of external nature being the impersonal premise of the universe. On the other hand, this reflection is certainly imperfect or more appropriately incorrect due to guiding thought in wrong direction. Having that in mind, the concept of the notion¹⁹ as only belief in the supernatural would impose reflection that any religion which has no elements of the mysterious is not a religion. However, philosophy, history, theology or any other study of humanity disagrees with this understanding as frequently ancient religions, then Buddhism and Taoism have no any predetermination of what frames the transcendental or even the ulterior. In Chinese Taosim [both religion and philosophy], for instance, Tao is not understood as Divine being but impersonal cosmic power, primeval origin of all things, the infinite and unnamed enabling all things. In Cicero's writings "...religione jurisjurandi..."²⁰ in general meaning can be interpreted as *reverence for an oath*. Today, theorists agree and accept the etymological elucidation of religion that in the form of *religio* can be found in the works of pre-Christian and Christian philosophers. Some of them define religion as belief in life of the spirit and in one or more divinities that created and control the world.

¹⁸ Manifesting of apprehension

¹⁹ Of religion

²⁰ Cicero, M. T., Olivet, P. J. and Ernesti J. A. (1820) "Oratio XI: Pro Fonteio", *M. Tullii Ciceronis Orationes*, Tomus II, Sumtibus Rodwell et Martin (*et. al.*), Londini, pp. 84

Cicero derives *religio* from the Latin verb *re-legere* explaining that the term indicates worshipping god and gods. He, referring to the supreme being in his work *De Legibus*²¹, uses both singular and plural form while stressing understanding that this was how sages reflect: human intelligence did not consider law rationally as it is not human resolution, but the undetermined and unspecified that, through common sense of directing and prohibiting, rules the entire universe. So, wise men said the primary and terminal law is the mind of God by reason forcing or precluding all things. As a consequence, the law that the gods bestowed on humans was properly praised.^{22, 23} Contrary to Cicero, Aurelius Augustine believes that *religio* comes from the Latin verb *religare* closely linking with one God. The origin of religion, the meaning of which is derived from the Latin verb *religare* whose essence would refer to restoring a lost relationship, or, in a wider sense, materializing a coherence between a man and what transcends him, can be found in the distant past of mankind. The two philosophers, in fact, represent the primary division of the religious world into polytheism and monotheism – respecting gods and respecting one Divinity. The complexity of religion rests in psychological, historical, philosophical, sociological and other persuasions defining the notion. Viewing the circumstances from the cosmological perspective, for instance, makes a conviction that for the faithful human being the material world, involving its phenomena, is not and has never been apprehended as what only natural forces rule over. Nature is perpetually emotionally permeated with and bristling with a religious worth rendering it desirable. It does not seem difficult to apprehend the thought since the universe and harmonious whole has come into being as the immortal and angelic *pièce de résistance*²⁴ of God's creation. It is this divine feature of origination that enables materialization of earthly sphere sacredness. It is not merely a holy veneration the Divine Being conveys as, for instance, sacrality of a place or an object that can be consecrated by the very presence of a deity nature. Such the divine nucleus of the above conveyed its might, to a much larger extent, through manifesting the distinct and separate modes of the holy in the very interrelation of composing parts of the universe and of extraterrestrial phenomena.

²¹ On the Laws

²² Boethii (1823) *De Consolatione Philosophiae*, Curante et Imprimente A. J. Valpy, A. M., Londini, pp. 462

Hanc igitur uideosapientissimorum fuisse sententiam, legem neque homin umingeniis excogitatam, nec scitum aliquod esse populorum, sed aeternum quiddam, quod uniuersum mundum regeret imperandi prohibendique sapientia. Itapricipem legem illam et ultimam mentem esse dicebant omnia ratione autcogentis aut uetantis *dei*. Ex quo illa lex quam *di* humano generi dederunt, recte estlaudata...

Emphasis added: Italics *dei* and *di*.

²³ Tufts University, *M. Tullius Cicero: De Legibus*, Available at:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A2007.01.0030%3Abook%3D2%3Asection%3D8>,

Accessed on 11th December 2016.

²⁴ The most important, paramount or notable characteristic

The universe and harmonious whole stands before the religious man so that they, looking thoughtfully at the world before their eyes, reveal the unknown, a multitude of forms of the holy and, following from it, of being. Apart from all the foregoing, the harmonious whole of the universe breathes with the innermost orderly interrelation of elements giving so cosmos, rightly, the creation of the Divine Might. This *pièce de résistance* keeps from peril its translucency shining through from behind that miraculously opens the holy. The heaven with its undisturbed continuity opens distance without boundaries revealing both the pre-eminence and paramountcy of the Divine being. Similar to the deity transcendence, the earthly sphere assumes the form of opening its interior following the cosmic periodicity in perfect order, conformity and perpetuity. The universal and harmonious whole is a living form of being at every fraction of a moment revealing modes of existence and of holiness. It is where appearance of Being or ontophany and manifestation of the sacred [hierophany] come together. Classical theology sees the concept as the spiritual relationship between human and Deity, in which the faithful, fulfills His will to reach happiness on earth and eternal salvation after the cessation of earthly being. Feeling, as the life force of religion, is composed of the depending on God, admiration before the magnificence of nature as His creation and awe and fearful reverence derived from God's majesty. A man in different periods of history lived in various circumstances that influenced his spirituality and understanding the divine forces evolving over time. The sensitive setting, to an extent, justifies existence of not a religion but religions materializing through the fundamental elements: cult, community and moral. The former²⁵ traditionally defines the public reverence of a deity, unnatural, natural or social phenomena. It is an expression but also an incentive of a religious feeling and an aspiration of being closer to God. The term originates from the Latin word cultus [care] as a believer obligation to Deity referring primarily to oblations and rituals. The faith community, being the second fundamental component of religion, is understood as the most intimate possible union involving even the more basic internal organization and division of roles. Moral is certainly an expression in what social surrounding and daily living mean.

²⁵ Cult

It defines the core of behavior in accordance with the will of religion that materializes through these integral elements, permeates all the human being and imposes “...à sa raison des croyances, à sa volonté des lois et des sanctions, à son coeur des affections, à son corps des attitudes et des gestes.”²⁶ Apart from the cult and community, moral religion encompasses the rationality in the form of religious conscientiousness that the faith permeates as its assumption. Therefore, what imposes itself is faith as a concept much narrower than religion. Faith in God critically determines the substance of religion preventing so its essential characteristics transformation gradually into their negative counterparts - atheism. Around 61 C.E. Paul the Apostle writes that “...Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...” and “...through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear...”²⁷ Religious conscientiousness stems from creed reflecting the firm belief that, apart from the material, the spiritual world also exists and both the worlds are inferior to the Divinity.

2.1 The Origin of Religion in Theory: The Wizard and Ruler Foundation

Scholars have attempted to offer reliable interpretation of how people have come to believe in the existence of one or more powers beyond natural forces and determine religion coming into being. Of many hypotheses permeating philosophical circles the following three stand out. The assumption suggesting that sorcerers and rulers have invented the notion in order to give a more notable, divine meaning to the laws which would have helped them rule easier over the subjects exploiting them more and more. The Greek Sophists²⁸ followed the hypothesis and according to Critias junior, for instance, religion was created to suppress secret crimes the positive laws were not able to regulate. It [religion] is a creation of, Critias²⁹ further points out, a shrewd man who taught the veil of deceit hiding the truth forces people to believe that the

²⁶ Huby, J. (1913) “La Religion : Le mot et la chose”, *Christus: Manuel D’histoire des Religions*, Gabriel Beauchesne, Paris, pp. 7

...faiths on human reason, canons and sanctions on human will, affections on his heart and gestures and attitudes on his body.

²⁷ Hebrews, 11:1, 3

²⁸ Educated individuals or lecturers who, while travelling about the areas where the Greek language was spoken, would have given instructions in return for financial compensation.

²⁹ Born in a wealthy and influential aristocratic family in Athens Critias was Callaeschrus’ son and closely related to Plato. His teachers were Gorgias and Socrates. Critias (in Greek Κριτίας) lived from 455 to 403 BCE and was a Hellenic politician, poet, philosopher and distinguished author of prose works, tragedies and elegies. According to Sextus Empiricus it was Critias who wrote the Sisyphus Fragment – Fragment on Religion while others believe that the works belongs to Euripides.

immortal spirit lives in heaven, seeing everything, hearing everything and wisely managing all.^{30, 31} In fragment on religion [Fragment of Sisypus] Matthiae writes:

Ἦν χρόνος ὅτ' ἦν ἄτακτος ἀνθρώπων βίος καὶ θηριώδης ἰσχὺς θ' ὑπηρετής, ὅτ' οὐδὲν ἄθλον οὔτε τοῖς ἐσθλοῖσιν ἦν, οὔτ' αὖ κόλασμα τοῖς κακοῖς ἐγίγνετο. 5 κἄπειτά μοι δοκοῦσιν ἄνθρωποι νόμνυς θέσθαι κολαστάς, ἵνα δίκη τύραννος ἢ [γένους βροτείου,] τήν θ' ἴβριν δούλην ἔχη' ἐζημιούτο δ', εἴ τις ἐξαμαρτάνοι. ἔπειτ', ἐπειδὴ τὰ μφανῆ μὲν οἱ νόμοι 10 ἀπῆγον αὐτοὺς ἔργα μὴ πράσσειν βία, λάθρα δ' ἔπρασσον, τηνικαῦτά μοι δοκεῖ πυκνὸς τις [ἄλλος] καὶ σοφὸς γνώμην ἀνὴρ γνῶναι ** θνητοῖσιν ἐξευρών ὅπως εἴη τι δεῖμα τοῖς κακοῖσι, κὰν λάθρα 15 πράσσωσιν ἢ λέγωνσιν ἢ φρονῶσί τι. ἐντεῦθεν οὖν τὸ θεῖον εἰσηγήσατο, ὥς ἔστι δαίμων, ἀφθίτῳ θάλλων βίῳ, νόφ' τ' ἀκούων καὶ βλέπων φρονῶν τε καὶ προσέχων τε ταῦτα καὶ φύσιν θεῖαν φορῶν 20 πᾶν μὲν τὸ λεχθὲν ἐν βροτοῖς ἀκούσεται, ἐς δρώμενον δὲ πᾶν ἰδεῖν δυνήσεται. ἐὰν δὲ σὺν σιγῇ τι βουλευῆς κακὸν, τοῦτ', οὐχὶ λήσει τοὺς θεοὺς· τὸ γὰρ φρονοῦν ἔνεστι· # # τοῦσδε τοὺς λόγους λέγων 25 διδαγμάτων ἡδιστον εἰσηγήσατο, ψευδεῖ καλύψας τὴν ἀλήθειαν λόγῳ· ναίειν δ' ἔφασκε τοὺς θεοὺς ἐνταῦθ', ἵνα μάλιστ' ἂν ἐξέπληξεν ἀνθρώπους ἄγων, ὅθεν περ ἔγνω τοὺς φόβους εἶναι βροτοῖς 30 καὶ τὰς ὀνήσεις τῷ ταλαιπώρῳ βίῳ, ἐκ τῆς ἵπερθε περιφορᾶς, ἵν' ἀστραπῆς κατεῖδ' ἐναύσεις, δεινὰ δὲ κευπήματα βροντῆς τό τ' ἀστερωπὸν οὐρανοῦ δέμας, χρόνου καλὸν ποικίλμα, τέκτονος σοφοῦ, 35 ὅθεν τε λαμπρὸς ἀστερός στεῖχει μῖδρος, ὃ θ' ὕγρὸς εἰς γῆν ὄμβρος ἐκπορεύεται. τοιοῦσδε περιέστησεν ἀνθρώποις φόβους, δι' οὓς καλῶς τε τῷ λόγῳ κατόκτισεν τὸν δαίμον' ** κὰν πρέποντι χωρίῳ, τὴν ἀνομίαν τε τοῖς νόμοις κατέσβεσε. καὶ ὀλίγα δὲ προσδιελθὼν ἐπιφέρει· Οὕτω δὲ πρῶτον οἶομαι πείσαι τινὰ θνητοὺς νομίζειν δαιμόνων εἶναι γένος.^{32, 33, 34}

Critias teaching followers were, in 18th century, representatives of the simplistic, materialistic and atheistic rationalism who perceived religion as nothing more than the consequence of deliberate deceptiveness of priests and rulers on the one side and simplicity and credulity of people on the other. This hypothesis has been perceived as ungrounded and unjustifiable. It is logically impossible as the very notion of the wizard necessarily assumes belief in the being of who the sacrifices are offered to or belief in existence of a Deity. In other words, to satisfy religious needs of the faithful the sorcerers offer oblations for someone to someone. They [sorcerers] emerged as the consequence of feeling the need to have them, as the

³⁰ Boullaye, S. J. (1922) "l'Antiquité Jusqu'à l'Ère Chrétienne," *l'Étude Comparée des Religions*, Gabriel Beauchesne, Paris, pp. 17-18

³¹ Diels, H. (1879) *Doxographi Graeci*, Typis et Impensis G. Reimeri, Berolini, pp. 298

³² Matthiae, A. (1829) "Sisypus," *Tragoediae et Fragmenta*, Apud IOA Aug. Gottlob Weigel, Lipsiae, pp. 323-324

Critias refers to disordered and in confusion circumstances featuring human living in the past when people and their lives were subject to the whims of the powerful, when moral excellence did not know for the reward and the wicked for *poena forensis*. In his opinion the contemporaries have given a legal form to laws to enable equal treating all, justice above arrogance and punishment for sinning. Apart from that, when rules wise men have already established prevent sinners to perpetrate downright crimes but they [sinners] irrespective of it commit them covertly wise contemporaries resorted to introducing fear of the divine beings for mortals inventing so a mode of both discouraging of and arousing fear in the immoral regardless of whether they do, only say or think of committing a crime secretly. Therefore a wise man invented religion reaffirming being and immortality of the Divinity up there in the vastness of the heaven. The Being was able to hear and, through His almighty mind, seek and reflect on the entirety of human mind functioning and to know what they [humans] believe, reflect on, say or do. Knowing it all, nothing bad, immoral or wicked prearranged deviously will escape the Sacred Beings superior mind that apprehends what mortals are not able to even conceive of. Critias, continuing, explains that the wise man established what they thought was the most gratifying doctrine avoiding to unfold the core of the background – the false principles of reasoning. To persuade people of justifiability and power of his teaching he pointed out the Divine Being was right at the places where they [the faithful] were most vulnerable with fears, doubts and desires as to the eternal salvation for suffering on the earth. According to Critias those places were the starry expanse of sky over their heads giving birth to lightning and thunder they listen to with fear, wonderful ornamentation of time, the brightness of sun and rain descending on the earth. Instilling fear in human race the wise man could manipulate with their feeling how, where and when he saw fit suppressing anarchy among them. Critias, ending his reflection, points out that nobody before the wise man did try to convince humankind to believe in what he attempted to persuade them.

³³ Diels, H. (1903) "ΣΙΣΥΦΟΣ ΣΑΤΥΡΙΚΟΣ," *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*, Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin, pp. 571-572

³⁴ Τάσος Γκολέμης (2014) "Σίσυφος," *Φιλονόη καὶ φίλοι...*, Available at: <https://filonoi.gr/2014/05/06/f-sisyfos/>, Accessed on 23rd May 2018

upshot of the cause and not vice versa. That logically explains why the hypothesis on religion as the fabrication of wizards is, respecting the postulates of reasoning, impossible. The question imposing itself is whether the sorcerers were the cause of origination of religion and what explains how and why they have emerged? What explains are reasons of the materialistic and atheistic nature as well as the overall...

“Le rationalisme du XVIII^e siècle est une doctrine chétive, faite d'impertinences et de négations brutales, qui prétendit supprimer la religion sans en connaître l'essence, sans avoir aucune idée nette de sa genèse et de son développement”³⁵

...since...

“Les religions ne sont pas, comme le croyaient Voltaire et, plus près de nous, des hommes comme Carl Vogt et Mortillet, des chancres greffés par l'avidité et la fraude sur l'organisme social, mais la vie des sociétés elles-mêmes à leur début. Avec le temps, la religion a donné naissance à des branches spéciales des connaissances humaines, aux sciences exactes, à la morale, au droit, qui se sont naturellement développés à ses dépens.”³⁶

Emil Dirkem explains the emergence of a religion through the human love toward God since man, in the beginning, saw the Divinity as his friend and natural protector. Religion is a collective conception, a collective act existing necessarily in society, and religious norms are mandatory for all its members.³⁷ The essence of religion is not formation of the notion of the physical universe. Dirkheim writes that religion is primarily a system of apprehending through which individuals reach reasoning, judgment and awareness of a society and of foggy, obscure and societal interconnections. Religious concepts are mental states *sui generis*. Human being is not free when deciding whether to believe or not as the society is who impose understanding on them. Therefore, Dirkheim resorts to framing the thought of the notion explicating that religious phenomena are known as compulsory beliefs as well as practical activities of people originated in these beliefs. Function of religion as a collective act indeed maintains and consolidates the cohesion of the social group while religious feelings formed from within the group possess a supraindividual character. Hence, a feeling in man that alien forces mastered, the forces unknown to man as an individual. According to Emile Dirkheim people adore society

³⁵ Reinach, S. (1906) “Introduction,” *Cultes, Mythes et Religions*, Tome Deuxieme, Ernest Leroux. Editeur, Paris, pp. XVIII
Rationalism of 18th century attempting to justify the doctrine were in Reinach's opinion only a corrupt teaching, of arrogant and extremely ruthless denials striving to abolish religion, not apprehending the fundamental nature and having no any clear conception on origin of religion and its progression.

³⁶ Reinach, S. (1921) “L'Origine des Religions: Définitions et Phénomènes Généraux,” *Orpheus: Histoire Générale des Religions*, Publications Alcide Picard, Paris, pp. 34

Religions were not, as Voltaire and even some contemporaries like Carl Vogt and Mortillet believed, live wounds grafted on to the social organism but lives of the very coming into being of societies. Over time, religion has bestowed life on the special branches of human knowing: exact sciences, moral and law that further developed themselves.

³⁷ Members of society

in the saint form and are simultaneously not aware of the feeling. Therefore, societal groups, in the state of exaltation and enthusiasm form understanding of Divinity, they need, that brings them essential transformation. An apprehension of religion, similar to Reinach's is what the French sociological school of thought and its founder Emile Durkheim define the notion: "On s'entend aujourd'hui pour reconnaître que le droit, la morale, la pensée scientifique elle-même sont nés dans la religion, se sont, pendant longtemps, confondus avec elle et sont restés pénétrés de son esprit."³⁸ Jevons, for instance, framed the assumption reaffirming mythology as a work of the priest being nothing more than illusion as, according to him this illusion is only "...a form of the wider and coarser fallacy that religion is the invention of priestcraft..." since "...it was not the priest that made religion, but religion that made the priest..."³⁹ Jevons further writes "...who says priest says religion, *i. e.* of the fact that to assume without explanation the existence of the priest is to leave the origin of religion unexplained..."⁴⁰ Apart from being logically unjustifiable the hypothesis is historically ungrounded as etiology⁴¹ has no knowledge of human communities having no wizards and rulers. Although it is indisputable that occasionally they⁴² have misused religion it is in no circumstances correct that they have created it.

2.2 Religion as the legacy of human fear

As noted earlier the primordial understanding of human race, being not able to explain the true causes of natural phenomena - the sources that systematic use of knowledge has revealed over time - believed the occurrences their senses perceive appear to be the work of the terrible invisible and hostile might man might depend upon. Driven by the feeling of qualm of the unknown, man tries, in different ways, to endear themselves to it.⁴³ According to this theory religion is nothing but the result or the fruit of that attempt. Publius Papinius Statius, a Roman poet, studied in his native city and was proud of the early youth ability of epic improvisation. Apart from the unfinished epics *Achilleis* on his⁴⁴ upbringing and hiding place on the Island of

³⁸ Durkheim, É. (1912) *Les Formes Élémentaires de La Vie Religieuse: Le Système Totémique en Australie*, Librairie Félix Alcan, Paris, pp. 98

This school of thought sees religion not as the fabrication of individuals, deprived of every more solidly tangible foundation but the mother of morality, entitlement and the very scientific thought.

³⁹ Jevons, F. B. (1896) "Mythology," *An Introduction to the History of Religion*, Methuen & Co., London, pp. 269

⁴⁰ Jevons, F. B. (1896), *op. cit.*, pp. 38

⁴¹ Study of causes or origins

⁴² wizards and rulers

⁴³ The unknown might

⁴⁴ *Achilleis*

Skyros where Odysseus found him and led to the foot of Troy and apart from *De bello Germanico* [On the German War] his poetic abilities are clearly distinguishable in the collection *Silvae* made up of 32 poems on a variety of occurrences such as birthdays, weddings, art objects or descriptions of nature for instance. With the poetic talent and vivid fantasy Statius shows tendency towards poetry patterns featuring poets of collapse of the Roman society. The contemporaries downrightly appreciated Statius whereas the distinguishable ease of composing verses enabled him to move, in Rome, about rich and courtier circles emperor Domitian was bearing witness to. He dedicated his main work to him – the mythological epic of *Thebais* in 12 volumes, about the battle of the sons of Edith of Ethiopia and Polynesia for power in Thebais. In the third book Statius confirms this hypothesis on religion as the legacy of human fear of natural phenomena when writing “...primus in orbe Deos fecit timor.”^{45, 46, 47, 48} According to this philosophical direction, emerging in some discourses as perhaps the oldest and most widespread theoretical understanding of the notion, religion is ultimately the consequence of human unawareness as man believes what only explains natural phenomena are supernatural and hostile invisible forces he is afraid of not knowing natural causes of these phenomena. Explication of the circumstances rests in that the longest-living and perhaps the generally acknowledged conviction that a state of consternation brought about religion as Hume finds out “that in all nations which have embraced polytheism, the first ideas of religion arose, not from a contemplation of the works of nature, but from a concern with regard to the events of life, and from the incessant hopes and fears which actuate the human mind.”⁴⁹ Scholarly literature pretty widely accepts the way of Hume’s reflection and Ribot referring to it indisputably confirms “...se compose le sentiment religieux...Avant tout, l’émotion de la peur à ses divers degrés, depuis la terreur profonde jusqu’à l’inquiétude vague, due à la foie en une puissance inconnue, mustérieuse, insaisissable...”⁵⁰ More detailed unfolding the hypothesis reveals the circumstances reaffirming its [hypothesis] opposition to psychological facts in that

⁴⁵ Petronius, A. (1629) “Fragmenta,” *T. Petronij Arbitri equitis Romani Satyricon*, Iohannes Mercerus, pp. 11
It was fear that first made gods in the world.

⁴⁶ Lemaire, N. E. () “In Superstitionem,” *Poetae latini minores: Lucilii Junioris, Saleii Bassi, et aliorum Carmina Heroica Epithalamia, et Homeristarum Latinorum Opera*, Colligebat Nicolaus Eligius Lemaire, Parisiis, pp. 312

⁴⁷ Petronius, A. (1621) “Satyricon,” *T. Petroni Arbitri Satyricon cum Petroniorum Fragmentis: Nunc Iterum Limatum & Auctum*, In officina Wecheliana, apud D. & D. Aubrios & Clementem Schleichium, Francofurti, pp. 207

⁴⁸ Petronii, A. T. (1669) “Satyricon,” *Satyricon, Cum Fragmento Nuper Tragurii Reperto*, Ioannis Blaeu., Amstelodami, pp. 518

⁴⁹ Hume, D. (n.d.) “Introduction: Origin of Polytheism,” *The Natural History of Religion*, A. and H. Bradlaugh Bonner, London, pp. 8-9

⁵⁰ Ribot, Th (1896) “Le Sentiment Religieux,” *La Psychologie des Sentiments*, Félix Alcan, Paris, pp. 301

The religious feeling is made up of...primarily the sentiment of fear in a variety of its depths, from the intense terror to undetermined apprehension, due to conviction in unidentified, mystifying, unobservable might...

the innermost interpretation of the theory unjustifiably puts the religious sense in a simpler systematic form of feeling fear. On the contrary, the equation between these two senses cannot be defended as they to a great extent differ from one another. Disturbing feeling of danger in human being withdraws them from the fear's focus of attention or object of fear. Religious perception through either intellect or senses not only does not erect a barrier moving man away from supernatural might or might's existence man believes in but undermines being of what makes them alien one to another. Pieces of evidence could be pointed to even in religions of the most primitive indigenous tribes that are at the lowest level of cultural development. It is difficult to prove, but also to assume, that there used to be a human community which did not support a pre-form of man's relation to the transcendental. Religion, as a very complex human phenomenon, exists from the very beginning of human origination. At the earliest days of human life, there was no atheism, but faith in God. Consciousness about Him has always been deeply embedded in the hearts of men, so that through all the history of humanity no one has ever found a generation having no a concept of the supernatural, of the divine. A famous Roman philosopher Lucius Mestrius Plutarchus wrote that traversing the world would perhaps help find cities with no walls around, with no kings, schools, letters, wealth or theatres. However, he further wrote, no one has ever seen a city without a place of worship or a temple prayers or worships are not practiced in. At those worships the primitive man looked for a sincere and true relationship with the above power as only through Its divinity they hoped they would reach the genuine friendship with the world. In his understanding only Deity could apprehend, heal and accept the prayers making him feel pleasure for overpowering the cosmic distance and being in close vicinity of Who he prays for and to. These people do not see, in their deities, the beings who are necessarily evil they have to conciliate with for the fear hanging suspended in mid-air. They do see in Them more protectors and natural allies. For primitive man deity is the power always near giving needed ability they do not receive from nature.⁵¹ The fact that these people served God out of love and not out of fear does not mean that they have disregarded God's law saying it was invalid; on the contrary they pointed to love towards Deity and contemporaries as the only way of reverencing God's canon. Primordial ancestors realized that Deity does not propose respecting His commandments as a means of gaining eternal life. They reverence the commandments primarily for their⁵² justness and reasonableness. Therefore, the logical conclusion imposing itself is that religion rightly deserves definition of a positive relationship between the absolute subject (God) Who is simultaneously provider of the

⁵¹ Durkheim, É. (1912), *op. cit.*, pp. 320

⁵² Commandments'

Revelation and the relative subject (human being) or recipient. In such the state religion is principally grounded in God-given Revelation, since human being alone could never do it,⁵³ as well as in man's personal relationship with the transcendental formed through human experience. Man is not an object of religion as it⁵⁴ has no living union with God. However, those who are the subject⁵⁵ create, or perhaps more appropriately, constitute their religion in communion with Him. The closer framing the definition in this form indeed refers to cognitive, emotional, willing and practical essence of the substance and significance of religion that, consequently, should not be determined as merely an expression of consciousness about deity or the expression of sensing God (although being of religion is not possible without consciousness and sense). What would complete the fuller image of the notion, including consciousness and sense of course, is the need of willing, acceptance and giving oneself. It is essential to believe in God. Only intellectual consent that He exists is not sufficient. A man who serves divinity out of fear does not see themselves as a relative subject in their relationship with God, but rather as an object of religion visualizing God ready to punish those who do not meet the norms, laws, various ecclesiastical or other religious regulations and customs. They do not know God Who is love, but see Him as a being they, in some way, have to propitiate. From even the ancient past, religion notably distinguishable from charms or wizardry, finds the interlocutors in kinsmen (not antagonistic beings) who occasionally may disagree with one another but who are generally calmed and tolerant, preserving however the worships from any negative influence. It is not fear of the unknown might but the profound respect or perhaps more appropriately reverence of the kindred towards gods that created the innermost of where and how religion originated. A deeper both emotional and intellectual analysis of what is written in the Scriptures undisputably reveals that God loves this world and takes care of it. The Prophet Jeremiah in his Book writes "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee."⁵⁶ Jesus continuing the thought further says that His followers serve God and those who are closest to Him only out of love. Responding to the teacher of the Jewish law who asked what the great commandment of the law was, Son of God pointed out "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these

⁵³ Frame the grounded circumstances of religion

⁵⁴ The object of religion

⁵⁵ Of religion

⁵⁶ Jeremiah, 31: 3

two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”⁵⁷ Paul the Apostle writes to the church in Rome that God's law can be respected only if love is a motive.⁵⁸ The same apostle wrote such an anthem of love whose value, to this day, has not been surpassed.⁵⁹ Another Christ's disciple, John the Apostle in his epistles and the gospel devoted much attention and space to God's love. He goes so far in his affirmation when saying that love to and fear of God are mutually opposing; one who serves God out of love free their soul from painful sense of fear. John the Apostle's message is that God cannot be served both out of love and out of fear simultaneously. He further says “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.”⁶⁰ The impression imposing itself after reading through these two verses is that one having a feeling of love to God from the deep interior of their soul and heart will never be in a temptation of dreading Him as Who judges. Being a part of the Divine spirit and having power of a perception, either acquired or intuitive, of the Sacred recognition generates nothingness of what brings about torment. John the Apostle stresses the faultless and genuine love in its entire fullness man receives from the above, ‘casteth out fear’ which would be in other words safe and painless freeing from all the jaws of terror relative to the current time and this is what the Saint Apostle particularly refers to. The 19th verse is made up of the paramount message in form of the ground of man's love towards Jesus Christ as Saint John says ‘We love him, because he first loved us.’ Having the said in mind, beginning of religion should not be, contrary to this theory, looked for within the complex circumstances framing fear of man as the ground of their relationship with Divinity but in love, respect and reverence they have one towards another.

⁵⁷ Matthew, 22: 37-40

⁵⁸ Romans, 13: 10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

⁵⁹ 1 Corinthians, 13: 1-13

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge ; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not ; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth : but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child : but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face: now I know in part ; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

⁶⁰ 1 John, 4: 18-19

2.3 Animism assumption

Animism is a widely spread belief of primitive peoples on functioning of what in humans is understood as immortal, immaterial and separable from the body at the end of living and on spiritual forces in nature. It is also understood as the metaphysical beginning of formation of perception framing soul as the living postulate every body agency [and perhaps equally important non-living substances as well] depends upon. The belief interpretation of conduct featured man's first efforts to constitute sense of the surrounding they live in, the surrounding involving others, animal species, water or fire, for instance. At some point of organisms development the sense, how the predecessors understood it, influenced progression of cognisance of their⁶¹ being and expectations, mystifying might of human living and of other beings which⁶² leaves the body at the end of its physical existence. Therefore the ancestors acquired conviction of the force, they could not fully define, making their bodies alive, giving reliable explication of the sense of both personal and collective identity, cogitation and manner of conduct. The experience of a state of abstraction or vision in sleep that by rule brings about physical separation between the body and circumstances in which the vision 'materializes' indeed indicates cognition that the metaphysical, being able in some state and particularly in some circumstances to live in the body, can leave it. Placing confidence in metaphysical core of one's emotional nature, breathing in soul, indeed adheres to the postulates of faith in an immaterial existence after separation of body once the material structure⁶³ ceases physically to exist and turns into relics; these are circumstances permeating many religions. According to the creator of this hypothesis, English ethnologist Edward Taylor, the elementary feature of Animism might be interpreted as the teaching "...of souls and other spiritual beings in general,"⁶⁴ whereas the belief in them⁶⁵ makes up "...a minimum definition of religion."⁶⁶ The primitive people reached the conviction while at the lowest level of cultural development as they had to tell the difference between a living and sound body on the one side and an incapacitated, or body in an ecstatic state, asleep or dead on the other. Similarly, the ancestor had to face the setting that frames their life in the awake state of the body and how it all relates

⁶¹ Predecessors'

⁶² Mystifying might

⁶³ Material structure of the body

⁶⁴ Tylor, E. B. (1889) "Animism," *Primitive Culture: Researches Into the Development of Mythology, Philosophy, Religion, Language, Art and Custom*, Henry Holt and Company, Volume I, New York, pp. 23

⁶⁵ Belief in Spiritual Beings

⁶⁶ Tylor, E. B. (1889), *op. cit.*, pp. 424

to what happens with and to the body while asleep. In the latter condition, in the immobile being they were able to attend places and talk to those who are far away in both space and time when 'conversation' occurs. Finding themselves in the alien and attempting to reach explication of the unknown was what rests behind the background of the living and dead body and what causes falling asleep, awakening, illness, death and who are the characters appearing in dreams or emerging in visions. Thanks to the level of cultural development the primitive man was at, the conviction at the time suggested that phenomena, although unlike in form and nature, were real. What gradually and at least partially was the acceptable simplification was the state of human immaterial part. The soul is able to leave the body, simultaneously be at different places and appear to people in the awake state or when asleep. Nonetheless, the human soul is not absolutely free while confined and framed within the body. Its boundless freedom comes into being when the body ceases physically to live. Ergo, it is death that enables soul living independent on the forces human being, while alive, depends upon. The moment of separation is when it [soul] turns into completely independent spiritual existence being able to become visible to people in its own unique form and, more importantly, to enter bodies of other humans, animals, live substances and those that are not, acting from within. Primordial concepts of the human immaterial⁶⁷ and simultaneously how it came into being are lively exemplified through unfolding what makes them up. In works of Dante Alighieri a theory emerges suggesting that shadow of the passed away is non-existent notion. It was not his mental finding but what erudition over time invented. Historical records first time mention Sotho speaking people around 15th century who were made up of clans: Batlokwa, Bakoena and Bataung. Around four hundred years later these clans found their national state (modern-day Lesotho) thanks to Moshoeshe (1786-1870) who under his auspices brought together all Sotho clans that were scattered across South Africa. Most of Sotho speaking people (Basotho) nowadays live in that country as their ancestors worked in its mines of gold. Basothos believe, even in these times, that one walking by a river might endanger their life should the shadow falls into the water as a reptile could grasp it and draw them in. On some isolated islands off Australia's southern coast, the Americas and perhaps classical Europe a similar conception of soul [umbra] to an extent identical with shadow still exists. However, more easily recognized or customary, within descendants of people who inhabited England in 5th century was mutual intertwining of soul and breath – the concept that came into being within ancient Indo-European and Semitic languages. The notion appears in Greek as *pneuma*, *ruach* in Hebrew or *spiritus* in Latin. The

⁶⁷ Soul

Roman traditional praxis of breath reception from the passing away does not materialize only as the religious devotion but the sacred provision of soul for the new body in which it will further live. Apart from that, understanding of other mental abstractions equate soul with heart or with the image the eye pupil displays for instance. Complexity of different philosophical processes of reasoning impose the attitude that the Animist hypothesis deprives religion of every real ground reducing it to a system of delusions. However, it is impermissible that a set of interrelated principles such as religions, which in the past occupied the place so important to people of all the ages who drew the power from it being essential for their living, be an erroneous perception of what reality is made up of. Many agree today that law, moral and scientific thought were born in religion and were for long uniting with it into a single entity permeated with its spirit. How could a hollow sequence of the imaginary images or illusion so firmly and permanently form human consciousness, and how could the extraordinary deception maintain throughout the past?⁶⁸ As already noted, in animistic theory, soul apart from humans lives in animals and non-living substances as its natural spatial frames but ethnological facts oppose cult of nature being animistically derived from the cult of predecessors or the dead. Understanding anthropomorphism refers to explaining conduct of animals by psychological terms reached through examining humans. It [anthropomorphism] is also grounded in interpretation of divine, natural and socially-driven forces by analogy with individual human characters in philosophy, art or religion for instance. Ethnology primarily reaffirms that anthropomorphism or, in other words, man's attributing their characters to substances, beings and divinities is not a phenomenon found in the most primitive and indigenous tribes. In them, in those tribes, the sacred beings are apprehended not as beings in humanlike form, but beings in form of animals or plants. Humans only resemble them and even in the least developed tribes human characters or human body shape are not ascribed to divinity. Man only absorbs Their (divine) features and shape. Having the said in mind, Animistic hypothesis is not persuasive in offering explication grounded in available knowledge of the origin of religion. If human being did not recognize the notion⁶⁹ until the belief that both living beings and 'non-live' substances possess distinguishable spiritual core emerged in their consciousness, animism in its own right would not have led to religion origination. Corroborating exactitude of the view Jastrow writes "...that animism may be the earliest system of religious philosophy devised by man, but that he does not devise this system until well advanced on the road of culture. Religious manifestations,

⁶⁸ Durkheim, E. (1990), *op. cit.*, pp. 98-99

⁶⁹ ...of religion

however, precede even the appearance of animism as an explanation of the universe, and hence, as a theory for the origin of religion, the latter would be defective.”⁷⁰ However, man has never been alone, without faith and divinity in some form as it is an indispensable necessity of theirs and need that springs from their innermost nature. If a man adores visible objects, from the stone to themselves, the strong feeling and intense interior affection to them⁷¹ have been framed within the purest of their, human nature worthy of God’s mercy and naturally striving to where and when it came into existence. Only such the invincible and mighty need or perhaps necessity of a human for God forces the primitive man to seek the Divinity in outer nature thereby inhabiting the world with invisible beings. Having no knowledge of God and not being able to live without Him, primitive men adore and worship what they know or what they see a particular divinity in and all that according to the level of their erudition. Religion is a universal phenomenon, and there is no one in the world, not even the most hardened atheists, without any trace of religion in the soul. Psychologically this can be proved by the sense of dependency upon Deity which is the most powerful religious perception that remains after all other faculties vanish. The psychological essence of atheism is the desire for the denial of any dependence. But this only proves that such a relationship exists even in those who do not believe. Different understandings and interpretations determine the origin of religion and its historical development. The majority of theorists classify the term into two groups: the natural and revealed. The former, further, include animism, the cult of nature and totemism while theism as the revealed religion divides into polytheism and monotheism that originated from the old Greek word *monos* which refers to one, *sole* or *single*⁷² and *theism* as a belief in the existence of God.⁷³ In biblical literature monotheistic faith reflects the breakthrough or perhaps the most notable stage of intellectual and spiritual advancing in a long time of human existence and encompasses Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, and Christianity.

3. The Largest Religion in the World

Indeed, interpreting the essence of Christianity would be deficient without pointing to the judge of Jesus's trial (Pontius Pilate) who asked what He had done and what made the Jews so heavily accuse Him. According to the Holy Book, Jesus rose three days after the crucifixion,

⁷⁰ Jastrow, M. (1902), *op. cit.*, pp. 182

⁷¹ Objects

⁷² Strong, J. (n.d.) A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament, Abingdon Press, Nashville, pp. 49

⁷³ Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture (1992) 1st ed., Longman Group UK Limited, Harlow-Essex, pp. 1370

resurrected, overcame death and returned to God the Father. In answer to the prefect's question Son of God reveals the core of Christianity and says "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice..."⁷⁴ It, then, becomes apprehensible why Christianity is primarily a religion of truthfulness and Son of God once more confirms the reliability of apprehension when saying that the Father gave Him a commandment what to say and what to speak.⁷⁵ In the Gospel Christ somewhat later says that He would send Holy Spirit to guide His disciples into all truth⁷⁶ and that was why the high priests named Him malefactor.⁷⁷ Christianity arose in the first half of 1st century C.E.; it was time of various barbarian tribes pressing into the Roman Empire while the slaves rebelled against the unceasing imposition of slavery charges. Those were the circumstances in which both the privileged and enslaved would receive different mystical teachings; at the same time, the central authority needed a unique faith to more efficiently order internal organization. It arose in the form of the Abrahamic, monotheistic religion whose fundamentals rest on studying the life and teaching of Son of God found in the New Testament. Thanks to Paul the Apostle and his missionary journeys, in the second half of the same century, Christianity started to spread as a separate and independent religion about cities of the Empire. It preached the equality of all, generating so both unconditional acceptance in the lower-middle and lower class and the downright rejection of the new religion in those at the top of the social hierarchy. Paul the Apostle, having in mind this equality, writes "...There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus..."⁷⁸ The communities of Christian believers (municipalities) existed in all parts of the empire and were owners of all property. The New Testament mentions only Christians while Ignatius of Antioch, Eusebius, Origen and other early writers refer to Christianity. Information about Jesus' life, work and learning is mainly found in the New Testament which represents a collection of writings of ideologues and founders of the early church. It is written in 1st and 2nd century A.D. and contains the Gospels [gospel or evangelion – good news] according to Saints Matthew, Luke, Mark, and John. 49 days after the resurrection the Holy Spirit came down from heaven upon the Apostles⁷⁹ who then began to preach the resurrected Son of God. At that time 3000 people were baptized. Spreading the early Christianity did not come across welcome everywhere; the followers confronted severe

⁷⁴ John, 18:37

⁷⁵ John, 12:49

⁷⁶ John, 16:13

⁷⁷ John, 18:30

⁷⁸ Galatians, 3:28

⁷⁹ Acts, 2: 1- 4

persecutions for their faith and the first major took place in the wake of the conflagration that broke out in summer 64 A.D. and devastated the part of Rome. Nero accused followers of the new religion of intentional setting fire to the city and started crucifying the unfortunate on the cross, throwing them into the river Tiber or giving to wild beasts in the amphitheater. Some were punished by beheading; some burned alive at the stake and martyrs the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul⁸⁰ as well as many other Christians^{81, 82} were executed in 65 A.D. However, as the time went by authorities acknowledged that Christians were being unjustly punished only for professing, pursuant to the laws in effect at the time, illegal religion. Therefore, they showed a willingness to gradually correct legislation. In 306 Constantine the Great came to power in the Western part while Licinius ruled in the Eastern half of the empire. Realizing that the new teaching is not a threat to the state, they promulgated in 313 the edict of toleration. The document proclaimed equality of the new teaching with all other faiths and religious tolerance. Christian communities were able to repossess their property, and unconditional return referred primarily to temples, cathedrals, and other facilities for worshipping and prayers. Christ's teaching was recognized as the official state religion of the Roman empire. Constantine acknowledged Christianity as the most legitimate and the most sacred religion and ordered building a new basilica over the tomb of Saint Peter and Paul in Rome, in Constantinople, Antioch, and Jerusalem. Pointing to the importance of free professing faith, Constantine and Licinius write

Itaque hoc consilium salubri ac reticissimae ratione ineundum esse credidimus, ut nulli omnino facultatem abnegandam putaremus, qui vel observationi Christianorum vel ei religioni mentem suam dederet quam ipse sibi aptissimam esse sentiret, ut possit nobis summa divinitas, cuius religioni liberis mentibus obsequimur, in omnibus solitum favorem suum benivolentiamque praestare.^{83, 84}

Christians believe by reverencing suffering Son of God they move towards life that will follow after the Second Coming. When that happens, all nations will gather on His appearing in all His glory surrounded by Holy Angels, sitting on the throne and judging the living and the

⁸⁰ Workman, H. B. (n.d.) "The Martyrdom of St. Peter and Paul", *Persecution in the Early Church*, Jennings & Graham, Cincinnati, pp. 362-364

⁸¹ Davis, W. S. (1913) "The Later Roman Empire and the Christians", *Readings in Ancient History: Rome and the West*, Allyn and Bacon, New York, Pp. 286

⁸² Christian History Institute (2016) *Persecution in the Early Church*, Available at: <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/issue/persecution-in-the-early-church/>, Accessed on 17th July 2016

⁸³ Caecilii, L. (1897) "De Mortibus Persecutorum- VVLGO Lactantio Tributus," in Lactanti, L. C. F. (ed.) *Opera Omnia*, G. Freytag, Lipsiae, pp. 229

And therefore we thought it was a practical measure highly respecting right reason, that no one should be denied the chance of attaching themselves to the liturgy of Christians, or any other religion their mind directed them to, so that the supreme Divinity to whose worship we, without any obstruction, yield ourselves may show in all the substances His common generosity and benevolence.

⁸⁴ Haubold, Ch. G. (1830) "Edictum Mediolanense: IMPP Constantini M. et Licinii," *Antiquitatis Romanae Monumenta Legalia*, Apud G. Reimerum, Berolini, pp. 283

dead. All will gather and all will have to go through His judging since eternity, at every point in time, embraces believing nation that essentially lives the past, present, and future in the uninterrupted unity of Christian teaching and its sources:

3.1. The Holy Revelation

Mysteries of the creation and existence of the world are inaccessible to man, irrespective of knowledge and technological means they mastered striving to unfold the past. On the other hand, cognitions have reached humans helping them reveal the unknown and that [reveal] turns into the key term. Who helped man make the inexplicable known was the Creator Himself enlightening the chosen with His holy spirit being, however, understood as one more mystery. As the Holy Scripture is the source of sacred dogmas, so is the Holy Tradition (αγία παράδοσις) the living word of God as well; the former His written word while the Tradition can be understood as the oral Sacred Scripture. Both are of the same divine origin within the revelation of one unique Trinitarian Divinity. All the more, the Holy Tradition has come into being before the Holy Scripture. The church in its faith starts from the events of God's Revelation having on the one side God revealing Himself and man receiving and believing in the Sacred appearance on the other. In the Church, the Old and the New Testament God always reveals Himself as a Person. The event took place on Mount Sinai when Creator revealed not something about Himself but Himself to Moses.^{85, 86} He showing that the well of life and of being is within Him and not within an impersonal higher might sends the message to humanity: He is the only One Who exists from eternity and Who brings the whole creature from nonbeing into existence. Only God is seen as having a genuine existence and the world, since created, owes its being to Him. Faith and Revelation are not separated from each other but represent one and identical

⁸⁵ Exodus, 3: 11- 14

And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee ; and this *shall be* a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I am that I am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I am hath sent me unto you.

Emphasis in bold: added

⁸⁶ Exodus, 19: 20-25

And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount : and the Lord called Moses *up* to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them. And Moses said unto the Lord, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai : for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it. And the Lord said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee : but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the Lord, lest he break forth upon them. So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

materiality embracing God and man. There are religions in which Revelation is not spoken of (Buddhism, for instance) but also those pointing to the appearance of Lord as a person. On the other hand, all those revelations are only indications of the Divine likelihood remaining within the frames of the human natural erudition. Anticipation of Him certainly rests on the one side whereas materially being aware of what the Might looks like makes up the other end of the continuum. Imperfection of religions before Christ and particularly those after Him manifests in their searching for God beginning with man and relying primarily on their [human] abilities. The stimulus of those strivings has always been featured by human judging of values as only a man is the sole criterion of everything. Contrary to these imperfections, rests natural apprehension of the Divinity as the Saviour, the Advisor and simultaneously the Judge. As the Creator He has given humans life, since the Saviour saved them from sin, death and devil while as the enlightener God, through Church, has bestowed on man all sanctifying means and those of venerating and salvation. As the Judge He adjudicates how mortals avail of life, He gave them, and means of salvation He has left in the Church. Following the teachings of the Sacred Revelation, the Last Judgment on the World belongs to Son of God, since He is the Savior of everything and the Holy Scripture is clear when stressing "...the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son..."⁸⁷ and that will happen on the Second coming since "καὶ πάλιν ἐρχόμενον μετὰ δόξης κρῖναι ζῶντας καὶ νεκρούς οὗ τῆς βασιλείας οὐκ ἔσται τέλος."^{88, 89} It will be the Final Judgment, but prior to the Day of the Lord, Son of God makes the Preceding Judgment on every man on departing their soul from their body. That is the peculiar judgment at which Son of God determines the soul's part in beyond the grave life up to the general resurrection of the body that will happen at His second coming.

3.1.1. Natural Revelation

The Holy Scripture undoubtedly speaks that "...God is the Lord, which hath showed us light..."⁹⁰ reaffirming so the first elementary postulate of Christian teaching 27th verse points to. The Lord has revealed Himself in the form of brightness representing so the very core of origin of Christian faith. He has shown as much of His divine essence and will as people are able to see and understand which is indeed a fullness and perfection of the revelation being

⁸⁷ John, 5: 22

⁸⁸ Bright, W. (1892) "The Creed and Canons of the Second General Council Held at Constantinople A.D. 381.," The Canons of the First Four General Councils of Nicaea, Constantinople, Ephesus and Chalcedon, Clarendon Press, Oxford, pp. xix He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.

⁸⁹ Η Εκκλησία μας Σχετικά με εμάς, *Τι πιστεύουμε: Η πίστη μας συνοψίζεται στα λόγια του Συμβόλου της Πίστεως (Νικαίας/Κωνσταντινουπόλεως)*, Available at: <http://beec.gr/church/>, Accessed on: 24th May 2018

⁹⁰ Psalm 118: 27

manifested through Jesus Christ. It⁹¹ is the only source of Christian doctrine preserved in the Church through which God revealed and communicated all the elementary truths about Himself, the world and man. The notion is twofold: natural and preternatural. The former is understood as those truths of God He revealed to humans through nature He has created and showed Himself and His might in the form of all the visible and in the form of human soul. The term Cathecism originated from the Greek verb κατηχέω, which in translation points to teaching and instruction through teaching. In Christianity it is used when and while referring to the meaning of imparted knowledge and introducing the faithful to the elementary Holy Mysteries and content of the Christian faith. The subject of Cathecism is, therefore, the publication and presentation of the truth about God, man and the world, about the relation of God to man and the world, and the relation of man to God and the world. Worth noting is that Cathecism mentions both natural and supernatural Revelation conveying, in other words, an interpretation that the faithful know about the Divinity through observing both the visible nature and what God revealed about Himself. Giving the fundamental evidence of knowing Him through experience Solomon in the Book of Wisdom writes that all people not knowing God are naturally conceited. They are not capable to recognize the Deity in the visible goods nor, seeing the acts, did they understand it was Him but apprehended either the swift air, or fire, the wind, the circle of the stars, the sun and moon or the great water as the gods ruling the world. Let those who, enchanted by beauty saw gods in it, know how much Lord is more beautiful as He is Who first created all that beauty. Let them, delighted by might and power, know how much Who has created all it is mightier and He may be seen and so known in the greatness of the beauty and of what He has created. Natural revelation or phenomenon is such a Divine Revelation in which God reveals Himself inherently or innately to the ordinary man. He does it through the world the faithful see, through their conscience being God's voice in the innermost part of their soul, through suggesting what is good and what is not good and through life – the history of the entire humanity. A nation refusing to rely on God and depend on His reliability irreversibly heads to misfortune and misery. A nation refusing to repent dies and disappears from the earth in flooding, death, conflagration... .

⁹¹ The Revelation

The whole world surrounding humans is the great book of the Divine Revelation, a testimony of the omnipotence and the wisdom of God-the Creator. People who study and explore this world, people of erudition - all, with very few exceptions, are faithful as the precondition of doing what they do is the unshakable belief that everything being studied and examined has been created thoughtfully and pursuant to certain rules and norms. Archbishop Nathaniel, in one of his sermons, points out that even the simplest machine cannot create itself and continues that a regularly arranged group of rocks suggests a man must have laid the rocks down as a random group⁹² will be incorrect and without a proper form. Cicero is known to have said that regardless of how many million times a cube with letters is thrown the [sense] lines of verses cannot come into being and the surrounding universe is far more complex and full of a sense far more profound than the deepest conception of poetry inspiration. The natural Revelation is what a man can approach through observing the material world, their living, its [world's] phenomena, creatures and through influence of Divine Providence. Writing what humans, wishing to know about God, can reach Paul the Apostle stresses...

...For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:⁹³

The saint Apostle speaks the same as what the Book of Solomon points to – the invisible Deity, His invisible Might and invisible Glory turn into discernible notions through observing the creatures. Apart from Nathaniel and Cicero, Paul the Apostle who was indeed among the most educated contemporaries of his time writes “...For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God...”⁹⁴ Great Blaise Pascal, a genius of mathematics, one of the creators of the new physics and inventor, was not simply the faithful but one of the greatest religious thinkers in Europe. His, perhaps, the most distinguishable collection of thoughts, *Pensées* makes an impact even today in the unshakable intention of disassembling reasoning aimed at demonstrating falsehood of Christianity. Frequently, this post-modernist thinker refers to the sense a human is made up of not forgetting, thereby, to return to its⁹⁵ lowly mode of being that is, in other words, only the paradox of man's power and magnificence on the one side and

⁹² Of rocks

⁹³ Romans, 1: 18 – 24

⁹⁴ Hebrews, 3: 4

⁹⁵ Lowly mode of being of man's sense

their sinfulness on the other. Now and then Pascal dramatically points to circumstances surrounding man and writes: "...Qu'on s'imagine un nombre d'hommes dans les chaines, & tous condamnez à la mort, dont les uns estans chaque jour egorgez à la vue des autres, ceux qui restent voyent leur propre condition dans celle de leurs semblables, & se regardant les uns les autres avec douleur & sans esperance, attendent à leur tour. C'est l'image de la condition des hommes."^{96, 97, 98} Having this human misfortune in mind, having in mind man's fallen spirit Pascal reaffirms the necessity of looking for God and essentiality of Jesus' person stressing that "Il y a assez de lumière pour ceux qui ne désirent que de voir, et assez d'obscurité pour ceux qui ont une disposition contraire."^{99, 100, 101} Being sad over the human ignorance Pascal's both soul and heart speak "Rien n'est si important à l'homme que son estat; rien ne luy est si redoutable que l'éternité; & ainsi, qu'il se trouve des hommes indifferens à la perte de leur estre, & au peril d'une eternité de miseres, cela n'est point naturel."^{102, 103} Coming back once more to the necessity of looking for God Pascal writes "qu'ils reconnoissent ensin qu'il n'y a que deux sortes de personnes qu'on puisse appeller raisonnables, ou ceux qui servent Dieu de tout leur Coeur, parce qu'ils le connoissent, ou ceux qui le cherchent de tout leur Coeur, parce qu'ils ne le connoissent pas."¹⁰⁴ The great founder of all modern bacteriology, a science that studies the life of bacteria and their influence on the human organism, a thinker who has penetrated deeper than others into the secret of organic life - Louis Pasteur, writes "...Plus j'étudie la nature, plus je suis étonné par l'oeuvre du Créateur..."^{105, 106} While still a child Johan Kepler showed interest in physics and its branch examining celestial bodies. In the age of even six he studied the comet that passed in 1577 at a small distance from the Earth and only three years later the

⁹⁶ Pascal, B. (1877) "Nécessité de Rechercher la Verité," *Les Pensées*, Tome Premier, Alphonse Lemerre, Paris, pp. 154

Let us form an image of a group of people, sentenced to death and all in chains some of whom are deprived of life each day while others look, and those people seeing what will happen to them in their fellows fate while waiting for their turn, looking at one another with sadness and hopelessly. It is an image of the state of men.

⁹⁷ Pascal, B. (1717) "Pensées Chrestienens," *Pensées de M. Pascal sur la religion*, Chés Wolfgang Schumacher, Ulme, pp. 172-173

⁹⁸ Pascal, M. (1684) "Pensées Chrestienens," *Pensées de M. Pascal sur la religion et sur quelques*, Chez Abraham Wolfgang, Amsterdam, pp. 161

⁹⁹ Pascal, B. (1852) "Article XX.," *Pensées*, Dezobry et E. Magdeleine, Libraries Éditeurs, Paris, pp. 256

Sufficient brightness exists for who long for and sufficient absence of light for those of a contrary character.

¹⁰⁰ Pascal, M. (1684), *op. cit.*, pp. 93

¹⁰¹ Pascal, B. (1717), *op. cit.*, pp. 100

¹⁰² Pascal, B. (1877), *op. cit.*, pp. 7-8

There is no such a thing as important to a human being as their own state and nothing more alarming than eternity. Therefore, it is not logical that there should be those who are uninterested in the loss of their being and in the threats of eternal suffering.

¹⁰³ Pascal, B. (1852), *op. cit.*, pp. 138

¹⁰⁴ Pascal, B. (1877), *op. cit.*, pp. 11

Let them acknowledge that there are solely two groups of people who might be seen as reasonable: those serving Lord with all the heart, since they know Him and people looking for Him with all the heart as they do not know Him.

¹⁰⁵ Comfort, R. (2003) *Way of the Master Evidence Bible*, Bridge-Logos, Gainesville-Florida, pp 1454

The more I examine nature, the more I stand astonished at the acts of Creator.

¹⁰⁶ The Literary Digest (1902) "Is Darwinism on its Death-Bed?," Volume XXV, Issue 16, Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York, pp. 490

striking site of Moon passing instantaneously behind the Earth into its [the Earth's] umbra.¹⁰⁷ This is, indeed, what further influenced his enthusiasm for both theoretical and experimental examining of phenomena. After studying theology at the University of Tübingen Kepler taught astronomy and mathematics in Graz. One of his most distinguished works was identification of the three mathematical rules, known as Kepler's laws, on the planets moving across the sky that was the early founding of the theoretical astronomy branch examining and calculating these motions [celestial mechanics]. Kepler's discovery was also elliptical characteristic forms or patterns of planets moving about the sun. It was at the time of widely spread geocentrism that Kepler did not accept but strongly defended the attitude that the celestial bodies circle not the earth but the sun [heliocentrism]. Applying physics to studying the universe phenomena Kepler radically challenged scientific thought and argumentation. Irrespective of all that his works testify on his affection for religion he did not hide. In *Harmonicis Mundi* [*Harmonies of the World*], one of his most distinguishable works Kepler with respect and, what is certainly more appropriate term, reverence speaks in the beginning...

Sacrum sermonem, hymnum Deo Conditori verissimum ordior, pietatem hanc esse ratus, non ut hecatombas illi Taurorum plurimas immolem, odores innumeros adoleam & Casiam: sed ut primum Ipse discam, post & ceteros doceam, & quantus ille sit sapientiâ, quantus potentiâ, & qualis bonitate. Velle enim omnia, quanto posset ornatu, decorare, nec ulli Bona sua invidere; id ego Bonitatis consummatissimæ documentum statuo; hactenusque ut Bonum celebret: Omnia verò invenire, quibus quàm maximè exornarentur, eminentissimæ Sapientiæ; Omnia denique, quæ statuerat, in opus producere, Potentiæ insuperabilis.¹⁰⁸

At the end of this seminal or classic paper, Kepler once more shows his devotion to exaltedness of religion and Deity while writing in the concluding paragraph

¹⁰⁷ Shadow

¹⁰⁸ Kepleri, J. (1864) "Harmonices Mundi-Liber V," in Kepleri, J. (ed.) *Astronomi: Opera Omnia*, Volumen Quintum, Heyder & Zimmer, Francofurti, pp. 268

I enter upon a holy discourse, a most faithful song of praising God the Founder, and I view it to be holiness, not to sacrifice many hundreds of cattle* to Him and to burn incense** of numberless cassia and perfumes, but before all else to become aware myself, and afterwards to explain others too, how immense is His wisdom, His power and what His goodness is like. For to increase the beauty, in any possible way, of the things that deserve adornment without envying anything of its goods-this I write down as the sign of the most enormous goodness and having this in mind I praise Him so good that in the immenseness of His wisdom He arrives at everything whereby the entirety might be adorned to the paramount and that He, in His insurmountable might, can do all He has proclaimed.

* In early times in Greece, a hecatomb was the event of sacrificing 100 cattle to the Deities.

**Incense [In Latin - Incendere] is made up of aromatic substances releasing a pleasant odor when burned.

Abrumpo consulto & somnum & speculationem vastissimam; tan-tum illud exclamanscum Psalte Rege: Magnus Dominus noster, & magna virtus ejus & Sapientiae ejus non est numerus: laudate eum coeli, laudate eum Sol, Luna & Planetae, quo-cunque sensu ad percipiendum, quacunq; linguâ ad eloquendum Cre-atorem vestrum utamini: Laudate eum Harmoniae coelestes, laudate eum vos Harmoniarum detectarum arbitri: lauda & tu anima mea Do-minum Creatorem tuum, quamdiu fuero: namque ex ipso & per ipsum & in ipso sunt omnia, καὶ τὰ αἰσθητά, καὶ τὰ νοερά; tam ea quae ig-noramus penitus, quàm ea quae scim, minima illorum párs; quia adhuc plus ultrà est. Ipsi laus, honor & gloria in saecula saeculorum. Amen.^{109, 110}

This unique prayer represents confirmation of its definition seeing a prayer as a form of addressing God while establishing relationship with Him. The might of such a communication has been confirmed and materially proved as miraculous healings, associated with spirituality, are true thereby discovering physical and mental changes the faithful can experience during a prayer or a religious rite. The faithful who sunk deep down into praying fully excluded cerebral cortex that refers to the absolute safety and absence of stress. Indeed, having in mind the power of the reverent petition being made to Lord against negative thinking, science succeeded to measure its impact and found that a praying monk does exclude cerebral cortex¹¹¹ completely, a phenomenon recorded only in children up to three months that are safe near their mother. As people grow, the sense of security gradually decreases whereas the expanding brain activity lowers only during deep sleep and the above said petition positively influencing people in that way. A prayer is a powerful drug which not only regulates all the processes in the human body, but also restores the damaged structure of consciousness. Most illnesses are caused by both negative circumstances and mentally induced difficulties that, indeed, withdraw during the prayer or even completely disappear. Science undoubtedly proved that pressure of blood and its other values normalize following the worship and religious rites. God naturally reveals Himself through the visible world to every human being who has reason and good will to receive the holy appearance. Faith in Him is the basic characteristic of soul the heavenly realms

¹⁰⁹ Kepleri, I. (1619) "De Motibus Planetarum," *Harmonices Mundi*, Liber V, Excudebat Johannes Plancus, Lincii, pp. 248 I consciously cut the dream short and the very immense deliberations, only exclaiming with the royal Psalmist: Magificent is our Lord and magnificent is His goodness and of His enlightenment there is no number: commend Him, ye heavens, commend Him, ye planets, sun and moon avail yourselves of every sense for becoming aware, every language for reaffirming your Creator. Commend Him ye celestial accords, commend Him ye judges of the accords revealed (and ahead of anyone, you old happy Mastlin, for you used to incite these cares with words of longing): and you my reason, commend the Lord thy [your] Creator over the time that I will be: as all things, sensible and intelligible, are from Him, through Him and in Him; for both* we utterly ignore and those we are aware of are the least piece of them; since there is still more on the far side. To Him be commendation, honour and exaltation, the endless world. Amen

* sensible and intelligible things

¹¹⁰ Zimmermann, J. J. (1689) "Totum Systema Planetarum Copernicanum jamjam literaliter & naturaliter demonstratum, mystice etiam illustratur in Oratione Dominica," *Exercitatio Theoricorum Copernico-Coelestium Mathematico-Physico-Theologica*, Christian Reimers, pp. 140-141

¹¹¹ MedicineNet (1996-2018) *Medical Definition of Cerebral Cortex*, Available at:

<https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=11490>, Accessed on 26th April 2018

A thin mantle of gray matter about the size of a formal dinner napkin covering the surface of each cerebral hemisphere. The cerebral cortex is crumpled and folded, forming numerous convolutions (gyri) and crevices (sulci). It is made up of six layers of nerve cells and the nerve pathways that connect them. The cerebral cortex is responsible for the processes of thought, perception and memory and serves as the seat of advanced motor function, social abilities, language, and problem solving.

have given to man. It is like a spark and reflection of the very Deity in the being themselves. Emanating from Heavens and having in them the Being similar to itself the soul by its own will turns to God asking “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”¹¹² Similarly, as the eyes that have been created to see light turn to light so a man’s soul strives to God’s universe having the need to communicate with the Deity and finding, only in Deity, peace and happiness. The flower opens up to the sun for receiving light and heat it cannot live and grow up without. In the same way, stable and unconquered human longing for God emerges as only in God the soul can find all it needs for the being. That is why all peoples, at all times, believed in eternal living and although now and then under delusion and incorrectly believing in Lord, they have never lost faith in and the spiritual union with Deity. The grandeur of faith in God has been known even in time of Aristotle who first methodically approached the question. Macedonian king Philip appointed him as the educator of his son Alexander who, having been enthroned, launched a campaign in Asia. Aristotle in 335 before Christ returned to Athens and at the training centre, devoted to Apollo Lyceus, founded the school of philosophy known as the Peripatetic school as lectures were being given while participants were walking (*περίπατος*) about the centre. However, the Academy and the school were in a rivalry for disagreement in teachings and among other things for Aristotle’s criticism of Plato’s doctrine of the ideas. Aristotle’s numerous works many, numerous times later, availed of testify to that time. Unlike Plato, his main writings were not dialogues but debates in which he opposed and criticised attitudes and opinions of earlier philosophers asking philosophic questions, responding to them, offering his own resolutions... Purpose is the decisive cause and the most comprehensive purpose for Aristotle is God. Aristotle argued that God is the fixed impelling force determining and reviving world and a thoughtful thought thinking of itself, or in other words thought of thought [*νοήσεως νόησις* - noeseos noesis] whereas soul could only be the fixed impetus of the body of a living being. Aristotle created an original ethical doctrine relating to his Metaphysics. Indeed, he argues that the purpose of man’s life is only perfecting the agency featuring itself – the agency of thought. A man can strive for wealth, glory or power that, however, possess no intrinsic value. Valuable is solely luck a man can find in an agency they perfected and perfecting opinion generates likeness of God. Since researchers and scientists, at the present time, know all nations who settle the earth it is reaffirmed that all of them in one form or another had and have religious beliefs, prayers, temples or offering a

¹¹² Psalms, 42: 1-2

sacrifices. Noteworthy would be pointing to the descriptive part of ethnology examining material, societal or spiritual culture and living, customs and beliefs of nations for instance. Ethnography refers to qualitative technique of describing societal phenomena grounded in field work. It is a method of holistic research that has founded its fundamentals within the idea that the system characteristics cannot necessarily be understood as reliably independent on one another. Some academic traditions, particularly constructivist and relativistic paradigms positively affirm ethnography as a decent mode of research and such mode, in words of German geographer Friedrich Ratzel, "...kennt keine religionslosen Völker..."^{113, 114} Convictions of those who do not believe emerge only as rare exceptions and deviations from the norms and natural revelation is not sufficient as sin darkens human mind, will and consciousness. Polytheistic or pagan religions appear, as the evidence in which the truth is mixed with false human fabrication. Therefore, God complements natural with...

3.1.2. ...Supernatural Revelation

Pagan religions impose the need to point to the almost uninterrupted unity of these two revelations that originated¹¹⁵ very early in humanity and were notable in the Hebrew nation too. David, pointing to the grandeur of revelation says "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge."¹¹⁶ The deuterocanonical¹¹⁷ book [2 Maccabees] speaks of rebellion of the Hebrew nation against Antiochus IV Epiphanes and in the end of Judas Maccabeus, a Jewish priest and son of priest Mattathias, the Hebrew nation hero who defeated Nicanor, the Syrian general in 161 BC. In chapter 7, verse 28 mother of the seven brothers, while speaking with one of them literally implores "I beseech thee, my son, look upon the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, and consider that God made them of things that were not; and so was mankind made likewise."¹¹⁸ The mother implores her son to understand from what is above and below that human being, His creature, was brought into being for Him since processes and forces controlling material world reveal that Lord does exist as Who is above them.¹¹⁹ Human being He created is created for the endless harmony with the reality above and through it with other

¹¹³ Ratzel, F. (1887) "Die Religion," *Völkerkunde*, Verlag Bibliographisches Institut, Leipzig, pp. 31
[Ethnography] has no knowledge of nations without religion.

¹¹⁴ Hoffman, O. (2017) "Die Religion und Cultus," *Erd- und Völkerkunde*, TP Verone Publishing House Ltd., Nikosia, pp. 95

¹¹⁵ The unity that originated

¹¹⁶ Psalms, 19: 1-2

¹¹⁷ The term originated in the Greek language as what, to an extent, means secondary or lower, in importance, cannon.

¹¹⁸ 2 Macabees, 7: 28

¹¹⁹ Processes and forces

humans, as well. On the other hand, precondition of reaching the accord with the Holy Power and with other humans is acknowledging reality of life cessation – unavoidable end of life man, however, can prolong. For that reason, the mother resumes her imploring thought “Fear not this tormentor, but, being worthy of thy brethren, take thy death, that I may receive thee again in mercy with thy brethren.”¹²⁰ The persuasive nature of the innermost of the faith and the mother’s emotion in her voice were sufficiently clear apart from the son being aware of Moses law “I will not obey the king’s commandment of the law that was given unto our fathers by Moses.”¹²¹ In a state in which the two revelations do not form the recognizable whole of harmony, where the preternatural part is missing worrying and alarming grave consequences, difficult to understand, happen thereby creating favourable conditions of origination of polytheistic religion or belief in many deities. As apprehension of the visible nature is restricted with boundaries of ego of the mortals, human cognition and reason disempowered and obscured in sin, the deeper understanding and the profound reverence of the Kingdom to come cannot be reached in Natural Revelation. All them: mental process of knowing, ability of rational and analytic thought and the natural capability to reach, apprehend and use knowledge have been bestowed on man only as the preliminary preparation for the higher, Preternatural disclosing of the truth. What humans, irrespective of gradually developing the intellectual power, were not able to apprehend albeit it was needed for the immaterial embodiment, God revealed them through the Old Testament prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and other righteous people. However, it is not quite understandable how all the people of God have heard His message, understood it and transferred the meaning to the mortals in their own words. Word of God in words of humans: this is where all the beauty, miracle and mystery of the Holy Scripture rests in peace of the universal eternity. Regardless of the innermost definition of emotions or excitement of the mind what would not be possible to ignore is that the Holy Scripture does contain and communicates the word of God in human words. God spoke with man and they were obliged to listen to and understand Him. Anthropomorphism¹²² is an inseparable recognition of the revelatory manifestation of Son of God [the Epiphany] and not a form of submissiveness to human weakness but its profound meaning reflects primarily the circumstances in which human language, communicating the Holy revelation, is not deprived of its natural traits. Rejecting it¹²³ as too human is not a precondition of the reliable

¹²⁰ 2 Macabees, 7: 29

¹²¹ 2 Macabees, 7: 30

¹²²The interpretation of divine, natural and social power driving forces by analogy with individual human traits - in philosophy, religion, art, etc.

¹²³ Human language

communicating the Divine message. The human is not being denied but transformed within the Divine inventiveness. The supernatural does not remove natural as *hyper physin*¹²⁴ is not a synonym of *para physin*.¹²⁵ Human language does not twist the glory of the Revelation and does not weaken the might of the word of God that in this Supernatural form of disclosing the truth He bestowed on the humanity much more than in Natural Revelation. Apart from the truth that God is only one, people reached the awareness of Him as the three consubstantial persons, the volume of manuscripts on moral in the Ten Commandments and structure and organization of the Old Testament Church. God also promised He would send His Son who would teach people everything,¹²⁶ suffer¹²⁷ for all and save¹²⁸ all. Returning to the earlier mentioned exaggerated sense of self-importance of the mortals,¹²⁹ worth noting is that Holy and Supernatural Revelation reforms profane subjectivism (the earthly ego; subjective subjectivism – that could be looked at as a rational activity being the sole incontrovertible truth of human praxis).

3.1.2.1. Meaning of Supernatural Revelation or What is It Important for?

Regardless of how irrefutable it looks to be, logical belief having the origin in the Divine Revelation through natural world seems to be exposed to the lack of conviction. What justifies the view as reliable is human more solidly tangible motive, uninterrupted in time, taking, as the only alive materiality, that direction of phenomena humans are aware of through the perception, through those mechanisms perpetuating the senses, observable occurrences or, in other words, through what proffers pleasure and gratification that are affiliated with ephemeral being [existence]. Nonetheless, the view is reliable for another reason which complements the whole pointing illustratively to the simply predictable certainty of physical ceasing life objectively in opposition to human desire for effecting the meaning of their [human] being in the perfection without beginning or end. One more actuality appears adding to the image of

¹²⁴ Humanity as deified – the Supernatural

¹²⁵ Humanity as fallen – the Unnatural

¹²⁶ John, 14: 26

But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

¹²⁷ Acts, 3: 18

But those things, which God before had showed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled

¹²⁸ Matthew, 1:20-21

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

¹²⁹ Ego

uncertainty while stressing that the direction of essence which defines, for humans, the presumption of perfection through unity and harmony with Divinity indeed is not reaffirmed within natural faith by the suggestion of such a Divine actuality. Therefore, the illumination of essence or of the terminal perennial essence of being shines, unsteadily though, in the dimness. In these circumstances, supernatural revelation emerges as an encouragement through which the immeasurable and supreme Divine reality, on Its own, begins communication with the human materializing the ground of human spiritual fellowship too. Since, having in mind this higher level of revelation, man is closer to the eternal true existence, they [man, people] become aware of a communication between temptations as perceived, impermanent and the inferior ones cosmos and ceasing of life define as mournful impartial authenticity. Humans further come to a conclusion that all what is framed in this way could not be interpreted as the inherent mode of being, but a fallen mode, since either ceasing of life generates a feeling of no marks of living beyond it or on the other hand spirit within man loses ground eternal life necessarily needs. These incentives, individually, are interpreted as lowering human pursuit of essence and, thus, immorality or sin. Ceasing of life appears as the consequence of such the sinful exhaustion since it represents the final fall of actuality into what can be defined only as absence of meaning or significance. Therefore, supernatural revelation reinforces what requires no proof or explication within those moments in logical belief in which the illumination of superior and perpetual essence of being flutters. Should humans acquire knowledge only through ordinary or Natural Revelation they would be aware of not more than the infidels know. In those circumstances the most widespread Symbol of Faith would be reduced to confessing the assertion many support today that “there is something.” Nonetheless, reaching erudition about Divinity exceeds that, to an extent narrow determination of the phenomenon. The Old Jewish religion and its continuation Christian confession of faith have reaffirmed that God reveals Himself to the mortals. Ambiguities that might emerge refer to a doubt whether He reveals to all humans and whether only “your” revelation is genuine. One of the responses could be that the unsurmountable barrier to recognition of God is man’s sin. The Holy Scripture in the Book of Job points to the origin of evil, suffering, unhappy human destiny and temptation of righteous Job. It promotes veracity and righteous men, raising questions of meaning, sense and justification of human religiosity and belief in Creator amidst the earthly sufferings every day life brings. Job is a paradigm of a man of faith, hope, patience and peace. He confesses his faith in God Who eventually reveals Himself to him and managed to testify that Creator is above man and their reason. Job further managed to overcome his temptations: a man who loses everything and droops in faith has always a chance of salvation. Three periods stand out in

Job's past: first – he occupies the high position in his land and others call him tzar; second – going through temptation as everything is lost; third – Job remains faithful to God and does not follow his instincts. Northrop Frye gives an interesting comparison reaffirming that Job's fate does not differ from Adam's suffering in exile, who goes through a transformation of consciousness before restoring his primary state as Frye writes with interest.¹³⁰ Job's temptation is not the punishment but the critical determining and evaluation of power of his spirit that remained stable albeit he lost all he had; irrespective of everything he continues confessing the faith "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."¹³¹ Apart from all the calamities Job, having developed a disease, did not obey his wife but decided to go the road of suffering and did not disavow God revealing Himself after all "I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee. Who *is* he that hideth counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee."¹³² This explains what the foregoing ambiguities ask for and why and who God reveals Himself to. The Creator is not guilty of human inability to recognize the revelation. However, there is no need of polarization between the two extremities and arguing that full human righteousness is the only and unavoidable precondition of recognizing Him. If so, human race would be coerced to acknowledge that the revelation is possible solely through Deus homo¹³³ and reject all the revelations given through the prophets and the apostles as they, too, were people with sin.

¹³⁰ Frye, H. N. (2006) "Myth II: Narrative," *The Great Code: The Bible and Literature*, Volume 19, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, pp. 215

¹³¹ Job, 1: 21

¹³² Job, 42: 2 – 5

¹³³ God-man

The Holy Scripture, for instance, points to Jacob who, persuaded¹³⁴ by his mother Rebekah, has sinned and beguiled his father.¹³⁵ Moses, although creator of law, is described as the insecure and oppressive leader who in his first attempt to help his nation killed a human being and fled through the desert rescuing his life.¹³⁶ There are no perfect and absolutely holy people apart from Son of God and the effect of sin makes man unable to receive His revelation. Sin passion drives from is in the human mind a certain circle that the Holy Scripture knows as the path. The beaten path represents a firmly rooted human habit of thinking and living under the power of passion enticing man in a state of complete numbness and their ability to recognize the Holy Revelation ceases within the paralysis; man cannot rise from the earth but buries themselves into the earthly care. Making uniqueness of the whole, along with natural faith, Supernatural revelation does stabilize it¹³⁷ through enabling humans to reach both awareness and understanding as the spiritual ointment healing their soul wounded in sin. It is only the reason returning to the sound state where once it has come into being. Simultaneously, and particularly having been mended the whole continues striving towards what naturally it belongs to. This is how the higher level of revelation reaffirms the natural being or state of man being able after all to mentally unfold the innermost of the material world phenomena. Natural revelation can convey the Divine message only through the higher state [Supernatural state]. Referring to the first sin and after who first fell into it being of the two revelations and what links them cannot

¹³⁴ Genesis, 27: 11-13

And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and I *am* a smooth man: my father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. And his mother said unto him, Upon me *be* thy curse, my son : only obey my voice, and go fetch me *them*.

¹³⁵ Genesis, 27: 15-29

And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: and she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: and she gave the savory meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. And he came unto his father, and said, My father : and he said, Here *am* I; who *art* thou, my son? And Jacob said unto his father, I *am* Esau thy firstborn ; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. And Isaac said unto his son, How *is it* that thou hast found *it* so quickly, my son ? And he said, Because the Lord thy God brought *it* to me. And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou *be* my very son Esau or not. And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father ; and he felt him, and said, The voice *is* Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands : so he blessed him. And he said, *Art* thou my very son Esau ? And he said, I *am*. And he said, Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought *it* near to him, and he did eat : and he brought him wine, and he drank. And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. And he came near, and kissed him : and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son *is* as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed: therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed *be* every one that curseth thee, and blessed *be* he that blesseth thee.

¹³⁶ 2 Moses, 2: 11-15

And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting a Hebrew, one of his brethren. And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known. Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian : and he sat down by a well.

¹³⁷ Natural faith

be observed separately. Had it not been for the original sin man's nature would have continued moving unaffectedly towards unending perfection and would have already been in communion with the heaven kingdom it is still striving towards. Owing to the higher state of revelation, the ultimate objective efforts of the rational creature directed towards form of progressing to the terminal aspiration is what the rational creature is naturally aware of in the same way that they would have been [aware of] had the rational creature been in unswerving communication with Natural revelation as its higher, or in other words, supernatural form illuminates completely the above said material and metaphysical world.

3.2. The Holy Tradition

Everyday life of God's people is known as Holy Tradition exposed both in the Old Testament and as the Christian, Apostolic or Church Tradition in the New Testament. It is the teaching being transmitted within the Church since the Apostles of Son of God to the present times. Although made up of many written documents the Holy Tradition is not limited to only recorded history, but defines life of the very Church the Holy Spirit leads and inspires. What makes up the Sacred Tradition is the Holy Scripture in the first place, then come the liturgical and prayer life of the Church, the Saints' lives, iconographic tradition, dogmatic decisions and works of recognized church councils, canonical rules, writings of the Holy Fathers and Church music and architecture. The Supernatural God's Revelation was not scribed in the beginning, but orally remembered, preserved and transmitted through generations. Only later a part of it was noted down and preserved to this day. Therefore, the eternal truths of Supernatural Revelation are equally found and preserved in the Holy Scripture and the Holy Tradition that can be defined as the collection of those Supernatural truths God revealed to the Holy Apostles forefathers transmit [truths] to their descendants by faith. Time has determined that the Holy Tradition precedes the Holy Scripture in both the Old and the New Testament. Moses was the first who wrote down a part of those truths of the Holy Revelation that reached him having been orally transferred through generations of his ancestors. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ handed down in words, the Holy teaching to His disciples who further transmitted the erudition orally. For more than a decade the Church did not have the New Testament taken down and in the oral form it was the only frame of the Supernatural Revelation of God. Even having been written the Holy Books of the New Testament did not contain many important parts of the Holy Tradition being taken care of by the Holy Spirit as the Holy Scripture reaffirms in the Gospel according to Saint John "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if

they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”¹³⁸ Worth noting would be pointing to the Holy Revelation as what only teaches that if a man studies the Holy Scripture out of the tradition it is not communication with the word of God but with the subjective understanding and interpretation of the text. Peter the Apostle, for instance writes “And account *that* the long-suffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction.”¹³⁹ In this, a very persuasive way, the Holy Scripture draws the attention to the two categories of persons communicating with it¹⁴⁰ to their own annihilation: the unlearned who are perhaps baptized people but people having no erudition and the unstable as those, most probably, without christening and education. Therefore, God-man’s organism of the Church cannot be seen as anything but “the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”¹⁴¹ The eternal mystery of this organism remains nonauditory to the very end like Mystery of the Sacred Tradition as the legacy received through the Apostolic inheritors. Thus, the Sacred Tradition viewed in that way, is inseparable from the Sacred Scripture as they mutually constitute a twofold whole impossible to decompose, disintegrate or dissolve, having in mind the origin, content and significance. It would not be inappropriate to understand the Holy Scripture as the written part of the Sacred Tradition as it, as such, was handed over to the Church, and yet [to define] the Tradition as the Holy Scripture unwritten by the Apostles. The Holy Apostles were aware of such a relationship as Paul testifies himself “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”¹⁴² In these thoughts he teaches that the Tradition or ‘traditions’ contain all the written and oral science, on the one hand, and the simultaneous and paramount importance of both the ways transmitting the erudition on the other. That is how all the Holy Fathers of the Church understood the interconnection between the Tradition and the Scripture. Whenever speaking on the faith they inseparably point to both of them. Divinization as the precondition of the interpretation is the foremost expression and the ultimate objective of the Revelation. It, therefore, with the Gospel makes up a whole inalienable from the ecclesiastical living. Understanding the core of the faith transforms into the genuine form

¹³⁸ John, 21: 25

¹³⁹ 2 Peter, 3: 15-16

¹⁴⁰ The Bible

¹⁴¹ 1 Timothy, 3: 15

¹⁴² 2 Thessalonians, 2: 15

of the Revelation and the atonement providence whereas the Church as the bearer of the Sacred Tradition is the only authentic interpreter of the Scripture and truth in the word of God. Since the Apostolic Heritage of the Church is received from the Apostles' heirs and disciples the Tradition embraces the whole institution¹⁴³ being an integral part of the fullness of the notion. The Divine God-man tradition is His lecturing through centuries and generations with all the Holy truths, Commandments, Mysteries and virtues of living God, Saviour and Church. Nonetheless, determining the boundaries that frame definition of the Tradition seems not to be simple as it is not a theory or a set of logical conclusions, but life of the God-man organism of all the Ecclesia. Perhaps, Saint Vincentius of Lérins is one of those who most closely approached the essence when stressing that "teneamus quod ubique, quod semper, quod ab omnibus creditum est."^{144, 145, 146, 147} Explaining his theorem the saint further writes "Sequemur autem uniuersitatem hoc modo, si hanc unam fidem ueram esse fateamur quam tota per orbem terrarum confitetur ecclesia, antiquitatem uero ita, si ab his sensibus nullatenus recedamus, quos sanctos maiores ac patres nostros celebrasse manifestum est, consensionem quoque itidem, si in ipsa uetustate omnium uel certe paene omnium sacerdotum pariter et magistrorum definitiones sententiasque sectemur."^{148, 149, 150} Perichoresis originated from Greek word περιχωρησις and refers to mutual being, moving within love and reciprocal permeating of underlying substances or states [hypostasez] within the triune life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Perichoresis or interweaving the Church with the Scripture and the Tradition embodies the Holy Mystery of the Divine love the Church testifies on through the Scripture and the Tradition. Seeing into the Divine mystery is the objective every interpreter of the Bible is to strive towards and such the intention is possible to approach only following the Holy fathers and spirit of truth and faith. The latter is not an arbitrary and subjective fineness but faith that originated in the Holy Scripture term for a New Testament message [Kerygma] it draws the

¹⁴³ Church

¹⁴⁴ Saint Vincentius of Lérins (1915) *The Commonitorium*, University Press, Cambridge, pp. 10

We should hold what all, always and everywhere believed

¹⁴⁵ Cosin, J. (1849) *A Scholastic History of the Canon of the Holy Scripture*, Volume the Third, John Henry Parker, Oxford, pp. xxxvii

¹⁴⁶ Szaniszló, F. (1842) *Fasciculi Ecclesiastico-literarii, Quos Redigit et Vulgat*, Tomus I, Typis Trattner – Károlyianis, Pestini, pp. 93

¹⁴⁷ Lirinensis, S.V. (1791) "Commonitorium," in *Pars Prima de Ecclesiasticis Dogmatibus*, Tomus Quartus, Ex Typographia Joan. Angeli Bouchard, Florentiae, pp. 145

¹⁴⁸ Saint Vincentius of Lérins (1915), *op. cit.*

The will of following universality depends on the acknowledgment that one Faith is genuine only if the undivided entire world Church confesses it; [on the acknowledgement of] antiquity if in no circumstances interpretations, the ancestors and fathers conspicuously proclaimed, are departed from, and of consent if in the very ancient past following the doctrines and opinions of all or almost all presbyters and teachers is not interrupted.

¹⁴⁹ S. Vincenti- Lirinensis (1863) "Commonitorium Primum," in Migne, J. P. (ed.) *Patrologiae Cursus Completus*, Tomus L, Excudebatur et Venit Apud J.-P. Migne Editorem, Parisiorum, col. 640

¹⁵⁰ Emenegger, G. (2011) "Drei Kriterien der Tradition," *Patristisches Lesebuch*, Theologische Fakultät, Freiburg, pp. 5-6

power from.¹⁵¹ Those who do not understand the thought miss the ground, overhanging message being the innermost core of the Gospel. They understand the Scripture as a series of unrelated paragraphs and narratives they attempt to stabilize and set in order as they see fit and according to the form taken from alien sources. In other words they have a different creed. It was the main argument Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus used in his treatise, *De praescriptione haereticorum* [On the prescription of heretics], to defend the attitude of not having any communication with the heretics, bearing in mind the Holy Scripture as, he writes, it is not their property but of the Church

Si haec ita se habent, ut veritas nobis adiudicetur, qui-cumque in ea regula incedimus, quam ecclesia ab apostolis, apostoli a Christo, Christus a Deo tradidit; constat ratio propositi nostri, definientis non esse admittendos haereticos ad ineundam de scripturis provocationem, quos sine scripturis probamus ad scripturas non pertinere. Si enim haeretici sunt, Christiani esse non possunt, non a Christo habendo quod de sua electione sectati haereticorum nomine admittunt. Ita non Christiani, nullum ius capiunt Christianarum litterarum ad quos merito dicendum est: Qui estis? quando et unde venistis? quid in meo agitis, non mei? quo denique, Marcion, iure silvam meam caedis? qua licentia, Valentine, fontes meos transvertis? qua potestate, Apelles, limites meos commoves? Mea est possessio. Quid hic, ceteri, ad voluntatem vestram seminatis et pascitis? Mea est possessio, olim possideo, prior possideo, habeo origines firmas ab ipsis auctoribus, quorum fuit res. Ego sum heres apostolorum. Sicut caverunt testamento suo, sicut fidei commiserunt, sicut adiuraverunt, ita teneo. Vos certe exheredaverunt semper et abdicaverunt, ut extraneos, ut inimicos. Unde autem extranei et inimici apostolis haeretici, nisi ex diversitate doctrinae, quam unusquisque de suo arbi-trio adversus apostolos aut protulit, aut recepit?^{152, 153, 154}

Confession of faith has always been closely connected with one of the seven Holy Mysteries – Baptizing Son of God established,¹⁵⁵ confirmed¹⁵⁶ in person and the Holy Apostles

¹⁵¹ The faith draws the power from the Apostolic message.

¹⁵² Tertulliani, Q. S. F. (1893) “De Praescriptione Haereticorum,” in Bindley, T. H. (ed.) *De Praescriptione Haereticorum ad Martyras: ad Scapulam*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, pp. 84-85

If for that reason we must be adjudged the truth by the rule all live according to* that God transmitted to Christ Who handed it down to the Holy Apostles and they transferred it further through the Church, the standard we set forth is established., the dictum which determined that heretics should not be permitted to enter an appeal to Bible, as, without using it [Bible] we offer evidence that they do not relate to Scripture. If they dissent from the officially accepted teaching they are not Christians as the names they acknowledge are not Christ's but names of heretics they willingly follow. Having nothing to do with Christians they are not entitled to Christian literature and we are fully entitled to ask them who they are, when they arrived and where from, say to them that they are not my people, ask what they are doing on my land, ask Marcion what they are cutting down my timber for, ask Valentinus who permitted them to divert my waters and ask Apelles by what permission they are moving my boundaries. That property is mine. And all of you I did not mention why are you planting and grazing here obstinately? That has been mine for long, even before you came and I have the ownership documents from the previous owners of the property. The apostles, in their will, appointed me their heir, as they bequeathed it in firm belief and reaffirmed under a solemn declaration. So I hold it all according to how they want. They permanently excluded you from inheritance and refuse to acknowledge [you] as strangers and adversaries. And how can heretics be adversaries and strangers were it not for interpreting dissimilar teaching everyone of them, on their own opinion, has brought about or obtained against the apostles.

* In the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians somewhat different formulation is used: as many as walk according to this rule- Galatians, 6: 16

¹⁵³ Tertulliani (1854) “De Praescriptione Haereticorum,” *Quae Supersunt Omnia*, T. O. Weigel, Lipsiae, pp. 35

¹⁵⁴ Rauchen, G. (1906) “Haeretici igitur cum ex diversitate doctrinae non sint christiani, admittendi non sunt ad ulam de scripturis sacris provocationem,” *Florilegium Patristicum*, Sum;tibus Petri Hanstein, BOnnae, pp. 51- 52

¹⁵⁵ Matthew, 28: 18-19

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

¹⁵⁶ John, 3: 5

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

applied in praxis.^{157, 158} When Abrahamic monotheistic religion, deriving its core from the doctrine and life of Son of God, refers to the Apostolic nature of *regula fidei*¹⁵⁹ it does not mean that the rule was formed under the auspices of the Apostles as a whole let alone the *analogia*¹⁶⁰ being made up of sections the Apostles individually created. This is how Apostolic faith was understood after their time. The implied meaning was the confession of faith everyone, respecting the postulates of Christianity, perfectly memorized before their christening embodying doctrine the Apostles preached and handed down to their disciples to preach after them. The elementary characteristics of this confession do not differ one from another; they are identical everywhere, the profession contours are in accord with the baptismal formula and for that reason made up of three parts: profession of faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.¹⁶¹ Indeed, out of *analogia fidei* interpretation of the Holy Scripture would not be the genuine explication of and proper approach to this written part of the Sacred Tradition. According to Florens Tertullianus they¹⁶² are closely intertwined as “Ubi enim apparuerit esse veritatem disciplinae et fidei Christianae, illic erit veritas scripturarum, et expositionum, et omnium traditionum Christianarum.”^{163, 164} The Apostolic tradition of faith is the essence of understanding the Holy Scripture and what most faithfully guarantees its divine and frank elucidation. The Church is not a power supposed to influence and adjudicate, from abstract outer circumstances, on the Holy Scripture, but the guard of the Divine providence being protected in the Sacred Book.

3. 3. Divinity and Human Being

Evolution and progressing of the teachings on the three consubstantial persons and the incarnation, as in form of materializing in the course of the first several centuries, pertained to

¹⁵⁷ Acts, 2: 38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

¹⁵⁸ Acts, 10: 46-48

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

¹⁵⁹ *Regula fidei* [Rule of faith], referring to the supreme power or principle in religious belief

¹⁶⁰ *Analogia fidei* [Analogy of faith], in Barth's interpretation the term refers to 'theological language' people rule over but meaning of what is spoken or written is what God gives and not people.

¹⁶¹ Turner, C. H. (1921) "Apostolic Succession," in Swete, H. B. (ed.) *Essays on the Early History of the Church and the Ministry*, MacMillan and Co., Limited, London, pp. 101-102

¹⁶² The Sacred Tradition and the Sacred Scripture

¹⁶³ Tertulliani, Q. S. F. (1893), *op. cit.*, pp. 55

The genuine interpretations, all the true Christian traditions and the true Holy Scripture could be found only where the authentic Christian faith and doctrine manifest themselves.

¹⁶⁴ Moehler, J. A. (1843) "The Church as Interpreter of Holy Writ, and the Doctrine on Tradition Continued," *Symbolism*, Volume II, Charles Dolman, 61, Bew Bond Street, London, pp. 42

general understanding of the human being and their existence in unearthly living. The Church Fathers have permanently signified importance of words¹⁶⁵ Holy book points to while mentioning man's origination. These words through 'our image, after our likeness' materialize genuineness reaffirming that human being could not be defined by terms of self-determination or self-sovereignty as their¹⁶⁶ innermost nature, in more metaphysical terms, is only behind and beyond unless framed through the interrelatedness with Divinity. In other words, in this way God transfers both physical features of living organisms and soul immateriality what makes the Holy Spirit-given being, the Scriptures points to when mentioning the Divine image and the Divine likeness. The sacred inbreathing is indeed upheld by the level beyond human understanding of transferring biological features of existence and 'beyond' is 'responsible' for transposing to man what is defined as more than only physical existence as being of other species is not questionable but they have no power of apprehension and reason that humans in this way receive reviving so communion with the Heaven Kingdom. This communion raises man's ability and cognition creating so the 'image and likeness' in their own entirety without which man's sense of morality and ethics could not exist. Man's coming into being was featured through contemplation on the continuum of wisdom enabling them (man) to be in control of other nonhuman creatures. However, man is not in the state of Divine nature yet as the 'inbreathing' bringing in information goes through their [man's] senses that are not limitless but influence the reception making it, to an extent, dependent on their power and how it [the reception] becomes aware of the surrounding entities. Having in mind that man, although through communion in possession of some features of Godly nature, have not attained their overall greatness of character it imposes itself that Godly nature refers to what humans only participate in, as Peter the Apostle announces in his own words "...whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust..."¹⁶⁷ The lust, the Apostle talks about, suggests, without explicit stating, separation from God and that is terrible sin which, through this forcible separation, places man into circumstances independent upon spiritual salvation that man cannot exist in without the sacred liberty and divine nature glory. In the new 'existence' man is irreversibly transformed into a substance exposed to what essentially defines recondite reasoning only because God is disappearing out of their¹⁶⁸ soul, both God and

¹⁶⁵ Genesis, 1: 26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

¹⁶⁶ Human being's

¹⁶⁷ 2 Peter, 1: 4

¹⁶⁸ Their (derivative form of they: in this case gender-neutra pronoun)- replacing *man's*...

absolute perfection¹⁶⁹ purporting the active community with Divinity and eternal life that first people Adam and Eve enjoyed in the beginning. They really were perfect beings and the flawlessness was what primarily their sublimity sourced from giving account of living without any trace of sin. Created through the Divine image and likenes, Adam and Eve as perfect and absolutely pure human beings, in close relationship with God enjoyed the gifts of eternal paradise living. Their perfection enabled them the immediate seeing the ineffable light of Dvinity. Knowing all it, being in no need of anything essential to the whole could be interpreted as attaining the likeness of foreparents Adam and Eve before their fall into the moral pit of sin. In other words, it is nothing but God's likeness the long road leads to through withstanding and temptations luring at every step. Apart from being long this road is simultaneously beatific for all whose undrooping spirit withstands the unholy that comes their way. At the moment of transgressing God's Commandment Adam and Eve lost the privilege of perfection ruining so the impeccable and full of grace relationship with the Heavens. Sinning they became distant and alienated not only from Divinity but from their own salvation. While living how Heaven prescribed the salvation was real, in the unfortunate moments of feeling all the calamity of deliberate disrespect of the Heaven-known will the reality of salvation transformed only into Adam and Eve's desire. Nonetheless, the most horrible consequence of what they had done was not only their own tragedy but tragedy of humankind. For all the sin of the foreparents all the posterity subdued to what the detrimental may in its core be defined. The sin essentially violated the innermost of human nature and soul depriving so mankind of the original perfection God bestowed on people. It is only for this downfall that the sin generated the eternal gloomy heritage of the past. Moral admonition: the contemporary and the sin-desecrated world, people live in today, creates discouraging and hard surrounding for all wishing to live with the Holy Spirit-given piety. The sinful world perceives the perfection as legacy of dignity of the past that has long lost its value in whatever form it might be apprehended. Indeed, such essentially wrongful reflection is to an extent understandable to many as the contemporariness, ignoring the continuum of eternal values, has invented the new, pernicious and pseudo-worth. Hence the Christian understanding is not only the state making people more people but the only salutary road renewing man's capability of moral judgment, freeing them of sin and engrafting [them] into the new and perfect reality of eternal living. It is what determines the theologically framed hope of sincere ascetic action coming into being within the Christian Church as the Godlike institution. The privilege of being free in Divinity, as the foreparents received, pointed to the

¹⁶⁹ That disappear out of man's soul

apprehension of separating from Heaven postulates of living and that is the infelicity, a human has chosen. The misfortune transformed the foreparents into what cannot be defined as fully human desecrating so both their spiritual and material state of existence. The most dispiriting that the new state produced was termination of life. In this mental view, what theologically could be defined as the original act of disobedience Adam and Eve wilfully created may be apprehended not in form of moral culpability derived from the first sin of the foreparents; it is rather a deviation from canons of living, nature has produced, and such a deviation irreversibly leads to ceasing both metaphysical and physical life. Impermanency, all humans come into immediately after birth, generates the strain of survival and defence of value of the self in the continuous effort to extend existence, not rarely at the expense of other humans, making in essence, no difference to how animals understand life rules. In such world, ‘murder’ and ‘lie’ as the basic attributes of the Devil are in control of man and the evangelist Saint John, pointing to these attributes, speaks “Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do: he was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”¹⁷⁰ Apart from this passage on the ‘murderer from the beginning’ Son of God three times points to ‘the prince of the world.’ First time only a short while before His suffering (Passion) began Son of God says “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”¹⁷¹ Then while giving the sermon at the Last Supper and assuring the followers that He would return Son of God continues “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.”¹⁷² The last time, on the same occasion, foretelling the descent of the Holy Spirit and victory over the ‘murderer from the beginning’ He says “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”¹⁷³ Indeed, having in mind all the viciousness of the death encircling man their¹⁷⁴ only freedom comes through the Resurrection of Son of God materialized in Christening and the liturgical life in the

¹⁷⁰ John, 8: 44

¹⁷¹ John, 12: 31

¹⁷² John, 14: 30-31

¹⁷³ John, 16: 7-11

¹⁷⁴ Man’s

Church. Philosophical thought points to dissimilarity between phenomena of the material world and power and excellence God grants. This view suggests that the first transgression of both moral and religious canons is more a legacy of painful emotion than denial of liberty. The innermost of human being is understood as being in the ultimate sublimity as long as in relationship with the Holy Trinity and Christian Church holds that the innermost nature of man enjoys, to a certain extent, self-sufficiency while immorality is convictable. What follows from this is understanding that the rationalization is the objective, efforts of the Christian are directed toward. Unfolding the essence of the doctrine correctness refers to feelings and thoughts of God. The definition of the Church is framed within the conception of intercession in terms of honouring with mercy, compassion or forgiveness that persuasively secure stability of the teaching. The Godlike institution emerges in the perception as a communion of Divinity and human being in which the being does feel the materialization of heavenly living bearing witness, in that way, on its reality.¹⁷⁵

3.4. Early Community in Christianity

Throughout the long period of Christian history, from the Middle Ages to the current time, a simplified image of early Christianity prevailed. Reality of Divine life founded and developed almost exclusively in the Scriptural writings, found in the New Testament, in its Acts of the Apostles and in the part speaking about the Jerusalem community. Impressionable is its experience and particularly the words “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”¹⁷⁶ Impressionable is also Pentecost and descent of Holy Spirit on peoples of different cultures and different languages conveying the meaning that Holy Church embraces all in its arms and Holy Spirit creating one single body. Pentecost, as the beginning of the Church, signifies the spreading of Biblical Covenant on all beings, peoples and all ages so that Divinity would step towards the real objective: being the place of harmony and love. God and His mercy speaking on His wounds were higher than any obstacle. It is hope and joy that Risen Christ gives to his disciples, which no one can take away; the resurrection of hope and joy that have passed through the temptation of self-denial, self-redemption, extreme closeness to sinners to all the painful bitterness of that chalice. The early Christian community in Jerusalem, community in which the innermost core of the Gospel, love and mercy in simplicity and brotherhood live was redolent of the same hope and eternal peace

¹⁷⁵ Reality of divine life

¹⁷⁶ Acts, 2: 42

as the Acts of the Apostles speak. In the above mentioned 42nd verse of 2nd Chapter of the Apostles' Acts the four characteristics describe the first Christian community in Jerusalem as a place of the state of being one and of being in warmth reaffirming the impression that Saint Luke did not have in mind a mere description of the past. On the contrary, the sermon transforms into a standard and criterion of the Ecclesia in the current time as those four peculiarities eternally make up living of the institution. *The first* of the features refers to the Ecclesiastical unity and persistence within the Apostolic teaching, in fraternal communion and in the breaking of bread and prayers. These four elements composing 42nd verse simultaneously make up the four pillars of every Christian community and the more solidly tangible foundation being the ground of advancing and notable prosperity of the Church unity. The entirety of the first Jerusalem populace, according to the steady conception, was a distinctly unique community, believers as one heart and one soul lived in as an exemplar fraternity, sincere love, strict moral, ethical living and general discipline permeate. Irrespective of fostering the sense of these values in the early Christianity its¹⁷⁷ image still remains pretty complex. Indeed, Jerusalem was the cradle of Christianity with the first community of those believing in Son of God and warmly accepting His message on the all-encompassing Divine love being the great reconciliation and unity, on life in which He, in the end, overpowers death and sinning and promises life to its fullest. His first disciples were transferring the message further from Jerusalem all over the Roman Empire spreading so Christianity across 16 great provinces, from Rome in Italy to Edessa in Northern Mesopotamia or from Thessaloniki in Greece to Alexandria in Egypt. More than anything else it was listening to the Apostolic teaching or the Apostles' testimonies on the divine creation of the world, life and life ceasing and Resurrection of Son of God referring, in Saint Paul's own words, to the Gospel. The early Christians heard of the Gospel directly from the Apostles united in listening and its hint¹⁷⁸ as Gospel, in words of the Saint Paul, points to "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."¹⁷⁹ Even today, the community of believers recognizes in calling for doctrinal edification the apostolic norm of their own faith: every effort in building unity among Christians, having that in mind, goes through deepening faithfulness towards the conviction the Apostles transferred to the current time. Persistence in faith materializes out of the innermost fundament of togetherness and the ground of Christian unity. Transferring voice of Son of God and meaning of His words across the vastness of those 16 provinces indicates nonpossibility of even mentioning unique living

¹⁷⁷ Image of early Christianity

¹⁷⁸ Hint of Gospel

¹⁷⁹ Romans, 1: 16

conditions that would work towards uniform apprehending and expression of certain conundrums. The first community of Christians in Jerusalem was already complex to an extent. It was made up of Jews of different groups two of whom stood out: the group of strict followers of tradition and adherers of Greek-Roman culture, the so-called Hellenic Jews. They essentially differed one from another and the distinctions would come to the fore even after joining Christian community when, according to the Jewish canon, it was to approach indicating of Jesus' message to Samaritans and other peoples. *The second* component Saint Luke writes of in 42nd verse of Chapter 2 points to the fraternal communion. At the time of the first Christian community as well as in the current time it is the most striking expression, primarily for the outer world, of unity among disciples of Son of God. Saint Luke in his Acts of the Apostles further writes that the first Christians had almost everything in common and those who possessed properties and goods would, after selling, share the income with the needy.¹⁸⁰ After Peter pointed out that they have left everything following Him, Son of God dismissed every doubt and insecurity stressing that all those whose faith was not desecrated would have again all the properties and goods and would be again with their loved brothers, sisters... The Scripture faithfully points to this talk between Son of God and Peter "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."¹⁸¹ Christians materialized His promise since they understood that whatever they possess is not only theirs anymore but the paramount value of the communication rests in sharing the belongings within the family, brothers and sisters. They spontaneously perceived living in the community in that way being free to express the will and having in mind the unshakable conscience towards Lord. For the outer view of this togetherness sharing possessions was indeed the unambiguous manifestation of having the faith in equality and justice being reinforced by their unity and togetherness. This sort of communication in humans can rarely be found anywhere else. Being a new creation the first Christians were not blindly and selfishly bound by the earthly materialization but the immortal values were what they revered more. Committing the earthly values to Divinity was apprehended as quite natural. Reaffirming the reflection Saint Luke in the Acts writes...

¹⁸⁰ Acts, 2: 44- 45

And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

¹⁸¹ Mark, 10: 28 – 30

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.^{182, 183, 184}

Sharing of goods and property, in the history of the Church, has always found new modalities of expression one of which, pretty peculiar, transformed into communication between fraternity and friendship made up among Christians of various confessions. History of the Ecumenical Movement is permeated with difficulties and uncertainties. However, it is simultaneously determined by historical frames of fraternity, human and spiritual cooperation and communion that to an extent changed relations among the faithful who were and are all bound to continue the path of believing in Son of God. The second component is therefore formed through communion which is more than anything else community with Lord being revived through faith. Indeed, communion with Him creates communion among the mortals that is scripturally expressed through the Acts of the Apostles pointing out and to sharing. The fundamental obligation is to provide circumstances in which no a single human being would suffer from hunger or poverty. Communion with Divinity that has come into being through fraternal communion has further materialized in societal engagement, in Christian love and in justice. Complexity of the early community in Jerusalem noted in discussion on the first eternal pylon earlier was not only a burden exhausting it but the setting Jews, Romans, Syrians, Egyptians, Greeks, Arabs and Persians lived within making that complexity to advance. The strongest Christian communities developed in the then largest cities in which a mixture of various peoples lived and life abounded with the unique style bringing diverse and frequently diametrically opposing conditions. Tarsus was the birthplace of Paul the Apostle and the boundary between the Western Greco-Roman and Eastern Semitic-Babylonian cultures. In Tarsus lived and worked Athenodorus Cananites, Stoic philosopher and tutor of Augustus, the first Roman Emperor who¹⁸⁵ would delight his fellow citizens inciting them to morality in life and pointing out the value of the motto *Act with people as if God saw you, and speak with God as though these people are listening to.* At the same time in Corinth societal ethics was permeated with pretty different characteristics where splendour, lavishness and even some

¹⁸² Acts, 4: 32 – 37

¹⁸³ Wedderburn, A. J. M. (2004) "A Jewish Group?," *A History of the First Christians*, T & T Clark International, London and New York, pp. 29

¹⁸⁴ Dominy, P. (2012) "Evaluating Money: Money and Justice," *Decoding Mammon: Money as a Dangerous and Subversive Instrument*, WIPF & STOCK, Eugene-Oregon, pp. 47

¹⁸⁵ Athenodorus