

REDEMPTION

AS

RECONCILIATION

CASES OF TENSIONS

☐ VALUES

☐ BELIEFS

☐ STATUS

☐ NATIONALITY

☐ CLASS

MUSLIMS DESTROY BEER SELLING KIOSK



CHRISTIANS CLOSE SCHOOL : RESISTING WEARING OF HIJAB FOR MUSLIM KIDS



ESTRANGED COMMUNITIES ARE;

- under siege of fear
- imprisoned by passion of prejudice
- attacked of its identity
- not free from hurt/ not free to do good things

etc

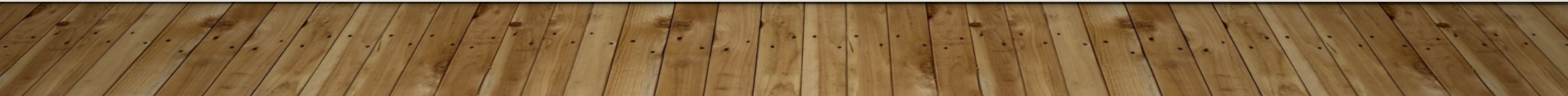
ESTRANGED COMMUNITIES

- Fact: They need ;

- ☐ Redemption

- ☐ Reconciliation

What are they exactly?



WHAT IS TO BE REDEEMED?

1. Saved/Salvation
2. Delivered/Deliverance

THE IS A CONNOTATION OF BEING:

- under siege,
- imprisoned
- attacked
- not free.

WHERE CAN WE FIND THESE TERMS(USAGE)?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN EACH CASE?

JUDAISM

- God' acts of redeeming/ saving the people of Israel from their slaveries, it would also mean the final redemption in the life-after from the present exiles.

JUDAISM

- The three doctrines: Creation, Revelation and Redemption become the tripod of Israelite religion.
- Redemption is very fundamental in the life of Judaism:
 - ✓ the most of all is the redemption (Saved) from slavery in Egypt, from the enemies in the desert, and they wait for redemption at the end of time.
 - ✓ Confession of sin/ failure to abide by the covenant, that marks the rupture of relationship with God, is necessary for redemption.

CHRISTIANITY

- REDEMPTION:
 - ✓ an element of salvation and deliverance from sin
 - ✓ It reflects literary meaning: “repurchase” or “buy back,” and
 - ✓ in the Old Testament it is referred to the ransom of slaves.

CHRISTIANITY

- New Testament, the redemption refers to both deliverance from sin and freedom from captivity.

Redemption is a metaphor for what is achieved through the atonement;

- ✓ death of Jesus pays the price of a ransom, releasing Christians from bondage to sin and death.

- ✓ redemption is done through Jesus who sacrificed his

CHRISTIANITY

- ✓ Christians can experience redemption by following the example of Jesus
- ✓ ***They are called to love and even love their enemies; forgive and forgive even those who defame them.***
- ✓ Redemption is setting people free from physical enslavements, psychological discrepancies and spiritual blindness

ISLAM

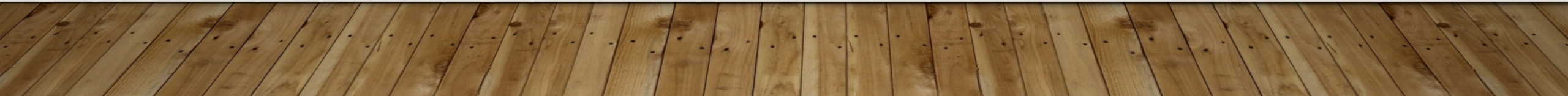
- The word “**Islam**” derived from the term “**salaam**” means “**peace**” or “**salvation.**”
- The literal meaning of the name “Islam” is “surrender,” “reconciliation.”
- To be redeemed is to surrender to the will of *Allah* (God) and do right things.

ISLAM

- So, penitence of sin must be done by the individual himself/herself
- redemption is what men and women do with their own sin through repentance and through expiation through prayers, fasts, sharing their wealth with the poor, and so on

MOST EASTERN RELIGIONS, THEY HAVE BASIC BELIEFS RELATED TO REDEMPTION!

- A person is not liberated from sin and its consequences, but from the **Samsara** (cycle of birth) perpetuated by passion and delusions and its resulting karma (sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences).
- **Moksha** (freedom-attainment of ultimate goal) can be attained by **Sadhana** (spiritual exercise) that is: means of accomplishing something – through Yoga, meditation. (Hinduism)
- **Nirvana** (Buddhism) same meaning like moksha (is the profound peace of mind that is acquired with moksha).
- In Buddhism and Jainism, redemption is the state of being free from suffering.
- In Hindu, it is the union with the Brahman (Supreme Being) blowing out of the fires of desires, aversion and delusion and the calm stillness of mind acquired there.



HINDUISM

- ❑ personal effort is required to experience redemption in their life.
- ❑ Therefore, total detachment or renunciation will help them to be free from all objects and body senses.

BUDDHISM

- Focused on ethics, humanism, compassion and wisdom in order to experience liberation or redemption.
- The enlightenment is the experience of redemption.

AFRICAN TRADITION RELIGIONS

- REDEMPTION ENTAILS A PROCESS OF RE-UNITING A PERSON WHO WRONGED THE COMMUNITY AND THE SPIRITS OF THE ANCESTORS BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.
- IN INVOLVES OFFERING A SACRIFICE IN DIFFERENT FORMS, DEPENDING ON THE TRIBE AND CULTURAL BELIEF.
- THIS IS MEANT TO APPEASE THE SPIRITS AND AVERT THEIR WRATH.
- RESTORATION OF A PERSON INTO THE COMMUNITY

CONCLUSION

In summary:

- Redemption leads to freedom.
- Redemption implies repentance of the sins or evil acts committed.
- Redemption entails reunion.
- Redemption means God extending the powers and humanity receiving the powers with personal commitment.
- Redemption as re-building the ruptured relationships.
- As a result, redemption has close link with reconciliation

RECONCILIATION

From Latin origin; a combination of two terms;

- **'Re'** and **'Conciliatus'**. **Re** depicting the repetition of an act; and **conciliatus** referring literary to 'Assemble' or 'come together.'

CONTD!

- Reconciliation is to 'come together again or assemble again'. From this background, M. McKenna paraphrases the term reconciliation as generally referring to:
- 'To walk together again' of people who have been apart and split off from one another.

RECONCILIATION

- Reconciliation is understood as a **‘process’** and not a one-time event.
- A process that leads to “the restoration of broken relationships or coming together of those who have been alienated and separated from each other by conflict to create a community again.

RECONCILIATION

- Some **Philosophers** define the concept of reconciliation as **the building or re-building of TRUST** that was destroyed and,
- taking a risk to believe that you will not be hurt again.

RECONCILIATION: (DEFINITION)

- A process of healing the traumas of both victims and perpetrators after violence, providing a closure of the bad relationship:
- the closure in the sense of not re-opening hostilities, and healing in the sense of being rehabilitated.

RECONCILIATION

- **The usage of the concept of ‘reconciliation’ can be traced in different religious traditions, cultures, and social sciences.**
- **Like: Christianity, Islam, traditional (indigenous) religions, African cultures and psychotherapy processes.**
- **In all these, reconciliation process revolves around the following keys elements:**
 - ❑ **Truth, Justice, Forgiveness, and Creation of trust.**

I. HUMBLE TRUTH (REPENTANCE)

- Truth implies formal correspondence between mind and reality; this entails talking of subjective realities that can objectively be recognized.
- For instance, there is no truth if you start telling the people that **the table is an elephant**. Even if your mind is convinced that a table is an elephant but as far as it does not objectively

HUMBLE TRUTH (REPENTANCE)

- Truth telling in humility; establishes what really happened, why and how, and helps in bringing psychological healing to the victims.
- It establishes the historical facts and enables the people to foresee a different future in full knowledge of the destructive effects of the past human violations and humiliations. **That is the whole reason why museums for World Wars, holocaust, genocide and slavery are established.**

HUMBLE TRUTH (REPENTANCE)

- ❑ “Truthful remembering” in truth telling: neglecting some facts gives an impression of *‘I don’t care or I don’t feel with you, or its does not matter to the victims,*
- ❑ On the other hand, omission of some truth, make perpetrators to remain in the state of guilt, hence not liberated fully.
- Failure to tell the truth, is like keeping a festering wound that sooner or later will open and cause more pain again.

2. JUSTICE

- ❖ Justice implies giving to a person his/her due.
- ❖ In reconciliation process, caution has to be observed in the choice of Justice: e.g.
- ❖ Distributive, contributive, retributive, commutative, and restorative forms of justice.
- What type of justice can facilitate reconciliation?

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- The form of Justice that proves to be effective in reconciliation process is restorative Justice. Cases:
- Gacaca courts after RWANDA (Africa) Genocide : Hutu against Tutsi tribes
- Truth and reconciliation commission in South Africa.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE:

- It includes. Possibility of granting of (conditional) amnesty. For instance, in the case of South Africa post-Apartheid era, perpetrators of injustice were to be granted amnesty on condition that; they apply in person for it, make public and full disclosure of the crimes they committed. The public disclosure was not intended to embarrass them but to let perpetrators effectively acknowledge their culpability, and be accountable for their evil acts.
- Reparation of the losses incurred: Not all losses can be restored with physical values; thus, restorative justice proposes that there should be symbolic reparations. For example, in Rwanda genocide, the victims were given cows as a symbol of restoring their human dignity, but also through building monuments, memorial sites, days of remembrance etc. All these contribute to the reparation of the losses and help in healing the wounds of the victims.
- Reparation is a kind of accepting that you are sorry for the crimes you have committed and you are taking responsibility possible to accept the culpability.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: (RWANDA) GACACA STYLE

Restorative Justice understands that those directly impacted are the best suited to address the harm and determine how to repair the harm



3. FORGIVENESS

- This is the most complex and most often tough component in the reconciliation process:
- it requires forgiveness of the **SELF** (the victims 'self-hate, regrets and condemnation) and the **OTHER** (forgiving *the perpetrator*).

MISCONCEPTION OF THE MEANING OF FORGIVENESS:

- act of forgetting about the past with the intention of not wanting to reopen past wounds and endangering the fragile peace obtained after a conflict or rupture of relationship.
- This type of forgiveness is fake; (i) it denies the future generation to learn from the historical mistakes; (ii) it encourages the offender to deny responsibility of the crimes committed; (iii) deprives the victim to chest out the pain and losses and be freed from the burden of hate and anger.

WHAT IS REAL FORGIVENESS?

- IT IS THE ABILITY OF A HUMAN BEING TO ABANDON ALL INTENTIONS OF VENGEANCE, EVENTUALLY LEADING TO THE HEALING OF RESENTMENT AND PEACE OF MIND. IT'S A STEP TOWARD TRUE REDEMPTION /LIBERATION/ SALVATION OF THE WHOLE HUMAN PERSON, BODY AND SOUL.

THREE MODELS OF FORGIVENESS:

- ***Therapeutic model:*** It suggests that forgiveness is only necessary as far as it leads to physical and psychological healing of the victims of the conflict, or evil act or/ and relational rupture. (Reference to psychology of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder-PSTD)
- ***Moral obligation model:*** this has an attachment to Christian moral obligation from the Teachings of Jesus: 'Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you...(Lk.6:27)'. This model has a big challenge though for those who don't believe in Christian values.

THREE MODELS OF FORGIVENESS

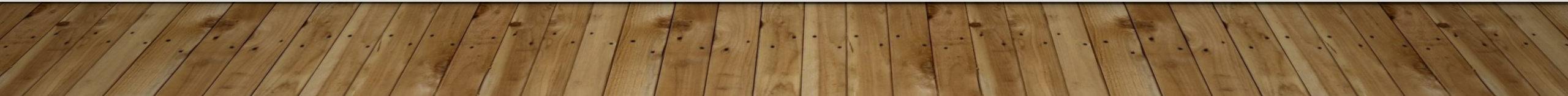
- ***Integral/ complete forgiveness Model:***
- This is a theological conception of forgiveness that takes into account the **Vertical** and **Horizontal** relations of a human person, thus accounting for both **ethics** (what is right and wrong on human level) and **spirituality** (how it connects us to the sacred, the divine).
- Reference: Sermon on the Mount (Lk. 6: 20-38): In the Sermon, Jesus calls the disciples to embrace both horizontal and vertical relationships; that is, to relate well with the people around and with the Divine. For instance, when Jesus said;
- ‘be merciful, even as your Father is merciful,’ he implied that people’s earthly relationship have more meaning if understood in the context of the relationship with the Divine.
- **Thus, Human Forgiveness Becomes More Meaningful and Complete If It Reflects the Horizontal and Vertical Human Relationships.**

IS FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION POSSIBLE IN THE PRESENCE OF WHAT IS JUDGED TO BE UNFORVABLE O HUMAN STANDARD?

Discussion time

Cases:

- ❖ a cheating spouse.
- ❖ Killer of your loved one.
- ❖ a person who molested your child.



PARADIGMS OF UNDERSTANDING EVIL ACTS TO FACILITATE FORGIVENESS.

- **DIABOLIC PARADIGM**
- **BANALIZATION PARADIGM**
- **ETHICAL PARADIGM**
- **EVIL AS SELF-DECEPTION**

SUMMARY

- So far, we have seen that sin or any crime, destroys the relationship with the neighbor, the society and divine; it creates a rupture of cordial relations with Self, the other, with the Divine and with the Society. Therefore, through the process of reconciliation, the victim is redeemed psychologically, physically and spiritually.
- For this reason, it makes sense to treat redemption as reconciliation, but also we would say, reconciliation leads to redemption.

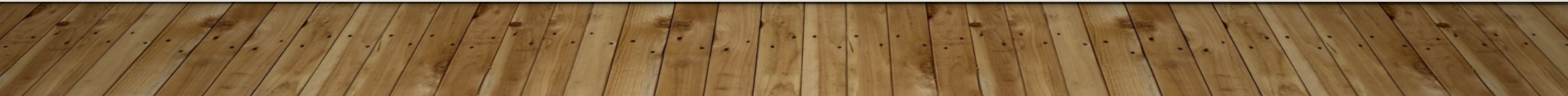
PRACTICAL MEANS OF REDEMPTION AND RECONCILIATION IS THE SOCIETY

- ❑ Working of things that unite us than focusing on things that divide us
- ❑ Developing positive mindset
- ❑ Promotion of social issues of common concern: watch video of Our Hope interreligious (Muslims/Christians kids) kindergarten and how its becoming a community building asset.

➤ Short video.

➤ Comments and questions!

Thank you all!



SYMBOL OF RECONCILIATION

