

HARMONY OF THE HIGHER RELIGIONS

Rassokha I. M.

Doctor of Philosophical Sciences,

Professor at the Department of History and Cultural Study

*O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv
Kharkiv, Ukraine*

We propose a definition of higher religions as having their own Holy Scripture [1]. The rating of the higher religions was built on the number of followers, the time of existence and predominance in certain territories:

A. World religions:

1. *Christianity* – approximately 2.5 billion people.
2. *Islam* – approximately 1.7 billion people.
3. *Hinduism* – approximately 900 million people.
4. *Buddhism* – approximately 600 million people.

B. Great national religions:

5. Taoism – approximately 300 million people.
6. Shintoism – approximately 100 million people.
7. Sikhism – approximately 25 million people.
8. Judaism – approximately 15 million people.

C. Religions with a predominance of signs of the higher:

9. *Confucianism* – at least 20 million people, an ancient tradition, but nowhere prevails and to a large extent has lost the role of religion. Holy books – *Wu Ching, Syu-shu*.

10. *Jainism* – approximately 6 million people, an ancient tradition, but does not prevail anywhere. The holy book is *Jain Agam*.

11. *Mormonism* – approximately 10 million people, puts its holy *Book of Mormon* above the Christian Bible, prevails in Utah, USA, but appeared only in the 19th century.

12. *Kaodaism* – about 4 million people. It prevails in the Teynin province of Vietnam, but arose only in the 20th century. Holy Book – *Phap-Chanh-Truyen*.

13. *Baha'iism (Bahá'í Faith)* – about 6 million people, but nowhere prevails and arose only in the 19th century. The holy book is *Agdas*, additionally *Bayan*.

14. *Moonism* (Unification movement) – about 2 million people, but does not prevail anywhere and arose only in the 20th century. The holy book is “*The Divine Principle*.”

15. *Bon* – an ancient tradition, prevails on the outskirts of Tibet, but less than a million believers (approximately 500 thousand people). Holy books – *Bon Kangyur, Tengyur, Gzer mig*.

16. *Zoroastrianism* is an ancient tradition, but does not prevail anywhere, less than a million – believers (approximately 200 thousand people). Holy book – *Avesta*.

D. Higher religions with dubious status:

17. *Tenrikyo* – the Japanese religion that emerged in the mid-19th century, close to Taoism, the holy book – *Ofudesaki*. 2.5 million believers, they referred themselves as a variety of Shintoism. That is why the independence of this tradition is doubtful.

18. *Mahikari*, less than 1 million believers – another Japanese new religion, the *Goseigenshu* is the scriptures of Mahikari. Very close to Buddhism.

19. *Oomoto* is also a Japanese religion, founded at the end of the 19th century, with its sacred scripture *Oomoto Shin'yu*.

20. *Kirantism* is an ancient religion in eastern Nepal, with a total number of about 1 million people. Its scripture is *Kirat Mundhum*. The proximity with the Hinduism is obvious.

21. *Ayyavazhi* – a 19th century doctrine in southern India, whose supporters believe the Vedas are distorted and untrue. Their own holy book is *Akilathirattu (Thiru Edu)*. They count from 1 to 8 million followers of Ayyavazhi. But most of them declare themselves Hindus, and other Hindus recognize them.

22. *Yezidism* – over 700 thousand believers among the Kurds. But the sacred books are hidden, including from ordinary believers, the authenticity of famous scriptures (*Kitab Dzhilva, Maskhafa rush*) is doubtful. Ordinary believers use the *Qur'an*.

23. *Mandaeism* is an ancient religion with rich sacred literature, the main holy book is *Ginza*. But the number of believers is extremely small (several tens of thousands of people, with less than 10 thousand left in their homeland in Iraq).

24. *Scientology* – arose only in 1954, the holy book – *Dianetics*. The number of followers is significantly less than a million people, and many do not perceive it as a religion, but rather as a psychological practice. Government agencies in a number of countries also refuse to recognize Scientology as a religion.

25. *Spiritism* – has the books of Alan Kardek (especially the *Book of Spirits*) as a “Bible of Spiritism” and over 10 million adherents, but most of them (starting from Kardek himself!) do not consider it a religion; it only arose in the 19th century.

Four world religions were chosen as the coordinate basis for **building a graphic connection between all 25 higher religions: by rating and by mutual proximity**. Four world main religions have the most important and developed traditions. They can be placed as four extreme points in a coordinate system. The largest debatableness of Spiritism and its obvious connection with *all other* Higher religions allow us to put Spiritism in the center of our coordinate system. It turned out that all other religions can be placed in only one specific way. Moreover, **all these religions are lined up in the correct absolutely symmetrical matrix – the harmony of the higher religions**. This is clear evidence that all higher religions constitute a holistic, mutually reinforcing unity.

Harmony of the Higher religions

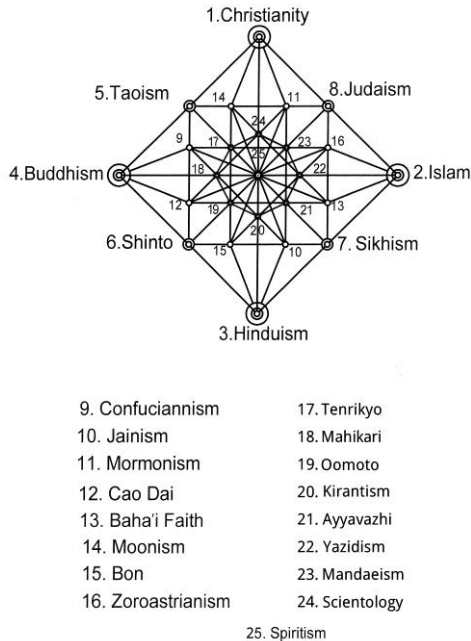


Fig. 1. Harmony of the Higher Religions

Bibliography:

1. Rassokha, I. Harmony of the Higher Religions. *Dialogue and Universalism*. 2022. 32(2). Pp. 197–210.