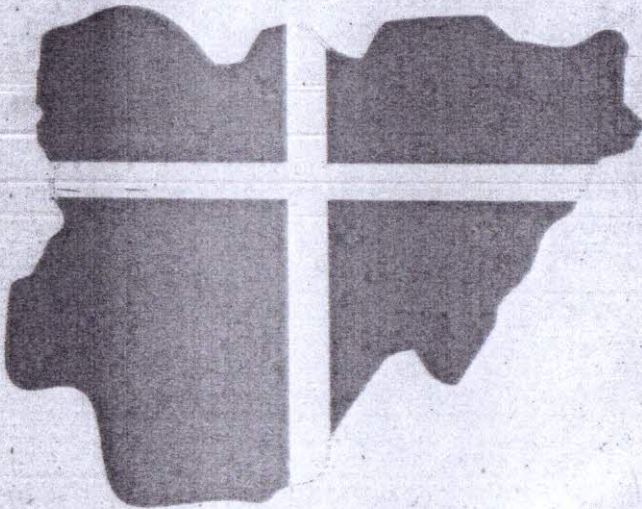


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SEPARATING THE CHAFF FROM THE WHEAT: ENGAGING COMPARATIVE RELIGION FOR WORLD PEACE

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Abstract

Comparative study of religion gained currency in the nineteenth century when evolutionary theory was applied to the study of religion; and particularly in the Christian belief in creationism. The evolutionary method became crucial as a result of divergent truth-claims, ways of salvation, etc. held by different religious traditions. No doubt, truth-claim coupled with religious cleavage, religious sentiments and fundamentalism has often led to intra- and inter-religious conflict. The reason for these effects is the inability to study, understand, appreciate and respect other faiths and beliefs than one's own, which is the hallmark of comparative religion. All these effects are the chaff in our pluralistic society. This paper seeks to posit that scientific study of religion recognises gamut of faiths in the world, and this recognition does not serve as an impediment but rather a demonstration of many in one with open-mindedness, tolerance and accommodation. The latter constitute the wheat for world peace.

Introduction

Comparative religion is a subject that has gained currency in the nineteenth century. In fact, comparative religion was brought about by a monumental speech delivered by Fredrick Max Muller on 19th February 1870. Thus, this monumental

