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Religious Division in our World

Buddha once said, “Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life.” For some, this is true but for others this is blaringly false. Most people in our modern day world believe in some type of spiritual being which created life and gave humanity a purpose. This common belief has the potential to unite millions of people under one goal and bring about peace and prosperity. However, different beliefs can often cause conflict and disagreement. Even more so, a lack of faith in a higher being altogether can lead to even more outrage and violence rather than civilized debate. Through different beliefs in religion and unique understandings, a division has been set in place which has caused turmoil and feuds between existing religious groups.

One of the most prominent and well known divides is between the three religions of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. All three of these religions are highly similar because of the way they construct their system of beliefs. The God in all three religions is based on the same principals but each has small changes, as in their name. The Christian divine being is God and it is a part of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Muslim supreme being is Allah. The Jewish celestial being is Yahweh which means “I am”. All of these beings have

correlations as do their holy books. The Jewish Torah is actually the first half of the Christian Bible.

Despite their many similarities, these three faiths have differences which have led to feuds between them. One of the greatest disagreements is that of Jesus Christ. All three say that there will be a prophet sent from God to guide and teach his holy people. Christians believe that this prophet has already come and passed in the form of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, Muslims believe that Jesus was a true prophet but his words and teachings were ruined, therefore Muhammad was sent by Allah to deliver his true teachings. Jews believe that their messiah will come in the future and that Jesus was entirely a false prophet. Although this may seem like a small difference, it has caused major splits between the three beliefs, causing violence between believers.

One of the more serious divisions that has caused conflict throughout history is that of the Holy Lands. Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, all desire this land for their own separate reasons and they all wish to have it alone. This Holy Land is located between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. More specifically, the dispute is over the city of Jerusalem and the surrounding area. Muslims want this space because this is where they believe that Muhammad experienced the Isra and Mi'raj events. Jews consider this metropolis to be the holiest city in their faith. Christians desire this territory due to its importance to Jesus and the ministry that he developed there. The most well known physical clash that took place for this land was the Crusades. This took place from 1095 to 1291 where many European Christians sought to take

back the Holy Land. At this time, the area was under Islamic rule who had taken it from the Byzantine Empire. These Crusades failed, and we still see the strife that takes place today.

These differences and skirmishes will haunt these three religious groups for all of eternity. Most would think that these three religions would be able to coexist without much fighting due to their similarities. However, these correlations have made the small differences much more dividing. These three groups usually despise the others and at times have even gone to war with one another over something that could easily have been compromised over. Even other religions which have nothing at all in common with these beliefs are respected and the diversity is accepted. Nonetheless, even with this respect, religion creates a massive divide between cultures. People often have no idea what another religion does for its customs and then a person may become alienated when they find out.