



Faith, Beliefs, Religions and Culture

Their impact in our interpretation of life

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Faith

Definition of **faith**

- 1 complete trust or confidence in someone or something: *this restores one's faith in politicians*
- 2 strong belief in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than proof: *bereaved people who have shown supreme faith*
a particular religion: *the Christian faith*



<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/faith>

Faith and Beliefs are used many times as synonyms

Faith as Trust

- The messenger
- The prophet
- The revelation



From Trust to Knowledge



- Faith is not blind, the revelation is a message
- The message appeal to you by offering an explanation of life that is absolute and final
- But those explanations need persuasion

Faith is knowledge built on affection

Faith as an Spiritual Seduction

The reason someone believes is because the “truths” presented to that person attract them to the content of that doctrine



Culture

The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society:

Afro-Caribbean culture: people from many different cultures

The attitudes and behaviour characteristic of a particular social group:

the emerging drug culture

Culture is like the atmosphere

Every human being from the first day of his existence has been:

Nurtured
Programmed
Educated
Indoctrinated
Trained

in a sole and unique way of being human



Surrounds us, but *per se* is invisible

The Iceberg Concept of Culture

Like an iceberg, the majority of culture is below the surface.



Surface Culture

Above sea level

Emotional load: relatively low

food • dress • music •
visual arts • drama • crafts
dance • literature • language
celebrations • games

Deep Culture

Unspoken Rules

Partially below sea level

Emotional load: very high

courtesy • contextual conversational patterns • concept of time
personal space • rules of conduct • facial expressions
nonverbal communication • body language • touching • eye contact
patterns of handling emotions • notions of modesty • concept of beauty
courtship practices • relationships to animals • notions of leadership
tempo of work • concepts of food • ideals of childrearing
theory of disease • social interaction rate • nature of friendships
tone of voice • attitudes toward elders • concept of cleanliness
notions of adolescence • patterns of group decision-making
definition of insanity • preference for competition or cooperation
tolerance of physical pain • concept of "self" • concept of past and future
definition of obscenity • attitudes toward dependents • problem-solving
roles in relation to age, sex, class, occupation, kinship, and so forth

Unconscious Rules

Completely below sea level

Emotional load: intense



Religion

A religion and its theology is described by the central credo and norms of a religious group



- Cosmogony
- Anthropology
- Soteriology
- Scatology



New Religions (XIX C. on)

- Provide meaning and purpose
- Offer an ethical framework
- A sense of community

(More than 60 different religions or religious movements in the US only, since the XIX Century).

And resolve the problem of salvation and eternal life

Beliefs and Believers



- The average person knows their religion (or beliefs) very superficially.
- Many faith teachers and ministers do not have philosophical training.
- Interpretation of sacred texts is done without the use of hermeneutical sciences.
- Beliefs are influenced by ideologies and social values.
- But believers have a strong attachment to what they believe.

Faith Interpretations

From a system of beliefs
to an interpretation of life

- Culture and Worldviews
- Philosophy and Traditions
- Education or lack of Education
- Ideologies/Social media

