Angie Yousry 12-5-12

**Religion Shapes Culture**

 Religion and philosophies that were created long ago helped shape the lives of their followers. The five major religions Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity helped shape and grow the development of history. Religion shapes the lives and culture of its followers with their holy books, laws and ritual beliefs. It causes followers to become respectful and committed.

 Religion shapes the lives of their followers with their religious books such as the Quran, Bible and Mahabharata. In Islam Muslim people believe in the holy book the Quran. The Quran consists of many messages from Allah written in a book. The Quran teaches Muslims how they should worship god and demands strict obedience in following his laws. In document 2 the following exert from the Quran (Surah 92 The Night al Lial) it states

*“Guard himself against evil and believes in goodness, we shall smooth the path of salvation, but for him that neither gives nor takes and disbelieves in goodness, we shall smooth the path of affliction”*

This states that the followers who listen to Allah and do the right things their life will be smooth and he will guide them but the followers who don’t listen and do not do good Allah won’t help them through life and their path with affliction. This message shows the followers their reward in return of believing in Allah and following his messages. If they listen to him and be good Allah will guide them and they will go to heaven and those who lie and do not do good they will be burned in a blazing fire, go to hell and Allah will not help them. This teaches their followers to be respectful and obedient to what Allah said and not to break his words. This also helps them become committed so they can become good and not to do bad sins so they can be rewarded with heaven. In The real world as well Muslim followers memorize exerts of the Quran like this surah to get closer to Allah and be more committed to their religion. Also in the religion Christianity, Christians follow a holy book named the Bible. It teaches Christians to become good, help others, be respectful and believing in god to go to heaven. In document 8 it states…

*“Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”*

This statement is similar to Islam, if the followers respect their god’s rules they will be rewarded with heaven and if they do not listen and cause sins they will be persecuted. In the document they also state that those who are merciful will be given mercy and those who have a pure heart will see god. The bible shapes their followers by it causes them to be more committed, respectful and thankful for their god’s words. It causes them to not do crime or wrong so they will be sent to heaven and not be persecutes just like Islam those who are good are rewarded and those who are not are burned. Christian children now got to church on Sundays for religion schools they can learn more about their religion and become more committed to it. Lastly the religion Hinduism the Mahabharata (holy book) shapes the live of their followers. The Mahabharata teaches Indian people to learn to treat others who treat them badly with compassion and truth and to be patient for the pain that happens to them. The Mahabharata states form document 3..

*“Enjoy the pleasure bestowed on you, wait patiently for what time brings*

*“Let us overcome the angry man with gentleman”*

This statement shows how the Indian people try to be peaceful, patient, thankful, respectful and committed to their religion. They learn to respect and are thankful for what come to them and learn to be patient for the pain that happens to them. They also learn to treat others kindly even if they don’t treat them the same way. This is how holy books shapes the lives of their followers.

 Religion shapes the lives of their followers with their laws such as the Ten Commandments, 5 pillars and 4 noble truths. In Islam the 5 Pillars that help shape the Muslim followers. They’re 5 duties that they must do Muslim people should do Shahadat (there is no god but Allah), Salat (Muslim must pray 5 times a day), Zakaat (Give money to the poor), Sawm (fast for the month Ramadan) and Hajj (a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once if they can). These are 5 mandatory laws that all Muslims must follow except for the last one Hajj that is if it is possible to do. These laws teach Muslim people to be committed and follow all the laws and respect them. During Ramadan, Muslims fast for 30 days from sunset to sunrise. This teaches Muslims to feel for the poor and be thankful for what they have. In Christianity as well they have laws that they must follow as well called the Ten Commandments. Christians use these ten laws to guide their daily lives by respecting their parents and respecting their lord. In document 1 it states..

*“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, Honor your father and your mother”*

This shows how the lord is telling the followers to respect their holy day which is Sunday and to go to church and pray. The Ten Commandments as well teach respect to the elderly which shapes the people of today how they respect their parents so they don’t disrespect god. Lastly in the religion Buddhism the 4 noble truths are laws that teach its followers to do the right things and go to the right path. The eight fold path is the path which all Buddhists follow so they can be closer to god and not to do wrong. From document 5 it states...

“It is the Noble Eightfold Path; that is, right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration”

This is a mandatory law that Buddhists follow. They are committed to follow this law and to end their suffering by doing good not bad. Some examples of their suffering can be aging, disease, sorrow illness etc. If the followers believe in their god and follow the eightfold path they will be relived from all suffering

 Lastly, Religion shapes culture with their ritual beliefs such as praying in the Kaaba and Church. In Islam one of their ritual beliefs is to visit Mecca and pray at the Kaaba. In Muslim people’s daily lives Muslims pray the direction of the Kaaba which is located in Mecca. Visiting Mecca and seeing the Kaaba is one of Muslims people’s life’s most important events. During their pilgrimage to see the Kaaba they do lots of ceremonies. One famous ritual is walking around the Kaaba (shrine) 7 times saying “god is greatest” saluting or kissing the black stone on the Kaaba. On Fridays as well as a ritual belief Muslim men and boys attend Friday prayers every Friday. This ritual causes Muslims to be committed to their religion and believing in god and being respectful to their beliefs passing it on to their future generations by teaching their children and doing the 5 pillars as well. In Christianity one ritual belief is praying at the church every Sunday. Sunday is considered as their Sabbath day where Christians go to pray to god. They worship in churches, sing joyfully, read from the bible and pray silently. Today Christian religion is in many forms like Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists and Baptists.

 In conclusion Religion shapes cultures and lives of their follower’s with their books, Laws and ritual beliefs. It causes them to become committed and respectful. Muslims now memorize the Quran to become closer to Allah, Christians got to church every Sunday to pray and sing to god and Hindu’s become more peaceful and kind to please their gods.

.

“