

J. Krishnamurti quote

Is **religion** a matter of **belief** ?

Religion as we generally know it or acknowledge it, is a series of **beliefs**, of **dogmas**, of **rituals**, of **superstitions**, of **worship of idols**, of **charms and gurus** that will lead you to what you want as an **ultimate goal**. The **ultimate truth** is your **projection**, that is what you want, which will make you **happy**, which will give a certainty of the **deathless state**. So, the mind **caught** in all this creates a religion, a religion of **dogmas**, of **priest-craft**, of **superstitions** and **idol-worship**—and in that, you are **caught**, and the **mind stagnates**. Is that religion? Is religion a matter of **belief**, a matter of **knowledge** of other people's **experiences** and **assertions**? Or is religion merely the following of **morality**? You know it is comparatively easy to be moral—to do this and not to do that. Because it is easy, you can **imitate a moral system**. **Behind** that **morality**, **lurks** the self, **growing**, **expanding**, **aggressive** and **dominating**. But is that religion?

You have to find out **what truth is** because that is the only thing that matters, not whether you are rich or poor, not whether you are happily married and have children, **because** they **all come to an end**, there is **always death**. So, **without any form of belief**, you must find out; you must have the **vigor**, the **self-reliance**, the **initiative**, so that for yourself you know what truth is, what God is. **Belief will not give you anything; belief only corrupts, binds and darkens**. The **mind can only be free** through **vigor, through self-reliance**.

The Book of Life, December 12, HarperSanFrancisco, 1995