

Monism in Primitive Religions and the Issue of the Origin of Religion

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Abstract

In the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, some scholars in the West, influenced by the Enlightenment worldview, believed that the cause of each incident could be found in nature. They took into consideration the existing primitive religions to find mundane origin of religion. They also discovered that some matters such as Animism, Fetishism, Manichaeism, Totemism have been common principles among the existing primitive religions and each of them knew one of these matters as the beginning and origin of religion, but because of their specific worldview, intentionally or unintentionally, ignored this idea that belief in one God is more than anything else a common belief among primitive peoples, so the origin and beginning of the religion may be monotheism. This theory was presented at that time by christian pastor, Wilhelm Schmidt, but was ignored by others. The results of research that Western anthropologists have gained from these religions can provide a lot of evidence in favor of Schmidt's theory.

Keywords: primitive religions; knowledge; monotheism; religions.

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