A Challenge to the Islamic and Judaistic World: Why do Judaism and Islam not accept Christ Jesus as the Saviour (Part 1)

Mineo Moritani

[Abstract]

Not *Homo-sapience* but *Homo-coelistis* is the ultimate stage of human evolution. Similarly both Judism and Islam are the not ultimate stage of religious evolution; they are doomed to lose its line of evolution on the way. It is like that of Neanderthales who decayed although they were a kind of man.

Kye words Homo-sapiens, Homo-coelestis, Abraham, evolution

1. Why I am here to address

The only thing in my religious life that still keeps me questioning is the reason why the Jewish and the Muslims do not accept Christ Jesus as the Saviour since they have the common father Abraham who was glad to expect the Saviour to appear from his descendants:

Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily I say to you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. (John 8:56-58)

This is the purely transcendental mystic world of faith: the righteous live by faith. This only question drives me to participate in this academically based world congress on the history of religion. I hope some people answer this question of mine.

2. My stance

My standpoint is very clear and plain. The true religion deserving its name is only one as the

A Challenge to the Islamic and Judaistic World: Why do Judaism and Islam not accept Christ Jesus as the Saviour (Part 1) (Mineo Moritani) ultimate evolution of the life is only one, that is, *Homo-sapiens*. This presentation shows that the only true Saviour is the Son of God, who is called Jesus Christ. To be precise, by the true religion here I mean is one according to which our sins are forgiven so that we may enter the Kingdom of God in which only the righteous people can live eternally blessed. In other words, the true religion by which I mean here is the religion which holds this true Saviour. In arguing, I will take a purely rational way independent of my own religion. My theme is to point out the logical error of the Jewish and Mohammedan religions, purely based on the Old

3. About the religious conflicts among the three religions

Testament, the common book of the three religions

Often they refer to the religious conflicts between Islam and Christianity. They are by no means religious conflicts. They are merely human selfish conflicts, deserving no name of religion either of Mohammedanism or Christianity. They fight with each other not in the religious standard but economical or political standard. They are neither Christians or Muslims in the true sense of the words. Bad or false Christians are as bad or false as bad or false Muslims. They are not religious but merely nominally religious. They should be called in more proper name such as proud egoistical secularists. They do not belong to their alleged religions. They should not call themselves Muslims or Christians. Their true identity is not religious. A true Christian is as good as a true Muslim. If religious conflicts exist, however, it is because they do not understand each other correctly.

We appreciate the concept of Islam, which corrects errors Christians tend to fall into. The Islamic are friends to Christians. They are real friends to Christians. True, some self-named Christians do not understand the true Chirst, but advertising Christ as God; they even name Mary the Mother of Christ Jesus as the Mother of God! The pure Islam cannot endure such ideas with a plain reason! Christians must be the purest monotheist in the strickest sense. Hagiastheto to onoma su! Hallowed be thy name! This is completely an Islamic concept. All Christians must become pure Islams in this respect.

4. The initial problem as to why the conflicts occur

The initial problem, however, is that the individuals do no know each religion accurately. When I read the Islamic understanding of Christ Jesus, I felt the need of accurate understanding of each other. I read some Islamic documents about Christianity. I realised at

the time that they lacked the right knowledge of Christianity. So honestly I had the following horrible impression of Islam because they do not have right understanding of Christianity.

(1) I am going to express a Christian's purely naive reaction to the concept of Islam based on the latter's misunderstanding.

Islam is Satan: Islam is a snake. Then shall we cut the Islamic off? Isalm is cunning. It is a snake. Then shall we cut it off? They deny the diviniy of Christ, and nullify His only object of coming into this earth: the Redemption of man's sins. They are anti-Christ. So must we cut them off? They are the enemy of Truth, they are the absolute enemy of the Truth. So shall we cut them and kill them? They praise the other minor points of Christ Jesus whereas they nullify the only one object of his coming to this world. They are such very sly people even if they love the poor and do the virtues. They are that young shining cherub whose shape Satan took of to deceive Uriel in Milton's Paradise Lost. The Islamic, among others, Mohammed is the Arch-anti-Chirist. He is the snake who seduced Eve in Eden. It is because while they deify Jesus like a saint and believe that He lives in Heaven, they deny the fact that He came to the earth from the bosom of the Father God for the forgivenss of our sins. Jesus' most earnest desire is to atone for man's sins. We can make a story about this. A man would most like his son to be healed in his illness so he visits a village. The villagers welcomed him with every kind of entertainment. Whereas they do not cure his illness; on the contray, they damage him to death. Does the man enjoy their entertainment? If he has reason, he may well be besides himself with grief. Why does Islam try to nullify Christ's only objective of his Mission on this earth? It is because they must deprive the Christ of the Divinity and nullify the power of redemption of the sin of man. Mohammed had to deform the true figure of Christ in such a way that Mohammed may be equal with Christ. So I say that Mohammed is the greatest Anti-Christ since the day of Christ.

The understanding of Muslims of the Bible does not deserve our attention because it is full of faults. This kind of fault can be bettered when they study the Bible with sincere and diligent hearts. So today I will not treat it in this respect but point out their anti-rational or irrational spirit in a broader framework of salvation. That is the framework of salvation that we are going to tell, which is never breakable, eternally unbreakable path of salvation. There is one thing we cannot dispense with in understanding the Bible, Christian salvation or Jesus Christ: it is the Holy Spirit. By the agency of the Holy Spirit Abraham knew that his Seed would destroy Satan and David was able to call the pre-existent Christ his Lord, Isaiah

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prophesied and Zachariah knew the birth of the Saviour. The angency of the Holy Spirit continued for more than four thousand years since the day of Abraham. Without the Holy Spirit we cannot understand the true way of salvation.

Maybe, the more genuine a Christian is, the more radical he is towards Islam. I believe the Christian fundamentalist can become more radical than any Muslims. They would sacrifice their lives more times than those of Muslims. Of course, this is only in an imaginary world. A true Christian never resorts to weapons; the person who resorts to swords may be destroyed by swords. The precept prevents him from resorting to any violence to the Muslims, either physically or spiritually. Because they know the true Muslims are truly friends to the true Christians, the basic resolution to this religious conflicts both for Muslims and Christians is to learn the Bible together first.

(2) The Judaism is still in the state of stoning Jesus since they do not believe in Him.

After all, the Son of God is the Saviour of all the people including those who are saved after they die that do not know of or believe in the Son of God (Jesus Christ) while they are alive in the world. What makes them so blunt that they cannot believe in Him even though he is represented in the book is the fact that they do not receive the Holy Spirit in their souls. They are exceedingly wrong: they are like that rich man who lived a happy life before he is shut up in the dark place after death. He wanted to tell his family to believe in Him during their lives. Christ, however, told that when they did not receive the words of Moses in their lives, they could not believe in Him even though they died. So it is very important to believe in Him once shown Him while alive.

5. The basic keynotes to religious resolutions

I can show you very instructive insights into sects of religion from one of the representative men of religion in Japan. His name is Kanzo Uchimura. He writes as follows:

I believe in Christianity, and he believes in Buddhism. Yet this makes no completely different distinction between our religions. It is because we cannot know whether or not he adores Amitabah with the same mind as we adore our God. In many cases, people adore the same object with the different name, so it is a severe folly to make a religious contention because of the difference of the name of their adoration. Similarly, it is an egregious error

to think that a person of the same religion is always the person of the same faith. A person believe in a religion with many different motives. Some persons believe in the same religion that I believe in with the motives different from those of mine.

So the difference of religions should be decided according to the motives with which he believes in it; it is not to be decided according to the nominal differences. A person who clings to Amitabah for the purpose of obtaining secular happiness has the same religion as a person who comes to Christianity for the same purpose. Their religion is the same whether they come to Christianity or Buddhism or Mohammedanism if their purpose is for spiritual and physical purity; they belong to the same religion.

Man's religion is his worldview he holds. Persons whose ultimate concern is profits belong to the same religion regardless of the religion they seem to believe in. Persons who consider intellect and genius as the almighty power in the whole universe belong to the same religion whether they are Christians or Buddhists. Persons who hunger for the Truth and Justice belong to same religion regardless of what they adore. (*Faith Works*, Vol. 14, p. 74)

Kanzo's religious insight leads to Swedenborg's imagination of Heaven, from which I will quote later. Kanzo writes another instructive insight among the three religions: Buddhism, Mohammedanism and Christianity as follows:

The person who saves the world should be born in and comes from the centre of cultural world. Sakyamuni (563-483 B.C.) is the Light of Asia, so he was born in India; Confucius is the Light of China, so he was born at Ro in China; Mohammed (570?-632) is the Light of Arabia, and his religion is good mainly for the people who live in the desert, so he was born in Mecca in Arabia. Christ is the person who is to enlighten the civilised countries of the world and save the whole human race, so he was born in Bethlehem in Judea. It is not that Christ became Christ because he was born in Bethlehem, or that Mohammed became Mohammed because he was born in Mecca, or that Sakyamuni became Sakyamuni because he was born in Kapila. Rather Christ had to be born in Judea in order to achieve his works. Mohammed had to be born in Mecca, not to be born in India or Judea. If he had been born in Bethlehem, he should have led an idle life. God does not make heroes without objectives. The God, who sent Christ to Judea, also sent Sakymuni in India, and Mohammed in Arabia also in order to save people. (Ibid., p.124)

Uchimura's insight into the religions gives us a clear understanding of the religions.

A Challenge to the Islamic and Judaistic World: Why do Judaism and Islam not accept Christ Jesus as the Saviour (Part 1) (Mineo Moritani)

Our salvation does not depend on what religion we have but how we are faithful to our religion. The religions have an individual mission. So we should admire and understand our respective religion. I have an optimistic view of the religious conflicts especially among Islam, Judaism and Christianity because we are all saved regardless of our religions according to Swedenborg. So Uchimura's view of salvation is very similar to that of Swedenborg as we quote next.

6. The ultimate fate of each person in his religion in the spiritual world

Now it is good to see here our ultimate fate each according to the religion. We can quote from Swedenborg. Firsty, about Christianity, he writes as follows:

Then I saw angelic spirits rising up from below in great numbers and being carried into heaven. These were "the sheep" who had been kept there and guarded by the Lord from by-gone ages, lest they should be affected by the malignant sphere emanating from the dragonists, and their charity be stifled. These are they who are meant in the Word by "those rising from the graves," also by "the souls of those slain for the testimony of Jesus," who were watching, and by "those who are of the first resurrection." (Swedenborg, *The Last Judgment*, p. 97).

Secondly, about the Mohammedans and Mohammed in the Spiritual World, Swedenborg writes as follows:

The Mohammedans were led from their places where they are gathered together. . . . The evils were cast into swamps and stagnant pools, many also were scattered in a certain desert that lay beyond. The good, however, were led through the east to a spacious land towards the south, and there they were given dwelling-places. They who were led thither were those who, in the world, acknowledged the Lord as the greatest Prophet and as the Son of God, and who believed that He was sent by the Father to instruct the human race, and who at the same time had lived a moral-spiritual life in accordance with their religiosity. Very many of them, when instructed, accept a faith in the Lord, and acknowledge Him to be one with the Father. There is also given them, by influx from the Lord, communication with the Christian heaven but they do not mix with them because religion separates them. All from that religion, as soon as they come into the other life among their own people, seek first of all for Mohammed,

but he does not appear, though, in his place, there appear two others who call themselves Mohammeds. These two have obtained a place in the middle beneath the Christian heaven, and there to the left. (Ibid., p. 52.)

69 Since religion constitutes the inmost of man, and from the inmost are his remains, and since in their minds (animi) Mohammed and religion are contemplated as one, so there is always some Mohammed set up within their sight; and as they turn their faces towards the east over which is the Lord, this Mohammed is placed below in the Christian core. He is not the Mohammed who wrote the Koran, but another who fulfils that function, not is he always the same but is changed. Once he was one from Saxony who, having been caputured by the Algerians, became a Mohammedan. Because he had been a Christian, he was moved to speak in their presence about the Lord, saying that He was not the son of Joseph, as they believed in the world, but the Son of God Himself. By this, he instilled in them the idea of the unity of the Lord's Person and Essence with the Father. To that Mohammed there afterwards succeeded others who were moved to saying similar things. Hence, many of them assent to a truly Christian belief about the Lord; and those who assent are carried to a society nearer the east where communication is granted with heaven into which they are afterwards raised up. In the place where Mohammed has his throne, there appears a flame like a little torch, so that he may be recongnised, but that flame is invisible except to Mohammedans.

70 Mohammed himself who wrote the Koran does not come into sight at this day. I was told that, in early times, he was their head, but because he wished to rule as God over all the things of their religion, he was cast out from his throne which he had under the Papists, and sent down to the right side adjoining the south. At one time, some societies of Mohammedans were excited by malicious spirits to acknowledge Mohammed for God. To quell this rising, Mohammed was brought up from the lower regions, and shown to them, on which occasion I also saw him. He appeared like the corporeal spirits in whom there is no interior perception, in face almost black, and the only words I heard him say were these, 'I am your Mohammed'. And soon, as if sinking down, he returned into his own place.

72 There are many among them receptive of the truth, and they see the justice in rational things, as I have been able to notice from talks with them in the spiritual world. I have spoken with them about One God, about resurrection, and about marriage. *Concerning One God*, they said they cannot understand Christians talking about the Trinity, and saying that there are three Persons, and each one God, and still declare that God is One. But I answered them that the angels in heaven which is composed of Christians do not speak in this way, but

say that God is One Person and Essence in Whom there is a Trine, and that men on earth call this Trine three Persons. And I told them that this Trine is in the Lord. So that they might be confirmed, I read through in their presence from *Matthew* and *Luke*, where it is told about the conception of the Lord from God the Father, also where He Himself teaches that the Father and He are One. Having heard these readings, they perceived the fact, saying that this being so, the Divine Essence is His. *Concerning resurrection*, they said they do not understand Christians speaking about the state of man after death, in that they make the soul like a wind or air, and hence there is no delight before reunion with the body at the day of the last judgment. I answered, however, that only some speak in this way, but that those who are not of that school, believe that after death they will come into heaven, will speak with angels, and will enjoy heavenly delight, a delight which they do not describe it. I told them that at this day there are being revealed to them many things about man's state after death which they did not know before. (Ibid., pp. 117-19)

(2) About the Jews in the Spiritual World, Swedenborg writes as follows:

79 Before the last judgment, the Jews appeared in a valley there towards the left side of the Christian core; but after it, they were transferred to the north, and intercourse with the Christians was forbidden, except with the vagrants outside the cities. There are in that quarter two large cities into which the Jews are led after death. Before the judgment they called them Jerusalems, but after it by another name, because after the judgment by 'Jerusalem' was meant the Church in which the Lord alone is adored. In these cities of theirs, there are set over them converted Jews who warn them not to speak contemptuously about Christ, and they punish those who still do so. The streets of those cities are ankledeep in filth, and the houses unclean to the extent that they stink, so that it is impossible to approach [them].

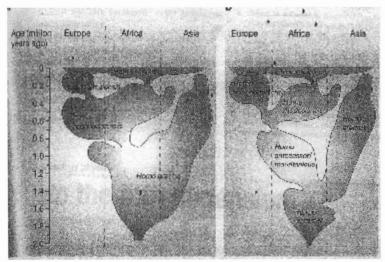
80 Sometimes there appears to them an angel above, in the middle altitude, with a staff in his hand. It is given them to believe that it is Moses, and he exhorts them to disist from their insane expectation of the Messiah even there, because the Messiah is Christ who rules them and all men. He says that he himself knows this, and also that he knew something about Christ when he was in the world. When they have heard these sayings they withdraw. And most of them forget, while a few retain them [in mind]. Those who do remember are sent to synagogues where there are converted Jews, and they are taught. To those who receive the

instruction new garments are given instead of the tattered ones in which they were before, and there is given a copy of the Word neatly written, then a not unpleasing dwelling in the city. But those who do not receive the instruction, are cast down into the hells that lie under that great tract of theirs, and many are cast into forests and deserts where they perpetrate robberies against one another. (Ibid., p. 123)

(3) About the Gentiles in the Spiritual World, Swedenborg writes as follows:

But those of the Gentiles who, in the world, have worshipped God under a Human form, and have lived a life of charity in accordance with their religiosity, are joined with the Christian in heaven, for they acknowledge and adore the Lord more than others do. (*The Last Judgment*, p. 53)

In this way, God is completely fair and those who are saved are those who are good in their faith according to their religions. These teachings accord with the concept of the Last Judgment in John's Revelation, especially the judgment according to "the book of life" (Rev. 20:12). It is to be noted, however, that the ultimate salvation is only through the Lord, called Christ Jesus, the Son of God; without Him, no salvation at all. In this respect, our conclusion is that we can rely on Christianity as the surest way of Salvation. It is the easiest and surest way to Salvation. In this respect, the other religions are precarious, some may be led astray to hell. Christ only is the Way, the Truth and the Life.



(Refer to p.22)

7. Two kinds of man lived together

The most recent NHK broadcasting of "Chikyu Daishinka," (the great evolution of the earth of 4.6 billion years) gave me many impacts on my view of history of religion. The most impressive suggestion is that two kinds of man lived at the same time. Scientists discovered that two kinds of man used to live side by side: the one who was doomed to extinguish from the earth and the other who is to continue to live. This discovery is the very important because this symbolises that today two kinds of people live side by side: those who are to be saved into heaven and those who are not. This does not concern what religion they believe in: this is a universal phenomenon. In our daily life, there is no apparent distinction between

us; there are no biological differences. In billion years, those who are not saved will decay, while those who are saved are to live in a new heaven and a new earth. In this new earth and heaven, there are no evil persons; they are all righteous people. Perhaps there is no significance to discuss the religion; to live in our religion is the more essential.



(Refer to p.22)

8. My basic scheme of argument is illustrated as follows

Religion begins with the creation of man. Or better to say, it begins before the creation of man. Raison d'être of the universe is the preparation of a new heaven and a new earth where the resurrected live for ever in bliss. For man is not the lord of the universe. It begins with God, the true God. By the true God here I mean is One who created the world and life in it, especially man called Homo-sapiens. In the process of billion years of evolution, Homo-sapiens was created from Homo-neanderthalensis in 160,000 years ago in the Herto village 230 km to the North-East of Adisabeba, Ethiopia, Africa. From there man began to spread towards the rest of the world. I may not be mistaken to suppose the place to be the scene of life of

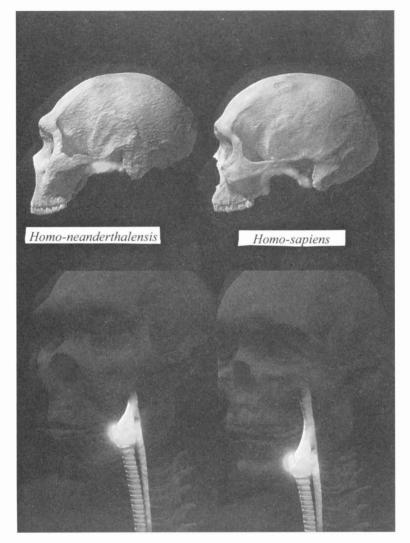
Adam and Eve, the Paradise. Since the legend goes that there was a place of "True Paradise under the Ethiop Line" (Milton, Paradise Lost, IV, 282). One day, a certain kind of Homoneanderthalensis noticed that they were changing in his consciousness, emotion or intellect just as the egg metamorphoses into a larva, a chrysalis and an imago. Perhaps, several Neanderthals felt so—that they were metamorphosing into higher existence. I have a difficulty to decide whether only a couple mates or several couples mate and population increases. Fortunately a hint about this is given in the fact that Cain met his wife when Adam and Eve gave birth to another child, Seth. So it is reasonable to suppose that several couples mated and begot their children when Cain lived in Nod. The story of Adam and Eve in the Old Testament is that of a special race. God's object of the creation of Homo-sapiens is to obtain Homo-coelestis, that is, heavenly man. The true God intends man to finally to be a heavenly being. This is the ultimate object of the creation of the physical universe.

In some respects, religion resembles the evolution of the creature. As far as the present stage is concerned, *Homo-sapiens* is the ultimate goal of the biological evolution of the creature. So there must be only one true goal of religion. In the process of evolution, some hominid populations departed from the mainstream of the evolution and remain there as its final goals. Many religions appeared on the earth as many creatures appeared on the earth. Only man reached his final goal as far as the present stage is concerned. So only one religion is supposed to remain. As the other species have its own value and reason of existence, so various religions have its own reasons and values. Yet this does not mean that they are the true final one. As the monkey cannot claim to their being the final goal of evolution, though the monkey has its own value and reason for existence. Man is the consummate of all the other creatures in the process of its evolution both physical and mental. We see many similarities between man and the other creatures according to sciencees ranging from embrylogy to phylogeny.

In like manner, we see many resemblances between the true religion and the other religions. As the monkey cannot claim their ultimate stage of evolution, the other religion cannot claim their finality, they must be yielded to the final one as their fulfillment of existence.

This mainstream of the evolution of religions is monotheism. Yet what is the matter with the confusion among the religions of monotheism: Judaism, Christianity and Islam—this is what I would like to argue today.

There are mainly two kinds of evolution: the biological DNA evolution and the cultural "outer"-DNA evolution. Once man had attained the cultural ability through advancement of



(Refer to p.22)

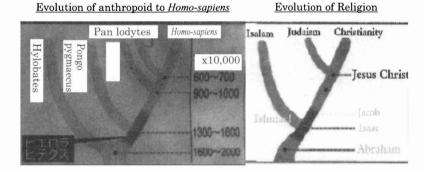
vocal organs, his consequent evolution began: that is the cultural evolution, or more exactly, that of his worldview, the essential of which is his view of God, or religion. What is the main factor which rendered *Homo-neanderthalensis* to evolve into *Homo-sapiens* is his gain of the ability of language. After the gain of the ability of language, the evolution of *Homo-sapiens* changed from that of the biological **DNA** to that of the cultural **DNA**. The biological evolution ended with the gain of the language, but since then, the cultural evolution began. This scientific discovery gives me an inspirational insight into the interpretation of the Bible:

文学部論集 第90号 (2006年3月)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

Many reasons are thought of as to why man gained the ability: its ultimate reason is to know God, the true God. Hence man's cultural evolution began—I believe the history of man is a pilgrimage to the Ultimate God.

I will present my general and basic idea of what I am thinking of about the analogy between the evolution of *Homo-sapiens* and that of religion. (The following figures are my own adaptations from AsahiShinbun.)

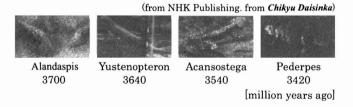


The most dramatic bifurcation ouccurred when hominids are divided into two: one is *Homosapiens*, the other is *Homo-neanderthalensis*. The former continues to exist till the present day; the latter decayed on the way.

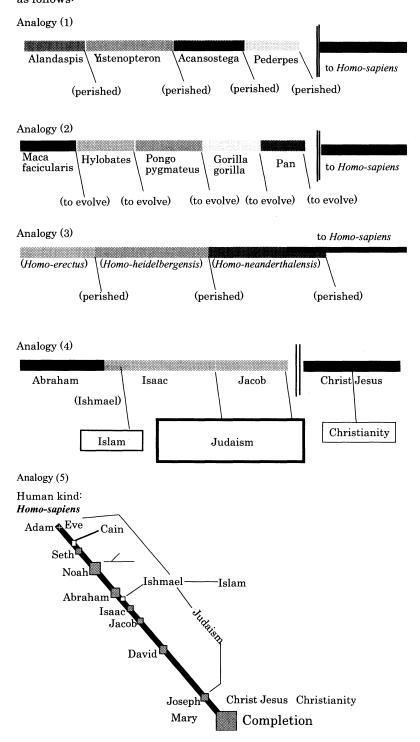
Homo-erectus - Homo-heidelbergensis — Homo-sapiens (to contiue to exist)

Homo-neanderthalensis (ceased to exist)

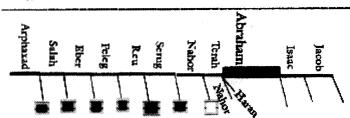
We can compare the evolution with that of fishes: they are said to be the ancestors of *Homosapiens*.



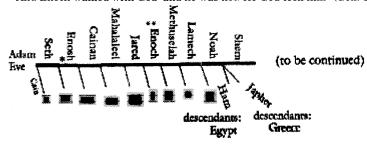
In summary, we can obtain six analogies of evolution of man including genetics of religions as follows:



Analogy (6)



- * "Then people began to call the name of the Lord" (Gen. 5:24).
- ** "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Gen. 5:24).



The descendants of these collateral lines invented such horrible pagan gods as these: Moloch, Chemos, Baal, Astharoth, Peor, Thammuz, Dagon, Rimmon, Osisiris, Isis, Orus, Belial and Ammonites.

John the Baptist (The Last Greatest Man of Judaism) (ceased to exist)

Christ Jesus (contines to exist eternally

The dramatic transition from Judaism to Christianity is recorded as follows:

²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.³⁰He must become greater, I must become less. ³¹The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. (John 3:29-31: New International Version)

From above analogies we know that the collateral lines perish or evolve with circumscription. They can enjoy their final evolution, as the monkey enjoys its finality. So does Islam or Judaism. They can boast of their final religion. Yet their finality is circumscribed within the limit. So the ultimate religion is Christianity as the ultimate hominid is *Homo-sapiens*. In this respect, do you have some arguments, if so please ask me now.

Now I have a suggestion as to the whole history of man. I can illustrate as follows:

A Challenge to the Islamic and Judaistic World: Why do Judaism and Islam not accept Christ Jesus as the Saviour (Part 1) (Mineo Moritani)

Homo-erectus \rightarrow Homo-heidelbergensis \rightarrow Homo-neanderthalensis \rightarrow Homo-sapiens \rightarrow Homo-coelestis

The ultimate goal of the creature is the production of *Homo-coelestis*.

The spiritual epoch-making period began with the resurrection of the Son of God. It is

written in the Gospel according to Matthew:

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto

them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to

observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of

the world. Amen. (Mat. 28:16-20: A.V.)

The new era began when "And when they saw him, they worshipped him." Homo-coelestis to

be is the people who live in this new generation. Christ said, "and, lo, I am with you alway,

even unto the end of the world." This remark of Christ Jesus is indeed epoch-making. The

person who believes in these facts needs tremendous courage of will. His courage of will is

compared to that of Pederpes which first who parted from the water sphere and landed 3420

million years ago. The brave Pederpes led the creature to evolution in the level of biological

DNA. The person who believes in this facts is on the process to the supreme evolution in the

level of cultural DNA: Believe or perish.

[An addion]

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-168 -