

TRADITIONS IN RELIGION

(Name)

(Course name)

(Date of submission)

Political Autobiography: Traditions in Religion

Identified Views

Although people might have exposure to different cultural norms, individuals are more likely to follow religious practices that align with their cultural background rather than surrounding traditions. According to Croucher, Zeng, Rahmani, and Sommier,¹ religion is an essential layer of culture, which implies that traditional norms influence how people engage in sacred practices. In retrospect, religion was largely dependent on how my household functioned when I was a child. My community comprised a diverse neighborhood of different religious traditions. In this way, I had to interact with children from different religious traditions. For instance, our immediate neighbor was a family of Chinese descent. As such, I became familiar with their religious traditions, including their meals, décor, and schedules when my family would visit their house. Of note, however, such exposure did not derail our religious practices given the differences in cultural backgrounds.

Views

The effects of cultural norms and traditions on a person's identity can extend towards adulthood. According to the cultural psychology theory by Miller,² the psychological processes that individuals exhibit are mainly dependent on their respective cultures. For instance, my neighbor's son grew up into a responsible adult owing to the Chinese traditions that his parents introduced him to when he was a child. In fact, the Chinese belief system points to the

¹ Stephen M. Croucher et al., "Religion, Culture, and Communication," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*, 2017, , doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190228613.013.166.

² Joan G. Miller, "Cultural Psychology: Implications for Basic Psychological Theory," *Psychological Science* 10, no. 2 (1999): , doi:10.1111/1467-9280.00113.

importance of bloodline and family traditions. My neighbor's son grew up acknowledging the importance of a good public image owing to the norms that his parents had emphasized.

Perspective

Cultural norms in concert with religious practices can be instrumental in shaping the behaviors and expectations of future generations, since they give individuals a sense of purpose. According to Kastanakis and Voyer,³ the role of culture in shaping behavior, cognition, and perceptions is unchallenged. Just as my neighbor's son grew up to be a responsible adult, households could learn the importance of developing traditional norms and principles in their children for a better future.

³ Minas N. Kastanakis and Benjamin G. Voyer, "The Effect of Culture on Perception and Cognition: A Conceptual Framework," *Journal of Business Research* 67, no. 4 (2014): , doi:10.1016/j.jbusres.2013.03.028.

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