

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this work was first and foremost for myself to investigate a discrepancy. Some of us may have heard the names such as Beelzebul, Belphegor, and Asmodeus. From the bible demons however they are culturally attested as ancient gods of past religions Beelzebul books of Kings (2Kings.1:2-3, 6, 16) is Baal Hadad the weather deity of the near east but was slandered to be the lord of the flies, the Septuagint renders the name as Baalzebub (Βααλζεβούβ) and as Baal muian (Βααλ μυϊαν – ‘Baal of flies’) perhaps in a mocking tone of how the pagans encircle a mound as flies would with dung. Asmodeus in the book of Tobit is from the Zoroastrian ‘Aeshma Deva’. Aeshma Deva is a demon that has a similar role. Lastly Belphegor is just a deity of mount Peor in the name of a mountain peak, mentioned in the text of Numbers 23:28. Belphegor is most likely the god of sun and justice Utu Shamash.

But what about our own god? Why should he not fall under the same scrutiny? We have ample evidence to suggest the Israelites at best practiced the faith of YHWH however acknowledging the existence of other tribal deities, only after having written the Bible would they edit out their pagan roots as to not mislead future readers, and at worse they practiced idolatry time and again resurging at different moments, to be warned by prophets of a revolutionary monotheistic deity.

This begs the question of which came first. Did revelation of a monotheistic God first make himself known to mankind or did we simply invent monotheism?

Is God a cultural invention of people, an idol called yahweh from the land of Canaan and a tribal guardian spirit subject to an even greater god and thus has no divine origin purely a human contraption?

I have come to the conclusion that hypothetically speaking if God, the God of Abraham who we ourselves have little proof of his existence was not a monotheistic faith this is not a fact to be dismayed. The truly astounding narrative would be somewhere one day a small group of people made a pantheon of many gods, one of them was YHWH. He was neither what our depictions of modernity would portray him as, neither Caucasian, wearing Greek tunics nor was he even head of the pantheon. However some how along the way God himself took this identity of this lesser perhaps a deity of metallurgy by the Edomites as suggested by Nissim Amzalag.

An essential link between Yahweh and copper is suggested in the Book of Zechariah where the dwelling of the God of Israel is symbolized by two mountains of copper (Zech.6:1-6). In his prophecies, Ezekiel describes a divine being as 'a man was there, whose appearance shone like copper' (Ezek.40:3), and in another part of this book, Yahweh is even explicitly mentioned as being a smelter (Ezek.22:20). In the text of Isaiah 54:16, Yahweh is explicitly mentioned as the creator of both the copper worker and his work...Such an involvement of Yahweh is never mentioned elsewhere for other crafts or human activities.

The god of metallurgy generally appears as an outstanding deity. He is generally involved in the creation of the world and/or the creation of humans. The overwhelming importance of the god of metallurgy reflects the central role played by the copper smelters in the emergence of civilizations throughout the ancient world.

The name for YHWH the Edomites used, Qos was a possible name of YHWH, they became the primary workers for the copper mine in Timna and Edom never stated in the bible to oppose Israel, later the god of smiths became the war god, the transition is not difficult to imagine as fire, and metallurgy often equal weapons and militancy such as in the text of Exodus

15:1-18 or judges the song of Deborah where his militancy is shown re-envisioning him as a fierce war god conqueror of nations⁶².

Somewhere along the way this later became the God as we know today. If Abraham himself invented the god or originally other polytheistic cultures before him did it does not matter substantially, through the narration of Abraham. Through God's own divine plan through this mysterious culture or his premeditated planning of our knowledge of said culture God became what he is known now. The first Abraham the father of all nations who took God out of Ur Chaldeas his home village. And started a nation is lost we have only the Bible to go on, he may have been a random villager creating the name YHWH as he mined, ironically Abraham the initiator may very well be God himself who took the name of YHWH out of the obsolete pantheons. As For the figure of Abraham himself as mentioned in the Bible there are two possible interpretations, by Bible alone as source material it is still possible to believe he followed a monotheistic faith in YHWH who was different than all known religions of his time, as Abraham himself met the YHWH in the text of Gen.17:17 and was blessed with revelations and a miraculous son who would go on and continue Yahwism. The other possibility was Abraham as was most common of the time followed a Caananite lesser deity named Yahweh and at worst was practicing monolatria⁶³, who by Gods machinations this epithet survived to this day where the gods own pantheon is all but myth in the current era.

⁶² "Yahweh" World history encyclopedia, accessed July 10,2021 <https://www.worldhistory.org/Yahweh/>

⁶³ Agustinus Setiawidi, *Allah yang kami sembah dan para leluhur yang kami hormati. Monoteisme dalam Kitab Suci Ibrani*, 5.

At this time of writing the three religions are experiencing a turbulent time, in some places the three Abrahamic religions are found they are able to achieve coexistence and peacefully though in others not so, for greater relevance Indonesia is relatively peaceful by policy and law however this opinion is not unanimous between the official governing body and its people, conflicts do occur so much so to the point where religious festivals must be guarded at certain times of the year. This conflict perhaps springs forth from the misconception of a general dislike of the different; peace may only be achieved through uniformity. These small variations between credos may be seen as heretical, a threat. This issue is most relevant in Indonesia, however I would like to attempt an analogy, although there are only 6 major officially recognized religions by the government and conflict is almost expected rather than anticipated, Indonesia has prided itself in the nations diversity of culture which number well more than over a good few hundred, be they Javanese, Batak, Sundanese or otherwise none of which attempt a conversion to enforce a single culture, all cultures respect each others uniqueness and are much more forgiving despite the heaven and earth variances in world views, Indonesia is not incapable of seeing past even great and numerous variances. This country holds the potential in being a shining world example of world peace, although everyone is different, Indonesia can still be a model, a beacon for not just coexistence in cultures but to show the world Abraham, Isaac and Ismael were once but also continue to this day through their decedents in faith a true family in every sense of the word, living harmoniously.

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