

Jesada Goyco  
Personal Spiritual Formation  
Professor Constance Diggs  
February 22, 2023

### Challenge of Eastern Spiritualities to the West

The part that was present for me was when the article talked about NAM. “NAM represents one of three pertinent world views, according to Russel Chandler” Pg.129. In this part, the article talked about the theism in Judaeo-Christian tradition which are naturalism, secularism, humanism, scientism, relativism and theism of Judaeo-Christian tradition. This part was interesting to me because of learning all of the theism’s there were. Another part that was present to me was when it talked about how there is a spiritual battle within the religious world based on three views which are, there is no God, all is God, and Jesus Christ is God. This I agree with completely because when we look at the world and the way people view religion, you have half of the people that believe in God and the other half that do not. I have had numerous conversations with people that believe in the big bang theory and how that is their way to justify that God is not real. Most people turn to science to prove how God is not real and that there is no God. Then you have the other side of people that fully believe in God and will defend Him to the end of time. Then lastly, you have the people who believe that every God is the same God. I have come across a good amount of people who believe this and they are interesting to have conversations with to say the least.

Something that I learned from this article is that “NAM is a synthesis between some aspects of traditional Christianity and Hinduism or between Hinduism and many religions.”Pg.130. I find it interesting how it was made to sustain the western mind-set and basically make them happy or sustainable.

Another thing that I learned was that about thirty percent of Americans believed in reincarnation in 1982. I am almost certain that this number has grown significantly because personally, I know many people that believe in reincarnation. I even have some family members that believe in reincarnation and there is no way of changing their minds on that thought. The reason most people or at least the people that I know believe in reincarnation is because they claim to have “memories” of their past life or they will take that saying of “you have an old soul” as a way to prove that they died when they were older and was born now reborn into a new body and life. I have watched videos of people talking about their “past life” and it just baffles me with how many people actually believe reincarnation is a real thing and they will argue with you about it.

Moving forward, approaching this discipline is going to be a bit confusing because I am not sure if I truly understand the NAM well enough to know how to approach it. I feel like the best way to approach it would be to just not believe in NAM and to not let anyone try and convince you to believe in something they don't believe in.