



OpenLearn: LearningSpace video transcript
A103: An Introduction to Humanities
TV14: What is religion?: Part 2

MCU: John Collins

JOHN COLLINS CONT:
I think that TM does have a relevance for religion, Maharishi actually said that transcendental meditation is like cleaning the floor of a church so you have somewhere nice to pray, it's a technique for releasing stress making a more balanced individual and I think a more balanced individual will tend to become more appreciative of the religion and the the ethics of their religious background.

Graphic: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Transcendental Meditation with OED wallpaper.
Dur: 11"

GWILYM BECKERLEGGE
One feature common to all these groups is that they come together to express their beliefs and practices. How important is this sense of community?

MCU: Canon Nicholas Frayling

GVs: Sunday Prayer Service at Liverpool Parish Church led by Canon Nicholas Frayling.

CANON NICHOLAS FRAYLING
The Church of England like other organised faith communities, has at its heart usually a building or a place where the Christian community gathers for worship. A holy place or if you like a sacred space in which the Christian family can meet for worship is a very important part of its life and it's usual for the Christian community in a local place to attach great importance to its church and to lavish care upon it.

Music:
Actuality
tradit hymns,
Organ, Choir
& Congretion
Singing.
Dur: 01'00"
Liverpool
Parish
Church





Munc (cont)

CANON NICHOLAS FRAYLING CONT:

I have a very deep sense whenever I stand at the altar here is a tremendous privilege in in standing where faithful priests and people have stood for all those centuries, proclaiming a gospel, perhaps in new ways but which is forever the same.

BISHOP VINCENT MALONE:

The notion of community is quite central to Christian faith because there's a real sense in which the human dimension of community requires expression within a faith and and I speak of course specifically for the Christian faith and the Roman Catholic tradition, that says yes coming together is important both to express what we are and to inspire what we hope to be.

**Music:
Actuality.
Solo plus
choir, RC
Cathedral,
Liverpool.
Dur: 56"**

So the Eucharist has that power of gathering the community and there celebrating, celebrating is a key word because it's saying that the person who is a Christian should not I think see himself or herself as having been given a hotline to heaven an easy ride a free ticket, it's a responsibility that says if you have heard and understood that it is in Christ that God is revealed then you have the obligation to celebrate that, that is to say to proclaim it with joy, and in so doing one hopes that others will want to join that celebration will want to say yes that makes sense that this is something that that er that we take part in.

MCU: Bishop Vincent Malone

GVs: Int, Palm Sunday prayer service at Metropolitan RC Cathedral, Liverpool



GVS: Int: People meditating

MCU: John Collins

JOHN COLLINS.

Most people who learn transcendental meditation they just do it in their home, or on the train, whatever, and they don't really become associated with the organisation of that teaches transcendental meditation.

GVS: Int: People meditating.

However for those who are enthusiastic especially about creating coherence in collective consciousness, then it's more powerful to do that by coming together in a group.

The understanding of consciousness is very central to the understanding of TM. Consciousness is actually a field that is throughout the universe it's a field of energy and intelligence, and it's permeating the entire range of creation. The meditator when he meditates produces a very orderly influence from his own individual consciousness into that field of consciousness, and this affects the people around him.



MCU: John Collins

JOHN COLLINS CONT:

Typically all the er negative social indicators start to improve when there's a sufficient concentration of meditators in the area. Erm not only does crime rate go down, but also erm accident rates, suicide rates, divorce rates, a whole range of those kind of indicators, and on the positive side we find that economic confidence grows, very typically the stock market will boom if you introduce a group into an area, it's this field effect of creating coherence in the field of consciousness.

GVs: Int: People Meditating

CU: Noreen Hameed

NOREEN HAMEED

To be a Muslim one is not only concerned about the affairs of herself or himself, we have to be concerned about others, we have to be part of the community, and this is what makes Islam beautiful.

GVs, Int: women praying in women's gallery at Al Rahma Mosque, Liverpool

CU: Noreen Hameed

GVs, Int: women praying in women's gallery at Al Rahma Mosque, Liverpool

When I go to the mosque I feel very peaceful. It's it's something very hard to describe, specially when I meet other Muslims coming in everybody's come to the mosque to gain something, to seek something, to seek the pleasure of God, to come and learn to greet each other, and it's, the won, the most wonderful feeling is soon as I enter the mosque it's so peaceful.



MCU: Mohammed Qadri

GVs: Int: Men praying in Al Rahma Mosque, Liverpool.

MOHAMMED QADRI

Coming to the mosque is very crucial because it stresses on the need to be together, to unite, and to live peacefully together and build the bridges, and to forget about the differences and the prejudices which might disunite the community.

One of the daily practices of the Moslem is to perform five time daily prayers, Salat. Salat means a constant reminder, a constant communication with God, so five times we are reminded of this unity of this brotherhood, of this community, which have to live together in a peaceful manner.

MS: Mohammed Qadri

GVs: Int: Men praying in Al Rahma Mosque, Liverpool.

SUNDER CHOPRA

MCU: Sunder Chopra

GVs: Int: Hindu prayer service, people praying etc

MCU: Sunder Chopra

Hindu cultural organisation fulfils er many needs. One of them is er sharing caring, and er giving to each other now when we come to the temple it is social it is cultural it is religious, so we come in our own individual families forming a big family com community, and community for me is common unity, so it becomes a bigger family. So er and then we discuss the number of problems which we share, common er er experiences, common needs, and common values.

Actuality,
chanting &
tambourine at
Hindu Temple
prayers.
Dur: 15"



GVs: Int: Hindu prayer service,
people praying etc

SUNDER CHOPRA:

The centre is being used by ninety per cent of Hindu's in north west. People come all across the Mersey, and also from North Wales, and erm all the suburbs, they come here this is a nucleus, nucleus of er hope and harmony.

Actuality
drums, bells,
chanting &
tambourine at
Hindu Temple
prayers.
Dur: 30"



MCU: Hilary Cohen

HILARY COHEN:

The Hebrew word for for synagogue is Beth Ha Keneset which means meeting place. The synagogue is not only a place of prayer but also it's a place to meet, so the social aspect is also very important. Coel is my grandson and he's got all his friends, all men in their seventies (laughs) that he goes to meet.

GVs: Int: Synagogue Service,
Childwall Synagogue, Liverpool
MCU: Hilary Cohen

Actuality:
Chanting at
Jewish
Service
Dur: 10"



GVs: Int: Synagogue Service,
Childwall Synagogue, Liverpool

GVs: Int: Hilary Cohen preparing
table for Shabat.

My life revolves initially around Friday, getting ready for the Sabbath, for shabat. Shabbat starts on Friday night, it's from sunset to sunset. There is a Friday night service and then we'll go to that.

GVs: Int: Synagogue Service,
Childwall Synagogue, Liverpool

Shabbat is described as the Queen, sort of the queen of the week, and so the congregation turn to welcome the queen into the synagogue, to welcome Shabbat into our week.

Actuality:
Chanting at
Jewish
Service
Dur: 34"

