



Unit 3 – Stories, Myths, Religion, and Ethics

Day 2

RELIGION:
*LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING
TO FIGHT ABOUT*



Objectives

- Recognize the importance of religion in anthropology
- Identify certain key terms related to most religions
- Discuss how religion connects to our “stories”
- Terms: ➔
- Religion
- Supernatural
- Ritual
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Prophet
- Cult
- Monotheist
- Polytheist
- Atheist
- Agnostic

Remind Me...

- What is folklore?
- What types of “stories” are part of it?
- How do those stories affect our beliefs?
- Today we look at the way stories both define and refine our beliefs, and also become both part of them and illustrate them

Losing My Religion

- *How would YOU define “religion”?*
- *In anthropology, religion may be defined as...*

- **Religion**

- **Set of beliefs and practices**
- **Explain supernatural,**
- **Provide morals, ethics, and meaning of life**



Supernatural Selection

◦ Supernatural

- **Things outside of nature** (or “natural laws”)
- **Unexplained phenomenon** – anything from ghosts to gods.
- *Religious beliefs generally deal with matters thought to be sacred or spiritual.*
- *They include ideas about the nature of the world and the place of human beings in it.*
- *Often used to EXPLAIN THE WORLD OR OUR PLACE IN IT!*



Thoughts and Prayers

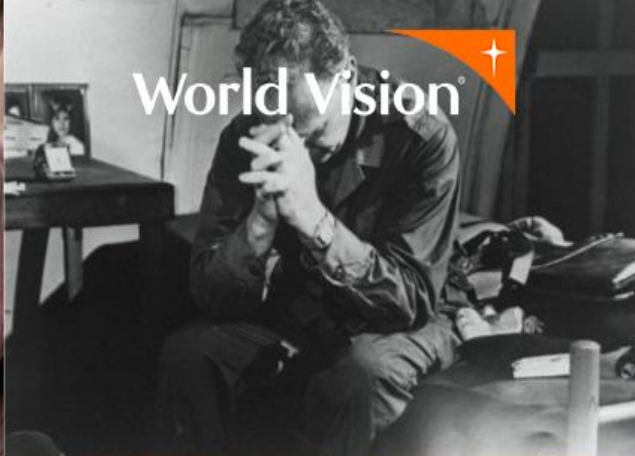
- *Though there are as many religions as there are cultures, there are also certain things that most have in common, like myths, but also...*

- **Ritual**

- **Symbolic Actions**

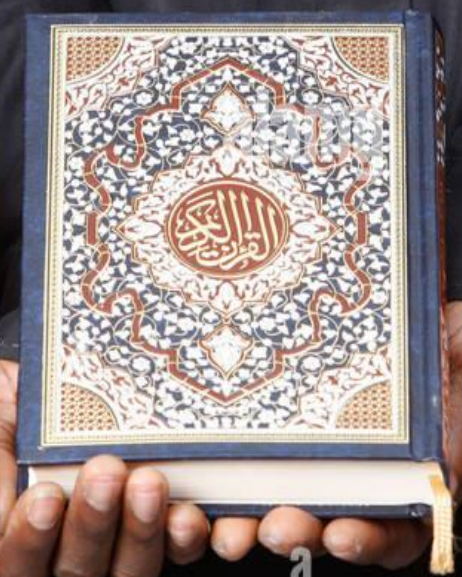
- **Prayer**

- **An expression towards an object of worship**



Maximum Prophet

- *In addition, there are the ways religion is passed along and lead...*
- **Scripture**
 - **Sacred writings to a religion**
 - *The Bible, The Quran, the Book of Mormon, the Bhagvad Gita, Torah, etc.*
- **Prophet**
 - **Person believed to have authority to speak for the divine**
 - *Often leaders, or modifiers, of religion*
 - *Moses, Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius, Joseph Smith, Dalai Lama, etc.*

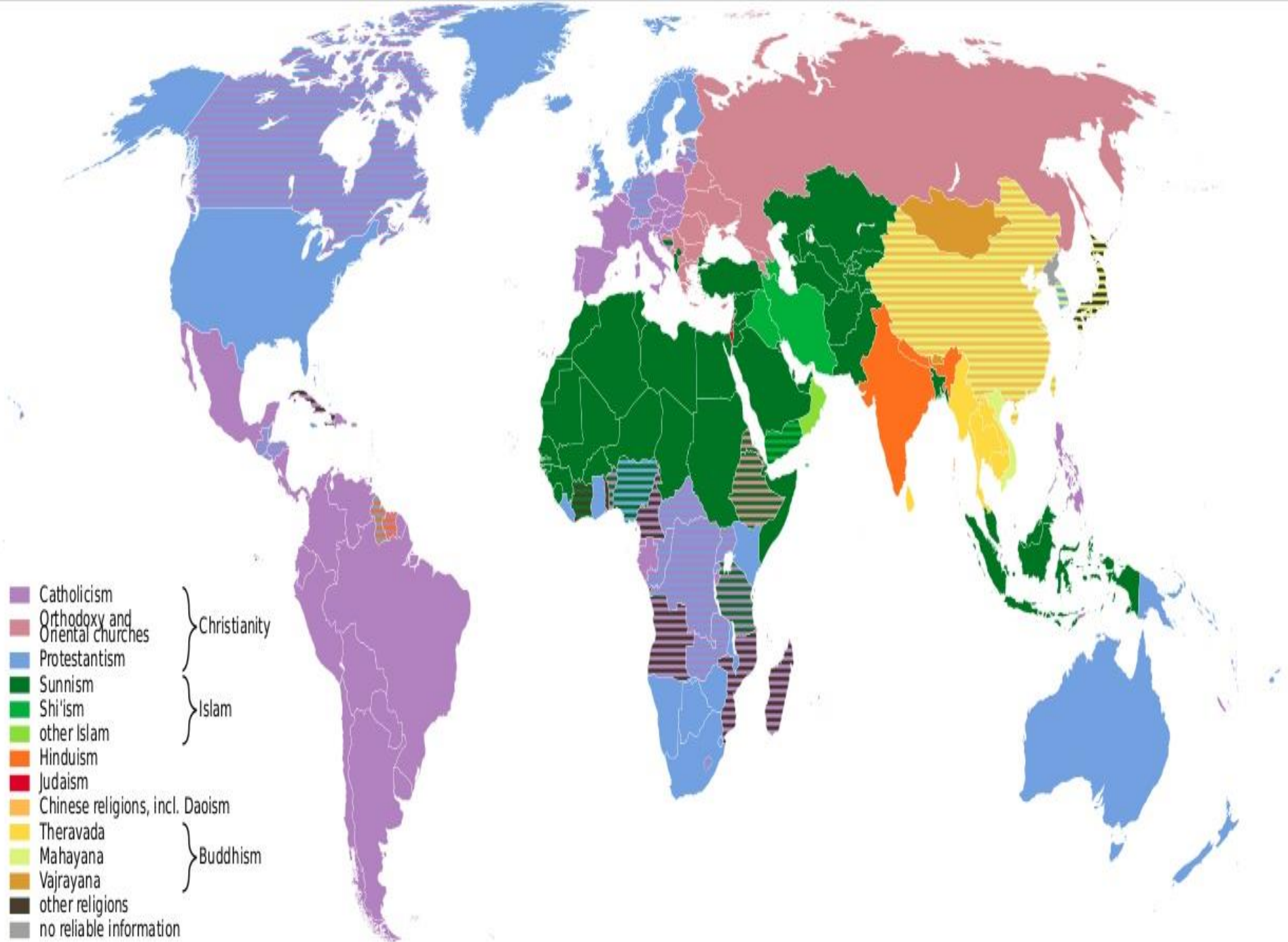


Put On Your Winter Cult

- There are many examples of World Religions (those practiced by millions), the “Big Five” being Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- But what about the smaller ones?
- Cult
 - Relatively small group of people having religious beliefs
 - Often regarded by others as strange
 - So... didn't most religions start as “cults”? And are there those who would call something a cult, and others a religion?

Religiosity

- 33% are some type of Christian
- 24% are Muslims
- 13% are Hindus
- 9% practice shamanism, animism, or other folk religions
- 6% are Buddhists
- 2% belong to other world religions: Baha'i, Confucianism, Shintoism, Sikhism, Jainism, or Taoism
- 1% is Jewish
- 15% are non-religious



Don't be such a Theist!

- **“Theo”** in Latin means **“god”** and many terms to separate types of religions come from that...
- **Monotheist**
 - **Believe in a singular God / higher power**
 - *Christianity, Islam, Judaism, etc.*
- **Polytheist**
 - **Believe in multiple gods / higher powers**
 - *Buddhism, Hinduism, Norse, etc.*

Don't be such a Theist!

◦ **Atheist**

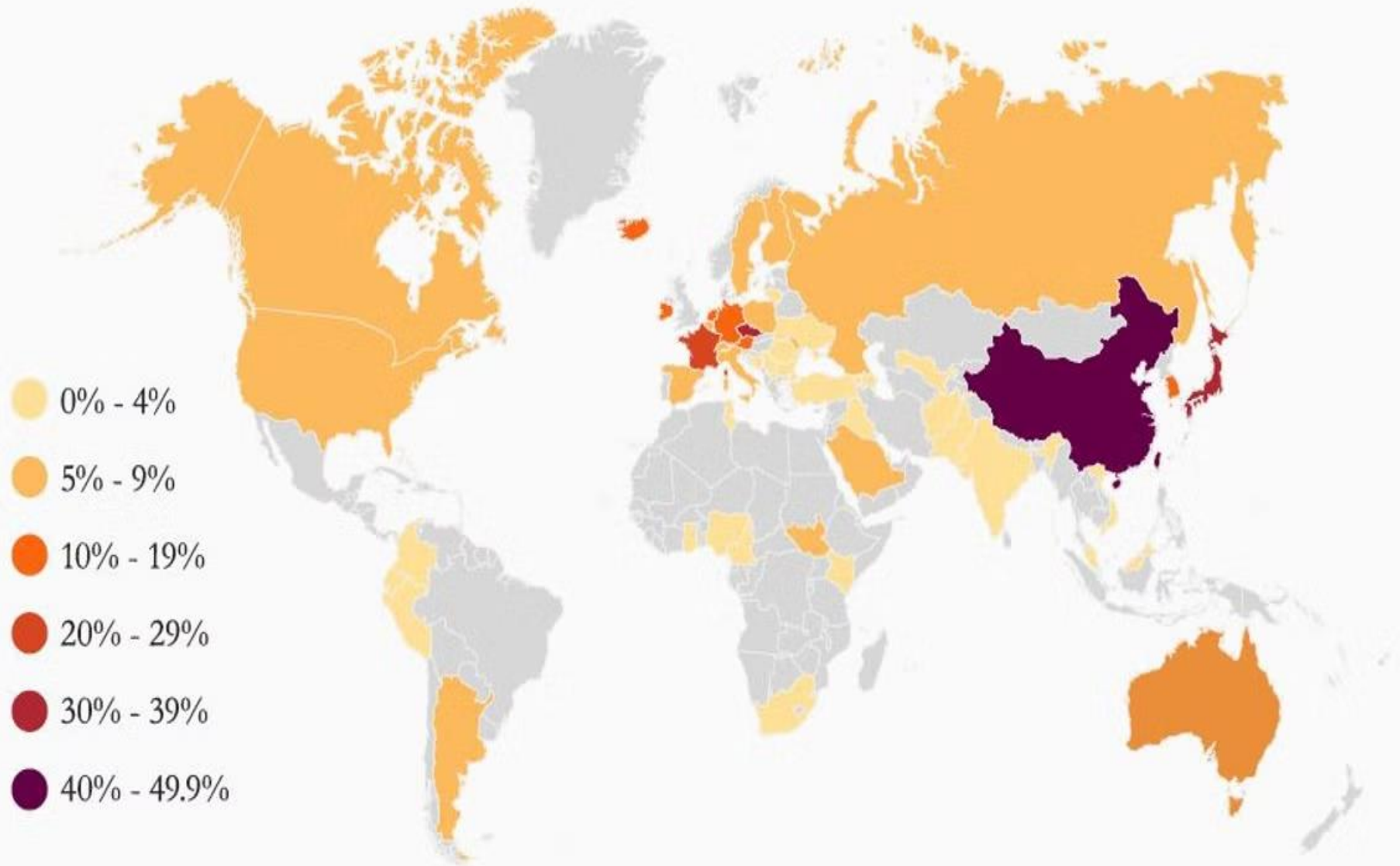
- **Don't believe in the existence of a God / higher power**

◦ **Agnostic**

- **A person who believes nothing can be known about deity (God) or divine**
- **Often referred to as “don't know, don't care”**

Where the world's atheists live

Share of people who say they consider themselves "a convinced atheist"



So What?

- Religion is one of the universals of human culture.
- It explains the unknown and helps people cope with stressful events, and for many gives their life purpose, meaning, and direction.
- Most religions share certain things in common, including myths, supernatural beings, religious practices such as rituals, and ideas about right and wrong.
- Like other aspects of culture, religion can change.

BUDDHISM



CHRISTIANITY



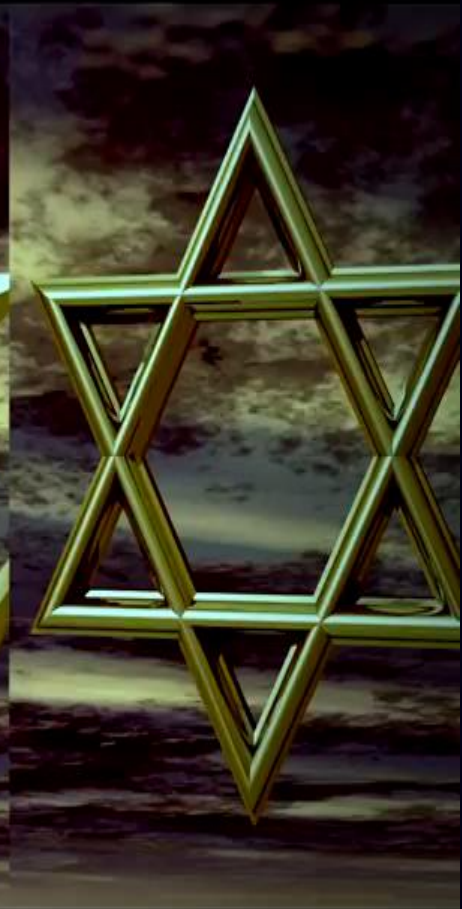
HINDUISM



ISLAM



JUDAISM



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