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DOI:<https://doi.org/10.53555/eijhss.v2i1.14>

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MONOTHEISM BETWEEN EVOLUTIONARY PHENOMENA AND BUILT-IN HUMAN INSTINCT

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**Abstract:-**

*Kristach described the fear from death as the first mother of all idols, on which based the pleading of people for salvation, compassion and prayer to keep disasters away <sup>(19)</sup>. Is Monotheism a born feature or an acquired one as a part of evolving process that accompanies man?*

## INTRODUCTION:

In era we human beings upon earth are revolving around religious war be it open or covert, in which every sect claims to own God; these symptoms of ownership find expression in the past three thousand years, with the creation of the three major religions. Are the phenomena of Monotheism new or archaic? Is it embedded in the human being and becomes part of him or might this be a need for or a duty to cope with unexplained natural forces?

## Methodology:

These questions and others are to be examined in this chapter along with comparison between cultures and peoples. Who came with the notion of Monotheism and how was he leading it? What similar and what different among the many types of Monotheists through historical periods? First, I will delve deeper into the phenomena in the many historical and cultural aspects. In order to create homogeneous comparative foundation on how God is perceived and expressed, I will initially define the concept of Monotheism as accepted today, though there are various perceptions among religions and faiths. To illustrate this I point out that Judaism gave God human characteristics, and conversely gave man God features, maintaining in the Bible that God created man in his own image<sup>(4)</sup>, a conception that took place until Isaiah the second in his publications elaborated that God is the first creator of the world, the guide, the motive power of all events as opposed to and unlike flesh and blood Empire<sup>(10)</sup>. In Christianity opinions were diverse, some related to Jesus God features and some gave him human attributes, and yet some believed he was the son of God<sup>(19)</sup>. In Islam the main idea is God the one and only, having no partner, not being born or giving birth, bears no similarity to any creature on earth and cannot be perceived by man, who cannot even imagine how he looks nor how he behaves<sup>(16)</sup>. This is true for all religions and schools of thought that came after Islam and pursued Monotheism, like "Al-Mowahadon Al -Druze", Fatimide, Ismailia, Sufim and Twelver. I note and state that although the religion/school of Unitarian Druze was positive towards Islam and at some point left it, it was also influenced by other religions that preceded Islam, and some believe that this old Druze faith preceded the big Abrahamic religions as well<sup>(15)</sup>. At any rate whether the Druze faith is an old religion or stemmed from Islam, this religion believes in one single God, supreme, world creator, that man is unable to contain him or comprehend his mighty power; this very religion is Monotheistic in its essence and in semantics, and calls itself the Unitarians – "Alowahadon". Therefore, Monotheism is a conscious perception based on knowledge and rationality that searches pure truth, wisdom of the heart, spirituality and intuition. Monotheism is a faith in one single God from whom life is sprung, man, earth and all organisms, no one is similar or identical to him, no one can compete with him, he cannot be described or measured<sup>(16)</sup>, some see in Unitarianism detaching from what is seen by the eyes and diving into the depth of oneself to find happiness. Some see in Monotheism departing from all idols except God, in addition there is the need to avoid sin, to obey God's will and there is the duty to stick to truth, to his infinite abilities and to have faith in his eternal existence without hesitation<sup>(18)</sup>. Now I will come back in the tunnel of time and history and examine the existence of one God according to the Abrahamic religions. First I will open with Abraham the father of all prophets who was born and raised in Or in Babylon- southern Iraq; a descendant of Aramaic roots and speaker of the Aramaic language, though Aramaic were a group of nomad tribes, some researchers call them in the name of Hexus<sup>(5)</sup>, however Hexus were peoples of Aramaic, Kanan and Amur<sup>(5)</sup> sort of Beduin soldiers of fortune that were called in Heliographic Egyptian Amaleq, Although those did not believe in a single God and practiced idolatry, they were fortunate now to have a messenger among their people<sup>(16)</sup>. One shepherd in the name of Abraham that believed in one God started convincing his people to follow him, but he was rejected and was to be burnt alive; Abraham succeeded to flee to Huran in north Syria, in which he lived more than a half century, only two persons believed him, his wife Sara and his nephew Lot; Abraham kept on his journey to the south crossing Palestine and arriving at Egypt governed by Hexus Amaleq. I believe that Abraham theory was designated to his people and to his own social circle and not to Egyptians who knew the theory well; Abraham married Hagar who was Egyptian that grew with Monotheism in childhood, a point we will discuss later. Abraham persuaded by Sara decided to exile Hagar and her son to the desert, and when she asked Abraham about the man to care for them there, he said that God would, and Hagar also said that God would not forsake them; at this point we realize that Hagar answer was rooted in Monotheism long before the major religions started. When we also examine the period of Jacob son of Abraham we realize that he lived in Hebron and was sent to his people the Aramaic and Kanan to bequeath on them Monotheism, and Ryan king of Hexus also accepted the faith. Joseph the son of Jacob arrived to Egypt at the time Hexus was in command<sup>(4,16)</sup>, and started spreading Monotheism among the prisoners in jail<sup>(15)</sup>. The question to be asked now: how was Monotheism referred to in different cultures and areas? I start with Zoroastrianism which appeared in Kurdistansin the year 612-652 b.c. its religion of the prophet Zoroaster first appeared in the 7<sup>th</sup> century b.c. and called for "Ahoromada" meaning one God instead of the many idols that prevailed till then among his people, Mithra, Farona, Andrea who spread the new belief in Unitarianism in Midian [Middle Asia, Bakhteria and India] Persia and Anatole. Zoroaster succeeded in spreading his theory in front of "Pishtasaba" the Irish-Aramaic king of Bokhara, who adopted it and passed it over to his wife, brothers, ministers and to the remainder of his own people. In the Zoroaster religion a kind of acceptance ceremony takes place, in which everyone vows in a uniform text PeyamanaDin that says "I believe in one God creator of the world –"Ahoramezda that symbolizes light and wisdom"<sup>(11)</sup>. Some maintain that Zoroaster theory had influenced some additional Monotheist religions like Judaism, Genostic, Christianity and Islam. The origin of the religion is in Azerbaijan south of Balkah Afghanistan and Sogdis Kazakhstan<sup>(11)</sup>, the holly book called "Afista" meaning the basis the origin –written in ancient Persian language similar to Sanskrit. When we resume to examine their scripts we find they are constructed of three parts: "Yesna" 72 chapters of prayers and chants. "Visprat 24 prayers." "Yidiyeva" data a chapter about creation, plants and organisms<sup>(16)</sup>. These books were written in gold on 12000 pieces of cattle leather that were given to Zoroaster as a gift by the Maida king "kalshetarser" in the year 628 b.c. (Kaki, 2012). The religion of Zoroaster survived up to these days and its believers are estimated to be 2.6 million scattered in India, Iran, Aghanistan, Azerbaijan, USA, Europe,

Australia, Canada and Singapore.(6).Another Monotheist religion developed in Mesopotamia –The Fertile Crescent, which is the land between the two rivers the Tigris and the "Euphrates"- in what is called Iraq today and precisely southern Iraq is the "Mandaeans-Sabbiyan" ,The mandaeans ,The Mandaeanism "Manduiata" <sup>(9)</sup>. This group means knowledge and Wisdom and can be attributed to ancient Babylonians and Chaldeans 539-626 b.c. <sup>(9)</sup>Their tongue is called Orient Aramaic, they see in Adam their first prophet and his successor "Shatel"<sup>(9)</sup>. In the essence of this religion is the realization of one supreme power that has no shape but created souls, elements, atmosphere and materials from which creatures came to life. By his will he created the universe in dual entity –light and dark, good and bad, God is eternal he is transcendent and immanent, he is the reason for all things ,not being born or giving birth and he is the whole existence, has no beginning and no end.<sup>(12)</sup> . It is a secretive religion in which the obscure is dominant over the known, and their sacred book is not to be accessed by all, but by few religious sages. The Mandaeans live in a very close social circle, and those who marry outside the circle are expelled<sup>(8)</sup>. The Mandaean books are to be strictly written by sages, they are not to be exposed in fear of putting the religion in danger<sup>(8)</sup>. and Mandaeans see this as a wicked thing that calls for punishment and excommunication.Among the many prohibitions of Mandaeans :killing is forbidden unless it comes in self-defense, no alcohol drinking, pork eating is illegitimate and profit making is forbidden.<sup>(8)</sup> The Mandaeans books exceed ten in number : " Sidra adam, Sidra Dihi, Clasta, Sidra denshmatha" that was given to Adam –father of the human "race, Diwan, Asper mloashi, Niani, Kamahathehple, Ziwa, Bagra<sup>(9)</sup>. Obviously these books refer to creation, essence of life and man and his walks of life, what is permitted and what is prohibited. One cannot get deep in this religion and its principals, it looks that the first to research the Sabbiyun Mandaeans were Catholic missionaries that looked for common things between them, therefore this was a trend to color this religion with Christian elements even it was established long before Christianity ;but the Vatican did not accept it to be similar to or to be part of it<sup>(9)</sup>. In later periods of Islam it was mentioned in some verses of the quran as "ahl-althema" men of the divine book that were recognized by Islam to be Unitarians but supposed to pay taxes.<sup>(16)</sup>.Like other religions Christians, Majous and Jews, those were Monotheists in the same position but preceded them in time. The fact that Mandaeans lived close to water sources has a survival element; these rivers used to be their source of living, washing daily before prayer, some researchers explained they had practiced baptism similar to Christianity. Now I will refer to Ancient Greece and to Monotheism within it;in an initial search one could identify a prominent document that reflects Monotheism though polytheism – a kind of belief in many idols-existed as well, .This document is a hymn of "Zeus" that was written by Cleanthes Stoc [230-330 b.c.]and reflected the belief in one God –"Zeus" this source describes the essence of the universe as creation of space and its rules, he who governs them creates human race and commands them .With time Monotheism spreads in Ancient Greece including building schools as new Plato and new Pythagoras ; as Plato [347-427 b.c.]Though he lived in Polytheist society, he believed in "one God, above all, pure and above material world <sup>(7)</sup>he is perfect, unchangeable, eternal and has no beginning and no end".Aplato's mentor Socrates [399-369 b.c.]also spoke about Monotheism, though his surrounding was hostile to new theories <sup>(7)</sup>.Even though according to Aristo God is the first reason and motive of the universe <sup>(7)</sup>.One complete entity, perfect, and does not rely on anyone.Now I will refer to Ancient Indian and Chinese religions; at first sight it seems that Monotheism fits well into the Indian conception especially the holy scripts of "Barhman" (the creator of universe).and Hinduism express in theirVida book (wisdom) that;literally Buddhists do not believe in idolatry , but idols are human beings who are sublime and belong to the cosmos. Inside the Chang dynasty [1046-1600 b.c.] there is belief in "Shangdi" the supreme above all<sup>(13)</sup>while in Zhou sect it is" dynasty' himself the subject [256-1046b.c.] ,the name of the supreme idol was changed to "Tean" king of the universe; there are researchers who claim that Monotheism is a development of Polytheism that came before it.

When referring to the Knowledgeable ancient Egyptian culture which interacted with other cultures as well, like the ancient Greek culture and its Monotheism ,one can identify that in the 4<sup>th</sup> century b.c. the dynasty of Paroah 30<sup>th</sup> dynasty, one distinguished wise man called "Ptozeris" believed indeed in one God "first creator .. he owns goodness in his hands.. and everything submits to his will.." this theory was known in the year 350b.c. and similar writings were to be found in his testament found in his grave <sup>(2)</sup>.Now I will pass on to the 5-6 centuries to an era of the 27<sup>th</sup> dynasty [404-525b.c.] ,which had many testimonies by historians that ancient Egyptians were Monotheists, there is even a written evidence in the book Herdor about Egyptians being the first to worship one eternal God. In the book was noted "The Egptians were the first to know the one and only God that has no beginning and no end". The 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries b.c. the 21 dynasty [950- 1085b.c.] lived Lukeman parallel to King David period, who was known in Greece as Alcman, and mentioned in the quran<sup>(16)</sup> as believing deeply in one God ,and was believed to have said to his son "Do not believe in more than one God for it is a big sin..."In the 20 dynasty [1090-1200 b.c.]lived "Amen Mope" a well-known wise priest ,that from his letters and preaches we learn how strong and rooted his belief in God was ,among his words "perfection is in the hands of God alone... praise the Lord ...he alone knows who is guilty and who is innocent...,be content to what God gives ... he is supreme and giant and there is no one except him" He called also to fear God and not to hurt others ,not to rub and not to lie...Amen Mope had a book in Hieroglyphic in the name of [instructions and wise preaches].Some claim that this book was translated into Hebrew in the time of king Shlomo ,who was also called wise shlomo ,this book was given the name the great book of Mishli [36].This belief in the wide public of Ancient Egept shows how deep Montheism is and how moral the atmosphere is. Between the14-16 centuries [years1304-1570 b.c.] the reign in Egypt was in the hands of the 18 dynasty, I will start with "Akhenaton" [1304-1370 b.c.] who was considered to be one of the great believers in God, some see his theory as a religion in itself.In the theory of Akhnaton" to worship God, only him..the complete and perfect life creator.. who breathes soul into all creatures.. and keeps heaven above us" among his sayings the following chant: "The light of God rises in front of us everywhere.. in the depth of earth, in darkness.. no fear for those who follow him of losing track... my Lord fills me up with wisdom and knowledge and lightens the blinded to withdraw from dark and

ignorant paths ... giving them life and big sunlight...good descends from heaven and bad rises from dark underground.."Apparently this chant was rewritten in David chant number 104,this is Monotheism in every aspect and if the ruler believes this theory, his people will necessarily follow him.Now I will pass over to Akhenaton's father "Amnhotep" 3 [1360-1397 b.c.] here I give the chant that he had written to God "God the creator has no parallel..the navigator...the infinite omnipotent that has limitless power..." this is part of his psalm(This Psalm is carved on monument which is in the British museum).

Again the scripts originated by the ruler himself and followed by his citizens, also in the period of "Takhotemas" 3 [1436-1490 b.c.] in the 18 dynasty we identify Monotheism among ministers who used these phrases like "Rhmira" who used sentences like "listen you residents of the universe...God knows all inside man's soul and everything is revealed to him ..." and if administrators believe this ,the citizens do as well.The dynasties 15-16-17 are not originally Egyptians, but in the Hexus era. (Even in this period the prophets: Abraham, Ishmael, Jakob,Joseph, Moses... had lived inEgypt)The Hexus ruled the land and controlled it ,probably Beduin nomads ,a merger of many tribes<sup>(2)</sup>,Barbarian from Mesopotamia –Iraq –today-Aramaic ,Kanansand Amorites not Aarabs; they were "Amalleq" –Beduin soldiers of fortune .The Hexus ruled over Egypt with cruelty and savagery ,with no faith in monotheism among them; while local Egyptians were believers who practiced ceremonies in the house of prayer, . More than that Oon city ( the sun town ) was a center of studding, a lot of priests and sages had studied the insights of only one God, fear of God. Some of the students were Joseph and Moses .Monotheism also existed in the middle-ages 17782134b.c. in the era of dynasties 11-12-13,there is even a written evidence on papyrus ,like the papyrus in which "Tashtribiti" the 4<sup>th</sup> called his people" To accept completely the will of God and to show peace of mind and content even in times of misery and hardship.."Now I will get to the 10<sup>th</sup> dynasty [2133-2052 b.c.],here in the hieroglyphic language there is a written evidence by king "Achtwa" -4 in which he wrote a will to his son "Mara Kara" To increase building houses of prayer and foundations of faith that will please the Lord.. one must fear God king of the earth that knows the obscure.. one must not forget the judgement day he must credit God and thank God in order to be credited and saved " <sup>(2)</sup>.I will go back in tunnel of time to the 8<sup>th</sup> dynasty [2242-2280 b.c.] in order to inform about "Ana" the sage who preached and recommended to his sun as follows "Do not search the secret of God's kingdom... he is above human perception...fear him and do not upset him ..keep and perform his rules and orders.. keep his name clean and worship him ,be close to him ,keep his instructions and behave.." <sup>(2)</sup>.In his writings there is also the need to respect father and especially mother, to avoid drinking alcohol or commit adultery", these things show a deep and rooted understanding of morals.Parallel of his says we can recognize in the Ten Commandments and in <sup>(16)</sup>What about Monotheism in the 6<sup>th</sup> dynasty[2280-2420]b.c. there is a definite saying about Monotheism that was revealed by historians and archaeologists and was engraved in monuments 'Dear Lord king of all, the infinite that has no limit... " <sup>(5)</sup>.I will continue to the 5<sup>th</sup> dynasty [2420-2560b.c.] a minister by the name of "Beth-hotip" said it clearly "In the hands of God lies the destiny of all creatures, of all mankind, and he who doubts this is a fool and ignorant, for he is the one ,the Lord loves his people" ;obviously this motif is recurring in the phrases of "Betah-hotip" in Quran and in the phrases of Lacman, meaning it was the dominant atmosphere over many years ,and wise preaches passed from one generation to another.<sup>(2)</sup>In the 3<sup>rd</sup> dynasty [2680-2780b.c.] "Kagmana" one minister said "Act with integrity ,unless the fury of God will be cast on you... ,for God gives prosperity ,birth and good living"<sup>(2)</sup>, these sayings highlight the deep faith to fear and respect God.Did the same atmosphere prevail in the 1-2 dynasties[3200-3870b.c.]and even before that [3200-5000b.c.]Is it sufficient to take a look at the dead book <sup>(3)</sup>that was used since 4500 bc in which there is a reference to Judgement Day –to the next world, with emphasis on the balance of man's deeds ,there is a chapter concerning the dead : "I have never done anything that upsets the Lord nor have I rejected his will, I have not defiled myself with his prohibitions" again a proof that people fear and respect and aware of God being supreme.In the stone-age [5000-6000b.c.] there are religious scripts named the –the pyramid tables-that talk about Monotheism as well as other tables in later periods "The Almighty creator has no name... people cannot even think and figure his might" among other things God was named" the absolute master ..king of the world has no size and is eternal..", therefore ,Monotheism is not strange to Egypt and its residents and even some historians noted and emphasized that Ancient Egypt was one of the first to know Monotheism and worship one God.<sup>(3)</sup>

## Results:

To sum things up Monotheism is a conscious conception, based on knowledge rationalism and insight reason and intuition, the notions regarding God character were diverse and not homogeneous in the many religions ,they vary from not human figure that has incomprehensible traits like in Islam and additional religions ,or a human figure or a mix of human and God like in Christianity or yet a figure that has shape like Judaism .The major religions did not invent Monotheism because it was popular among prophets previous to them like Abraham, Jacob, Joseph , and also in Zoroaster in the 7<sup>th</sup> century b.c. which survived to these days, the Mandaeans worshipped one supreme sublime creator; even when polytheism prevailed in Ancient Greece 3-4 b.c centuries ,here were philosophers who believed in God like Plato and Socrates ;Monotheism was not strange to the Hindu and Chinese faiths as well ;therefore some believe that Monotheism is a development and upgrading of idolatry ,the ancient ethical Egyptian culture traded these subjects with other cultures .Many rulers ,kings, thinkers and ministers had already owned the belief, and there are many monuments, testaments items made of clay ,writings and drawings on papyrus, all of them are kept and maintained through Paroah4 b.c. until 5000bcand in stone –age ,on pyramid tables there are unmistakably clear expressions of Monotheism; these expressions appeared again in later periods in new writing or translation of 'instruction and wisdom's books of Amen Mobe11 b. c. and Mishli book of king Shlomo, also in rewriting of "Akhnaton" of 14 century b.c. up to David hymn number104.

## Conclusions:

Monotheism is familiar to various cultures and among generations, when we examine it seriously and deeply since written history and before that, we can clearly see that scripts and descriptions of God and the way he is perceived is very similar and sometimes those writings had gone through changes and sometimes remained the same. Many scripts on Monotheism and many types of moral and ethical lives, like the Ten Commandments, or hymns of old rulers passed from one generation to another, rewritten precisely or somehow upgraded, it existed in ancient cultures world-wide and in ancient Greece. Thousands of years before major religions Monotheism prevailed among rulers and citizens, rewritings concerning this belief like, songs, hymns and testaments recurred throughout history and proved the ideas of real and well-rooted faith in one God; being this case why not conclude that Monotheism is embedded in the human instinct and is part of it.

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