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**Worldviews**

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**SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN THE MOVIE PAUL (2011)**

**Essay presented to Jean-Luc Gauville**

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**SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN THE MOVIE PAUL (2011)**

An interesting moot point in our society is centered on one question: Is science or religion the absolute truth? There is consensus on the idea that people have the free will to believe what they consider to be true. This choice is based on cultural backgrounds, family traditions, experiences and evidence that has been found over time.

These factors generate different ideas and beliefs in people, becoming strong arguments and dogmas, enough to start believing in something that to themselves becomes the truth. In addition, most of our fundamental beliefs about the universe, human existence, life, and death are represented by our own worldviews. This is a perspective that covers everything that exists and matters to us. The way how we interpret reality or what we believe to be true is the meaning of worldview. Our vision of the world can change and it does, since science and religion are the ones that influence it.

Exists several and different worldviews. These are the twelve most important, Complex Polytheism, Monotheism, Scientific Materialism, Fundamentalism, Complementary Perspective, Pluralism, Agnosticism, Atheism, Basic Religion, Theism, Secular Humanism, and Naturalism.

It is important to understand the role that the worldviews play in our opinions and affirmations that are found in our daily basis. Because without that understanding, all the opinions and affirmations generate confusion and failures in the transmission of ideas.

Throughout the film "Paul" (2016), it is observed that the characters are embodiments of all the worldviews previously mentioned. Starting with Graeme Willy, he believes in sources and materials that express the causes of nearly everything that is in the world and that nature has physical laws that can be understood by science. Besides, in some parts of the movie Graeme denies the reality of religious manifestations giving us the result that his worldview is Scientific Materialism.

Clive Gollings’ worldview is Complementary Perspective because he thinks that religion and science complete each other and that science provides an understanding of life, man, and the universe.

Alien Paul’s worldview is Atheism, he disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of god or gods and prefers evidence over dogma.

Agent Zoll’s worldview is Agnosticism, he does not ram his beliefs and admits that he does not have a clear idea how the universe originated because he is incapable of explaining the universe’ origins. He as a little to do with the idea of god.

Ruth and Moses Buggs’ worldview is Christian Fundamentalism. They believe in the permanence of God's creation and attack on evolution through creationism, old earth creationism, and intelligent design. For them praying in public, mentioning their god in conversations and participating in religious activities is something important in their lives.

Gus’ worldview is Theism, he believes in one god as the creator and ruler of the universe, without rejection of revelation.

Jeffrey Tambor’s worldview is Atheism, He nonbelief in the existence of God, rather than positive belief in the nonexistence of God.

Other worldviews found in the movie are Monotheism, where this religion deals with only one god. Morality and religious practices are important, it deals with the afterlife, and rites of passages; and Complex Polytheism, where some characters believe in multiple deities or gods, thinking that not all gods are not always omnipotent or omniscient, they portrayed them as similar to humans in their personality traits but with additional individual powers, abilities, knowledge, and perception.

In the adventures of Alien Paul and the Apostle Paul, it is found that in both stories, the main characters change their names. When the extraterrestrial reaches the earth, the alien has a different name. Unfortunately, when he lands his spacecraft causes the death of a dog named Paul. The alien changes his previous name and begins to be called "Paul" by people who later get to know him, parallel with the story of the Apostle Paul. His real name was Saul. This character changes his previous name to “Paul” because, in the old ages, the name change is a sign that a person had changed status. In the case of the Apostle, his name was changed from Jewish persecutor (Saul) to apostle preacher of the Messiah (Paul), and as an apostle of God.

Another parallel between the story of the Alien Paul and the Apostle Paul is that in both cases these characters cured the sick and performed miracles, things that other people could not do. In the story of the Alien Paul, the alien revives his friend. When his friend was shot by a gun, his friend instantly died, but Paul did a miracle and he revives him by putting his hands on his friend’s chest. In the same way, the Apostle Paul did miracles and healing people. The Apostle heals a man in the city of Lystra, revealed in the bible. This man was crippled from birth and he receives healing through the Apostle Paul.

Also in both stories, the main characters shared knowledge with people. In the story of the Alien Paul, the alien shared his knowledge to his friend Ruth when they were talking about the universe and the existence of the humanity. She did not believe Paul arguments and she replied him saying that all that he was saying was not true. So Paul touched her head, and he transmitted her all he had learned about what they were talking. After doing this action, she fainted for a moment and then he woke up knowing all that Paul had in his memory. Same with the story of the Apostle Paul, he transmitted knowledge to people by preaching in the streets, some people believed him but some did not. The apostle Paul used the words of God, the Bible, to make his arguments credible.

Another parallel found in both stories is that the Alien Paul and the Apostle Paul were persecuted. In the case of the Alien Paul, he was persecuted by the police. When the police knew that an alien was on earth, they started an investigation to find the alien, that it is when Paul started hiding from the police. In contrast that the Apostle Paul was persecuted by the church and all people that wanted to kill him.

The Alien Paul and the Apostle Paul, both, were hiding to not be caught. The Alien Paul showed this action when the police were checking the truck, and he disappeared and was hidden in the truck. Same with the Apostle Paul, he was hidden in different places to do not get killed.

It is important to recognize that usually in every story there is a hero or heroes. Based on the movie “Paul”, Graeme and Clive are the heroes of this story. Their heroes’ journey starts with their Call to adventure. When they found the Alien Paul in middle of nowhere and they were dealing if to help Paul or not.

It continues with their Refusal of the call, Graeme and Clive were no completely sure to take him with them, they were doubting at the beginning. Clive was trying to convince Graeme to do not do it. After that, it continues with the Acceptance of the call, after listening to Paul, Graeme and Clive decided to help him, they took Paul with them because he was being persecuted. Then it follows the Crossing first threshold, Graeme and Clive live the known limits of their world and venturing into some dangerous realms. After having Paul with them, they were involved in the caption of the alien, is in danger to be captured or attacked by the others. It continues with the belly of the whale, it represents the final separation from the hero’s known world and self, showing their willingness to undergo a metamorphosis. Graeme and Clive changed their perspective when they get to know Paul, also their personality gets to be changed.

The following stage is the Road of trials, where the characters go through tests and tasks that make them begin their transformation. Graeme and Clive failed in some tests.

After the stage of the road of trials continues the stage of Meeting the goddess, here is when Graeme experiences love, which has significance in his life. In this case, Graeme meets Ruth.

The stage that follows is the Temptation, in this step is when Graeme and Clive are about to lead the hero abandon of their quest. Then, it is the stage of Atonement with the father, here Graeme and Clive confront the ultimate power in their lives, In this case, the father. This is the center point of the journey.

The next stage is Apostasis, here Clive dies in spirit, he moves to a state of divine knowledge. Clive receives Paul’s knowledge. It continues with the Ultimate boon; they show the achievement of the goal of the quest. Then it follows the Refusal of return, Graeme and Clive have found the bliss, and after meeting Paul and Ruth, they do not want to go back to their ordinary lives. After this stage, it continues the magic flight. The heroes Graeme and Clive must escape within the boon, being a little bit dangerous and adventurous returning from the journey to as it was to go on it.

The next step that follows is the Rescue from within, here the heroes need Paul, their powerful guide at that moment, to bring them back to their everyday lives. Then it continues with Crossing the return threshold, Graeme and Clive are retaining the wisdom they gained on the quest and all they learned with Paul. After this stage, it follows the stage of the Master of two worlds, the heroes achieved a balance between the material and the spiritual world, based on all they learned on their journey. Finally, this journey ends with the Stage of freedom to live, the heroes leads to freedom from the fear of death, referring to as living the moment and anticipating the future, not regretting their past.

To conclude, I think that by doing this project I acquire new knowledge based on science, religion, and myths. Also, it improved my critical thinking and to analyze carefully the info I needed to research. I ended believing and having the idea that people have the free will to believe what they consider to be true, all people have different ideas and beliefs, and they can become strong after different experiences in life. Also, I think that the way how we interpret reality or what we believe to be true is the most precise meaning of worldview and our vision of the world can change, since science and religion are the ones that influence it. In the same way, I think that is very important to know the variety and different worldviews that people could have such as Monotheism, Fundamentalism, Pluralism, Agnosticism, Atheism, Basic Religion, Theism, and others.

In my opinion, it is important to understand the role that the worldviews play in our opinions and affirmations that are found in our daily basis. Because without this understanding, all the opinions and affirmations generate confusion and failures in the transmission of our ideas.

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