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SECTION 24. Sociological research.

MIS-INTERPETATION OF ESCHATOLOGIC IDEAS AS A FACTOR THREATENING THE SOCIETY

Abstract: Nowadays different information is spread via radio, television, the press and internet in society. We may notice that there are enough eschatological ideas among them. Not to know to differentiate the knowledge from the ignorance and irresponsibility, these incidences may cause the human being to be forced by some malicious groups to obey the strange ideologies. For instance, the movement of “The Solar Temple” which had worked before, “foretold” the occurrence of Resurrection in 1995 and its 53 members committed mass suicide. Such sort of occasion happened in the activity of “Heaven’s gates” in the USA. In 1997 the members of this movement committed mass suicide by drinking venomous liquid. In 2000 778 members of the movement which is called “Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God”, in the country of Uganda in African continent, committed mass suicide as well. In 2012 on the 21st of December there was “foretold” the day of Resurrection and it caused tremendous commotion. On that day, according to the different panics the following events were supposed to be, such as: collapsing an asteroid to the Earth, demolishing of the Earth, the hazard of the planet of Nibiru, disappearing of the Sun or, vice-versa, exploding of it. Some scientists denied those suppositions with facts, of course. But the fake information affected the people of the world more badly. Consequently, committing suicide, becoming ill mentally, chaos and other bad situations took place. Therefore, the meaning and the essence of eschatology are considered as actual issues that one should perceive them healthily, explain and study them observing reliable sources.

Key words: eschatology, Hereafter, foretelling, mass suicide, everlasting enjoyment.

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Introduction

Human being has always been interested in the following issues such as imperceptible world, the life after the death (Hereafter), next world and Resurrection. Changing the time rapidly in the violent and difficult circumstances, there are some people who are interested in the ideas of eschatology are being used by some powers as weapons. This changeable moment is differentiated from the period of the people who had lived before.

Materials and Methods

A lot of predictions have been made in which was foretold that the Apocalypse would happen since ancient times until our days. For example, the Pope Silvestre II foretold that the Judgment Day would happen on January 1, 1000 AD, German astrologer Y. Schtoffer foretold that the great flood would inundate the world in 1524, English scholar

W.Wiston foretold that the Last Day would happen on October 13, 1736.

It was foretold by adherents of the sect called «The Red Death» that the Judgment Day would happen on November 1, 1900 as a result of a large amount of sins made by human kind. They claimed that it was necessary for people to be purified from human sins and then to burn themselves in order not to be tormented in the life after death. The government, having informed about it, tried to prevent people from the misfortune. Unfortunately, more than 100 adherents of this sect have already burned themselves.

We can see such kind of actions in our times too. For example, the sect called «The White Brotherhood». The sect was founded in 1990 by the citizen of Kiev, Marina Tsvigun. The sect could gather a large amount of adherents for a short period of time. M. Tsvigun declaring herself as a «Mother

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of the world and human kind – The Virgin Mary» foretold that the Judgment Day would happen on November, 1993. According to her opinion people can escape from agonies of the Judgment Day only when they will commit suicide. The leader of this sect and its adherents broke in the church called «Saint Sofia» and locking its door from inside prepared for the next stage of plans of the sect – committing mass self-burning in order to carry this purpose on November 11, 1993. The government, having informed about it, came here soon and arrested all adherents. M. Tsvigun was judged as a criminally responsible for this crime and sentenced to prison for the term of 4 years. During the inquiry of this crime it was defined that which reasons had influenced on adherents to commit suicide willingly and some factors which had led to mass suicide were exposed based on these reasons. Especially, the sect chose only those who had weak faith and lacking of religious knowledge as an adherent. The leaders of the sect have held a lot of debate with them and made them to absorb ideas of the sect. In fact, killing others is condemned not only in Christianity, but in other religions too. Secondly, adherents of the sect must totally break up with their family and relatives, according to the rules of the sect only «adherents of the sect» can be one family. In such way adherents of the sect were propagandized to live only for ideas of the sect and not to have common sense. Furthermore, during the inquiry it was found out that food eaten by adherents of the sect was mixed with narcotic drugs [1, 128-140; 3; 10, 124-127]. That is why adherents of the sect were totally dependent on their leaders. Some factors such as ignorance, being unable to distinguish education from ignorance, not being responsible are used by the groups with bad intentions and cause people to be dependent on others.

The sect called «The Solar Temple » was founded in Geneva, 1984 by a teacher named Josef di Mambo and a doctor named Luke Jore. They foretold that the Judgment Day would happen in 1995. According to ideas of this sect, adherents who commit suicide willingly in order to escape from the Judgment Day will be reborn on the star called «Sirius» and obtain eternal enjoyment. Unfortunately, 53 adherents of the sect committed mass suicide on October 5, 1994. For this purpose some people among all adherents were chosen to shoot those who had agreed with being killed willingly. Then bodies of killed people were located in the form of a star and burned. It is very sorrowful that there were children among killed people. 16 adherents of the sect repeated this action in 1995 and 5 adherents repeated it in 1997 and committed mass suicide [9, 212].

We can see such kind of actions in the activity of the sect called «Heaven's gates». The sect was founded in 1975 by Marshall Applewhite. According

to his claims he has come from the land of «The Supremacy of the Sky» to warn people of the Judgment Day and he has temporarily used the human body because he was an alien and he has intended to take his adherents to «The Supremacy of the Sky» as soon as the sign was shown from the sky. The comet called «Hale-Bopp» came nearer to the earth in 1997 and Marshall Applewhite declared its appearance as a sign from the sky to move to an alien spacecraft. According to adherents' believe, as a result of the collision of the comet with the earth the Judgment Day will happen and everything alive on the earth will die and to escape from the disaster people must move the spacecraft of aliens and then these spacecraft will take them to the gates of the Paradise. 39 members of the sect have drunk a poison and committed mass suicide in order to move to the spacecraft of aliens [2, 251; 5, 753; 6, 200-212; 7, 139-155; 8, 357-360].

But then no collision happened and the life on the earth still goes on. But some people could not make a necessary conclusion even seeing these terrible events. On the contrary the sect called «The New Beacon», similar in its system with the sect called «Heaven's gates», was founded in France. Its adherents propagandized people to move to the planet Venus in order to escape from the Judgment Day which would happen on October 24, 2002. Officers of the Ministry of inner affairs of France arrested the leader of the sect, Arno Myussi in order to prevent people from mass suicide.

«Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God» was founded in 1989 by African Credonia Mverinda. According to her claims she has received a revelation from The Virgin Mary and foretold that the Judgment Day would happen soon. Besides, she has claimed that all members of the sect could gain God's agreement only when they would give their expensive things to C. Mverinda for God's sake and commit suicide. For this purpose 778 members of the sect gathered in Church and committed mass suicide on Mart 17, 2000. But C. Mverinda ran away [4, 34-35].

Furthermore, predict in which was foretold that the Judgment Day would happen on December 21, 2012 has caused much bustle. The fact that the time will be end on this day according to Maya calendar was given as the cause of predict. It was expected different events such as the downfall of an asteroid on the earth, the destruction of the earth, the danger of the planet Nibiru, the collapse of the sun or its explosion, the location of the planets in one line according different panics. Of course scholars refused these opinions with exact proofs. Maya calendar also is an ordinary thins as an annual calendar of our time. As one year consists of 12 months, Maya calendar also includes a certain period of time. As 12 months finish and the next year begins, the next period begins as soon as a certain

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period of time shown in Maya calendar finishes on December 21, 2012. Furthermore, scholars who have researched the history of Maya said that they had not seen any information about the Judgment Day. The downfall of an asteroid on the earth is also an uncommon event. According analysis made by scholars such kind of event happened last time 65 million years ago and caused dinosaurs' mass collapse. Nowadays scholars have obtained a lot of achievements in the area of Astronomy. Scholars have found out that there were 400 000 asteroids in the solar system and 800 asteroids around the earth and scholars have always observed behavior of these asteroids. Scholars can know the direction of these asteroids for the next ten years in advance. There is no any observed asteroid that hit the earth and caused its collapse. Scholars also refuse the existence of the planet Nibiru, such kind of planet unknown for the science. So opinions its collision with the earth are also groundless panics. The collapse of the sun is also refused by all scholars. According to the scientific suppositions, the sun's energy is enough for 5 billion years. Furthermore, panics about the sun's heating and explosion are also groundless opinions. The location of the planets in one line is also a natural event. Even this event also cannot cause the planets' collapse and collision. Scholars refuse any panics that were composed by some people for their sake with proofs. But some false panics influence on some people. As a result of these

events such as committing suicide and being spiritually ill are still observed. As we notice the claims about the Last Day, aliens and spacecraft are increasing.

Of course every individual has a freedom of faith. But it is always not good to forget about that our life is the best welfare given us and our duty is to appreciate the life well. In fact the basis of the eschatological ideas includes opinions about how to live fairly and uprightly, to make good things, to abstain from bad things, to appreciate the life well, to award those who make good things, to obtain eternal enjoyment as well as the punishment of sinners in the life after the death.

Conclusion

Nowadays different information is spread via radio, television, the press and internet in society. We may notice that there are enough eschatological ideas among them. In this case it is very important task of our educational sphere to research the essence and problems of eschatology systematically basing on the authentic sources as well as to understand it truly, to find out the eschatological factors which influence on the psychology of youth as well as to take measures against them and to form strong immunity in youth against the false religious ideas and dogmatism. We can bring up youth who are strong-willed, devoted, patriot and firm against different spiritual attacks if we carry out such kind of systematic activity.

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