UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY IN THE ANALYSING OF PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

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HIGHLIGHT

- *Religious Harmony in Indonesian Society*
- *Meaning and Significance of Religious Harmony*
- *Analysis of Philosophy of Religion*

ABSTRACT

This research aims to enrich the understanding of the concept of religious harmony from the perspective of philosophy of religion, as well as to identify the contribution of philosophy of religion in enriching the understanding of religious harmony in the context of religious diversity in Indonesia. This research uses qualitative descriptive research methods with phenomenological approach. Based on the analysis conducted, it can be concluded that religious harmony is a fundamental concept in religious and societal life. This concept relates to values of tolerance, mutual respect, and understanding differences. Philosophy of religion can provide significant contributions in enriching the understanding of religious harmony by presenting basic concepts such as religious pluralism, tolerance and justice. Furthermore, philosophy of religion can also assist in identifying the root causes of challenges to religious harmony and provide strategies to overcome them. Thus, a deeper understanding of the concept of religious harmony from the perspective of philosophy of religion can help society in facing challenges to religious harmony and strengthening diversity in Indonesia.

KEYWORD

Religious Harmony, Philosophy of Religion, Religious Pluralism.

A. INTRODUCTION

Religious harmony is an important concept in community life, especially in religiously heterogeneous societies. This concept highlights the importance of tolerance and mutual respect among people of different religions (Ghazali, 2016). However, despite its recognized importance, there are still concerns about how religious harmony should be understood and realized in society. According to Nazmudin, religious harmony plays a crucial role in the life of Indonesian society, which consists of various ethnicities, religions, and cultures (Nazmudin, 2018). Indonesia, as a country with a majority Muslim population but also a significant minority of other religions such as Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, places religious harmony among different communities as a top priority in maintaining social stability and national security.

In general, religious harmony in Indonesia is well-maintained. Many religious communities' live side by side and respect each other's beliefs, showing tolerance and togetherness in their daily lives. This is reflected in many religious activities carried out together by people of different religions, such as Christmas and Eid celebrations often celebrated together (Kurniawan, 2013). However, Novalina et al, argue that religious harmony in Indonesia does not always run smoothly. Problems such as intolerance, discrimination, and religious conflict still occur in some areas. One recent example is the religious conflict that occurred in North Maluku in 2019. The conflict was triggered by tensions between Muslims and Christians in the region (Novalina et al., 2021).

To maintain religious harmony, the Indonesian government has taken various actions, such as issuing policies that guarantee religious freedom and protect the rights of religious minorities, as well as supporting interfaith dialogue programs. Additionally, many non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations are also involved in promoting religious harmony through activities that bring religious communities together in cooperation and togetherness. In the context of Indonesia, religious harmony is a necessity to maintain national unity and integrity. Therefore, joint efforts are needed from all parties to continue to strengthen the harmony between religious communities and maintain diversity as one of Indonesia's unique characteristics (Mujahidin, 2017).

The concept of religious harmony refers to the harmonious and peaceful relationship between followers of different religions. This concept is very important in multicultural societies like Indonesia, where there are various religions and beliefs. Religious harmony can be achieved through dialogue, tolerance, respect, and mutual appreciation among followers of different religions (Dewantara, 2017).

In the analysis of the philosophy of religion, religious harmony is viewed as a complex concept that involves many factors, including beliefs, values, traditions,

and different religious practices. This concept is also related to social issues such as discrimination, violence, and intolerance that often occur in religiously diverse societies. Understanding the concept of religious harmony in the analysis of the philosophy of religion, there are many religious philosophers who can provide their views on the concept of religious harmony. First, John Hick, a British philosopher of religion, argues that harmony among people of different religions depends on a shared religious experience. According to him, this shared experience can bring people from various religions together in harmony (Raja Cahaya Islam, 2021). Second, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, an Iranian philosopher of religion, suggests that religious harmony can be achieved through recognition and appreciation of differences in beliefs and religious practices. According to him, appreciation of these differences can strengthen religious harmony (Alatas, 2020). And third, William James, an American philosopher of religion, argues that religious harmony can be achieved through intense personal religious experiences that are irreplaceable. According to him, intense religious experiences can bring people from different religions together in harmony (Global, 2014).

The opinions of these figures indicate that the concept of religious harmony can be viewed from various perspectives in the analysis of the philosophy of religion. Although they have different opinions, they agree that religious harmony is an important thing and can be achieved through various means. Therefore, in this study, the author will discuss and understand the concept of religious harmony from the perspective of the analysis of the philosophy of religion. The philosophy of religion can be used to analyse the concept of religious harmony in a broader and deeper context, thus providing a more comprehensive understanding of the importance of religious harmony in a religiously diverse society. By understanding the concept of religious harmony from the perspective of the analysis of the philosophy of religion, it is hoped that solutions and problem-solving related to religious conflicts and intolerance that often occur in society can be provided.

One relevant concept in the philosophy of religion is religious pluralism. According to Hamdie religious pluralism acknowledges the diversity of religions and beliefs as a reality in society. In the view of religious pluralism, no single religion possesses absolute truth, but rather truth depends on individual perspectives and culture (Hamdie, 2019). In the context of religious harmony, religious pluralism can serve as a foundation for respecting the diversity of religions and beliefs in society. By acknowledging religious diversity, society can achieve harmony and tolerance among followers of different religions.

In the perspective of religious pluralism, religious harmony plays a role in promoting respect for differences and religious freedom. Religious harmony also promotes awareness of the importance of respecting the rights of others to practice their religion and beliefs freely (Busyro et al., 2019). Moreover, the concept of

religious harmony can be seen as an effort to understand and appreciate religious differences and strengthen the harmony among people of different religions. Suryan provides a perspective that in religious pluralism, religious harmony is a positive attitude in facing religious and belief differences, demonstrating tolerance, respect for diversity, and engaging in constructive dialogue and moderate behaviour (Suryan, 2017).

Therefore, this research aims to discuss and understand the concept of religious harmony from the perspective of the philosophy of religion. This research will also elaborate on the concept of religious harmony in more detail, as well as explore how this concept can be interpreted and applied in society. The research will introduce fundamental concepts in the philosophy of religion that are relevant to understanding religious harmony, such as moral and ethical values, understanding of religious truth, and perspectives on religious pluralism. Thus, this research is expected to contribute to the development of thought and understanding of religious moderation, the advancement of religious philosophy, and the development of a sustainable and civilized society in Indonesia.

B. METHOD

The research methodology used in this study is qualitative research with a phenomenological approach, using literature review to understand the concept of religious harmony in the analysis of religious philosophy. The sources used in this research include books, journal articles, and other publications related to the concept of religious harmony and religious philosophy, especially those that highlight the ideas of religious philosophy figures and religious harmony. Data collection was done by reading and reviewing relevant primary and secondary data sources related to the research topic. The data was analysed by summarizing, classifying, and interpreting the information found in the data sources, and then the results of the data analysis were interpreted and presented according to the topic of the research.

C. RESULT DAN DISCUSSION
The Definition and Meaning of Religious Harmony

Religious harmony is a harmonious state among various religions and beliefs, in which they live together in tolerance, mutual respect, and mutual understanding. The concept of religious harmony includes attitudes and actions that appreciate and respect differences in beliefs, promote peace and cooperation among religious communities, and prevent religious conflict and discrimination (Husaini, 2015).

The term *"kerukunan"* is usually equated with *"toleransi,"* which means understanding, openness, and treating others like siblings. The meanings of

tolerance and harmony are about the togetherness among different religious or belief groups. *"Kerukunan"* comes from the word *"rukun"* which means living in harmony or partnership focused on support and friendship (Kustini, 2019).

Etymologically, *"kerukunan"* comes from *"rukun"* which means foundation, basis, or doctrine. The plural form of "*rukun"* is *"arkaan"* so it can be understood as a unity composed of different elements that support each other. Unity cannot exist if all of those elements do not function. (Azra, 2021). Meanwhile, (Rusydi, 2018) explains that the meaning of living religiously is the existence in a religious community, having a harmonious relationship between followers of the same or different religions; caring for each other, defending one another, and avoiding actions that may cause harm or violation.

Harmony means balance or a social condition marked by unity, cooperation, and a lack of conflict. Harmony is characterized as integration in social science literature, which means building and maintaining diverse patterns of interaction (Nisa et al., 2021). The continuation of the process of developing and maintaining different social interaction patterns and the existence of reciprocal relationships that are interpreted as mutual understanding, trust, respect, and cooperation.

According to (Akhmadi, 2019), the meaning of religious harmony refers to the shared regulations that not only concern the ideal condition but also reach the attainment of inner peace, resulting in tolerance among religious communities that can cooperate with each other. From the above meanings, it can be concluded that harmony is a person's attitude or existence to provide freedom to others and to offer the truth of the differences while protecting human rights.

Saumantri states that the meaning of religious harmony is to create healthy and harmonious social relationships between religious communities, resulting in a peaceful, tranquil, and prosperous life (Saumantri, 2022). Religious harmony can also enhance solidarity and cooperation among religious communities, thus strengthening social security and stability in a society (Hidayatulloh & Saumantri, 2023b).

In the context of Indonesia, Umar explains that religious harmony is very important, given that Indonesia is a country with various religions and beliefs (Umar, 2021). Religious harmony in Indonesia promotes cooperation and peace among different religious communities, as well as preventing religious conflict and violence that can undermine social stability. Religious harmony is also important to respect human rights, including the right to choose and practice different religions or beliefs. Thus, religious harmony in Indonesia can promote the values of democracy, pluralism, and freedom of religion that are the foundation of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia (Saumantri, 2023b).

Indeed, religious harmony can contribute to addressing social and economic issues by creating a conducive environment for social and economic development.

This is related to the concept of sustainable development that considers environmental, social, and economic aspects in a balanced manner. In this context, religious harmony can be an important factor in achieving sustainable and inclusive development in Indonesia.

In the analysis of the philosophy of religion, the concept of religious harmony can be seen from the perspective of ethics and morality. Religious ethics and morality provide guidance and values for religious communities to live in harmony and mutual respect. In addition, the analysis of the philosophy of religion can also examine how the concept of religious harmony is implemented in daily life practices, including how society and the government address religious conflicts and promote religious harmony in Indonesia.

The Role and Importance of Religious Harmony in Society

Religious harmony and interreligious harmony are two related but distinct concepts. *Religious harmony* refers to the overall peaceful coexistence of religious beliefs within a society, including both harmony within a single religious tradition and among different religions. Meanwhile, *interreligious harmony* specifically refers to the peaceful relationships and mutual understanding between different religious groups. Interreligious harmony plays an important role in maintaining the security and social stability of a community. As explained by Rumata et al, interreligious harmony can help increase tolerance and mutual understanding among different religious groups. This can prevent religious conflicts and violence while promoting peace and cooperation among religious communities. Moreover, interreligious harmony fosters social solidarity, which enhances communal welfare and security while helping society address various social problems (Rumata et al., 2021).

On the other hand, religious harmony, in a broader sense, is essential for building trust and strengthening social relations, not only among different religious communities but also within religious groups themselves. This contributes to social security and stability, creating a conducive environment for social and economic development. In a national context, religious harmony plays a vital role in shaping national identity. In Indonesia, for instance, religious harmony reinforces national unity and pride among its diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural groups. Furthermore, it plays a crucial role in strengthening democracy and religious freedom by promoting values such as pluralism and tolerance, which serve as the foundation of the Republic of Indonesia.

In the opinion of Arif, religious harmony can also contribute to the economic progress of a society. This is related to the concept of inclusive economics that takes into account the interests of all layers of society without exception (Arif, 2011). In this context, religious harmony can strengthen social relations and promote cooperation among religious communities in the economic sector, thereby

enhancing the overall welfare of society. Religious harmony is an effort to appreciate diversity. Diversity is a necessity in modern heterogeneous societies. Religious harmony enables all parties to appreciate the diversity of religion, beliefs, and culture within the community.

Religious harmony can build a positive image in the eyes of the international community. The international community will view Indonesia positively if it successfully builds harmony among religious communities. This positive image can open doors for profitable investment and trade in Indonesia. Therefore, the role and importance of religious harmony cannot be underestimated. Religious harmony is a crucial aspect in achieving peace, stability, and social, economic, and political progress of a society. Hence, there is a need for collective efforts from all parties, including the society, government, and religious institutions, to promote and maintain religious harmony in Indonesia.

The opinions of religious and philosophical figures regarding the role and importance of religious harmony in society are also crucial to consider. One of the prominent religious philosophers, Bisri, stated that religious harmony is crucial in building a civilized society (Bisri et al., 2024). According to Natsir, religious harmony can help achieve a prosperous, civilized, and morally upright society (Nurdin, 2016). Former Indonesian President, Abdurrahman Wahid or commonly known as Gus Dur, as an Indonesian religious figure also provided his opinion on the role and importance of religious harmony in society. Gus Dur always emphasized the importance of interfaith dialogue as a means to strengthen relationships and reach common agreements (Hidayatulloh & Saumantri, 2023).

According to Gus Dur, religious harmony is not just about tolerance, but also requires understanding and togetherness in a society of different religions. He emphasized that religious diversity in society must be respected and accepted as part of the identity of each individual and community. Gus Dur also asserted that religious harmony is not only the responsibility of religious leaders but also the responsibility of the entire society. He believed that the society should learn to understand religious diversity and respect each other, thereby creating harmony and peace within the community (Suaedy, 2018). In an article written by (Sahfutra, 2014) it is revealed that Gus Dur also emphasized the importance of the role of media in building religious harmony. According to him, the media must play a positive role in educating the public about religious harmony and eliminating conflicts that may arise due to religious differences.

In the context of Indonesia, Gus Dur encouraged people to apply the principle of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, which is the national motto of Indonesia. According to him, this principle is a strong form of religious harmony and can serve as a model for other countries around the world. The views of Gus Dur on the role and importance of religious harmony in society are also crucial to consider.

(Abdurahman Wahid, 1989) emphasized the importance of dialogue, understanding, togetherness, and the role of media in building religious harmony, and asserted that religious harmony is the responsibility of the entire society.

The Definition of Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy of religion is a branch of philosophy that studies theological and metaphysical concepts related to the existence and presence of God, the meaning and origin of life, and the relationship between humans and the spiritual world. Philosophy of religion does not only study religious beliefs but also seeks understanding of the origins and meanings of the existence of religion itself. Throughout history, philosophy of religion has been debated by many philosophical figures such as Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, and Friedrich Nietzsche. They have questioned religious ideas that are considered the foundation for morality and ways of life. In modern philosophy of religion studies, thinkers such as Martin Heidegger, Paul Tillich, and Jacques Derrida also discuss theological and metaphysical concepts related to religion (Barat, 2022).

One of the main concepts in philosophy of religion is theology, which is the understanding of God and the universe. Theology includes thinking about the attributes of God, such as power, goodness, and love, and how human existence is related to God. Some theologies also discuss topics such as soteriology (the way of salvation), eschatology (the end of time), and angelology (the understanding of angels). The realm of philosophy of religion also discusses metaphysical concepts such as the nature of human existence, life, freedom, and death. These concepts also include questions about human existence in the universe and the role of humans in society and their relationship with God. Thoughts in philosophy of religion can also be divided into two groups, namely dogmatism and criticism. Dogmatism assumes the truth of religion as something that is certain and cannot be debated, while criticism questions these assumptions using reason and reasoning (H. Nasution, 2006).

According to Nasution, philosophy of religion plays a crucial role in helping humans understand ethical and moral values in daily life. Concepts such as justice, goodness, and truth often serve as the foundation for moral value systems in society. Philosophy of religion assists humans in understanding these concepts more deeply and provides a strong basis for morality (N. F. Nasution, 2022). Additionally, philosophy of religion can also aid humans in the process of searching for the meaning of life. Metaphysical concepts such as existence, death, and freedom often pose big questions in human life. Philosophy of religion helps humans understand and contemplate the meaning of life and provides guidance and direction in life.

Muhammad Arkoun's explanation, philosophy of religion is a field of study that attempts to understand and interpret religion from a critical and rational perspective. Arkoun emphasizes that philosophy of religion is not just about investigating religious dogmas, but also about examining the history, culture, and socio-political environment that shape religious beliefs (Arkoun, 2004).

In the context of Indonesia, it is important to distinguish between the philosophy of religion and religious philosophy. The philosophy of religion is a branch of philosophy that critically examines religious beliefs, practices, and arguments, often addressing fundamental questions about the nature of God, faith, and religious experience. Meanwhile, religious philosophy refers to philosophical thoughts that emerge from within a specific religious tradition, often aiming to provide deeper insights into its doctrines, ethical principles, and spiritual dimensions.

Azyumardi Azra, provides an explanation and emphasizes the importance of *religious philosophy* as a means to understand and respond to the existing religious differences in Indonesia. Azra highlights that *religious philosophy* can help build interfaith dialogue and strengthen individual religious identities in an inclusive and tolerant manner (Azyumadi Azra, 2000). Additionally, Nurcholish Madjid, an Indonesian Islamic intellectual, also underscores that *religious philosophy* plays a crucial role in understanding the essence of religion and avoiding fanaticism that can trigger conflicts. Madjid argues that a proper understanding of religious philosophical concepts can help individuals and communities perceive religious differences as an inevitable reality one that should be respected and utilized to enrich collective life (Madjid, 1995).

From the perspective of this figure, the importance of religious philosophy in the context of religious diversity in Indonesia cannot be doubted. Religious philosophy can help individuals and communities understand religious differences in an inclusive and tolerant manner, as well as strengthen religious identities in a harmonious way. In this regard, religious philosophical concepts such as mutual respect, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue are very relevant and important to be applied in building religious harmony in Indonesia (Saumantri, 2022).

In the religious diversity of Indonesia, religious philosophy also plays an important role in developing inclusive and tolerant understanding towards religious differences. Religious philosophy teaches that every religion has values and truths that are equally important, so it is important to respect each other and engage in dialogue to seek a better understanding of religious differences. Moreover, in the broader context of Indonesia, which has such rich religious diversity, religious philosophy can help understand and respond to challenges arising from religious differences. Religious philosophy can also promote religious

harmony by emphasizing basic values such as tolerance, respect, and cooperation. (Saumantri, 2022).

Furthermore, religious philosophy also plays a role in strengthening individual religious identities while increasing understanding of religious diversity in Indonesia. In facing various problems that arise from religious differences, a proper understanding of religious philosophical concepts can help individuals and communities take appropriate actions. For example, religious philosophy can help individuals and communities understand that all religions have the same fundamental values, such as love, peace, and justice. By understanding this, individuals and communities can build openness and mutual respect towards religious differences.

Overall, religious philosophy plays an important role in promoting religious harmony and building inclusive and tolerant understanding towards religious diversity. Through a proper understanding of religious philosophical concepts, individuals and communities can build a harmonious and beneficial religious diversity for all parties involved.

The Basic Concepts of Philosophy of Religion in Understanding Religious Harmony

The philosophy of religion is a branch of philosophy that studies religion and religious beliefs. The basic concepts in philosophy of religion are theoretical perspectives applied to gain a deeper understanding of religious phenomena. These basic concepts encompass various aspects such as theology, ethics, cosmology, and epistemology, as well as various perspectives on God, humanity, and life (Bakhtiar, 2010). In the context of religious diversity in Indonesia, the basic concepts in philosophy of religion are highly relevant in building religious harmony.

One of the fundamental concepts in *the philosophy of religion* that is relevant to religious harmony is religious pluralism. Religious pluralism refers to the acknowledgment that the existence of different religions is an inevitability that must be accepted, respected, and valued. This concept is crucial because it provides a philosophical foundation for understanding diversity as a reality rather than a problem (Saumantri, 2023). In the context of Indonesia, a country with high religious diversity, religious pluralism enables individuals and communities to perceive religious differences not as a source of division but as an opportunity to enrich collective life. By recognizing and valuing religious diversity, societies can cultivate mutual respect and cooperation, which are essential for maintaining religious harmony.

In addition to religious pluralism, another fundamental concept in *the philosophy of religion* relevant to religious harmony is tolerance. Tolerance is not merely about passive acceptance of differences but involves actively respecting diversity and recognizing the rights of individuals to practice their religion according to their own beliefs. In

philosophical discourse, tolerance is essential in addressing the ethical dimensions of religious coexistence. According to Amin, tolerance plays a crucial role in promoting religious harmony, as it helps individuals and communities avoid conflicts arising from religious differences (Amin, 2013). Through tolerance, societies can foster peaceful interactions, allowing people with different religious beliefs to coexist harmoniously.

A third fundamental concept that is indispensable in discussing religious harmony is interfaith dialogue. While religious pluralism provides a conceptual framework for accepting diversity and tolerance fosters a respectful attitude, interfaith dialogue serves as a practical mechanism for engagement between religious groups. From a philosophical perspective, dialogue is essential because it allows for the exchange of ideas, mutual understanding, and the resolution of misunderstandings. Interfaith dialogue encourages individuals to engage in discussions that transcend doctrinal boundaries while maintaining their religious identity (Soffi, 2023). In Indonesia, interfaith dialogue has been a key strategy in preventing conflicts and strengthening intergroup relations, ultimately contributing to religious harmony.

Another fundamental concept in philosophy of religion that is relevant to religious harmony is interfaith dialogue. Interfaith dialogue refers to the process of interacting and getting to know individuals and communities from different religions. Interfaith dialogue can help strengthen tolerance and religious pluralism, as well as deepen understanding of existing religious differences. In the context of religious harmony in Indonesia, interfaith dialogue is highly relevant and important to be implemented, as it can help people build harmonious relationships and strengthen religious harmony (Farhan & Hadisaputra, 2021).

In addition to the aforementioned basic concepts, there is another concept in the philosophy of religion that is relevant to religious harmony in Indonesia, namely interfaith dialogue. According to the ideas of Madjid, interfaith dialogue is a process of interaction between followers of different religions with the aim of achieving a better understanding of each other's religion and building tolerance and harmony among them (Madjid, 1992). The concept of interfaith dialogue is highly relevant to the situation of religious diversity in Indonesia. Through interfaith dialogue, religious adherents can deepen their understanding of other religions, become open to differences, and establish harmonious relationships. Interfaith dialogue can also help to overcome conflicts that may arise due to religious differences. Therefore, interfaith dialogue is crucial in building religious harmony in Indonesia.

Tolerance plays an important role in building religious harmony in the context of religious diversity in Indonesia. Tolerance can be defined as a mutual respect and acceptance of differences, whether in terms of religion, ethnicity, culture, or other aspects (Sunarti & Sari, 2021). This concept of tolerance is relevant to the philosophy of religion, especially in terms of understanding other religions.

The concept of inclusivity in philosophy of religion refers to the view that all religions in the world have an equal right to obtain truth and salvation. This view of inclusivity shows that different religions can respect and accept their differences. In the context of religious diversity in Indonesia, the concept of inclusivity can serve as a basis for building tolerance among religious followers (Lukito, 2012).

That is a good summary of Muhammad Arkoun's perspective on the basic concepts in religious philosophy relevant to religious harmony. According to him, tolerance and pluralism are the essential concepts in promoting religious harmony. Tolerance refers to the ability of an individual or group to accept diversity in religion, culture, and perspectives in society, while pluralism is the idea that all religions have equal and equivalent values that must be respected and acknowledged. Arkoun argues that tolerance and pluralism are the essence of religious harmony, and without them, it cannot be achieved. Therefore, in building religious harmony in Indonesia, Arkoun proposes building awareness of tolerance and pluralism in society (Budi, 2022).

Nurcholish Madjid, or commonly known as Cak Nur, takes a different approach in interpreting the basic concepts of philosophy of religion relevant to religious harmony. He emphasizes on human values, such as compassion, justice, freedom, and equality. According to him, these values are the core of all religions and can be used as a foundation to build religious harmony (Rasyidin, 2020). Cak Nur also emphasizes the importance of interfaith dialogue in building religious harmony. According to him, dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding can strengthen brotherhood among people of different religions, and minimize conflicts that may arise due to religious differences (Hajam & Saumantri, 2022).

In another perspective, M. Nasroen, an Indonesian expert in philosophy of religion, emphasizes the importance of inclusivity in building religious harmony. According to him, inclusivity is the ability to incorporate all religions and views into a larger framework of unity. Nasroen argues that inclusivity can strengthen national unity and avoid conflicts caused by religious differences. Therefore, in building religious harmony, Nasroen proposes to build inclusivity in society, by strengthening awareness of equal rights and dignity among different religious communities (Hanafi, 2017).

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that the fundamental concepts in the philosophy of religion that are relevant to religious harmony are tolerance, pluralism, human values, interfaith dialogue, and inclusivity. These concepts can be used as a foundation for building religious harmony by strengthening awareness of the importance of tolerance, pluralism, and inclusivity in society, as well as by strengthening interfaith dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding.

The Contribution of Philosophy of Religion in Enriching Understanding of Religious Harmony

Furthermore, the philosophy of religion has made significant contributions in enriching our understanding of religious harmony. It regards religion as a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that cannot be understood through simple and surface-level approaches. Therefore, the philosophy of religion teaches analytical and critical methods that help us understand religion in a more profound and comprehensive manner.

John Hick, one of the most influential figures in the philosophy of religion, introduced the concept of religious pluralism as a framework for understanding religious diversity. Hick argues that different religions represent various ways of experiencing and responding to the same ultimate reality (the Real). His pluralistic hypothesis provides a strong philosophical basis for religious harmony, as it encourages mutual respect and dialogue among religious traditions (Hick, 1989). In the context of Indonesia, where religious diversity is a social reality, Hick's perspective offers a theoretical foundation for fostering interfaith cooperation and reducing sectarian tensions.

In addition to religious pluralism, another fundamental concept in the philosophy of religion that is relevant to religious harmony is tolerance. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, a prominent scholar in Islamic philosophy and spirituality, emphasizes that genuine tolerance is deeply rooted in religious traditions themselves. He argues that traditional religious wisdom contains ethical principles that encourage peaceful coexistence. According to Nasr, modern societies must rediscover these spiritual values to cultivate genuine interfaith harmony (Nasr, 2004). His thoughts highlight the importance of integrating religious teachings with contemporary efforts to build tolerance, particularly in Indonesia, where religious traditions still play a significant role in shaping social norms.

A third fundamental concept indispensable to religious harmony is interfaith dialogue. William James, known for his pragmatist approach to religion, argues that religious experiences are personal and subjective, and that understanding different faiths requires openness and engagement (Moltmann, 2011). His insights support the idea that religious harmony can be achieved through continuous dialogue, where individuals share their religious experiences without imposing dogmatic claims on others. Interfaith dialogue, inspired by James' perspective, can be a powerful tool in Indonesia's multicultural society to promote empathy and reduce misunderstandings between religious communities.

Beyond these three core concepts, the philosophy of religion also contributes to the field of ethics by emphasizing universal moral values that transcend religious boundaries. Honesty, compassion, and justice values found in all major religious traditions can serve as ethical foundations for religious

harmony. As Nasr argues, modern societies must return to the ethical wisdom embedded in religious traditions to foster peace and social stability (Nasr, 2004).

Moreover, the philosophy of religion helps deepen the understanding of diverse religious practices. James' study on religious experience illustrates that religious rituals and traditions carry profound existential meanings for their adherents. Understanding these practices beyond mere formalities allows societies to appreciate religious diversity not as a source of division but as an asset for social cohesion.

Another major contribution of the philosophy of religion is in addressing challenges such as intolerance, fanaticism, and extremism. Using Hick's and Nasr's perspectives, we can critically analyse the root causes of these issues and develop effective strategies to counteract them. For example, Hick's emphasis on religious pluralism challenges exclusivist theological positions that often fuel religious intolerance, while Nasr's advocacy for traditional wisdom encourages religious communities to rediscover their peaceful teachings.

In Indonesia, intellectuals such as Nurcholish Madjid and Abdurrahman Wahid have incorporated similar ideas into their approaches to religious harmony. Nurcholish Madjid's concept of Islam Nusantara aligns with Hick's pluralistic hypothesis by promoting an inclusive interpretation of Islam that accommodates Indonesia's cultural diversity. Meanwhile, Wahid's emphasis on interfaith dialogue resonates with James' pragmatic approach to religious experience, as Wahid believed that religious communities must actively engage with one another to foster mutual understanding (Wahid, 2001).

Overall, the contribution of the philosophy of religion in enriching the understanding of religious harmony is crucial. By integrating the perspectives of Hick, Nasr, and James, we can develop a more comprehensive approach to religious harmony one that is rooted in pluralism, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue while also addressing contemporary ethical and social challenges.

With a deeper understanding of these concepts, Indonesia can develop more effective strategies to promote religious harmony. However, it is important to acknowledge that the philosophy of religion is not the only approach that can contribute to this discourse. Other disciplines, such as sociology, anthropology, and social psychology, also provide valuable insights into religious harmony.

As a country with vast religious diversity, Indonesia must continue to promote and strengthen religious harmony through a combination of philosophical, theological, and social approaches. This effort requires the involvement of not only religious leaders and government institutions but also civil society. With a more profound understanding of religious harmony and the contributions of the philosophy of religion, we can move towards a society where religious diversity is not merely tolerated but genuinely respected and celebrated.

D. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, from the research and literature review conducted, it can be inferred that religious harmony is a crucial concept in Indonesian society. As a country with diverse religious beliefs, Indonesia needs religious harmony to achieve a harmonious and peaceful society. Philosophy of religion can provide a significant contribution to enriching the understanding of religious harmony by discussing the basic concepts in philosophy of religion and its relevance to religious harmony. This can be achieved by building awareness and respect for religious differences and valuing religious diversity as the nation's wealth. Philosophy of religion can provide an important contribution to these efforts by helping us understand the root causes of the challenges faced in achieving religious harmony and developing more effective strategies to promote it.

Promoting religious harmony in Indonesia requires support from the government, religious leaders, and the community as a whole. With a better understanding of the basic concepts in philosophy of religion and their relevance to religious harmony, we can move towards a more harmonious and peaceful society where religious diversity is respected and valued.

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