

De-Myth-ing for Peacemaking

Gidi Grinstein

gidi@reut-institute.org

Founder and President of Reut Group and Tikkun Olam Makers

ARTICLE INFO

Published on 4th March, 2024
doi: 10.54878/6d0zqs64

KEYWORDS

Monotheism, polytheism,
Abrahamic religions, Societal
disruption, tolerance, justice,
idolatry, law, Abraham.

HOW TO CITE

De-Myth-ing for Peacemaking.
(2024). *1st International
Conference on the Dialogue of
Civilization and Tolerance*, 1(1).
<https://doi.org/10.54878/6d0zqs64>

© 2024 Emirates Scholar Research
Center

ABSTRACT

In this day and age, societies are disrupted, and their order is unraveled at an unprecedented pace due to accelerating technological and societal change. Millions of people and countless communities are faced with hitherto unknown and complex conditions, on a breathtaking scale. This reality requires creating more societal knowledge, faster than ever before. Such knowledge-creation will be significantly enhanced if it relies on civilizational dialogue and shared wisdom across religious, national, ethnic, and political lines. This article points to a surprisingly inspiring story in contending with such challenges - which is the biblical story about the gladiatorial clash in ancient Egypt between Pharaoh, the demi-god representing polytheism and ancient Egypt's caste-based society; and Moses, the teacher-leader of the enslaved Hebrews, representing monotheism and the ethos of natural universal human rights. That clash was a turning point in human history because the victory of monotheism over idolatry allowed for the inception and evolution of constitutional and legal systems that were based on the notion of fundamental equality among all humans. Moses is one of the most influential historical figures in human history, whose legacy continues to inspire billions of Muslims, Christians, Jews, and others. The issues that underlie his bout with Pharaoh - justice vs. idolatry, equality vs. privilege, and freedom vs. bondage - continue to challenge and shape our modern societies. Therefore, Moses's outlook remains the cornerstone of any modern worldview that embraces diversity and advances tolerance.