How Can You Tell if a Religion is Merely Man-Made?

It's too local

It legitimates the wealthy

It's too easy
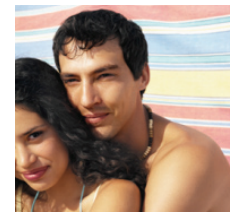
It legitimates men's desire for sex (e.g. polygamy)

It resembles other neighboring ideas

It has questionable historical evidence

It legitimates people in power

It has places of internal incoherence

Unfulfilled promises
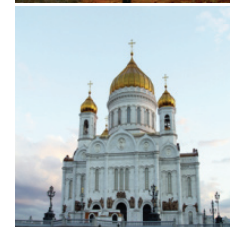
Other

God created man in his own image.
And man, being a gentleman, returned the favor.
-- Rousseau

What kind of society would create monogamous marriage?

The courtesy of your reply is requested:

a society ruled by men

"And if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to him, and they are given unto him; therefore is he justified. But if one or either of the ten virgins, after she is espoused, shall be with another man, she has committed adultery, and shall be destroyed; for they are given unto him to multiply and replenish the earth, according to my commandment, and to fulfil the promise which was given by my Father before the foundation of the world, and for their exaltation in the eternal worlds, that they may bear the souls of men; for herein is the work of my Father continued, that he may be glorified." (Mormon Doctrine and Covenants 132:62 63)

a society ruled by women

"From a biological viewpoint, patriarchal religion denied women the natural rights of every other mammalian female: the right to choose her stud, to control the circumstances of her mating, to occupy and govern her own nest, or to refuse all males when preoccupied with the important business of raising her young." Barbara G. Walker (1930-), American researcher, writer

"I regard irreligious people as pioneers. If there had been no priesthood the world would have advanced ten thousand times better than it has now." Anandabai Joshee (1865-1887), Indian physician; first Hindu woman and first Indian woman to receive medical degree;

a society inspired by God

Genesis 1:27 "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them... 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

a society of very individualistic people

"They spoil every romance by trying to make it last forever" - Oscar Wilde
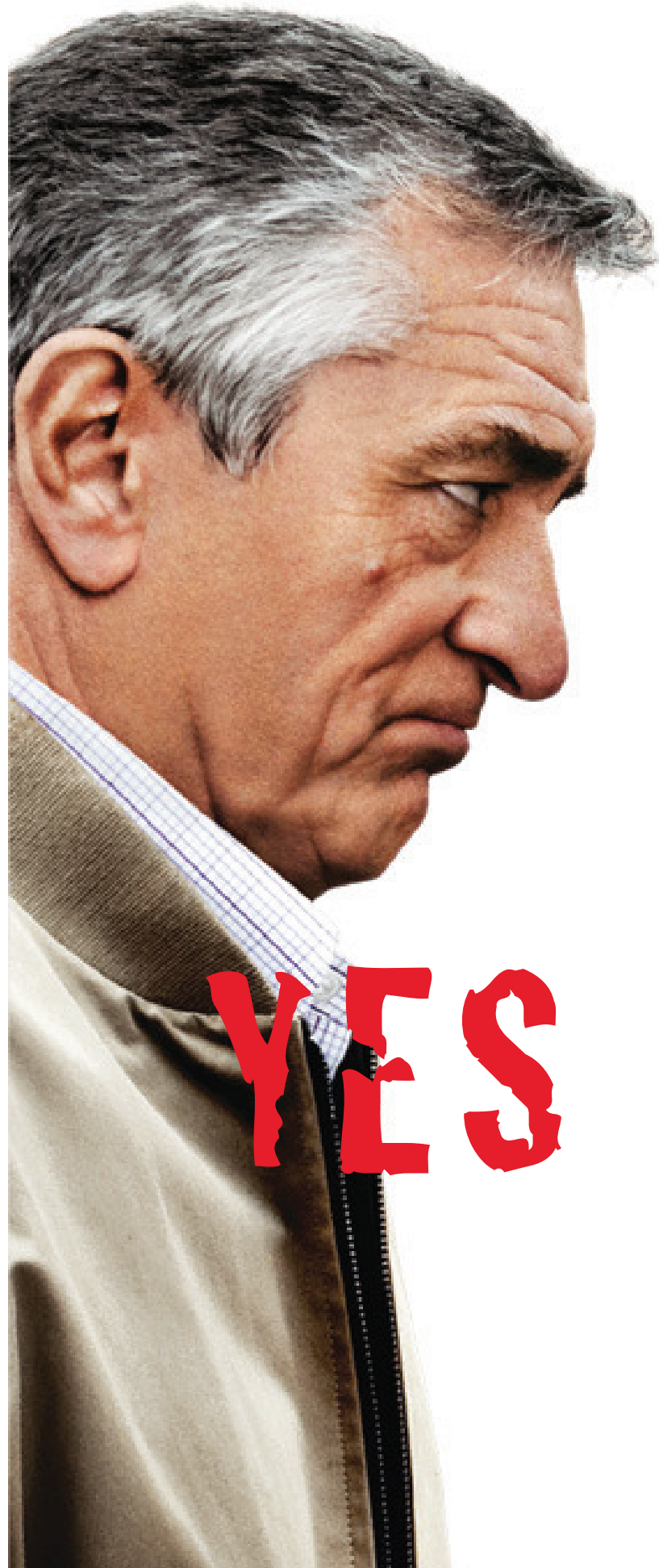
Marriage Over Extended Family
– Could This Have Been Invented Amidst Patriarchal Societies?

Genesis 2:24

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Compare:

• 'In Genesis 2 **a profound, even revolutionary autonomy and dignity is afforded the married couple**…Here is a departure from any social arrangement that would violate the integrity of this one-flesh union in the name of filial piety or honor.'

• Ancient Assyria: 'And if my daughter dies, then my adopted son shall under no circumstances leave my house, because **he has to care for my gods and my dead ancestors.'**

• Confucian China, Japan, Korea: 'The Master said, 'Observe what a man has in mind to do when his father is living, and then observe what he does when his father is dead. If, for three years, he makes no changes to his father's ways, he can be said to be a good son." 'Meng Yi Tzu asked about being filial. The Master answered, '**Never fail to comply.**"

YES

NO
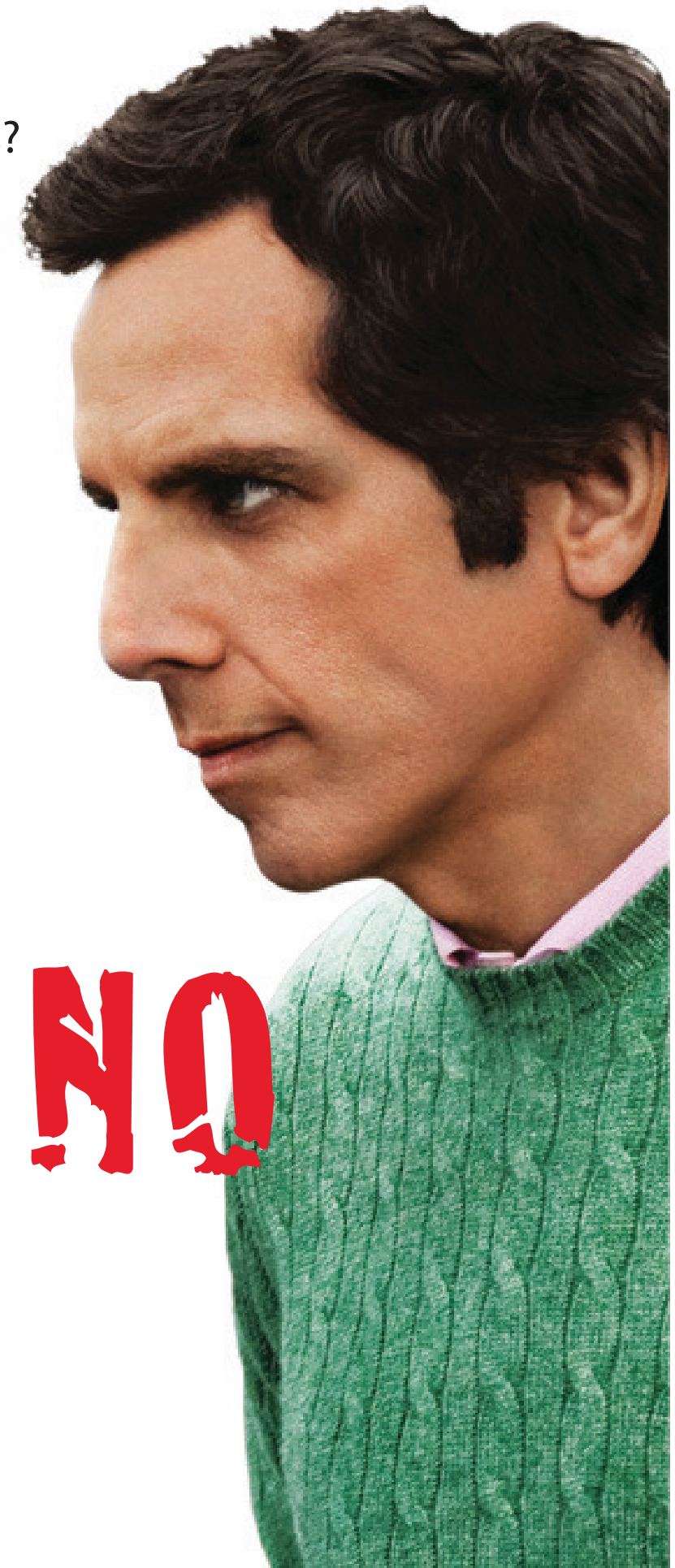
Which Code of Ethics Seems to Value Every Human Life?

Code of Hammurabi
197 If a man has broken another man's limb, his own shall be broken. 198 If a man has destroyed an eye or a limb of a poor man, he shall pay one maneh of silver. 199 If a man has destroyed an eye or a limb of the servant of another man, he shall pay one-half of a mina. 200 If a man has made the tooth of another to fall out, one of his own teeth shall be knocked out. 201 If the tooth be that of a poor man, he shall pay one-third of a maneh of silver.

Leviticus 24.
 17 If a man takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death. 18 The one who takes the life of an animal shall make it good, life for life. 19 If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him. 21 Thus the one who kills an animal shall make it good, but the one who kills a man shall be put to death. 22 There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the LORD your God.

Kikawada and Quinn argue, 'This command to multiply, so long familiar to us, is in its cultural context utterly startling, as unexpected as the monotheism.' Frymer-Kensky says that this command to be fertile is 'an explicit and probably conscious rejection of the idea that the cause of the flood was overpopulation...' Kikawada and Quinn conclude: 'Genesis 1 – 11 then constitutes a rejection of Babel and Babylon – of civilization itself, if its continuance requires human existence to be treated as a contingent [or secondary] good. For Genesis the existence of a new human was always good.'
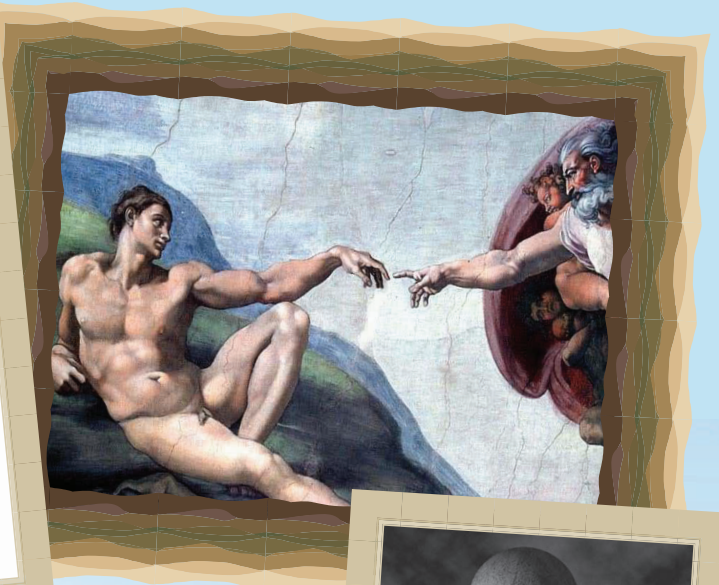
What Creation Story Seems to Value Every Human Life?

Homer's Iliad (European)

Problem: Overpopulation, wickedness, earth burdened

First Threat: Zeus sends the Theban War; many destroyed

Second Threat: Zeus plans to destroy all by thunderbolts; Momos dissuades Zeus

Third Threat: Momos suggests that Thebis marry a mortal to create Achilles and that Zeus father Helen of Troy; war results between the Greeks and the barbarians

Resolution: Many destroyed by Trojan War, earth lightened of her burdened

Atrahasis (Babylonian/Akkadian)

Creation (1.1-351): the work of the gods and the creation of humans

First Threat (1.352-415): Humans numerically increase; plague from the gods to limit overcrowding; Enki's help

Second Threat (II.i.1-II.v.21) Humanity's numerical increase; drought from the gods; Enki's help

Third Threat (II.v.22-III.vi.4): Humanity's numerical increase, Atrahasis Flood, salvation in boat

Resolution (III.vi.5-viii.18): Numerical increase; compromise between Enlil and Enki; humans cursed with natural barrenness, high infant mortality rate, cult prostitution (to separate sex and procreation)

Zoroastrian Avesta (Old Iranian)

Creation: Ahura Mazda tells Yima (human) to be king over creation

First Threat: Overpopulation; Yima asks the earth goddess Armaiti to expand herself

Second Threat: Overpopulation; Yima asks the earth goddess Armaiti to expand herself

Third Threat: Overpopulation; Yima asks the earth goddess Armaiti to expand herself

Resolution: Ahura Mazda sends a deadly winter with heavy snowfall to punish overcrowding; Yima told to build a three storied enclosure to survive; humanity destroyed outisde while a boy and girl born in enclosure every 40 years

Genesis 1-11 (Hebrew)

Creation (1:1-2:3): God creates the world and humans and blesses them

First Threat (2:4-4:25): Genealogy of Adam to Noah; the Fall; God promises victory to the seed of the woman; Cain kills Abel and settles in a city; God preserves Seth

Second Threat (5:1-9:29): Genealogy of Adam to Noah; human violence; God destroys the world through the flood; God preserves Noah and family

Third Threat (10:1-11:9): Genealogy of Shem, Ham, Japheth; Tower of Babel and dispersion

Resolution (11:10-26): Genealogy of Shem; introduction of Abram (In 11:27ff., God calls Abram out of Ur to begin Israel.)