

4th Interreligious Zoom Meeting in France

ZOOM, May 16, 2021

By Jean-Francois Moulinet

APD-France organized an interreligious Zoom meeting on the topic: "Beginnings 1I-Humankind".

We sent a few texts in advance on the topic (from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Koran) to the 109 people who registered (from France, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Congo, Italy, Sao Tome, Switzerland, UK, Zambia) and more people attended on Facebook.

The MC was Mrs Ye-Bonne KOYAMA.

The program started with short introduction by Jean-François MOULINET, coordinator of the Interreligious Forum "Dialogue & Alliance" of UPF-France. He explained that a particularity of that meeting was that all the speakers came from the region of Orsay-Les Ulis, in the South of Paris. Because our ideal is to help create, at the most local level possible, several small interreligious groups that share the best of their tradition with each other's.

Then started the reading of sacred texts, which were commented by representative of different traditions:

o JUDAISM: The text, from Genesis 1.26-29, was read in Hebrew by Mrs Tirzi MARTIN.

It was commented by M. Charles ROSILIO, a member of the Jewish Community Centre of Les Ulis and the Chevreuse Valley. He explained with great details the teachings from the Torah about the creation of humankind.

o CHRISTIANITY: The text, Genesis 2.4-9, was read by Dr Noëmie KOMAGATA-NGUYEN, from the Family Federation for World Peace - in the Berne and Bienne Region, Switzerland.

It was then commented by Catholic Father Jovite DJEDJI, a trained biblical scholar. He taught the Holy Scriptures for 15 years in various theological institutes in Côte d'Ivoire. Since 2019, he is responsible for the spiritual accompaniment of foreign priests who have recently arrived in France.

We had then a beautiful musical break offered by The Angels' Choir from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

o ISLAM: The verses 29 to 33, taken from the Second Sura of the Koran, were read, and commented by Mr. Romain BIGARDS, responsible for the Facebook group al-Mâlikiyyoûn, and graduated from the French-speaking course in theology and jurisprudence of the al-Ghazali Institute of the Grand Mosque of Paris.

o UNIFICATIONISM: The text, from the Divine Principle, Chapter 1, Section 3, was read by Ms Cíntia NABI-CABRAL, from the association "Youth and Students for Peace".

It has been commented by Mr. Laurent LADOUCE, researcher for the Universal Peace Federation and director of culture-and-peace.org. He could explain more about the three great Blessings and the importance of Joy in God's creative process.

Then we had four discussion groups (for 20-minute).

We finished with a clip of the Algerian singer, Amal WAHBY, done for the 2021 International Day of Living Together in Peace (May 16th).

The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for the beginning of June, on the topic: "The environment" (on the World Environment Day).

Recording of event