

## **Spirituality of Forbearance: A Response to the New Religious Movement of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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### **Abstract**

With the advent of postmodernism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, an ideology of pluralism has emerged so great in our society with relativist assumptions that has dominated even the realm of religion or spirituality. Pluralists argue that we should only see a generic God at the center of the religious universe, not Christ, not Allah, not Brahman, not Yahweh, not Buddha, etc. This notion conveys a message that salvation or mystical experience is present in all religions and faiths, particularly in the evolution of the New Religious Movement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, this emerging pluralistic cults or sects of the New Religious Movement would endanger the unique identity of various monotheistic religions resulting to an ideology of *theocentric pluralism*. Amidst this neo-pluralistic religious movement, all religions, including Christianity, are related and synthesized in some way to this God at the center; but none of those religions and none of the names of gods are actually in that central place. The growing *protestantization, privatization and innovation* of traditional religions has resulted to an ever-increasing institutional differentiation and disunity in our recent pluralistic global scenario. This paper serves as a major challenge to promote harmony among religions today, especially Christian denominations, with a mindset of forbearing each other in hope, love and peace amidst their diversified faiths and dogmas.

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