Some evidence I found in LOP, Chapter 23 to support my argument that when ideas and beliefs about religion are engaged in with others, it causes conflict.

Chapter 23

Direct quote: ..my religious doings went from the notice of those to whom it didn’t matter and only amused, to that of those whom it did matter- and they were not amused.”

“ Hindus and Christians are idolatores. They have many gods”.

“ Muslims have many wives”

“There is salvation in Jesus”

“Balderdash, Christians know nothing about religion”

**Summary of the four pages.** The argument between the imam, priest and pundit cover issues where opinions differ around: Christians belief in reincarnation, crucifixion, the Muslim belief of the revelation of the Qur’an, the Hindu caste system, deities, and the dietary of all practices.

63

 Communities of differing religions have a high propensity to conflict with one another. The vast differences in beliefs regarding ideas of God, family, human rights, and society are major areas of contention between differing religions (Huntington, 25). Pi is able to practice all three religions in harmony because he keeps himself away from those of a community who practice the three religions he endorses. If he were to be apart of those communities, the outcome of the conflict and disarray that would arise is apparent in the argument that occurs in the twenty-third chapter of the book when the pundit, priest, and imam all run into each other in the presence of Pi. In this portion of the book, the revelation of Pi’s secret practicing of all three religions gets exposed, and the religious community leaders erupt in an argument in the fallacies and differences of each other’s religion. In chapter 23, all three religious leaders engage in a heated debate over the following topics: The crucifixion and reincarnation of Christ, the revelation of 6the Qur’an, the Hindu caste system, the process of worship to God and/ or deities, and the differences in permitted diets (Martel, ch. 23). Though all men were culturally Tamil, their disagreements were deep and personal (Martel, ch.23). As stated in Samuel Huntington’s “Clash of the Civlizations?”, he indicates differences in civilization are great, but the most important can be that in difference in religion (pg. 25). When people define their identity in (ethnic and) religious terms, they are likely to see themselves in a view of “us” versus “them” point of view (Huntington, 29). Pi never shared his religious views with anyone, nor did he attempt to identify with any particular religion either. By not engaging in debate, conversation, or discourse with more than one person from any particular faith group he followed, he was able to successfully practice all three religions without conflict. Though he did this knowingly, he isolated himself from possible negative ideas one religion may have of one, and accentuated the similarities and benefits each had.

These items in read and comments in blue were last minute corrections I made before uploading.