

THUS SPAKE

INDIA



THUS SPAKE INDIA

BABUJI



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THE INDIAN MASTERS



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Author: Babuji

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The depth and style of these essays would vary widely as they were written on diversified issues and at different times over a period of more than 10 years. I posted all these writings in web from time to time.

It starts with 'Need of the hour' followed by 'Thus Spake India'. Later, I included 'Vedhic Religion' and 'For the nation'. All these four come under the title 'Thus Spake India'.

All these chapters talk about India's vitality; they talk for India's vitality which is meant to strengthen everyone's soul identity across the world. In this context, India is not for India alone, India is for the entire living kind, for the whole nature and for each one's Self.

The peacock, India's national bird, is a bird of multicolor. India is a nation of multicolored culture, policies and philosophies. Learning about all the diversities may not be a possible task; there is no need for that either. If we could grasp the underlying essence of all these colors, that is enough. India is here to teach one about one's true self, about the truth. This is the essence of her culture and religions.



‘Sathyameva Jayathe’ (Truth alone Triumphs). The emblem has these words encrypted in the bottom. This work also has the same drive . I present it here in minimum words possible. I take more freedom to examine our problems from the root and am doing constructive criticism here , so that we might be able to get the right direction . My idea is not to hurt anyone - but to point out our mistakes and the solutions thereto.

The Land of the Himalayan Ranges

The Reservoir of the Holy Ganges

The Place of manifold mysteries

The Bank of spiritual treasures

The Heart of the world...

The Seat of the bold...

Speaks out something common..

In the language of a layman.



GENERAL PREFACE

Through the Grace of Lord Venkateswara, Babuji was able to give a shape to the divine thoughts amidst so many tests and trials. Vedhas, Upanishads, Puranas, epics - all these came through revered souls for the true betterment of the human race. But, in the present times, more than ninety percent of the people are not following these. They are busy in developing meaningless imaginary skills within themselves and in giving shapes to them through the scientific media (tv, internet, mobiles and so on). They blindly go after them. The life built on these ever changing meaningless things is bound to be lost in the world of pandemonium. Sathya (Truthfulness) and Dharma (Righteousness) are unchangeable, eternal. Human life is based only on these qualities. If we practice Sathya and Dharma in the right way, we too can become divine.

In this book, the fact that 'people can apply the spiritual values even in the modern world and can advance in their real progress' has been made clear. I strongly say that the messages given in this book regarding ideal society, ideal education, our religious values and many other aspects would kindle the human thoughts and would help in generating the ideal mankind.

- My mother Smt. Saraswathi



CONTENTS

PART I: NEED OF THE HOUR

Foreword.....	1
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Part A

Introduction	3
What's happening now?	6
Why we need moral education?	11
Sayings on Education	15
A word to the Primary Schools.....	17
Need of the hour (The ultimate solution)	20
The Pre-requisites	25

Part B

The Invincible Mother	27
The Present condition	28
The Power of our Mother	31
Eco-friendly life.....	33
Conclusion.....	36

PART II: THUS SPAKE INDIA

Foreword.....	38
Community	39
Culture and traditions	42
Economy & Politics	49



Facts about India	54
Secularism.....	63
Political Stability	74
The Recovery	76
At the lotus feet of Beloved Mother India	84

PART III: THE VEDHIC RELIGION

Foreword.....	87
The Vedhic religion	89
Avatars (Divine Incarnations)	99
The Religious Culture	103
Idol worship.....	112
Symbols - a glance	116
The goal of any religion	124

PART IV: FOR THE NATION...

Foreword.....	128
Nation's pride	129
Universality of India.....	132
Justice	134
Here is... yet another Jalian Wala Bagh Massacre	137
Gandhiji and Violence	140
Untouchability	143
Magnanimity of Upanishads.....	148
Too much democracy.....	152
Mission Possible	155
Conclusion.....	157



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Babuji is a young writer. Right from his childhood he is after true spirituality and a serene social structure. He had read many books on this and observed the truth as follows: ‘The Truth is the same for everyone; it’s the same in everyone. But, the distance we travel mentally from it varies from person to person. That’s why, there prevail thousands of revelations about the Truth. When the distance between the mind and the Truth reduces and completely nullified, we realize that we are not distinct from the Truth’. He says: ‘Only a realized being can formulate a doctrine. They are here to bring clarity in everything. If any chaos emerges out of the doctrine, it is not because of the doctrine but by the minds which wrongly understood the doctrine.’ He supports true secularism. He was inspired by the teachings of Sri Paramahansa Yogananda and took Kriya Yoga initiation from his Master’s Yogoda Satsanga Society of India.

Though he had penned more than ten books, the ones which he wants to promote and to get translated in other languages are ‘God is in our land’ and ‘The Moral Tablet’. The word ‘land’ in the title, doesn’t refer to any geographical



region; it refers to the intuitive inner space of each and every being. He himself had translated this book into his mother tongue Tamil. This book got released in the World Tamil Conference held at Cambodia in the year 2018. The condensed version of common morals which he calls 'the moral tablet', tries to support the universal peace through the attainment of individuals' peace. The global version of the moral tablet was released in Shanghai in 2019.

He also has a Trust organisation by name PUTILI to spread these works. He expands the Trust name as follows: 'P' stands for Purity; 'U' is for Uniformity; 'T' stands for Truthfulness; 'L' stands for Love; 'I' stands for Introspection of 'I'.

He says: 'When Purity is established in mind, it results in uniformity of thoughts, words and actions. This state is known as Truthfulness. When it is felt and expressed naturally, we call it Love. This love (which is based on Purity, Uniformity and Truthfulness) is the representation of the omnipresent 'I', which is God.

He is a family man; a simple being. He is the one who has been trying to execute the principle 'Do your duty and don't look back or forward for the results'. But he too has some wishes. He wants to see a 'scams and abuses free' nation, filled with unity, unbroken culture and unexploited nature; he wants to see the above throughout the world. He wishes that India should act as a role model to the world in preserving and enjoying the world peace. By practicing one's own religion truly and correctly, one achieves



purification of mind and thus realizes the brotherhood of all souls despite linguistic, sectarian and other differences. He strongly believes that through this common sense of brotherhood and love, one can attain unwavering peace in the self and also can encourage the universal peace. His books are written only on this context in various dimensions and depths, over a period of two decades.

– **The Publisher**



PART I: NEED OF THE HOUR

FOREWORD

This is my first literary work. I started to write on this in my mother tongue, Tamil, during my teen ages. In 1997, I translated it in English. Then, I posted these essays in a free web server. These are the dazzling emotions of a raw youth and I want them to appear here unmodified.

I just think of the 'deserving struggle' that I took in those days to bring my first work to light - not to gain publicity or name - but to bring the solutions to the surface. I hadn't had any ground to believe that I might write again. At that juncture, for me, it was first and final. I strongly believed that this work has the solution for all problems, which, I believe, is true indeed. So, I put all my efforts to give some recognition to it, so that some might have a glimpse of it and probably think of the possibility of executing the points given in this work. When I hadn't had enough sources for a paper publication, I thought of posting an advertisement about this work with the URL of my free web site. I was working in a small office then; it was an information services center. I started asking almost all persons who visit my work place for a sponsorship of the Ad. Finally I had one Mr.Narendran Mohanan of USA to sponsor the Ad. He read the contents of the web site and expressed his willingness to sponsor the Ad. Himself and his friend Mr. Sreedhar Srinivasan (he is also from USA) jointly sponsored the Ad. The Ad came in two English dailies - in the Chennai editions of The New Indian



Express and in the international editions of The Hindu with the title 'Wish You All - A Happy New Era !'. The highlight is the Ad. came on 1-1-2000 as I wished and planned. I offer my sincere thanks to Mr. Narendran Mohanan and Mr. Sreedhar Srinivas for having given a sort of recognition and confidence to the young aspirant.

Bringing of Moral Education and Nature abiding life is the message of my first work 'Need of the hour'.

The world has recognized the need for nature abiding life - the need for maintaining the ecological balance, of course, after getting introductory blows from the nature. I feel, similarly, the world should recognize the need for giving influential moral education, based on love and brotherhood to all classes of people, before it is too late. If wrong education can make criminals and terrorists, why can't noble education make noble humans? If this is implemented in the right way, we all have a happy new era ahead. This education will reduce the problems caused by humans... including the problems related to the too much exploitation of the nature. I wish India to be the role model in bringing this moral education to the masses, as she already has profound experience in this.

Sarvo jana sukino bavanthu

(May the denizens of the world have happiness!)



Part A

INTRODUCTION

Everyone cultivates the thought of doing service, at some point of their lives, usually in their later years! But, how to start? What to do? When to do? The answer is “Do good things without expecting anything in return. Do them right now.” It may be in the form of love, sympathy, fortitude, patience or to the least money. And the helped may be a poor boy, a hungry kitten, a lunatic, an orphan, a caged parrot or someone in need of some sort of help. Most of the service organisations at present are doing one or more of the services of this sort. No doubt, we very much need their existence and perennial help. At the same time, we should not forget an equally important thing. Why people and other creatures are suffering? Because they are either ignorant or adamant or both (or someone else is!). Just by taking a baby from a dustbin or throwing a coin to a beggar, you are not meant to have solved the problem permanently. Tomorrow, another baby will be thrown in the same dustbin and the beggar will be standing on the same spot. If you can correct those persons who were really responsible for the baby and the beggar, it’s worth helping ten orphans or even more! And, this is the other ‘equally important thing’. And the pity is that the sufferer himself is responsible for his suffering...in a way!

All religions, philosophies, doctrines, service establishments, sports clubs talk about the Universal



Brotherhood. And they work for it. But, we should never forget that we do have a Universal Fatherhood (The Supreme Spirit) and a Universal Motherhood (Nature) who are referred in different ways and in different names through out the universe. In order to be a perfect human, we must pay our attention to our Parents. Then, work for the whole Universe under Their guidance. If we can establish a strong relationship between our selves and our Parents, then there won't arise any clashes among other relationships. This document emphasises the need of righteousness and purity which can be achieved through Universal Moral Education... which is NEED OF THE HOUR. Tomorrow looks good, but why don't we make it better?

Whenever falsehood raises head, Truth comes and drives it out. Since falsehood has got multi-arms, Truth too uses different arms to fight with the evil in a better way. Sometimes Patience stands as a weapon, sometimes Non-violence stands as a weapon, sometimes Mercy stands as a weapon, sometimes Love stands as a weapon, in extremely worst situations Violence itself stands as a weapon. Till humans live, there would be evil ...always trying to collapse them in all the ways possible. A bare human can not know about the evil effects of the evil and the way out. So once in a while, the Truth Itself comes for the rescue, drives away the evil and also gives the right medicine for the children. We humans take the medicine and throw them out well before the full recovery and cry again with pain. A true human should preserve them forever and should see that all his fellow beings have it ready with them. Here comes



the term 'Education' - Giving material and non-material knowledge to the bare humans who do not know anything about the way of living. The matured humans are supposed to give it in a proper way in a common place. Here comes the term 'School'. A person who is matured, balanced and righteous is requested to give the knowledge in a systematic manner and is paid by the society for his services. Here comes the term 'Teacher'. We can not assure that all those who get proper education would go in the right way. Some may choose wrong ways; it's up to them and their destiny to perish themselves once for all. But, it's our duty to try our best in educating the young generation about the reality, so that a few can be saved... at least.

This is an all-time requirement...



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

People got accustomed to tolerate and accept injustice. So, they may think that matters discussed here are unwanted exaggerated things. It's not so. My idea is not to list the sins of the world, but to remind the possible solution which had been told by many in the past. What would you do if these things happen in your family? Mahatma Gandhi says "To accept and forgive injustice is cowardice". Ask yourself: "Am I a coward?"

What teachers do for the students?

"A girl studying in 6th Std., was sexually abused by a teacher."

"In Delhi, the flying squad of CBSC threatened the students to give Rs.700/-. Those who gave were enabled to copy. Others were threatened again."

"The English second paper of SSLC Examinations was out before examinations. It was found that, it was done by a school teacher."

For all these 'services', they want extra salary. So, they demand their rights in 'the right way' – through strikes.

Now, let us see the students' side.

"A senior medical student cut the body of a junior student into pieces".



“A college girl was eve-teased by male students. She died.”

“A school boy raped and killed a school girl.”

From a very young age, they are given extraordinary works (In Govt. schools, it's quite contrary- no work at all). When they go for a change, mostly it happens to be T.V. But what they see do not give them a break, rather they break them. They are beyond their grasping capacity. The whole family see them ignorantly and wide open their minds to enable evil thoughts to make a free entry. As the student grows up, he tries to put -whatever he learnt- into practice. He starts with showing disrespect to the teachers. He smokes, chews pan, and even go to some wrong places. No need for any fear. Because, 'Education' has taught him how to do sins 'safely'.

What about the other students who do not 'play' these things? Well. They too try to put - whatever they learnt - into practice, but in a different way. When they get some GOVT. job- they get extra things from the public for their services (honest servants are forced to get extra things for the 'services' required by the 'stronger' section of the public. Otherwise they may have to lose even their lives). Once in a while, they strengthen their rights in 'the right way' - through strikes. A part of other 'capable' students who do not get a GOVT. job go for a Private job or start some business. But they succeed only when they are able to play administrative politics properly or to adjust themselves to the politics of other people. Another part of capable persons



– fly to some other country. Remaining persons? If they are really tough, they'll become culprits. If they are tender, they should go insane or commit suicide.

What the GOVT. does for the students?

Well. They do a lot. Here I could tell only one thing due to shortage of time. They give many things to the students at 'free of cost' (which means at the cost of general public) and include their own 'history' in the subject material.

What the elders and parents do?

One day I met an American Professor at my work place; the discussion revolved around personality development and I asked him casually as to what he thinks about God. He looked at the roof blankly as if he were listening a term for the first time in his life and said "Well...I don't know...I don't know what to say...I hadn't thought about God..." So we have time to do everything except to have a feeling for The Universal Spirit Who created us and all the things we are worrying about. And we train our children also in the same manner.

The elders read dailies, magazines, watch T.V. and vomit loudly whatever they swallowed. For them, talking about the nation's weaknesses and disorders is patriotism. Some remain unattached to the outer world. For them, keeping silence is patriotism. Most of them are very much careless in the subject, which deserves utmost care. Most of the people do not bother much for the present condition and the frightening future. And the very few who really want



to change this trend are trying to bend the trees - not the younger ones. They want to punish or change only the important aged personalities. They don't care much for the young people who go in wrong path. They care much for the problems in the bogies - not in the engine. (Problems in the Bogies - bribery, egotism and other corruption. Problems in the Engine - the lack of true education).

What about the present day education?

The present pattern of education packs the student's mind with 100% material knowledge. Divine knowledge or the Truth is ignored. So, the society is highly poisoned. False prestige, wrong actions, and unnecessary customs and habits are increasing. The western culture is blindly followed by the youth. Our own good customs and traditions are losing their uniqueness. So, it would be right to say that we are still slaves since we do not appreciate and follow our own good customs and traditions. (Here I don't say about the unwanted traditions). In the name of Modernization, even the good traditions are washed out. The main reason is multimedia in general (TV, Internet, Pictures, Posters, Magazines and other media). Multimedia people give bad information more - to the extent poisonous enough to spoil the character of young people. They say "We too want to make money. So, we give some filthy information. Those who do not want such things can omit them". I ask them. "Take a bowl. Add four ounces of milk. Add an ounce of poison. Now 'omit' the poison and drink 'only' the milk". It may be possible for swans - not for human beings, who



often tend to lose their will power to the much stronger inner and outer environment.

The terrorists use wrong education as a tool to attract or grab the innocent youngsters, and train them to spoil the peace of others. They are taught rather brain washed that certain people belonging to some other nation, religion or sect are their enemies and term their cowardice violence as ‘war of freedom’. They are constantly educated to be indifferent towards the world. Thus, the teachings of the narrow minded persons add fuel to all the violence in and out the nation.

I write this in the earlier 1998 taking the Indian scenario into account. But, I believe, the above situations remain the same everywhere and may worsen in future unless we do something practically and positively.



WHY WE NEED MORAL EDUCATION?

We all know that something is wrong somewhere. The root cause for all manmade problems - bomb-blasts, sexual abuses, political problems and other forms of disorder - is that people are ignorant. The Sanathana Dharma is not taught to them in the right sense and in the right manner. From the very beginning of their lives, they are taught how to earn more money, more awards, more comfort and more pleasures. The real Precious things are ignored. First of all what is education? Science, Maths, History... Computers, Languages... no, not at all.

SriSri Paramahansa Yogananda in his Autobiography of a Yogi says “The real lover of Vidhya (Education) is one who seeks The Truth. All else is Avidhya - only relative knowledge.”

Then what is The Truth? We ordinary people can't describe it. The scriptures say that the one which remains the same eternally is the only truth. The scriptures also solve the mystery; they say that the one which exist eternally beyond all differences of time and space is Atman (Self). Yogananda says that this Truth should be REALISED - just reading or hearing the Truth is not enough. So our schools should also try to give, in addition to the usual education



of materiality, the education of the Self - the education that leads to the Self.

In our schools, there are a few periods for Moral Instructions. But in practice, they are utilized for some other subjects. Thus the real education -The True Lamp - is being neglected and we are suffering in this darkness without the light. The path is clearly shown in our ancient treasures-we have to sort them and give them to the young people in the way they can UNDERSTAND and FOLLOW.

Sri Paramahansa Yogananda in his Divine Romance says “ The principles of right behavior, and the whys of right conduct should be taught in the home, in the schools, and in Sunday schools, to guide children’s lives from the very beginning. Our saints in India say that children should be started on the path of religion, the path of yoga, from the age of three, because habits begin to form then” .

That’s what education is meant for and that’s why schools are organized; to enable the younger ones to get adjusted to the much varying outer environment and to lead a peaceful, happy, and content life. “Enjoy everything, desire nothing” - these are the words of Yogananda to all, which should be taught to the kids in the right sense.

Her citizens fix the fate of a country. Their conduct and behavior fix the fate of the citizens. The character determines one’s conduct and behavior. The behavior and conduct of one person varies from the other. If his character is good, he will lead a peaceful life. Otherwise, he will be a drop of poison that poisons the entire family and the



society - as a single drop of poison spoils the entire milk in the bowl.

So, the character of each individual plays the real role. Family, society, nation - these are the fictitious names given to a group of individuals. Each individual should lead a righteous life. It may seem impossible to achieve this. But, if we fix our goal higher and put all our efforts towards it, we could go somewhere near to it. Higher the goal and efforts, better the results are. Then only we can see peace, content, and happiness in the nation and in the world. The character of every individual is a part of the basement on which 'family' rooms, 'society' departments, 'nation' floors, and 'the world' show room is built. Based on one's character, the building is either strengthened or weakened. If he happens to be the king of a country, his character alone speaks a lot and determines the fate of the whole country. If he happens to be the leader of a powerful group, his behavior and character alone may affect the entire world – either positively or adversely. When we look into the history, we can find that most of the wars were due to a single man's decisions. No one wants World war III. We all want peace, content and happiness. ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE. This should be the fundamental moral law. Everyone's character should be built on this universal law. Most of the humans start their social lives in schools. Whatever they see or perceive, they imitate them in future. This is the general trend. So, for a better tomorrow, we should give the young people a better today with the gentle fragrance of discipline and love. They ought to know what



the real progress is, and by what means they can achieve it. We must make the young people hold their conscience firmly. Make them climb up. Or atleast see that they stay at the same place. What and who can do it? True education and True teachers - of course. That's why we need spiritual, moral education in our schools. To help the young people cultivate good virtues - to help the buds blossom...



SAYINGS ON EDUCATION

It is better to be unhappy about your own ignorance than to die happily with it.

- SRI PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

One has to achieve not merely technical efficiency but greatness of spirit.

- S.RADHAKRISHNAN

The ray of devotion is not different from the ray of knowledge or Vignana. When intelligent matures, it becomes wisdom. When wisdom is integrated with life and issues out in action, it becomes Bakthi. Knowledge when it becomes fully matured is Bakthi. If it does not get transformed into Bakthi, such a knowledge is useless tinsel. To believe Gnana and Bakthi, knowledge and devotion is different from each other is ignorance.

- RAJAGOPALACHARI

What shall I do with a mere bread-winning education? I would rather acquire that wisdom which will illumine my heart and getting which one is satisfied for ever.

- SRI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA

Let positive, strong, helpful thoughts enter into their brains from very childhood. Lay yourselves open to these thoughts, and not to weakening and paralyzing ones. What



we want is muscles of iron and nerves of steel. Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library.

- SWAMY VIVEKANANDA

I hold that true education of the intellect can only come through a proper exercise and training of the bodily organs, e.g., hands, feet, eyes, ears, nose, etc. In other words an intelligent use of the bodily organs in a child provides the best and quickest way of developing his intellect. But unless the development of the mind and body goes hand in hand with a corresponding awakening of the soul, the former alone would prove to be a poor lopsided affair. By spiritual training I mean education of the heart. A proper and all-round development of the mind, therefore, can take place only when it proceeds *pari passu* with the education of the physical and spiritual faculties of the child. They constitute an indivisible whole. According to this theory, therefore, it would be a gross fallacy to suppose that they can be developed piecemeal or independently of one another.

- MAHATMA GANDHIJI



A WORD TO THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Habits and the character start to develop from the age of three. This is the saying of Yogananda, the well known world Master. You are in the similar field of teaching the children in and around the age of three. I would like to make a point that you need to do something more to develop the character of the young children. Right now you teach numbers, vocabulary, body movements, relations, family and some basic discipline. But these things are not enough. The character of the child still remains untouched. What we mean by character is self discipline, self-confidence and self-esteem. The character of a child or of a person of any age group can be molded only through spiritual education. This is a proven fact in all countries especially in India. That's why, our ancestors gave so much importance to spiritual education.

Our ancestors started to teach the young children yoga, meditation and devotion along with other basic teachings for survival. So, intelligent students emerged and gave excellent contribution in terms of knowledge to the world in all fields when human civilization was yet to begin in some other parts of the world. That's why India had been a victim to the material monsters who kept on attacking her for her wealth. But they could take only her wealth which



was visible to their gross eyes. If the intruders stole the spiritual wealth of India and capitalised the same in their personal lives, then India would have been happy for their 'steeling'. But, they tried to destroy the real wealth of India. It can never happen anyway. Even after independence, we are not using our true wealth in the right sense. No social institution prefers to talk about spirituality openly as we are in a SECULAR STATE. (Except some social groups who give revelations, money and materials through external sources and claim change of religion in return.) Secularism may mean the presence of many religions. But it does not mean underplaying the values of the majority people.

Schools are there to shape the character of the young people. But now, education had become the number one business in India. Besides making money, most of the big schools are doing autocracy in the name of education. Actually, they are producing materialistic, weak minded, egoistic, time serving people. How can these business autocrats teach the young ones self-discipline and devotion - without the rudiments of true spirituality? How can they bring a generation of moral strength?

We give the pre-primary education on the basis of findings made by western people like Madam Montessori where the spiritual education is missing. They only care about the external life. We have a pattern of our own values. So, why don't we recognize our own strength and give it to the new generation? As an Indian, I naturally feel that we need to teach young people about the existence of God,



the purpose of human life and the need and strength of morality. The student may be a Hindu, Christian, Muslim or of any religion. Their parents may or may not give them the right education of their spiritual values. But as the educationalists in pre- primary education, you need to bother about this. The training institutions need to train the teachers to teach the young students about the similarity of the soul beyond the boundaries of color, creed, regions and religions. They need to teach morals of life from childhood. This would definitely bring a brighter (and more peaceful) India. You hold a great opportunity and responsibility of making a great India - by making great Indians who are great not only in their thoughts and actions but also in their understanding about their being as the boundless spirit. I believe the higher authorities in this field would consider this plea.



NEED OF THE HOUR (THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION)

BRINGING MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS:

The saying that “he opens a school closes many prisons” will become true only when he gives the moral education in his school. Now a days, we don’t see such schools at all or they are very less in numbers. Today’s school, in general terms, teach everything except morality, thus opens up many more prisons in the world. The prison, here not only means the solid jails built with bricks and iron but also means the ‘self-prisons’ built with cheap emotions and selfish-narrow-mindedness.

Giving quality moral education, establishing ideal schools - ‘How to live schools’ as Sri Paramahansa Yoganandaji mentions it, is the need of the hour. We also need to give and ensure proper environment for these schools.

In schools, we should dedicate a considerable amount of our efforts towards moral education – the real education. A separate subject namely ‘Moral education’ or ‘True education’ should be introduced in all the schools right from Standard I to at least Standard X. The subject should have both theoretical aspects and practical aspects. Moral Examinations should be conducted separately and periodically with different pattern, wherein the character



of the student is tested - not his intelligence or knowledge. Special care and counseling have to be given for those who are weak in the moral education. Some may argue that this sort of education will not have impact on all children. But, for the sake of few, we can't ignore all. The society has the duty to give the right education to all; the children have the rights to learn the best from their ancestors. Implementing these points won't be easy; but - it's not an impossible task. This requires and deserves our sincere efforts.

The subject should be designed in such a way that it teaches students the standard points of Indian culture (as given under 'The religious culture' in Part 3) with the notion of escalating the eyes of wisdom and love. Of all the factors that influence the children's moral, mental and physical growth - the parents take the lion's share. But the problem is 90% (or even more) of the parents are not leading harmonious life. They themselves need education on moral, mental and physical wellbeing. So, they are not in a position to give ideal atmosphere to their children. The society knows of this shortcoming. That's why it gives this responsibility to schools - like our ancestors gave it to Guru Kulas.

The Masters in Guru Kulas had been versatile and dynamic with all strengths with the foundation on morality. But teachers of today are strong in all subjects excepting moral strength. There is no wrong in being rich materially - but we also need to be rich morally to ensure the same to the children.



Today's education requires a complete upheaval – a structural change with a strong foundation of moral strength. Developing physical, intellectual and artistic skills would not promise us happiness and peace. Morality is more important than self-confidence and other strengths. Moral well being is more important than any other perspective of well being.

Schools and the rulers need not toil too much for achieving this. If they feel that, they can't afford to create a new subject for moral education, then they may use the language subject for this purpose. All schools today- whatever be the syllabus they adopt -CBSE, Matriculation, the government syllabus or any other syllabus - must teach one or more language(s). In the language subject the moral and spiritual contents can be included. It will be of much useful to have some basic common practical lessons like pranayama and basic yoga in the language subject. The language subject can be made as the moral subject. All states across the nation and all nations around the world teach some language to teach all other subjects. Let the teaching of the language be rich in its moral and spiritual contents. Obviously, the students are expected to pass in the language subject also to get promoted to the next standard. This way, moral education can be given to all students- emphatically.

We can't say that there is no moral and spiritual content in today's education. There is. But, it is so meager that it barely has any impact on the students. The moral and spiritual contents are to be reasonably greater - both



quantitatively and qualitatively. If this can be done, then we can look for a more peaceful and happier world.

THE EFFECT OF MORAL EDUCATION:

The idea is everyone should be given a fair chance to find one's true identity/soul identity. Whether he/she makes use of it or not, it's up to that person and God. Parents don't need to fear that their children would become sages, if they are given this sort of education. This is to strengthen the personal life of every individual, ultimately his/her family life and social life will also get strengthened. Whatever be their position in future, it will be something full of peace, content and inner happiness. This is what you want for your children, isn't it?

A WORD TO THE MEDIA PEOPLE:

While we try to bring the ideal education, care must also be taken to restrict wrong education. Here, different blends of multimedia have a co-operative role to play. Multimedia is closely related to young people. Young people like visuals very much and wish to imitate them. A young boy ' Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi ' watched the story of Raja Harichandra (an embodiment of truth) visually, and tried to become another Harichandra of his lifetime. Another guy of the later 20th century, watched some horror movie and killed his own family members. See how intensely movies and other entertainment media affect the lives of the young people.



You characterize an ideal hero with the following features. He will be erotic; he will be having a girl friend (sometimes more than one!); he will face his enemies with his fist or pistol. The poor children try to follow these things in future. Dogs too have girl friends; they too fight with each other (but they are faithful to their boss anyway!).

The real hero is the one who pays less attention to all the emotions and throws all his efforts in controlling the inner and outer forces that stand in his way. His weapons are self-discipline, Confidence and Fortitude. Any body can blow one's head to pieces with the help of weapons and muscles. But how many can drive away the evil by inborn fortitude and patience? Is this not something wonderful to acquire?

You need not toil for the upliftment of the human race. All you need to do is not to spread vulgarity and cheap romance. If possible, tell the young people that life is something more than flesh (sex) and paper (money). If you keep telling the people about the purpose of human life, the need of universal well being, the need of preservation of nature and about the ideal family values, you are changing the times. When you do this for everyone, you will be given a lot more - not in terms of flesh and paper but in terms of things, which are more precious than that.

Thus, the educational institutions and the media are the two main key players in teaching ideal moral values to the society.



THE PRE-REQUISITES

RIGHT MATERIAL:

Moral values should be taught by telling stories, showing the lives of the great souls in the form of visuals, and by providing the students enough scope for developing their own character. While doing so, care must be taken not to give filth or unnecessary knowledge with the cover of 'Moral Education'. Only those who have versatile knowledge in our ancient treasures and in student's psychology can do this job.

RIGHT TEACHERS:

Sri Paramahansa Yogananda says, "Spiritual truths cannot be efficiently taught by one who has merely committed scriptural texts to memory. The real scriptural teacher must have experienced and understood truth before he can successfully transmit it to others. To those in whose eyes success is synonymous with a following, it may seem odd that really great teachers would have but a few students." He says that true seekers should go to the right teacher. The true teacher won't long for a number of students to follow him. So, it is clear that we can't bring true teachers, as in Yoganandaji's terms, to all schools. But, we can find people who are quite willing and capable to teach the true teachers' teachings to the young people.



THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEACHER:

Apart from the educational requirements, the teacher of moral education should take an oath to produce morally qualified students. The most important thing is that the teacher should have a natural inclination towards producing disciplined humans so as to bring a prosperous and peaceful nation. Aged people, volunteers from service organizations can be employed in this job - of course, after right examination. It's not going to be easy any way. They should know their responsibility. The responsibility of a moral teacher is more than the responsibility of the prime minister of the nation. They are in the dedicated and privileged job of producing humans with character.

RIGHT MEDIUM:

It is better to give the lessons in the first language of the locality. Care must be taken to check the correctness of the translation and additions, if any.

RIGHT EXERCISES:

The mere reading of the philosophy or religion is as bad as not knowing it, if one doesn't put them into practice. To get fine physique one must practice some exercises. Mere reading of the exercises in a book will not give one good physique. Similarly to get healthy mind, students must be given some practical exercises. Yoga, meditation and prayers are to be taught to all students.



Part B

THE INVINCIBLE MOTHER

Only a very few countries keep up the balance of their natural resources. Nearly thirty Countries are in a great danger of losing this natural balance. India is one among them.” - I heard this news in radio a few years back (in the earlier 1990’s).

Nature...

Clean water, broad sea, sweet and tender breeze, blue sky, green land, pure hearts and much, much more. We can say it is - things in their original form - not affected by any pollution. I would say Purity is another name for Nature. It is the subtle thing, which can neither be created nor be destroyed by we ordinary people; and the source, course and end of which remain a mystery for we ordinary people. Those who believe God say, “He is the Source of all things. He created nature, preserves nature, and at times destroys it at His Will. He is the Only Source who can answer such questions”. When you ask the other people the same question, they simply say “It’s nature - that’s all”.

Here I am not going to scrutinize the term ‘nature’. But I have got something to say for the sake of nature. Nature is our Mother. Our Mother is so patient and loving. But, we are not so.



THE PRESENT CONDITION

Where ever we see... pollution, pollution. For our own improvement, we are harassing our Mother and Her other children. In the names of Scientific Research, Defensive measures, Economic development, and Modern Approach, we are silently killing our Mother.

Right from the surface to the sky, everything is polluted and exploited. We pollute air in many ways. There can't be any scale to measure it. America refused to sign in the treaty that emphasized the control of carbon pollution. It is America that adds more carbon in the air. The government reasons that it earns considerable income through the carbon emitting industries. So, it is not ready to lose income for the sake of nature. Let us all earn lots of papers and burn them all and ourselves in the fire of natural calamities.

Water is also polluted. It is a rare occasion now a days, to see water in it's original color and taste. It is given various colors according to our own tastes - black, brown, red and some unnamable colors. We can see almost in all places some stinking, sticky matter floating on the surface - particularly in developing nations. We pollute water and again pollute it in the name of purification. We add chemicals and gases to water and give a different taste and color to it. Is this not something artificial? Is this not pollution?



Today Agriculture too is highly poisoned. Agriculture is supposed to be a natural profession that balances the nature and also the lives of millions of people who depend on it. But, now agriculture is highly mechanized in the name of modernization. It results in disharmony in the natural sources and also in the lives of millions of people. Now, people got accustomed to use anti-natural items in agriculture. The very reason for today's unemployment problem is that agricultural people change their occupation to some other business. And the people doing agriculture are looking for extra fertilizers, extra pesticides, extra mechanisms, extra modern equipments and less manpower. They do not bother about the lives of others and the life of the nature. Knowingly or unknowingly they are harassing the nature. So, it is a fact that - now- agriculture has come under the list of occupations that pollute the nature. It's a shame to say this. A study made by the Department of Oceanic and Water Resources, Anna University, Chennai confirms this. The use of fertilizers ... in particular... Phosphates ...poisons the ground water. Soil is also polluted. If this continues, the future generation will have to meet a major set back in the usage of water and other natural resources.

In agriculture, it takes time to see the real results of using anti-natural items. Very often, it is detrimental to the mankind and it is always detrimental to the nature. So, we have better avoid fertilizers and pesticides...at least let us minimize their usage. All Agriculturists should use Agriculture as a balancing defensive measure between highly poisoned giant industries and the troubled nature.



Please don't put it within the limited boundaries of ordinary businesses. It is more than a business.

“An American Organisation reserves lands in the moon”. This was a strange news that I heard a few years ago. We polluted many cities and villages in the name of industrial and rural growth. Now, we are planning to pollute the Mars and the Moon. We are in a constant search of pure places and making every effort to pollute them.

Well...



THE POWER OF OUR MOTHER

Let's see the Nature from another side. Every moving Object is supposed to have life current. Even non-moving objects do have life current. But, they can not show it themselves. Some one has to work out and see it. Nature is the 'Mammoth moving Object', 'Mother of all moving objects' who shows Her strength occasionally at Her Will. See the power and speed of whirling winds, the roaring oceans, the non-stop thunders, blazing volcanoes, the falling stones which could make hole in Jupiter to the size of an earth, the enormous speed of the planets, stars, and the light. To say in simple words, 'Nothing can match the Nature'. She keeps Her own balance of powers to make the environment suitable for the survival of all moving and non-moving objects. If you think deeply, you will accept that Nature does have a self-identity that has the cosmic intelligence to balance everything from an atom to a comet- that Nature has a self identity that is indescribable, incomparable, and all inclusive. There are certain parts in our body, which make us feel irritated, when someone who doesn't deserve to touch them, does so. It doesn't mean those who can not touch the whole of our body, do not deserve our love. Does it make any sense? Same thing here. The Divine Mother of Nature loves everyone and at the same time wishes to have certain places undisturbed - for Her own reasons. We should leave such places quietly.



If we beat our Mother with a joystick - it's O.K. If it is an iron-axe? that's what's happening now and She is hurt. Still our Mother is patient and loving. But I don't know for how long she is going to be patient. If She decides to fix an end - that is all. Any science, any defensive measures - nothing can stop Her. It is found that in the past 100 years the temperature of the earth went up by 1/2 a degree. If it goes up by 4 degrees, then humans won't be in a position to live on the surface. They will have to dig and live underneath like rats. The temperature hadn't changed for millions of years. It's only in this century - the century of rapid and adamant development against the nature that earth got heated up.

Nature is the greatest scientist. Every scientist learns and finds things from the Nature. Nothing is new to Her. We talk about the great performance of our scientists who make nuclear tests. If She ever wills to go for a test, there won't be any world to have the testing ground. As Swamy Vivekananda sings,

“Terror is Thy name,
Death is in Thy breath,
And every shaking step
Destroys a world for e'er.”



ECO-FRIENDLY LIFE

I won't say there shouldn't be any scientific or economic growth. What I say is they should go hand in hand with nature. If any conflict arises - the credit should go to our Mother, not to others - let whatever may their benefits be.

Due to pollution in the outer environment, our inner environment also gets polluted or the vice versa. Our Mother is hurt less by the external pollution; She is hurt more by our internal pollution. We watch cheap programs in TV and Theaters, we hear to cheap music, and we go for cheap pleasures. In brief, we lose our peace and purity of mind in the names of modernisation and development.

Why all these filthy desires, let us live our natural life (It doesn't mean 'let's go and hide in caves and forests' - where ever we are - we should live with purity, both in internal and external environments -this is the natural life). Let us not hurt nature in any way. If you are in a situation to select one from the two - nature abiding way and anti-natural way - choose the first one without any hesitation, even when the second one gives you more benefits. Hurting the nature is not our nature. We had made it so, as we all think that it is impossible to live without causing any harm to Her. At least, let us try to minimize the amount of pollution - not only for saving the nature, but also for saving our selves.



A WORD TO THE INDUSTRIALISTS:

The industries that cause great amount of pollution should consider the following points very seriously. 1) How can we minimize the amount of pollution to the minimum level that barely has any adverse effects on the ecology? 2) Can we find any alternative methods to the present pollution causing methods? If they couldn't find any positive answers for the above questions, they had better change their business. Humans do not need sophistication, modernization or whatever through the methods that cause significant disorders in the nature. It's better to live long with happiness in a simple house rather to die soon in a AC room with all sophistications and chaos.

Common individuals also have a vital role here. One should take a resolution for himself to be friendly with the environment. It is not a difficult thing. One could check the following things in his personal life. That he is not polluting the public places through the cigarette smokes, excessive vehicle smokes, spitting and removal of bodily dusts. That he is not polluting his home through unhygienic behavior. That all the dusts of his home go to the appropriate places - not to the streets and public areas. That he is not polluting the water resources. That he protects trees in and around his locality. That he is not killing any creature for fun sake or money.

When you pollute or cause something to pollute the nature, please remember that you are doing something that disturbs the virtue of your Mother. Let us love our Mother



and all Her children, and let us show our love through our thoughts and actions.

The administrators too have their role in keeping the environment safe. They need to protect the natural sources and should take strict actions against those who disturb the nature's balance.



CONCLUSION

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction - Every one knows this law objectively, but only a few see it subjectively - perhaps in the area where the practical significance of this law is more accurate and intense.

Have you ever thought why we are facing harassment in one way or the other? Because we had harassed someone in one way or the other. We had done something which should not have been done - now cultivating the consequences. The true education emphasises the purity of inner self and the purity of external environment and educates one, of the things “to be done” and of the things “not to be done”. But we can see the result (actually there will be no ‘breath taking’, ‘unbelievable’, ‘heart throbbing’ result as such, but that itself is a much better result!) only in some other decade or century, since the whole process has to go through several processes – gradually one after one. What to do till then? Shall we have to suffer all the effects of our past actions? Of course, yes. But we can minimise it by doing things “to be done”.

What are the things “to be done”? They are the things listed in the introduction...helping poor boys, hungry kitten, orphans...etc.

We all are after love, happiness and peace. We all are in search of the three above - knowingly or unknowingly.



Those who realise that they are within themselves, succeed; others suffer. Material things are required, no doubt. But, they alone can't give love, happiness or peace, unless we have the right potentiality within ourselves to use them. Acquiring that potentiality - stepping towards those inner beauties is the real progress. All else is like running on the fields - it doesn't matter how far we run or how long we run. We have to climb up - vertically, that is progress.

Don't fasten yourself within the limited boundaries of your ego driven individuality. Think yourself bigger... much bigger. No one is orphan in this world. Only those who think about themselves are orphans. Think about everyone and everything and enlarge the span of your family. Choose your way as guided by a True Guru (the one who knows the 'destination'). Stick to it till your last breath.

We are the dearest children of the Divine. The Unchangeable Truth is our Father. The Invincible Nature is our Mother. All the creations - are our brothers. Meeting Him is the goal; We have a path; we are given the vehicle. Let us ride away the limiting distance with the help of a true Guru (the one who lies just inside everyone of us)...

This is the target to be achieved. This is the toughest thing to achieve, for some - even to start. But this is the truth anyway. Everyone has to know this one day or the other. Let us start, right now!



PART II: THUS SPAKE INDIA

FOREWORD

Right from my childhood, I have been receiving strange remarks about my nation's history. I was hearing critics about India's community system, rigid culture and religious principles. My conscience told me that they were not true. I tried to find the reality behind all these. I wanted to give a true picture to all those who are misinterpreted. I started writing about India from home through the spiritual background of a normal human. It took several years for me to give a shape to this work. Each chapter is a different subject by itself; I am giving only a glimpse of it. I am giving the understanding of the religion, culture, community and other practical philosophies as a layman who knows a little about the vitality of this nation. First I named it 'Layman Vs Nation', then I changed it to 'A War'. And finally, 'Thus Spake India' overtook all other titles. It also happens to be the title of this book.



COMMUNITY

Since because that blood is in same colour, I cannot say that me and Lord Buddha are the same or that you and Jesus Christ are the same. As soul, we are the same in nature; still we differ in our realization. This is where community comes into picture. The classification of communities does not arise on the basis of birth. It comes on the basis of the three mental traits one has and on the actions one performs on the influence of these mental traits. Man's community is determined as to how far they value the interests of other people; how they perform their actions on the basis of their mental traits.

Gunas (mental traits) are three. Thamasic, Rajasik and Sathwik.

The Thamasic man is bothered only about himself. He always thinks about satisfying his own bodily requirements. He doesn't bother to hurt others, if it can give happiness in his restricted terms. In due course, his condition becomes miserable. Actually he himself pushes him down to this level - in other words, he does not know how to win the circumstances. The Rajasik man too is bothered about himself. But not in terms of sensual pleasures alone but in terms of status, prestige and social honor. He is conscientious, so he doesn't come forward to hurt others - generally. He is unselfish in certain matters. He always has



a heart for his nation and for the people who are directly related to him. He says, “I do not want to have enemies but I won’t leave if I have one.” He is merciful at times. The Satwik man is the gem of persons. He possesses the gem virtues. He gives more importance to others and is prepared to lose anything for the betterment of others. He is pure and loving. He is unselfish and finds joy in others’ happiness. He is graceful. For him all are good. He tackles the bitter emotions with kindness and fortitude.

These are the three gunas that everyone has. But the degree of the influence of these gunas is not the same.

In one Thamas is predominant, in the other Rajas, yet another is greatly influenced by Satwik guna. So four communities emerged based on these gunas. Sudhra (Thamasik), Vaisya (Thamas-Rajasik), Kshatriya (Rajas-Satwik), Brahmana (Satwik).

The Sudhras do the work of servants. The Vaisyas take care of managerial and trade activities. The Kshathriyas take care of national interests. The Brahmanas work for the moral welfare of all.

If a person comes under brahmanik community but fails to serve the mental traits of an ideal brahmana, then he is no more a brahmana. In records, he may be a brahmana, in reality he is not so. If the one who comes under a sudhra community loves all and remains clean in mind, then he is very much a brahmana.



There is no rule that these communities are rigid and fixed. The beauty is anyone, based on his performance and the way he sees his fellow beings, can change his community. Parasurama, though a brahmin by birth, became a warrior. Janaka, though a Kshatriya by birth, lived a saintly life. Ravi Doss, though a Sudra by birth was a spiritual master for the queen Meera Bai, who was a Kshaktriya by her life style. So, there is freedom in choosing one's life style and occupation - it is not based on one's birth. It is a pity that the concept of community is misunderstood by many and remains a cause for violence and misery.

As a rule one must strive to go up in the community ladder. This is why communities are prescribed - just to check our own self realisation. Gradually these classes are made dogmatic principles based on one's birth. In reality, it is not so. Those who are endowed with good virtues must pull their fellow beings to the higher community. Of all the three gunas, Sathwik is said to be ideal for perfection. But it is not the end. The end is emptying all gunas, going beyond gunas.



CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Animals do not have common laws. The mighty makes up everything, others starve. In the ages, when humans were influenced by animal instincts and acted upon their own desires, in their own way, certain code of behavior was needed for the welfare of all. This code of conduct was framed by the matured personalities over thousands of years. They saw the human life as a whole and prescribed some rules for the betterment and perfection of the layman. Humans have the tendency to form a group who follow similar laws and have similar lifestyles which we call society. This code of conduct was diffused into so many customs and traditions that it has become a part of our life. They are the laws enacted through customs - not through the legislatures. The individuals who prefer certain culture come under certain culture bound society.

The pivot point of our culture is God. Our rich temple traditions are the standing examples to this fact. Right from the day of the naming ceremony (Nama Karanam) the person meets so many rituals that invite God into the occasion. The first day of taking food (Annaprasnam), the day of starting education (Aksharabyasam), the first day of entering a new house (Grahapravesam), marriages, anniversaries and many other functions are celebrated with the 'presence' of God. The social and religious festivals like Pongal, Deepavali, Chathurthies and so on, are celebrated to



thank God. The faithful celebration of these festivals brings life to the culture. Here everything is performed in the name of God - let it be making of money, wisdom based pleasures, cultural arts, family pursuits or conjugal love, virtually anything. That's why relationships last longer. As a whole the culture divide one's life into four parts and teaches him how he/she should interact with others. We have four divisions. Brahmacharyam, Grahastham, Vanaprastham and Sanyasam.

Bramacharyam is the period during which one earns wisdom. During this period one is taught how to lead one's life, how one can earn money, how to spend, how one should behave with the parents, teachers, elders, women and the society. Most of all, this is the period one is taught of one's ultimate goal and the way one can protect oneself. He comes to know why he is born. As a rule he must be virtuous and clean during Bramacharyam. He is taught discipline and control over senses.

Education - the true Knowledge is common to all community and sex. Everyone are given the rudiments of education. "Girls and all classes of children should be sent for education. Those who lay obstacles to this should be punished," says Taittiriyanopanishad. But majority of women, by nature, show interest only in artistic education and prefer to stay in home to look after the family and children. Still, the fair sex who deserved the true Knowledge - Brahma Vidhya, by acquiring which one is said to have acquired everything, are given the Knowledge. To say for example, Gargi, Maitreyi and Avvai.



Grahasatham is the period during which he/she gets married and enters into family life. Here he takes care of the family and the persons and living beings who are directly dependent on him. He respects his parents and elders and listens to their elderly advice at times of need. He makes arrangements for the education of his children. He earns in the right way by the means of talents he acquired during Bramacharyam and spends it for the family and others. He spends some money for performing religious duties and some for charity. He also saves certain percentage of his income for future.

Then comes Vanaprastham. This is the period when he retires from the occupation. During this period he leaves conjugal love and becomes a good divine friend to his spouse. Now his children are grown up and settled in life. Now they are looking after him as he took care of his parents. He gives his valuable advice out of his invaluable experience. He clears their doubts and teaches them of the traditions and customs to be followed in family life. He stays with his children to the point when they are fully aware of the customs and culture and about their ultimate goal.

Then he leaves the family and moves to a lonely place. This is Sanyasam. Here he lives a clean life completely sunk in the thoughts of God. He becomes completely unattached to the various relationships. He gets himself prepared for the next stage in the eternal life. The only relationship that he has now is God. Here he sincerely works for his ultimate destination. At present, it may not be possible for everyone, to desert oneself from the family. Nevertheless, one can try



to withdraw the mind from the material world and focus it towards God, even when he happens to live in the family life.

The important point to be noted here is that these life cycles are common for all classes of people, for the one who takes up the job of a servant, for the one who does business and gives employment to others, for the one who administers the nation, for the one who serves others through his wisdom and devotion. His spouse accompanies him from the day she meets her husband to the end of the journey crossing Grahastham, Vanaprastham and Sanyasam. Both share pleasures and pain equally - helping each other in all the ways. That's why marriage plays a vital role in a layman's life.

Their relationship is to be based on faith and wisdom. If it is based on sensual pleasures, it is likely to end with bitter notes. So the culture places plenty of rituals and traditions on fixing up marriages. After thorough scrutiny, two sparks are identified as one to proceed further in the journey to the flame.

That's why our marriages have proved to be successful. We can see many couples living together from the day they met to the day they retire from the world. They maintain a true friendship between each other. Their relationship doesn't stop here or there but continues till the end of their material life. Ideal couples continue their relationship life after life till they reach their ultimate goal.

It is not compulsory to everyone to be in the complete life styles of the culture. Our culture is based on perfection



in step by step manner. If one is serious in knowing the truth and in being perfectly perfect, then he may leave the life stages of Grahastham and Vanaprastham. After Brahmacharyam, he can directly place himself in Sanyasam. It is not an easy thing to do so - leaving all worldly pleasures for the sake of perfection. Our culture wants to treat such persons with utmost respect. But now a days, many persons are wandering in the cover of Sanyasi playing all nasty things that even a Grahasthan fears to do!

It is acceptable when a young one renounces family for perfection, but it is not fair if one refuses to renounce the worldly enjoyments and the worldly duties even in the age of Sanyasam. It is not unlawful in the eyes of law. But it is unfair in the eyes of our culture and nature. They will see the result in a long run.

If there is no discipline in one's student life, one is more likely to lose one's character in the family life. If there is no character in one's family life, he can not lead an exemplary righteous life for one's predecessors, if there is no righteousness in one's life, one is more likely to go away from the track of God - the Source of all good virtues. The result is Ashanti - loss of peace. On the other hand, if one starts one's life with discipline, one is more likely to pass the other stages successfully. Things that have a good start are more likely to have a nice end. So what we need is education with discipline.

The base of our culture is self discipline. In the name of God, it teaches righteousness in every walk of life.



“If there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in character; If there is beauty in character, there is harmony in the home; If there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation; If there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world,” says Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Now the reason for restlessness and unevenness in the nation and the world is clear. It's lack of righteousness. We have a wonderful culture, but a poor society. Our society doesn't look into the base of our religious culture. It is blind in following certain unsuitable aspects and liberal in throwing away certain suitable aspects. This problem is in all cultures, it is a little bit rigid in our culture.

We have a clear relationship between society and religion. Society comes when a group of persons following similar life styles live together, where as religion is of personal nature. Persons following same life styles may follow different religions. Religion is for liberating the individuals. Swamy Vivekananda points out a vital unique feature of our society and religion.

“In India religion was never shackled. No man was ever challenged in the selection of his Ishta Devata (form of God), or his sect, or his preceptor, and religion grew, as it grew nowhere else. On the other hand, a fixed point was necessary to allow this infinite variation to religion, and society was chosen as that point in India. As a result, society became rigid and almost immovable, for liberty is the only condition of growth. On the other hand, in the West, the field of variation was society, and the constant point was religion. Conformity was the watchword...”



Now a days, it has become a fashion to say, “I am not bound by any tradition, culture or religion, I am a free man, a world citizen”. If it is said out of perfection and self realisation, it’s well and good. If it is said just to break the laws of the culture for a mean motive then it is not the freedom, but the slavery to the animal instincts.

Those who sincerely trust the authenticity and base of our Vedic culture, will know of its real meaning and will be put in the right path. When one becomes matured and perfect, he may not need these customs and culture. But most of us are imperfect in many ways. So, it is better to stick to our standard culture and religion, which are given by the perfect persons over thousands and thousands of years, to protect ourselves from the delusion caused miseries.

In every nation, the society pictures a layman based on their lifestyle and traditions. Our society too have a picture of it’s layman.

Exercise self-control and have right education, marry one on moral needs rather to physical needs, earn honestly, take care of the family and play your part in matters of social and national interests, help and love the environment, try to remain unattached, keep in touch with God in every walk of life. This is the life style of an ideal layman of India. When asked, “What do you want to be?,” we may get different answers from the various societies as “I want to be happy, “ “I want to be intelligent,” “I want to be rich,” and the Indian should say, “I want to be liberated.” Such is our civilisation, such is our nation and her vitality.



ECONOMY & POLITICS

THE GANDHIAN ECONOMY:

Gandhiji felt that India lives in villages. He didn't make this statement overnight. He studied her past history and mythology and the 'then' present; he analysed every aspect of the nation and finally derived this conclusion. It is right to say that in a nation where more than 70 % of the people live in villages and rural areas. And he also read about western theologies and economics. But he was not ready to 'photocopy' the western approach for the Indian economy. He felt that India had a unique economy based on her culture and vitality. He neither condemned the Capitalists relentlessly nor supported the labourers blindly. He said that the rich should be educated to act as trustees to take care of the workers who come under their concern. He also educated many such rich people. He supported the peace war of workers to protect their rights, but he did not support the strike of the workers who did so for political and personal reasons.

He found out that poverty in villages is the base of all communal violence. If people are given continuous employment and stable income, the problem of violence will be solved to a great extent. He encourages simple production methods and diversified employment. He doesn't like concentration of population in a select few places. He



doesn't encourage the using of giant machines replacing huge man power. He didn't encourage buying of foreign goods. He didn't like the government to support wine shops. He stressed that it is not enough to have noble goals; the way to reach the goals should also be noble and honest. He said that it is better to close rather to earn income through unfair means. He gives utmost importance to the physical labour and discipline. He never wanted shed of blood in the name of sects, religions and other differences. Simple living is the source of peace in home and in nation. This can be found only in villages. It is not so easy to think of simple and peaceful life in cities. So, for a nation whose blood circulates through villages, it is important to give utmost importance to villages.

He stressed population control. He said, "There can't be two opinions about the necessity of birth control. But the method lauded down from ages past is self – control or bramacharya." Thus he was aware of the vitality of the nation and wanted to solve every problem through righteous means - internal discipline and will. He didn't see the glory of India just in accumulation of material wealth. He had stressed the need of moral strength. He did not stop with writing philosophies and economy. He himself practiced self-control and was busy with a cottage industry - weaving - all the time. He practiced them in every walk of his life. He is a "practical idealist" who made many people to follow his way of life - simple, non-sectarian and non-violent life.



His ideas on economy are vast. Let me give here the very key points that he stressed in his work.

1. Simple and righteous living.
2. Simple methods of production and diversified employment.
3. Education based on self employment and discipline.
4. Healthy relationship between employers and workers.
5. Preference to agriculture and cottage industries - villages as a whole.

* * *

The dream of the father of the nation still remains a dream. Most of the present politicians are not aware of the heritage of the Indian civilisation, culture, rituals and her vitality. Because, the beginning days of our independence were such. Even after independence, the governments failed to look into the vitality of the nation and were busy in bringing the Western way of living to the East by all means. It's only after a few decades, probably during the fifth five year plan, that the need to control poverty and the need to give importance to the agriculture and related industries had been felt. Any way, we have it at least now to some extent and unfortunately missed a strong foundation – which should have been some fifty years back - the village economy accompanied by righteousness and discipline with the base of the vitality of the nation. The village people must



be in a position to look after themselves in matters like education, hygienic conditions, water supply, health care, transport facilities, religious activities, civil arbitrations, etc. A group of persons are selected by the village people to administer the village. This is known as Panchayat Raj. Gandhiji wanted to have this sort of administration.

The root of any violence can be removed by right education and diversified employment. In the present age, it has become a need to have big industrial establishments and giant projects. We can not avoid the modern security measures and advanced methods of communication. But at the same time the core of all problems should also be attended and proper steps should be taken to solve them. Gandhian thoughts give a great hope in bringing the ideal nation. For a few, it may look out dated. But the basic facts and concepts can never be ignored. Encouraging village welfare and agricultural activities to control centralisation of population, diversified employment opportunities and quality education in all areas, righteous and peaceful living - these ideas can not be overlooked. But the practical fact is that these ideas have been ignored by many. Most of us are ready to adjust ourselves to the changing times. For example, taking and giving bribes. The one who gives bribes does not feel that it is wrong to do so. He reasons that if he alone stands against this evil practice, others will continue it anyway.

Thus, he 'keeps pace with' the time. Similarly, the one who takes bribe reasons that it is not wrong to do so,



because it has become a trend. They both feel that it is not wrong to do something which everyone does. So, we all do wrong things and stamp them as ‘reasonable’ and ‘in accordance with the changing times’. This is a practical fact. Thus, there is always a big gap between the practical life and the actual philosophy. This gap should be removed; some concrete attempts should be made to shorten the gap between ideal nation and the actual nation.

Due to lack of morality, scandals are increasing in every field - from sports to the Parliament affairs. Both seem alike. Politics is played in the cricket grounds and the Assemblies and the Parliament have become cricket grounds where ‘boys’ throw, bat and catch ‘things’! But in sports the loss is less. Politicians have become the masters of scandals.

THE LAYMAN’S DUTY:

A friend on reading these critics questioned me, “Your critics are good. What about the solution? What is the role of a layman with regard to this?” I said, “The layman may not be able to correct the whole nation. But he can be an ideal human. And he can support the right persons who can and will correct the nation. All that he needs to do is to use the fundamental rights given to him very carefully and wisely. Cast your vote to the right persons who could make right changes. This is the layman’s part in the matter of politics, nothing more. Can’t you do that? The people should learn to select their leaders on the basis of their moral strength and political ethics - not on physical or artistic beauties. If there is no right person, then make one.”



FACTS ABOUT INDIA

The achievements made by India today are very much lopsided; they undermined the character and role of India in the bringing up of universal peace and prosperity. Indians fail to give due place to their own vitality. Today's generation of India is taught all things under the sky except about their own home. Here I am giving a collection of points about India (almost all of them are through foreign entities) that I got through various authentic sources. Thanks to all.

The following facts are for those who believe that the persons who bother to know about the Self stay behind others in the material or technological developments. The fact is where the Self is realized or sought, the scope for innovations and inventions is even brighter than ever.

WORLD HISTORY FACTS ABOUT INDIA:

These facts about India were recently (year 2006) published in one of the German Magazines which deals with World History.

* India never invaded any country in her last 1000 years of history.

* India invented the Number System.

+ Zero was invented by Aryabhata. (Aryabhata [476BC] was the first to discuss spherical astronomy and calculate



position of planets, eclipse points and the circumference of earth. He postulated heliocentric theory even 1000 years earlier to Copernicus.)

* The World's first university was established in Takshila in 700 BC.

+ More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects.

* The University of Nalanda built in the 4th century CE was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.

* Sanskrit is the mother of all the European languages.

+ Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software - a report in Forbes magazine, July 1987.

* Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to humans.

+ Charaka, the father of medicine consolidated Ayurveda 2500 years ago.

+ Today Ayurveda is fast regaining its rightful place in our civilization.

* Although modern images of India often show poverty and lack of development, India was the richest country on earth, until the time of British in the early 17th century.

+ Christopher Columbus was attracted by her wealth.

* The art of Navigation was born in the river Sindh 6000 years ago. The very word Navigation is derived from the



Sanskrit word NAV GATH. The word navy is also derived from Sanskrit 'Nou'. (Yet, they never invaded neighboring lands nor subjugated other cultures.)

* Bhaskaracharya calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the sun, hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart.

+ Time taken by earth to orbit the sun: (5th century) 365.258756484 days.

+ The value of "pi" was first calculated by Budhayana.

+ He explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem.

+ He discovered this in the 6th century long before the European mathematicians.

+ Algebra, trigonometry and calculus came from India. (The very words Geometry and Trigonometry are derived from Sanskrit words geomiti and trikonamiti.)

+ The largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 106 whereas Hindus used numbers as big as 10^{53} (10 to the power of 53) with specific names as early as 5000 BCE during the Vedic period.

+ Even today, the largest used number is Tera: 10^{12} (10 to the power of 12).

+ Quadratic equations were propounded by Sridharacharya in the 11th century.



* According to the Gemological Institute of America, up until 1896, India was the only source for diamonds to the world.

* The earliest reservoir and dam for irrigation was built in Saurashtra.

* Chess (Shataranja or AshtaPada) was invented in India.

* Sushruta is the father of surgery.

+ 2600 years ago he and health scientists of his time conducted complicated surgeries like cesareans, cataract, artificial limbs, fractures, urinary stones and even plastic surgery and brain surgery.

+ Usage of anesthesia was well known in ancient India.

+ Over 125 surgical equipments were used.

+ Deep knowledge of anatomy, physiology, etiology, embryology, digestion, metabolism, genetics and immunity is also found in many texts.

* When many cultures were only nomadic forest dwellers over 5000 years ago, Indians established Harappan culture in Sindhu Valley (Indus Valley Civilization).

* The place value system, the decimal system was developed in India in 100 BC.

Other facts worth knowing:

* Yoga has its origins in India and has been existing for over 5,000 years.



* Martial Arts were first developed in India, and later spread to Asia by Buddhist missionaries.

* The Vishnu Temple in the city of Tirupathi built in the 10th century, is the world's largest religious pilgrimage destination.

* Varanasi, also known as Benaras, was called "the Ancient City" when Lord Buddha visited it in 500 B.C., and is the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the world today.

* "Bharathanatiam" originated from Tamil Nadu, India, is supposed to be the oldest document dance form. It dates back to nearly 1500 B.C.

* Over 2500 years ago, Indian farmers had discovered and begun farming many spices and sugarcane. People in India had also invented, by about 500 BC, the process to produce sugar crystals. In the local language, these crystals were called khanda which is the source of the word candy.

* Ancient Indians had good knowledge of chemistry. Dyes, perfumes and bhasmas (for medical use) were also prepared. Iron Pillar erected by Raja Chandra Verma in Delhi stands rust-free for more than 1500 years. Such metal treatment was not known to western world till the discovery of stainless steel.

* Kanada (6th century BC) had propounded that Paramanu (atom) forms dwinuka (molecules). He also discovered even earlier to Archimedes that the density of molecules is peculiar to each matter and so an object weighs less in water than in air.



* Brahma gupta(628 AD) postulated that any integer divided by zero yields infinity.

* Panini (6th century BC) devised the first ever grammar treaties.

SAYINGS ON INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION:

“We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.”

- Albert Einstein

“India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.”

- Mark Twain

“India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border.”

- Hu Shih, Former Ambassador of China to U.S.A.

“India - The land of Vedas, the remarkable works contain not only religious ideas for a perfect life, but also facts which science has proved true. Electricity, radium, electronics, airship, all were known to the seers who founded the Vedas.”

- Wheeler Wilcox (American poet)



“The Sanskrit language, whatever be its antiquity is of wonderful structure, more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin and more exquisitely refined than either.”

- Sir William Jones (British Orientalist, 1746-1794)

“The surgery of the ancient Indian physicians was bold and skilful. A special branch of surgery was dedicated to rhinoplasty or operations for improving deformed ears, noses and forming new ones, which European surgeons have now borrowed.”

- Sir W. Hunter (British Surgeon, 1718-1783)

“In the great books of India, an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large, serene, consistent, the voice of an old intelligence, which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the questions that exercise us.”

- R.W Emerson (American Essayist, 1803-1882)

“Many of the advances in the sciences that we consider today to have been made in Europe were in fact made in India centuries ago.”

- Grant Duff, British Historian

“Indians have in general superior endowments in reading, writing and arithmetic than the common people of any nation in Europe.”

- Warren Hastings



“Indian cities are prosperous and stretch far and wide. There are many guest houses for travelers. There are hospitals providing free medical service for the poor. The viharas and temples are majestic. People are free to choose their occupations. There are no restrictions on the movement of the people. Government officials and soldiers are paid their salaries regularly. People are not addicted to drinks. They shun violence. The administration provided by the Gupta rulers is fair and just”

- Chinese traveler Fa-Hien during the reign of Chandragupta II. Fa-Hien was in India during 399 AD to 414 AD.

* * *

We all know that India is very strong and ancient in her religious ideologies. At the times when India was strong in her religious values, she also had been equally strong in all other aspects of life such as engineering, mathematics, astronomy, medical sciences, chemistry, poetry, administration and what not. If we give due respect and place to our vitality, then all other quality achievements will follow like a shadow.

The English historian and broadcaster Michael Wood (born in 1948), after visiting so many places in the world, says in his ‘The story of India’ that Tamil Nadu as the only surviving ‘Classical Civilization’ in the world. The reason is, the Tamil people preserved substantial elements of their past belief, culture, music, literature and other arts despite the strong influences of the modern globalised world. But the



fact we have to see here is, he used the word ‘surviving’. He didn’t use the word ‘flourishing’ or even ‘living’.

There is no pride to this nation when her more ancient and rich civilisation ‘survives’ somewhere somehow in her landscape. The Indian civilization which envisages humanity, introspection and intellectual richness, should flourish in all parts of this nation in her true colours and perceptions. We need to preserve our civilization. This doesn’t mean that we should not accept new things. For example, we can accept new styles in clothing. But, they shouldn’t propel others to make mean and horrid ideas. This is what I call ‘our civilisation’.

So far as the innovations do not devastate the environment and mental health, we can accept them. This rule applies to the old traditions too. This is good not only for India, but for the whole world.



SECULARISM

“**S**ecularism is the principle of separation between government institutions and the persons mandated to represent the State from religious institutions and religious dignitaries. In one sense, secularism may assert the right to be free from religious rule and teachings, and the right to freedom from governmental imposition of religion upon the people within a state that is neutral on matters of belief.”

“The word secular was inserted into the preamble by the Forty-second Amendment (1976). It implies equality of all religions and religious tolerance. India, therefore does not have an official state religion. Every person has the right to preach, practice and propagate any religion they choose. The government must not favour or discriminate against any religion. It must treat all religions with equal respect. All citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs are equal in the eyes of law. No religious instruction is imparted in government or government-aided schools.”

The principle of separation between government and the bodies of religions is not there in the practical secularism of India today. For the government, secularism means, leaning towards minority religions, supporting minority religions, neglecting the activities of minority religions which are adverse to other religions. In short, for the rulers, secularism means, give all privileges and support to minority religions;



don't bother about the individuality and respect of the so called majority religion.

Religions are not treated equally in India. The minority enjoy many benefits while the Hindus suffer in many places only for that they happen to come under 'majority'. Most of the politicians, who call themselves secular, do not open mouth when insults occur to the Vedic religion of the nation. When something happens to the minority interests, they make use of the 'chance' given to them and make it a big issue to prove their 'secularism'. If the same undesirable things happen to the Vedic religion, no one comes forward to talk of justice. If someone dies in a minority religion over a clash or some other tragedy, then the 'secular parties' moan in pain and curse the nation for having not protected the secularism of India. But when a few or more belonging to Hinduism die over a clash or terrorist activity, these secular parties keep dead silence. They are not bothered if they lose a few of the majority. Damn this secularism. Students of majority religion are taught that they should forbear anything because India is a secular nation. Secularism means forbearance, anyone can talk or do anything against Hinduism, but no one should bother about it. This is the way secularism is taught here.

Secularism here, is neither absence of religions nor equanimity of religions. It is anti majority and pro minority. This is the way it has been meant by the administrative and political people for decades. All the states are not following a uniform pattern in matters of religion. Some States take



the ministry concerning the monuments related to Hinduism and leave out all other religions. While other institutions and monuments are being treated and respected by their own autonomous bodies, many of the temples and our ancient monuments stand uncared due to the government's carelessness. The lands of Hindu temples are being misused by politicians and minority people through political influence. When minority religions get financial help from other nations for the upliftment of their beliefs and customs, most of the Hindu monuments struggle even without their own rightful income. Only a very few Hindu autonomous bodies are there to think of the religion.

The traditions and the culture of India is the least cared aspect for the political parties who call themselves 'secular' and 'rational'. In the good old days of Guptas, which is marked as the golden period of India, all religions were respected, women enjoyed freedom, science and technology cherished. The deserving were respected everywhere. There had been scholars of all religions in those days. They played a respectable role in the society. They were adored and admired everywhere. This is the real secularism. It is not just ignoring the unique values of the culture and the religion on which the nation is built. All the governments after the freedom are responsible for having developed this wrong trend in the nation.

PRESENT DAY SECULARISM:

The respect given to temples, rituals, religious monuments and such other external aspects is the proof of a religion's



esteem. Though they are the fundamentals, the presence of such external worship is unavoidable in any religion. Here, let us see how these symbols (of Hinduism) are treated in India, in particular in the state of Tamil Nadu.

A few months back (Nov 2000) I had been to a town of Tamil Nadu, Kancheepuram which is called Temple city. It's an old city with many temples. The first one we saw was Kamakshi Amman temple. Then we went to another temple - Egambareswarar temple. The deity here is representing the earth element of the universe. The temple is very old with magnificent monuments and sculptors. It is big too. But the administration is poor. The priests are struggling to keep the temple clean. It was stinking. All sorts of ugly things were happening inside. No one was there to control them. And a woman was threatening a few foreigners for money. Again no one was there to check this. In fact, this particular temple is having a botanical wonder. It's a mango tree, about 3,000 years old. I could see many maimed images there. How come these great ancient treasures of India got ignored? This is the way the government treats the temples. Not only this temple, I found the same situation in many other places where the government is directly involved.

The state government of Tamil Nadu is unfair in this matter as it allows atheists to administer temples. Its treatment towards the temples and the ancient monuments of religious interests is very poor. In the name of secularism, they ignore and insult the beliefs and properties of the majority people. They play the real politics here with the



masses taking the differences of religions and community as the weapons.

The Govt. would take all active steps, if something happens to the sovereignty of other religions. If it is Hinduism, the thing is not the same. They won't care much if someone sketches nude pictures of the image whom the Hindus regard as their Mother. They won't ask a single question when a few shout and ridicule of their beliefs without knowing a single aspect of it. Anyway, they would be getting the votes of the minority people for this sort of 'secularism'. The Hindus who are brain washed of this secularism are prepared to bear all partiality. Is this secularism?

To go even further, to prove their 'secularism' and 'rationalism', they themselves do the job of those who try to hurt the religion.

In 1960, the crown of a Pillayar idol at Erode, Tamil Nadu was broken by a rationalist party, smashing all further offerings and rituals. Many idols including that of the Father of our nation were destroyed by political persons or by persons with political background - all in broad daylight. An attempt was made by the then ruling rationalist party to destroy the tower of Madhurai Meenakshi Amman temple. The rationalist parties would beat the images of our god men with sandals, and the religious people have to keep quiet. If any politician dares to take any action, then he is finished. The opponents would jump to the sky rallying the whole nation, condemning the Government's 'partiality'



and shed tears for the ‘downfall of secularism’. Is this secularism? Is this the way to show one’s ‘rationalism’? The religious man nevertheless will not lose anything. But, what these ‘rationalist secular’ fronts are going to gain of this sort of activities or by ignoring this sort of activities?

The Census -2001 showed us that there is not much decline in the birth rate. So, this should be looked upon very seriously. If we see thoroughly, we can get the conclusion that excess population stands as one of the causes for almost any problem here. The land area is 2.4 % of the world while the population is 16 % of the world population. Again the law is partial in factors concerning population control. The marriage laws are not the same for all. According to law, a Hindu can not go for a legal second marriage while the first wife is alive (it’s a good thing anyway), while the one belonging to other religion can go for a dozen marriages and ‘yield’ dozens of children.

Persons belonging to a minority religion can start an educational institution just like that, enjoying so many privileges from the government and others while the Hindu has to go hundreds of procedures and formalities even to get an admission in it. He, starting his own institution, teaching in his own style? It’s a dream! So, quality education itself is restricted to a few who are prepared to lean themselves to any degree for the sake of education. Minority religions teach about their religions in separate places like churches and madarasa schools. But the Hindus do not have any such provision to teach their kids about their religion. And the law restricts the government aided schools not to teach



any religion. So, where do the Hindus would learn about their religion? They have to ignore the education based on their religion and culture, so as to say. Is this secularism?

By law, the Hindu is restricted to purchase lands in certain parts of the nation, while friends of other religions are given all their basic rights through out the nation. Who can call this secularism?

The missionaries of minority religions get so much money every year from foreign nations (some billions of dollars) to effect change of religion in India. All the tricks of the ordinary businessmen and politicians are being done for this for the spreading of their religions. And the Hindus just remain stranded of the happenings without having proper means to reach the base of their religion. Only a few learn it through self efforts. The majority remain unaware of their actual religion due to 'secularism'.

Because of the 'freedom' given in secularism, the minority people dare to get into the territory (territory -here doesn't refer to any geographical area, it refers to the feelings, emotions, customs, and life style) of the majority people and blame their beliefs. "We alone are right, others are false; we alone will go to heaven; others will go to hell; Join us, leave your religion" This sort of 'rights' to speak anything in public places can not do justice to secularism. If it does, then it is not true secularism. A house holder, getting into the territory of another and saying, 'You are a fool; I alone is clever' can not be treated as a secular right. If one is allowed to dominate other through money, power



or anything else, then we can not expect equanimity there; it's not secularism. The so called 'minority' are allowed to do it on the majority and they call it 'secularism'.

The following corrections or amendments are to be made in the constitutional Acts of India related to Secularism, to do justice to true secularism.

(1) In public gatherings, one religion shouldn't claim any superiority over the other and shouldn't prescribe change of religion in any manner.

(2) One religion shouldn't teach anything within themselves that propagates intolerance towards other religions.

At least, these two clauses are to be included in the Act, to do justice to secularism.

"We won't control the controversial moves of minority religions - we would protect only the minority interests" is not secularism.

In public sector schools, religion is completely ignored and so is discipline. That's why we are seeing many indisciplinary actions among even educated people here. The religious knowledge of Hindus is restricted only to a few missionaries. For Hindus, the number of missionaries is not enough. They need more. Since that Hindus are majority in numbers, it is not a bad idea to give the basic religious knowledge of Hindus in the public sector schools. The minority students can be given the option of ignoring this religious subject. But in order to do 'justice' to the



minority, all the Hindus are deprived of the knowledge of their religious values. What sort of secularism is this?

This partiality prevails in every walk of life starting from cradle to groove. Now, we must have common laws at least in matters of national interest, like in controlling the population, giving balanced education and in preserving the unique culture of the nation which stands common to all. The egoistic traits of communal and relational attachments are to be transmuted to Universal love. Only common moral education can do this. In 2001 State Assembly Election, a party included this in their election promises: That they would take effective steps to 'convert' middle class community to backward community, so that they too can enjoy the subsidies and other benefits given to the backward community. I have no different opinion in bringing up the downtrodden and those who are marked as backward. But should it go to this extent? Is this improvement?

The layman of the nation is friendly to all religions and communities. He never encourages differences in the names of religions. The false knowledge of secularism is thrashed to the people by a few political and other parties for their personal benefits. They make a show that those who want to have common laws concerning national interests are non secular. Friends, it is not so. If the govt. stands neutral to all religions, if the govt. takes right action to save the sovereignty of all religions with equal importance then only we would have the true secularism.



I am not referring individuals or the parties. I am talking about the trend since independence. This trend should change. This had been the trend all these years. The opposing parties have the strategy of opposing the ruling party - blindly. They do not bother about democracy, they do not bother about the true welfare of the public and the nation, they do not bother about their conscience. 'Good or bad, say 'no' to the ruling government and make or invent big issues' is their policy. This trend should change.

THE POLITICIANS' DUTY:

There should be common laws and prompt justice in matters relating to national interests. They must stop their unfair secular approach and let the ancient religion of this nation cherish. This is the only area that can bring all the glories of India back. The coming generation, we, need not pour ourselves in a foreign mould to prove our universality. Still, being an Indian, dressing our own culture and religion, we can be the friends of the world and all other religions. Perhaps, then we may attract more friends and may be beneficial to the whole world in a better way. The vitality of the nation is the need of the hour. Political brothers, you do not need to be partial with a religion that says all religions lead to God. You do not need to go against the religion of those who say, 'Let the whole world flourish in happiness.' By your constant indifferent approach, you are going against the vitality of the nation. This should not continue. It is shameful to hear from foreign friends, when they, after landing here with great expectations, sigh "Many



of this nation are not spiritual.” The masses should be let to know of their vitality.

An American journalist during his visit to India in the year 1998/99 worried about India’s sovereignty. I am giving a brief of his declaration:

“You (Indians) are not aware of your wealth and beautiful past life of thousands and thousands of years. You have so many treasures and truths in the forms of scriptures. But you are losing them now. The Hindu is not given the right education that suits him better. He is losing the knowledge of his good old ancestor. His religious and cultural rights are ignored and the minority people continue to have their regime. If this continues, India would lose her unique wealth in a long run. So wake up, at least now.”

If an Hindu says this, it will be marked as an anti-secular statement. This is said by a foreigner. Let us have atleast one tenth of the care and interest that a foreigner has for our nation. We hope to see a better tomorrow, a better India therefore - the real secular state. The person, who dares to say ‘all people should have common laws’ alone is secular. Others who show any partiality and lean towards minority people for their personal benefits are not doing any good to the minority religion or to the nation, they are not secular strictly speaking, even though they call themselves secular a thousand times.



POLITICAL STABILITY

What our nation needs at present is political stability. For the past two decades, Indian government has been hanging on a rope of chance. It is seldom let to cross the limits. It doesn't have comfortable majority.

The political instability affects the economy, sovereignty of the nation, personal life of the people and the nation as a whole. This situation is worsened so much that the government was not in a position to take necessary steps even in the matters of security. Since the government has only a "51% pass", that too with many associations, it virtually has no voice in the matters of utmost interest for which it needs "First class or distinction pass". So the remaining people take advantage of the situation and play with the nation. The hanging government leads it's tenure only in pacifying the supporting parties.

So, what we need is a government with comfortable majority. And the most important thing is who holds it! We cannot give all our support and ask Mr. Peter Pan to sit on the throne! A nation should be administered by her native resident who is well aware and concerned of her sovereignty and strength and has the capability to ensure and establish the same for all. Not only India, many nations have been struggling with political instability and improper governance.



The parties play politics and restrict the government in taking positive actions in the security and developmental factors. This is really pathetic. People should identify the indifference forced on them and they need to support the right persons whole heartedly. People of India should not encourage the people who come in disguise with a cover of 'broad minded' policies. They are not broad minded. They fail to bring or to support to bring necessary steps in achieving the optimal nation. People should not let such persons to decide the security matters and the sovereignty of the nation.

As already said in an earlier essay, only those who want to have common laws for all can be termed 'secular'. They alone can give stable governance. And these common laws should be drawn on the basis of the culture and life style of the nation. But, we have some parties here who call themselves secular, but what they have in mind is diversified laws and minority votes. The result is chaos and instability.

We need ideal politicians to govern the nations to ensure universal brotherhood.

(written in December 2001)



THE RECOVERY

“**R**ecovery is in practice - not in theories.”

Every individual has his own ideas. Everyone has varying views and opinions. But the course of action of every individual should go in line with the most common rules of the human race, which are...

Faith in God

Being kind to all living beings

Harmony with nature

If an individual forms his/her life in accordance with the above common rules, it means that he/she is contributing his/her part towards universal peace. It seems to be so simple to do. But, is it happening? No. The majority of the human race is going against the above common rules. We can see peace and happiness in the society if majority stand by these human values. The golden period of India had majority under this category. Because, the rulers of that period bothered of the following factors: 1. Quality education (education that extends beyond the levels of material knowledge and deals about soul consciousness, basic culture and discipline), 2. Proper justice (common, rightful and quick justice) and 3. Balanced development (development that doesn't hurt nature's balance and the



freedom of other beings). The same have to be paid attention again by the rulers to recover the nation and the world.

I wrote a few words on universal brotherhood and showed it to an eminent personality. It was the time when India had suffered the worst earth quake. That eventually brought the sympathy and help of the universe. Pointing to this, the person remarked that the world is going well with universal brotherhood and that it is not necessary to stress humanity which is already there. Within a few months, the United States met the worst inhuman attack. Many nations joined hands with the US and supported its mission against universal terrorism. Even before this incident, I had stressed the need for the cooperative steps to curb terrorism.

But, this alone can not be a remedy. There is no warranty that another tragedy will not come. We can analyze the situation to that of a damaged ship. The water is gushing in. We have two things to do immediately and simultaneously. 1. Patch the hole. 2. Pour out the water which was already settled in the ship. Patching the hole is the remedy. Pouring out the water is incidental to the remedy but important too. Similarly, the only remedy to rescue the universe is in the making of humans, more humans through right education, right thinking and moral living. Punishing the wrong ones is only incidental but important too.

Thus we derive two factors that require the immediate attention by the ruling persons. 1. Bringing quality living through quality education and 2. Strict actions against those who break the common laws.



The third one the ruler should try to achieve is balanced development - it's like taking the stagnant ship to the desired destination. The destination varies for each nation. For one economic supremacy is the destination, for the other military strength, yet another wants to be strong in scientific developments. For India, it is always spiritual upheaval, as found by Swamy Vivekananda. This should be the center point of development for India, around which other developments might happen. The balanced development factors are to be implemented continuously to see that the ship does not slip into the ocean of uncertainty and agony again. The balanced development implies overall development with adherence to the three points said above - Faith in God, Generosity towards all beings and Harmony with nature. This is a perennial process, something the rulers have to stick to, till the last day of the world.

These factors would make interesting changes in the life of the nation and the world. It is not the concern of the Government alone. Every individual has a role in it. We need to work together.

As laymen, all that we can do now is to identify the persons who are really interested in the welfare of the world and to support them whole heartedly. This we got to do.

THE LINE OF RECOVERY:

Here, we have the line of recovery from the political point of view.



PROPER EDUCATION:

* In schools, moral education should be taught as one of the qualifying subjects.

* The basic knowledge about our culture and traditions should be taught in schools.

* The purpose of life and the vitality of the nation should be taught to children.

PROPER JUSTICE:

Common laws...

- Implementation of true secularism.
- Stringent laws to ensure environmental safety.
- Easier access to judicial courts.
- Quicker justice.
- Strict adherence to court orders.

Proper punishment...

- Sufficient security measures.
- Ironic steps against terrorism.
- Co-operative steps to curb global terrorism.
- Strict actions against those who play in matters of religion and culture.
- Strict rules in entertainment media in order to protect our traditions and culture.



- Animal welfare - regulations in transporting and killing of animals and birds.
- Conservation of Environment - holding or punishing the industries and individuals who cause imbalance to nature's balance.

DEVELOPMENT FACTORS:

Ancient factors...

- Cultural activities should flourish with originality in all parts of the nation.
- Villages to be kept clean and cultured.
- All the Temples should be kept clean and arrangements should be made for daily poojas.
- Vedic rituals should be practiced in temples for the universal peace.
- The books on Atma Gjana and devotion should be kept in all temples of the nation.
- Importance to Natural methods of cultivation and Manual labor.
- Importance to Agro based industries.
- Sincere and serious preservation of forest wealth and animals.

Modern factors...

- Improving Information Technology



- Development in Transportation
- Improving Modern Security Measures
- Keeping innovative, giant power/fuel producing plants without disturbing the ecological balance
- Preserving natural resources and ensuring hygienic environment

(We have already recognised the significance of the modern technological development and are doing somewhat reasonably well with them. But the quality of education, justice and the ancient development factors, which try to mold the character of humans, still need a lot of attention.)

The nation has to be ruled by the one who knows to rule oneself. The ruler has to be morally a strong man - in and out. If we can have such humans in the parliament, state assemblies and in the public welfare offices, then we would have a brighter India with all her glories shining forth for the universe. This is not only the recovery of the nation - it is the recovery of the universe.

Since we are a democratic state, the private sector and individuals too have their roles to play voluntarily in the rescuing of our nation. These roles have been given here in a nutshell.

THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR:

- Those who are in the education industry should have curriculum which provides ample space for spiritual awareness and common human discipline.



- Those who are in the entertainment media should avoid filthy and anti social contents.
- Those who are in the processing industries should restrict abundant pollution and ensure environmental well being.

THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS:

Those who are in India - let them be of any religion - need to adhere to the core Indian culture which is given below.

- Strive to feel Godliness
- Avoid hurting living beings
- Live in harmony with nature
- Revere your parents
- Live to the rule of 'one man is to one woman'

Though the above morals are applicable to the whole human race, the last two family morals hold special significance in the Indian culture as Indian culture always gives importance to family values. The last two are the most common family morals practiced and revered in India.

Respecting parents is something we see and practice from the times of Ramayana (even before that). Living with one woman throughout one's life - this is also a unique identity of the Indian culture, the crown of Indian culture, we should say. Someone asked Swami Vivekananda when he was in America, "You say so much about Indian culture; in what way it is superior to our western culture?" Swamiji



replies: “Excluding your mother, you see all other women as your wives. An Indian, excluding his wife, sees all other women as his mothers.” Dr. Radha Krishnan, former Indian President said, “Sita is the embodiment of Indian womanhood”. Thus, one is to one relationship between a man and a woman is the highlight of Indian culture. This is to remind one not only to have control over the sexual instinct but to check all kamas - all desires.

Sadly, both these distinguishing features of Indian culture are in trouble now. If more and more individuals who are keen about preserving the human values are placed in private and public sector establishments, obviously, the nation and the world will face fewer problems.



AT THE LOTUS FEET OF BELOVED MOTHER INDIA

As the heart purifies and circulates blood for the whole body, so does India spread spirituality for the whole world. India is not for material progress, she is not for worldly pleasures, she is not for a culture that forgets God and runs fast within the limits of materiality. She is for the people who want to know themselves, who want to feel God, who want to know the secret of the soul. This is her vitality. No one can change this. No one should try to change this.

Mr. Cop Douglas, a rescue team captain from America who had rendered his service throughout the world, wonders about India's vitality, when he came here to help earth quaked Bhuj in Gujarat, in 2001, (I read his remark in a Tamil magazine and I translated it into English) as follows: "The peaceful state of the people of Gujarat puts me in puzzle. This is a wonder that can never be seen in any other part of the world. The effect of the natural calamity is very big. But, look at the peace of mind of these people! I bet... even in my own nation, at the times of dreadful calamities like this, the chaos and sufferings will be unavoidable. But, Bhuj has started it's usual life again...I do not know from where they got this much peace?! The unbreakable peace of the ordinary man, even after this much disaster, leaves us



in puzzle! Is it the usual life of every Indian or is it the very life principle of this nation?"

Let us learn to preserve this peace and unity in all times. Majority of the people here are guided by the nation's strength without their knowledge. Let us all understand the vitality of the nation and do our part to strengthen it further. In secular fields- Space Science, Software, Agriculture and Security measures- Indians have every reason to lift their heads up. But they have much things to learn of her vitality. This will guard the one area where India is strong and stable in all times - peace, and it would also boost the universal peace. We are here to revive our holy land, we are here to give life to our unmatched culture, we are here to protect an all inclusive religion, and we are here to love the whole humanity and the universe!

Patriotism comes not only in the matters of security or in times of crisis. It should be present in preserving all matters of nation's might - her culture, religion and sanctity. Patriotism doesn't get expressed in the dry egoistic celebrations in select days. It is well expressed through the obeisance of her vital principles in every day life.

Since that the trend is not the same as it was in the golden era of my nation, I can not avoid or neglect the vitality of my nation. Instead I shall do my part to make her stand with all her glories. There is no doubt that we are changing towards the best and soon or later we will see a better nation and therefore a better world. O Mother, if You so will to send me to this earth again, give me a boon



that every time I fall, it's on the laps of my beloved mother India, where I can learn to love all the nations and religions as my own; above all, where I can learn to love my true self.

Our national flag has three colors and a wheel in the center. The saffron in the top represents Sacrifice. The white in the middle represents peace and purity. The green in the bottom represents natural wealth and the natural way of living. The wheel in the middle is the wheel of righteousness - Dharma Chakra. Our flag remains dull and dusty. Now we need to put dauntless and unceasing efforts to glorify our flag - to make the wheel run. Let us make it fly above the heights of the heavens to bring all brothers of the universe to the feet of one God - The Eternity.

Jai Hind!



PART III: THE VEDHIC RELIGION

FOREWORD

Religion is the very vitality of the nation, hence it deserves special emphasis.

A few misleading persons are trying to make use of the secularism and misinterpret the freedom of the religion. They are spreading anti-religious defamatory ideas through cassettes and books. The pity is the Hindus are not in a position to face their queries and abuses, since they had never been permitted to know the essence of their religion ever since independence. And a few of the Hindus including scholars join hands with others in the criticism. They depict our religion as a store of superstitions.

While a few do selfless service, others 'buy' the people of other religions. They do business and politics with many motives, one being - 'change of religion'. For this, like all businessmen, they are prepared to use all types of motivations. They keep on giving amenities and assurance of salvation to the downtrodden and claim 'change of religion' in return. They keep on giving misinterpretations over the tail, thereby spreading a bitter wave on Hinduism.

I must tell my friends, the history of this nation. Here people do not bother about life - they bother more about the way of living. Here people do not bother about the means for being happy, but of being happy. Though sometimes, they contradict with this law, they have to come to this point soon or later as the needle of the magnetic



instrument always come back to the North Pole. Whoever it is, a politician, a businessman, a scholar or a layman, they have to answer the question about Self that floats in every atom of the ether. Some do not here it, sometimes the trend changes as we see now, but it is the law of this land that all should come to the point of self - realization one day. You and I can not change this. India may or may not be a world power in terms of security and wealth. But she had always been the land of universal love and peace. Her religion is such, her culture is such.

I heard one of their cassettes that described a Hindu saint and idols with all bad words. Is this what they learnt from their religion? They never touch the core of the religion. If they could, they would not use such bitter words. Neither do they know of their religion! No religion encourages this cult. Religions are here to bridge the gap between man and God. The Vedhic religion does just the same. And it never forces a fixed path. It gives freedom to the man in choosing his path and guides him from the least level to the ultimate.

It's my duty to raise my voice as one in the nation when the principles of my religion are misinterpreted. Here, an attempt was made to point out and clear a few basic misunderstandings and abuses. I am just echoing the voice of the ones who had understood and tested the principles of my religion. It is my duty to clear one thing in the very beginning. My idea is not to hurt the tenets of any religion. My religion does not permit me to do that. I am just guarding myself from their baseless ignorant abuses with the right of true secularism.



THE VEDHIC RELIGION

A Christian friend who made years of research on our culture and religion, compares the Vedic religion with Buddhism as follows: “I would say the ethos of Buddhism is vastly different from that of Vedic religion. Vedic religion is basically amoral, you could commit any sin and be redeemed by performing certain sacrifices. There is no repentance required, you don’t have to change yourself. In the case of Buddhism, you had to transform yourself. It was a difficult religion, essentially of the elite.”

What is he trying to tell us? For his information, the same Buddha was from the Vedic religion he is blaming. It’s only because of the freedom and flexibility given by his religion, Gautama Buddha was able to build up ‘a new religion’ for the ‘elite’. So, the Vedic religion wants one to change oneself to higher levels. But the pity is some, on reaching certain higher levels close themselves with the mask of philosophy and fail to go any further. Think of saying in Emirates or Israel that their religion is basically amoral. It would be an eighth wonder if you come out with your tongue. But the Vedic religion and this secular nation gives freedom to talk anything. Only because of this freedom, Buddha, Mahavira and Gurunanak found new religions. All of them are Hindus basically. While others used this freedom to criticize on certain beliefs of a few in the religion, they made use of the freedom in the right way.



Think of finding a 'new' religion in Buddhism or any other religion. Where I have the freedom to reach new higher levels of wisdom, I won't stop anywhere closing myself within certain philosophy or beliefs. Hinduism never asks one to stick to certain dogmas. It never compelled one to put oneself in a restricted path. If you say that there is no God, well, it's upto you; if you say that there is a God but not in an idol, you are welcome; if you say that there is a God who is manifested in every idol we see in and out, o.k, proceed; if you say that God is nothing but the light, carry on. It never criticizes any one for their beliefs. What it stresses is keep your faith with yourself and don't criticize others for not having the same that you have. When the time comes for you to change your ideas, change. You may not know the fact that you all are talking about the same Absolute who had manifested in everyone. So, stop talking and try to realize the Absolute, that is yourself, based on your faith. It is a foolish thing to compare a philosophy with closed walls, let it be any big inside but still it is closed somewhere, with a religion that has no walls at all. Here I had tried to spell some alphabets of my religion.

SACRIFICES AND REPENTANCE:

Generally, these Sacrifices are performed before Vedhic fire using auspicious articles. Scientifically it has been proved that the fire made in accordance with the Vedhic laws cleans the ether and balances the ecology. The significance of the Vedic fire (Agni Hothra) was felt by the world in the tragedy of Bhopal gas link. When thousands of people struggled to breath when poisonous gas emitted from



gas plants, two families sat quite all right in their homes performing Agni Hothra. This incident called two American scientists to make further investigations on Vedhic fire. They found a university in America with the name of Vedhic fire -

Agni Hothra University. Germany is another nation that respects the significance of Vedhantic literature and rituals. But the present Indians are yet to know of their values and virtues!

These sacrifices and the rituals are routed in Karma Kanda (Four Vedhas and Brahmana) of the Hindu scriptures. Most of these sacrifices are performed only to please divine beings, ancestors, humans and other creatures - they don't talk about achieving kaivalya (spiritual liberation) through internal means. Karma Kanda alone is not Hinduism. The Gnana Kanda (Aranyaka and Upanishads) talks about the Absolute - the Self. Here, sacrifice is seen in a different sence. It is an internal process which is more direct to the attainment of the final goal - self liberation. It is the essence of the Hindu scriptures. It is a collection of 1180 Upanishads of which only 108 are available now. If one wants to make any research on Vedic religion, they must see the whole thing or at least the essence.

Who ever it is, one can not escape from the result of one's own actions. One has to taste it in the same life or in the other. Vedic religion says that everyone must bear the fruits of their own actions - let it be sweet or bitter. You build your own destiny - life after life. Here comes the concept (for us, it is more than a concept – a reality) of



reincarnation. The Puranas say that the man gets punished or awarded according to their actions in this life or the other. If he is punished, it means, he had left the seeds of sorrow behind him. If he is awarded, it means, he reaps the fruits of good seeds sowed by him somewhere in the past. Sacrifices may be helpful in avoiding or restricting a few bad effects - but they are not the ultimate. God only can give forgiveness. As per the epic, king Pareekshit - the grandson of Arjuna, conducted a huge vedhic fire to safeguard himself, when he was cursed by a sage that he would die through the bite of a serpent for his adamant behaviour. The sacrifices couldn't help the king. The king died for his wrong actions. It is not the case as the friend mentioned above - 'doing any sin and getting redemption through some sacrifices'.

My religion punishes me for my mistakes. It is not always forgiving, not always punishing. Like a mother she weighs my good and bad actions and treats me accordingly. That is why she is eternal - no force can touch her eternity. Whoever it is, of any community or sect, he has to reap what he sowed one day or the other - no other go. Even the spiritually advanced beings are not exempted from this rule. Though a sincere devotee of the divine, Baktha Ramdass had to spend 12 years in prison for he had held a parrot in a cage for 12 years in his previous life. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Bagawan Ramana of the recent times, let the karmic rules act on their physical bodies and accepted the physical sufferings.



Mahrishi Valmiki was a thief at one point of his life. Because of the realisation of the bad quality of his actions, he repented for years and became a saint. Baktha Purandara Dasa was a miser at one point of his life. When he came to know that he did wrong, then he sacrificed all his wealth and turned out to be a great devotee of the Lord praising His glory through hearty hymns. And another man came to see the face of poverty in the wearing of some half naked women in the fields. He decided that wearing costly cloths was a sin when there were people who were in the want of even the basic clothing. Then he became half naked for the rest of his life just like one in the million. He didn't commit any specific sin. Still he repented for something for which the whole nation was responsible.

He is none other than Mahatma Gandhi of our times. All these persons are from the vedhic religion. Here we saw persons who repented and changed themselves for their actions. There had been persons who took responsibility and pain for the actions of others like Jesus Christ did. It is ridiculous to hear from this friend that no repentance is needed in Vedhic religion, when they go a step further and punish themselves for their mistakes. What he means by repentance? After making all sins, just list them out one by one in a secret low voice only audible to 'God' or His representative, then resume them the next day with a hope of canceling them again in their next 'repentance'?

The man has to help himself through his discriminating wisdom to find out what is right and what is wrong. And



then he should decide what to do and what not to do. The choice is in our hands, so far karma (doing actions) is concerned. Sometimes, one may see illusionary successes even when one goes in a wrong path, due to one's past good actions. Sometimes, one may not go even an inch further despite sincere dauntless efforts, due to one's own past bad actions. But it is the truth that wins at the end. Sathyameva Jayathe (Truth alone wins) says Mundakopanishad. This is printed in our national emblem.

Karma Kanda deals with performing the right actions and rituals. But these Karmas can not liberate one. The Vedhanta itself says this. As darkness is driven out only by light, the ignorance that binds one in the material world can be driven out only by wisdom. So the Atma Gnana (knowledge about the Self) alone can liberate one. When he attains the knowledge, he becomes the Knowledge Itself.

While realising oneself, the Vedhantha identifies six types of consciousness which we call kosas. Vedhas classify humans under six heads as to how they treat themselves. "Some think that they are the body and are sustained by food, they come under 'Anna maya Kosa'. Some think that they are sustained by the vital air or Prana in the body, they come under 'Prana maya Kosa'. Some think that they sustain by Manas or intellect, they come under 'Mano-maya Kosa'. Then comes 'Vignana maya kosa', where they think that they are sustained by the scientific knowledge developed by the intellect. When the aspirant raises above all these kosas and finds his originality, when the joy of



achievement is tasted, it is the 'Anandamaya kosa' that functions. Finally, the aspirant passes even beyond that, into the region of pure Sath (Truth) - the state that never changes."

The above is the brief of the kosas as described in Taittiriyaopanishad. Thus the Vedhic religion asks one to transform oneself to higher levels of consciousness. It wants change in one self. But this friend says that there is no transformation or change is required in Vedhic religion.

GOD AS DESCRIBED IN VEDANTA:

"Brahmam (God) is of immeasurable depth; how can it be measured and comprehended by this petty mind? It is Aprameya, beyond all possibility of being described by categories or comparisons; it is Aparichhinna, without limit; it is Avyapadesya, beyond denotation; to grasp It through the senses is an impossible task. God is encased everywhere as the child in the womb. Some declare that they will believe only in a God that can be seen or demonstrated. This is the usual argument of the worldly minded. But it is not easy to see, with gross physical eyes, the Paramatma (The Supreme Being) which is Subtler than the subtlest. Either Jnana Chakshu (the eye of wisdom) or Prema Chakshu (the eye of love) is wanted; only with these you can see God. Can you show others what the thing called "pain" or "sweetness" is? The eye cannot see an abstract thing like love, pity, mercy, virtue, faith; it is beyond its capacity. But by words, actions and behaviour, we infer that a person has love in his heart. So too it is possible to judge whether a person is



Brahma-vid, how deep he is established in his own Reality, whether by fits and starts or steadily and securely. Divine Wisdom, Divine Treasure, Harmony with Nature, through these He can be identified and discovered. Therefore, endeavor by all means to earn either the Jnanachakshu or the Premachakshu,” says Brhmanubhava Upanishad.

HOW TO FEEL HIM: WISDOM AND LOVE

THE PATH OF WISDOM:

There are six astral centers in our body. They are not in the physical body - they are in the astral body. Upanishads give the formulae for the physical, astral and causal manifestations. The advanced beings who live in upper astral planes behold the astral and causal manifestations also. Ordinary people cannot feel them with physical senses. Our life force is always located in a particular astral center. The bottom most astral center is fixed on the sensual earthly experiences. As one brings the life force up to the higher centers, he advances up in his consciousness. Those who dwell in higher astral centers are away from the clutches of earthly instincts. They reach perfection gradually. Above all astral centers, we have Sahasrara (thousand petalled lotus)- the Eternal Bliss or Peace. This stage is reached only when one goes to a state where there is no mind as such. As per the nature's law, we humans are placed in the lower astral centers with the blemishes of flesh and feelings according to our own performances in the past. It is each one's business to go up in one's consciousness to reach the Eternity. This is the path of Raja Yoga - the highest science



- The science of Self. An ordinary man can not teach this science. The one who had already realised the Self - alone can guide others in the science of self realisation. We call him Sath Guru (Sath - Truth, Guru - Remover of Ignorance). This is an idea about the path of Wisdom.

THE PATH OF LOVE:

The path of devotion -love, doesn't bother much about any astral center or consciousness. The devotee doesn't bother about anything except God. He forgets himself in the love of God. He surrenders himself completely to Him. The devotee erases 'I'ness and fills his every breath with the love of God. Even in the path of wisdom, humility and love stand as the base. There is no yoga without devotion. Man has to develop these eyes by all means. From childhood till death, he has to learn love and wisdom.

The first teachers of the human are his mother and father. They teach love and obedience. We call them Janma Guru. The next teacher is Vidya Guru – the school teacher of arts and sciences. He teaches him of the world, the ways of making money, the right way of living and also the basic knowledge about Self or God. Upto this level, all are educated. Then comes the Gnana Guru or Sath Guru. He teaches him the divine literature of devotion and knowledge. He explains the principles of various religions and stabilises the faith of his disciple on the supremacy of his own religion. He explains spiritual principles. He gives him training to activate the life force from lower astral centers to higher levels. He helps his disciple to escape from various worldly



attachments. Further, he purifies and perfects the soul and places him in a high perfect deserving state for salvation. He makes him realise that God is within himself as the Spirit and he also enlightens the Spirit of his disciple. He gives Deeksha to him and leads him to the final stage. And finally comes Brahma Guru – God Himself - to take back the perfect soul to His Kingdom. Thus the whole process of education - removal of ignorance through Wisdom and Love, is given in a single phrase - Matha (mother)- Pitha (Father)- Guru (Master)- Daivam (God). Almost everyone of this nation know this phrase. Those who have true interest and dedicated efforts to acquire unconditional love and higher levels of knowledge are directed to the appropriate Gurus and acquire the highest Knowledge.

I would like to conclude this heading with Lord Buddha's silence. It is said that Lord Buddha remained silent on an occasion, when he was asked about God. All people interpret this in many angles, often in a negative sense. In a classroom, one of my co-student argued that there was no God since Bhagawan Buddha remained silent when someone asked him to tell something about God. The friend said, "There is no God. Because Lord Buddha remained silent when the question of God was placed before him." I replied, "If Lord Buddha doesn't tell anything about God, it doesn't mean there is no God." The Hindu reads his silence and interprets it as follows: "If you believe that there is a God, then stop talking and try to feel Him in the depth of your soul through - silence. If you do not believe that there is a God, then stop talking and commenting on other's beliefs and keep your way - silently."



AVATARS (DIVINE INCARNATIONS)

Another 'rational' question put before the Vedic religion is on Avatars - how can God come in human form? The rationalist is not ready to see God in some form when He indwells in all forms! Then what is the meaning of God's omnipresence? "You may deliver great intellectual discourses on God and on all things under the sun, become great rationalists and prove to your satisfaction that all these accounts of the Avatars of God as man are nonsense. But let us come for a moment to practical common sense. What is there behind this kind of remarkable intellect? Zero, nothing, simply so much forth. When next you here a man delivering a great intellectual lecture against this worship of the Avatars as God, get hold of him and ask what his idea of God is, what he understands by "omnipotence", or "omnipresence", and all similar terms, beyond the spelling of the words. He really means nothing by them; he cannot formulate as their meaning any idea unaffected by his own human nature; he is no better off in this matter than the man in the street who has not read a single book. The man in the street, how ever is quiet and does not disturb the peace of the world, while this big talker creates disturbance and misery among mankind....," says Swami Vivekananda.



Only a free soul can feel God as He is. Then what about the ordinary man - the one who does not know any path - the one who is entangled in the mess of flesh and brain?. Who is going to teach him of his real self? Who else can help him but his Father, God! God leans down to the universe to lift His children up, in times of need. Broadly speaking, Avatar is a manifested form of God...a spark of God... that comes for a special purpose - to strengthen righteousness. The form need not be a human form always. Whatever the Form is, the Avathar abides to the rules of the nature, It nevertheless exhibits qualities beyond human's understanding. The Avathar may lead one full life as in the case of Krishnavathar or may come and go like a flash as in the case of Narasimhavathar. As the director some times comes to the stage for a guest role, God comes to the stage of the world to teach other actors to play their part well. He acts so perfectly that many of us can not see Him as what He really is -that is as the Director of all. Only those who have Gnana Chakshu (Wisdom) or Prema Chakshu (Love) could feel Him and His play. What we mean by wisdom is knowledge about Self. It is not bookish knowledge. It is wrong to restrict the power of God as to He could be only this or that. He can be anything and He is everything. We think that God is in a far above place - without a form or name - as we all are trained to think that way. We are taught that God must be someone different from man and other beings. So we are not ready to accept Him even when He comes down to us in a tangible form. We mask our ignorance and unfaithfulness with the cover of 'rationalism'.



I could recall a story here. A village was being carried away by floods. All the inhabitants were taken to some safer place. A man whose house was badly damaged by floods, refused to go away with the villagers. Another man came near to him and advised him to vacate the village. He said, "God is there to help me, you can go". Then he prayed, "God, save me." The village became empty - it was only our friend who stood on the top of the highest roof. A helicopter passed by. The rescue people threw a ladder down and asked the man to climb up. Our friend refused, "You can go. God is there to help me, God help me." Then a huge tide smashed him down from the top, our poor friend was gasping in the waters. A small wooden stuff was floating near him. He refused to get an hold of it. As a result he drowned and died. He was taken before God. The very first question he put before God is, "O, Almighty, how far I prayed to You? Why didn't You come and help me?"

GOD REPLIED:

"Dear one, It is Me who asked you to vacate the village to save your life. It is Me who threw the ladder for you. It is Me who came as a wooden stuff to save you. I tried so much to save you, it is you who consistently refused all My help."

The above story tells that God is present in all forms. If He takes up a form of His own, beyond the understanding of an ordinary human, then the Hindu calls It, Avatar.

The real 'I', even though it doesn't need any desire to be worked out, sometimes comes to the earth to lift the little 'I's. The little 'I' is called Nara (man). The real 'I' is called



Narayana (God). To say in other terms, the one who takes birth in the earth to rise higher is man. The formless and nameless Absolute who comes to the earth in some form, in times of need, to lift the humans higher is God. We have been feeling the presence of God through the Avatars, and the message 'God is in our land' has got a special significance to our land! From ages past, this land has been giving births to Avatars! The words of Krishnavathar are available in the book 'The Bhagawat Gita'.



THE RELIGIOUS CULTURE

The Indian culture has laid the most common principles for the humanity. During the times when Indian culture was distinctively prominent, the following principles were practiced even by the ordinary people of the society. These principles are common in all religions of India. In fact, they are supported by many religions of the world. Adherence to these morals would enhance the spiritual vision of the followers. They will be guided to feel God within themselves and apparently they would be seeing God everywhere as the only Eternal, Ever-Conscious, Blissful Being. Let us have a quick glance at them with their interminable relevance and need to the human civilization of all times.

1. DEVELOP YOUR GODLINESS:

The only purpose of human existence is to realize the oneness of his existence with God. This is the goal of all humans, let him be spiritual or not. If God decides to call all His children back to His Paradise through one command, He would say, 'Know your Godliness'. But for ordinary people who carry abundant karma of many lives, it may not be possible to even understand what it means. That's why spiritual people laid some rituals to activate Faith and other divine qualities in human mind. For those who could grasp the meaning of God, the realized beings simply ask to strengthen their Faith. No rituals are required for those who are blessed with faith



in God. Those who have faith and those who have it not, both have the common goal of God realization through Self realization. But these people lose the ultimate idea behind the rituals and faith in the fantasy of their multi coloured ego. It not only keeps them away from their ultimate goal but also causes inharmony among themselves. So, the first moral comes straight to all: to those who are advanced in the path, to those who are half the way, to those who are yet to start. “Develop your Godliness”.

‘Developing one’s Godliness’ doesn’t mean praying for snippets. It is seeking our own nature in whatever way one feels just. One shows faith and devotion for so many reasons: for getting wealth, for having good health, for solving problems, for enjoying good status, etc. These are not efforts for feeling Godliness. They are for developing one’s extra stuff which is going to vanish someday anyway. Even after getting the desired material objects, people still desire for more and more material things. Instead, one should devote a part in one’s daily schedule for God and God alone. Only this can be taken as ‘Developing one’s Godliness’. This would develop one’s own godliness little by little which in due course will render the inborn strength and maturity to take care of the whole world, as it is seen as a part of Self. Here, I didn’t prescribe any method for feeling the Godliness within. It is left to one’s own adaptability.

To put it in simple terms, ‘Developing one’s Godliness’ means ‘developing one’s inborn love and passion for God’. As God is in all beings, it literally means ‘Developing one’s love for all beings – including his/her own’.



2. AVOID HURTING LIVING BEINGS:

The second commandment is 'Avoid hurting living beings'. The physical harm alone is not harm - the mental harm caused through unfair acts like bribes, cheating, egotism, insults are also harms. Wrong philosophies, forced affiliations, politics and business in the religions are also harms to the soul. If one is not humble, not disciplined, not righteous, then he would hurt someone or the other; in a way, he hurts himself. 'Living beings' also include your own being, which means don't hurt yourself out of ignorance!

3. LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE:

God created nature to teach us lessons in the process of knowing ourselves. But we try to teach nature through our limited and 'polluted' knowledge, 'the lessons' that hurt all of us as a whole. We want to tell the nature that we can live without respecting Her rules. God let us know the power of atom. We had used it to destroy cities and are still destroying many sea creatures and reptiles in the name of 'testing'. Not only the creatures, but the geographical balance too gets blows through our knowledge. The ozone layer tears; the temperature of the earth picks up; the ice of the poles melts abnormally. We shouldn't fight with the nature. We can't reveal all of Her mysteries. But, if we could divert the search inside, then we can know the Master behind all these. God helps those who are in harmony with nature. So, keep the environment clean, be friendly with the fellow beings and don't try to over play with your free will in the matter of geographical well being.



4. REVERE YOUR PARENTS:

One may get anything in the world through one's strength - through the fist or pistol. But these things will not help in attaining divine wisdom. God will bestow it only to his humble devotees. God lets everyone have parents to learn what obedience and humility means. (There may be persons who do not have parents alive or known, but there is no human being in this world without parents, nevertheless such people should learn humbleness through some other channel of God or from God Himself). The children are to be obedient and humble to their parents. And the parents should be the role models to their children. Only unconditional love can make one obedient to someone, if we want it to happen naturally. If the 'obedience' happens forcibly or with some expectation, then it will not be a true obedience. Parents and children are bound in many ways naturally, thus the children should revere their parents through out their life. There may be differences of opinion between parents and children, but the humbleness and the base of it shouldn't change. Even the sanyasis like Adhi Sankaracharya and Ramana Maharshi paid homage to their parents (mother in particular), though they had differences of opinion at some point of their life. If the situation is such, think about the material people. We don't need to find reasons to give respect to our parents. We just have to do it.

5. LIVE TO THE RULE OF 'ONE MAN IS TO ONE WOMAN':

This is to remind one, not only to have control over the sexual desire but to check all kamas - all desires. Sensual excitements



take one away from one's true identification. That's why the Sanyasis stay away from all sorts of excitements, particularly from sexual excitement. But the worldly people don't have courage to renounce the sensual pleasures. They have to be moderate in the sense gratification, particularly in their sexual appetite. They also want to assure that there is no intervention or intrusion in their affairs. That's why one-to-one relationship is prescribed on moral and legal grounds through the execution of marriages. The Sanyasis could renounce sex, because they know a superior pleasure. Similarly, in order to have control in sensual excitements, one has to divert his concentration towards higher levels of 'excitements' or 'emotions'.

Generally, except in Islam, people prefer to live with only one life-partner. In Islam too, the modern blend like to live with one spouse. Polygamy is not a must in Islam. It's just an option. Allah says in the Quran-4:3: "If you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with the orphans, marry women of your choice, two, or three, or four; but if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then (marry) only one..." . The first thing is multiple marriages are permitted in Islam in a crucial situation - at the end of a war. Second thing is it is for those who deal justly. And The Kuran (4:129) itself overrules the common human's possibility of being just with more than one spouse. Thus, polygamy is permission in Islam, not compulsion. Islam too upholds the one to one rule.

What is more important is one's inner discipline - the pure inner life. There have been spiritual seers in the



history of all religions who had more than one spouse and still been loved by God. But, it happened in some special circumstances. It is not meant for all.

‘One to one relation’ is always good for one’s social and spiritual life. This is also the law of nature. The male to female ratio is the proof for this. It is very much balanced throughout the world. There is no immoderation in the numbers of male to female. It’s always pretty close to each other.

Even for trivial reasons, some keep breaking relationships or adding unnecessary relationships along the way. This is not the way. It’s true that the power of environment has making silent violent tremors in the layman’s inner life. We shouldn’t become preys to the external environment. Somehow, we all need to stay united in the family for the sake of the future generation and of course for our own betterment. We need to exhibit the young generation only the good examples through our speech and deeds. If the loyalty remains in the heart, it happens quiet naturally and easily.

In order to remain loyal, the couple need to love each other in the broader sense - not just within the physical perspective. They need to know each other through heart and soul. They need to remain united in achieving higher goals. They should carefully play their mutual role in bringing up their children with love and discipline. They should hold common spiritual ideologies. Then, they can stick to this rule quiet naturally. It’s very rare to see such a



couple these days. Thus, 'living one to one' requires broader understanding and mutual respect between the couple.

While most of the religions put God in a far place above the reach of an ordinary man, the ancient and still living culture of India says, 'God is in you'. The first moral - developing one's own Godliness- is emphasized and illustrated in India by many divine beings. The number is countless. In India, nature had been respected and worshipped from the ages past. But the present generation has to look at this aspect seriously and should try to be in harmony with nature. The moral of one man is to one woman is a widely accepted principle in India. This moral was stressed in the ancient scriptures (The stories of Sathyavan - Savithri, Athri Maharishi - Anusuya Devi, Rama - Sita) and there are individuals still following it. Parents are respected here. The history and epics of the nation had laid wide examples for this. The story of Rama, the story of Sravana, the story of Parasurama and much more. Here the virtue of non-violence is strengthened by many individuals from ages past to the present - to say for example Bagawan Budha, Bagawan Mahaveera, Adhi Sankaracharya, Sri Ramalinga Adigal and Mahatma Gandhi.

It is not that all Indians in the past followed all the morals perfectly. But the majority of them tried to follow these morals. When majority try to follow these morals, there will be only trivial pain and panic in the world. Now majority of us are not bothered to make even a trivial attempt to practice these principles. That's why here, these morals are emphasized ironically.



To keep reminding these rules to everyone, myself and my mother jointly worked out and carved a commandment stone in three temples with the five commandments sculptured in Tamil, English and Telugu. We also got the image of Lingam sculptured in the top-middle of the stone. By either sides, we have a Nandhi (Ox) and a lamp. The temples where I placed these moral stones: 1. Sri Raja Rajeswari temple in my village, 2. Sri Arunachaleswarar temple in the adjacent village, 3. Sri Valeeswarar temple, Rama Giri, Andhra Pradesh.

Let me give a brief explanation here.

Lingam is the symbol of both Iswara (Father) and Shakthi (Mother). Iswara represents Sath (All-pervasiveness or the Existence or the Truth). Shakthi represents Sith (Energy or Inteligence). They are not two - but indivisible One. The ox is the symbol of the soul (Son). If it realizes the Sath and Sith part of it's Self then it dwells in Ananda (Bliss); it feels liberated. Dharma (righteousness) is the linking cord between Father, Mother and Son. Dharma is to support Sathya (the undiluted Truth in everyone which is none other than the Spirit or Self). Sathya is stable. Dharma may change according to the situation. For example, 'Don't harm other beings' is the rule of Sath. It applies to everyone everywhere. This rule may be over-ruled by Dharma when a situation forces the ruler to punish the culprits. It is only to support Sath, hence it is Dharma. When the injury is made to innocent people, it is Adharma. Dharma and Adharma are in the hands of Jeevas (souls with the body).



The Jeeva has freedom to select the course of it's action. If it follows Dharma, then it is saved. If it takes Adharma, then it suffers. The first five commandments are the basic Dharma to be followed by anyone. The faithful adherence to these commandments would lead one to Home. The lamps to the sides of the Lingam represent the eyes of wisdom and love. It is only through these eyes that one can behold the Truth or the Self or God.

These morals are not for India alone; they are for all. Those who believe in Sanathana Dharma – Righteous living - will accept these morals as it is. And it is not enough. They should TRY to follow them in their own lives. This is the real support one can render to the well being of one's nation, to the whole of the human kind, to the whole universe and most importantly to one's own self.



IDOL WORSHIP

This idol worship is in every aspect of our life. The idols or images mean a lot to many. The world itself is an idol. All those who worship (nurture) their body are idolaters, says the Vedhantist. Had you seen 'Cast - Away' - an English movie came in the nineteen nineties? Its not a movie of mystery, history, religion, science fiction, or terror. It's a social movie telling the feelings of a man who is cast away. The hero is left alone in an island where there are no humans. There he finds a volleyball and makes it his lover. He relates the image of the volleyball to the being of his lover who is hundreds of miles away from him. He talks to the volleyball, he quarrels with the volleyball, he nurtures the volleyball, he explains his plans to the volleyball. For him, it is not a volley ball - its a being of his lover. For him, he is not alone in the island so long as the volleyball is with him! When he happens to lose it in the return voyage, he cries, yells, crawls in pain like anything- all for just a torn volleyball! The hero is not a man who is sunk in superstitions; he is very much a rational man. If you are a little frank and honest, you will accept that, when you watch the movie, you too would be moved when the hero misses the volleyball in the ocean! Why? It's all a ball. When you are prepared to take the hero applying the attributes of a human being to an image as reasonable under his own circumstances, then why you condemn the Hindu or a Buddhist when he applies the attributes of God to an idol?



While talking about the sect of Hinduism who worships idols, Swami Vivekananda says: “There is then the Bhakti-Yoga for the man of emotional nature, the lover. He wants to love God. He relies upon and uses all sorts of rituals, flowers, incense, beautiful buildings, forms and all such things. Do you mean to say they are wrong? One fact I must tell you. It is good for you to remember, in this country especially, that the world’s great spiritual giants have all been produced only by those religious sects which have been in possession of very rich mythology and ritual. All sects that have attempted to worship God without any form or ceremony have crushed without mercy everything that is beautiful and sublime in religion. Their religion is fanaticism at best, a dry thing. The history of the world is a standing witness to this fact. Therefore do not decry these rituals and mythologies. Let people have them; let those who so desire have them. Do not exhibit that unworthy derisive smile, “They are fools; let them have it.” Not so; the greatest men I have seen in my life, the most wonderfully developed in spirituality, have all come through the discipline of these rituals. I do not hold myself worthy to sit at their feet, and for me to criticize them! How do I know how these ideas act upon the human mind, which of them I am to accept and which to reject? We are apt to criticise everything in the world without sufficient warrant. Let people have all the mythology they want, with its beautiful inspirations; for you must always bear in mind that emotional natures do not care for abstract definitions of the truth. God to them is something tangible, the only thing that is real; they feel, hear, and see Him, and love Him. Let them have their God.



Your rationalist seems to them to be like the fool who, when he saw a beautiful statue, wanted to break it to find out of what material it was made. Bhakti-Yoga teaches them how to love, without any ulterior motives. It teaches them that love itself is the highest recompense of love-that God Himself is love...The highest phrase that can express Him, the highest idea that the human mind can conceive of Him, is that He is the God of love.”

The Lord has declared to the Hindu in His incarnation as Krishna, “I am in every religion as the thread through a string of pearls. Wherever thou seest extraordinary holiness and extraordinary power raising and purifying humanity, know thou that I am there.”

So he does not find any difference between the one who tries to find God in churches or mosques or temples. For him, they all are his friends and fellow beings - all belonging to the one race of love.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA’S VIEWS:

“...Unity in variety is the plan of nature, and the Hindu has recognised it. Every other religion lays down certain fixed dogmas, and tries to force society to adopt them. It places before society only one coat which must fit Jack and John and Henry, all alike...The Hindus have discovered that the absolute can only be realised, or thought of, or stated through the relative, and the images, crosses and crescents are simply so many symbols - so many pegs to hang the spiritual ideas on. ... Idols or temples or churches are only the supports, the helps, of his spiritual childhood:



but on and on he must progress....It is not that this help is necessary for everyone, but those that do not need it have no right to say that it is wrong. Nor is it compulsory in Hinduism.”



SYMBOLS - A GLANCE

Let me give some idea here about a few Saivaite symbols.

Lingam



It's the symbol of Saivaites. The original Lingam is of the shape of an ellipsoid. And it is placed on a suitable platform. The shape of the platform may change, but the Lingam is always in the form of an ellipsoid and is always perpendicular to the earth. Why is it so? It represents the beginningless and endless column of light that appeared before all other Gods.

This reference is in Shiva Purana.

“The popular belief is that the Siva Lingam represents the phallus or the virile organ, the emblem of the generative power or principle in nature. This is not only a serious mistake, but also a grave blunder. In the post-Vedic period, the Linga became symbolical of the generative power of the Lord Siva. Linga is the differentiating mark. It is certainly not the sex-mark.



Linga Purana says: Pradhanam prakritir yadahur-lingamuttamam; Gandhavarna rasairhinam sabdasparsadi-varjitam-The foremost Linga which is primary and is devoid of smell, colour, taste, hearing, touch, etc., is spoken of as Prakriti (Nature).

Linga means 'mark', in Sanskrit. It is a symbol which points to an inference. When you see a big flood in a river, you infer that there had been heavy rains the previous day. When you see smoke, you infer that there is fire. This vast world of countless forms is a Linga of the Omnipotent Lord. When you look at the Linga, your mind is at once elevated and you begin to think of the Lord.

Lord Siva (God) is really formless. He has no form of his own and yet all forms are His forms. All forms are pervaded by Lord Siva. Every form is the form or Linga of Lord Siva.”
- www.allsaivism.com

From Vedanta: A subtle representative of God that is present in our body. Kundalini is coiled with it in three and half coils. This is what Shiva Lingam and snake coiled around it depict in our temples. It shows Paramatman in the form of Atman and Shakti in the form of Kundalini.

From Sankya: The Mool Prakriti that absorbs all the Vikriti came from it.

Simple meaning: Lingam literally means a symbol - the symbol that helps us to know to recognize any event or matter as stated above.



The following is what God Himself says about this symbol in Shiva Purana when He appears as a column of light that neither has a beginning nor an end.

“I have two forms, Sakala (with form) and Nishkala (formless). This column of light is my real form. Brahman is my Nishkala form and Maheshwara is my Sakala form. When I come with sixteen kalas, I become Sakala and when I am present in the crude energy, I am called Brahman. Brahman means the most enormous (Brihat) and the creator of all. Lingam depicts my formless Brahman power. This is my Lingam (symbol). Lingam (Brahman) and Lingee (Atman) are same. Therefore the great souls should also worship me. One who has established Shiva Lingam somewhere in his life gets Sayujya Moksha” (The one who is referred here actually is the one who had established or found the Godly aspect of one’s soul. He gets the highest salvation - the state of being a part and parcel of God.)

Third eye



Lord Siva is said to have a third eye between eyebrows. This is to symbolize the truth that we all have a third eye between our eyebrows. Those who bother to know about it, come to know about it. Those who do meditation



consistently would feel the third eye. So, it is just not a symbol, but a reality. Among the six astral centers of the body, the third eye (Agnaya Chakra) is the top most center. Raising the consciousness to the third eye is not an easy task. There are people who did it through various spiritual efforts over several incarnations. Well, why one should bother to 'awaken' the third eye? The third eye is described as the door to the eternity. Those who awakened the third eye proved it already.

Chin Mudra



Lord Dakshina Moorthi, another name of the Saivaite God, symbolises the goal of the soul through His Chin Mudhra. He shows His palm to the devotees, with the index finger leaning towards the thumb. The index finger symbolises the soul. The other three fingers symbolises the three dusts or malams around the soul. The thumb which stands different from all other fingers symbolises God. By nature the index finger- the soul stands with the three other fingers -three malams- the dust of materiality, the dust of cause-and-effect and the dust of ego, though it is next to the thumb - God. In order to reach God one must leave the three dusts and lean oneself towards God.



The Potent, Lord Siva, when comes into life and spreads Himself across His Cosmos as Energy, is come to be known as Shakthi. God is both the Potent and the Power. To symbolise this, we have Ardha Nareesewara Roopam in Saivam. Since, God is the only Potent, it has become a trend to refer Him in male gender. And His Power, the manifested energy is referred in female gender. Some people may relate this with their lower material pursuits and may assume foolish things. So, Upanishads refer the Cosmic Beloved as 'It'. It is beyond the classifications of gender, cast, color, name, simply beyond any classification. "That which remains, after everything is negated as 'Not this,' 'Not that' - that is Brahman (God)," says Chandogya Upanishad. The symbols are used only to support and simplify the truth.

So far we had seen a few symbols of Saivaites. In the same way the symbols of other groups - that of Vaishnavaites - that of Kaumarites - that of Ganpatyas - that of Sauras - that of Sakthas - also reveal philosophical and spiritual truths in varying depths. Not only the idols - the temples too exhibit spiritual truths.

All these branches stand on one root - The Vedhanta. Each path has its own features though the destination is the same. A few applied their own tastes to the forms and theories leaving out the essence which resulted in superstitions and dogmatism. This problem is in every religion. But it is not the fault of the religion.



The Swastik symbol



This symbol is so popular in and outside our nation. It has been revered as the symbol of auspice, power and wealth. Surprisingly, it has been taken as a symbol for a party in Germany decades back.

We all know how far the party made changes in the world - in a violent way. But, this symbol has nothing to do with violence what so ever!

The Swastik symbol (given above) of our religion, that appears to be so simple, too has it's own meaning. The Swastik symbol has four different ends, all starting from different directions. But all the lines join in one point. Unity in diversity - this is what Swastik Symbolises. This is the symbol of Hinduism. This is the freedom given here. If we look at it the other way, it is the one Almighty that has spread through various religions and ideas. So, it is right to accept the saying that Hinduism is not a restricted religion with a rigid path, but the mother of all true religions that operate on the common eternal principles.

My religion never taught me to say that only those who belong to my path will go to heaven and the rest to the hell. The God is for all- from a layman like me to a warrior; from a farmer to a millionaire; from a riot to a noble man, from an innocent to an educated. It gives immense freedom to



all to choose their own way, on the common eternal base called Vedhanta. It has four standard paths fitting various temperaments and liking- the path of duty (Karma Yoga), the path of love (Bakthi Yoga - this is the place where idols have a major role), the path of knowledge (Gnana Yoga) and the path of control and concentration (Raja Yoga). As already mentioned Yoga means union. Thus it tries to unite all differences in the name of God. It even has a place for those who criticise and argue over its principles and God. It never curses anyone for their beliefs. It gives freedom to everyone to talk and to have their own beliefs. In due course, many of such persons, taking this advantage, had come under any of its standard paths.

Hinduism asks Hindus to treat everyone alike and that is why even when she gets blows from all sides, she always stands patiently and endlessly as a mother.

A few friends, when they do not know of the goal of their religion, waste their precious time in doing researches on other religions. Nothing or no one can shackle the authenticity of our religion. As we all see now, they do not know even what a layman of the Vedic religion knows. My humble word to them, take it as an advice or a caring word from a true deserving friend, is, know your religion first. If in any place, it asks you to insult other religions, or encourages you to be partial with other people, then it is the time for you to do research on your religion. I am sure Jesus Christ, Bhagawan Buddha, Prophet Mohammed or any other spiritual being, Son or Representatives of God had not said



so. No research work or any sort of authenticity is required for a religion that already had registered its authenticity in the life of billions over a period that neither has a beginning nor an end. What is needed is understanding and still better understanding of your own selves.

“Love your religion, so that you may practice it with greater faith. And when each one practices his religion with faith, there can be no hatred in the world, for all religions are built on universal love,” says Sri Sathya Sai Baba, The present Purnavathar of India.



THE GOAL OF ANY RELIGION

The intellect who talks about religions and culture must use his intellect like a balance. If he decides his own conclusion in the very beginning and throws all his mental stuff to justify the same, then the result will be nothing more than an interesting novel. If the intellect uses his wisdom towards reaching the higher royal ends, as he goes on and on, he would see that the highest truth he can see is love. Truth is the one which is the same a few million years ago, the same now and will be the same after a trillion centuries and remains the same forever - it simply stays out of time and space. What can he achieve, if there is no truth in his work? I am sorry, if I do not appear kind here, for I am neither an intellect nor religious, this is a layman. I do not mean that every layman of my nation knows these basic things. What I mean is just by knowing them I may not be a Vedhantic Seer, for the test of the Vedhic religion is Realisation - not knowing or reading. It is practicing what we learnt. How can I, when I haven't learnt to practice even the alphabets of my religion, do research on others' religions? But thanks to the vitality of the nation and the religion - I am made to find faults in myself and in my family - and to present them here in a reasonable and diplomatic manner - I believe! This is not to hurt anyone - but to correct ourselves.



But some friends think that the Vedhic religion is amoral, stagnant and not for the 'elite'! It is the simplest for the simple, the toughest for the tough, a high moral religion for a moral man and looks amoral for of the same kind. Before talking of it, one must read and understand the 108 Upanishads of Gnana Kanda of Vedhas, if one's life time permits it. Or atleast try to understand for yourself the 11 basic Upanishads prescribed by the Vedantists. The only option we have is to equip ourselves with the eternal wisdom given by the Vedhic religion. Only intuition and faith can help one understand the religion, not intellectual or mind power.

If you really feel like criticizing something, then criticize our political brothers who had given too much freedom in the matters of religion!... for not taking care to preserve the real treasures of the nation, for having restricted the masses from having their actual religion, for having let a few make years of research on the religion only to conclude '...so Vedhic religion is basically amoral.'

Writing or talking about a religion is not like giving cricket commentary. Everyone can not do that, should not do that. We are not Vivekananda or Sankaracharya. I again accept that I do not hold myself worthy to talk of my religion - I mean it, for what I know is not even a drop, and I would like to say that there is no use in making researches and criticisms on any religion for meritorious certificates with a narrow and biased view. One never needs to make researches on religions. If you want something better, make



yourself better. Do not talk about other religions before knowing your own.

Any layman can write hundreds of books on the traditions of any religion making years of research. I won't say a single word of your image and beliefs. I respect your beliefs for the degree of faith you and our friends have on them for centuries after centuries. After all we are humans and have limitations. We can't know everything. The very basic rational question that every one should ask within ourselves is about our own existence. In the answer lies the true happiness, peace and the truth that we are essentially one and the same. Thus the purpose of the religion is realisation – Uniting in diversities.

We want to proclaim that we are the 'broadest' minded people. We take every foreign object... good or bad...with an 'open' heart. Let us have some place in our hearts for the root of our own culture and religion. Due to our ignorance, misinterpretations, false ideologies and govt.'s confusion in their treatment, we are let to be one in the millions who do not know the essence of our religion. Therefore, let us solve our problems with the strength of the root. Let us not condemn the beliefs and principles of any religion including that of our own. We must feel proud that we never had a group or a missionary in our history with an intention of pulling or criticizing the people of other religions by any trade. Those all come here and merge with us, come at their own will, and for only one purpose - realisation.



One side taking the blows in the traditions, one side facing the abuses and misinterpretations, yet another side facing the multimedia and partial education that strongly support and nurture a foreign culture which is not at all conducive to our growth - all once again give a blow to our eternal half-forgotten religion. The religion of India will never go. Let us glorify our religion - not merely by arguing over its principles but by adhering to its proven chief tenets which are purity, truthfulness and love.

Lastly, I would like to end with Swami Vivekananda's words: "Religion is, after all, realisation, and we must make the sharpest distinction between talk and intuitive experience. What we experience in the depths of our souls is realisation. Nothing indeed is so uncommon as common sense in regard to this matter."



PART IV: FOR THE NATION...

FOREWORD

These chapters bear random thoughts; still they all are related to India in some way. So, I brought them here under the title 'For the nation...'

There is no apparent link in these essays; they all are islands - but they all deserve to appear in the map of India.



NATION'S PRIDE

Nation's pride is not a one man show. Every citizen has a role in it. We have so much to say on this topic. It may run into volumes if we try to say everything about 'Nation's pride'. Here, we are restricting our concern with two public issues i) Respecting the guests and ii) maintaining cleanliness in the public places.

AUDIENCE PLAYED:

In the crucial 5th one dayer between India and Zimbabwe held at Guwahathi on 19th March, 2002, India hit a big score. And the Zimbabwe was playing quite well. Infact, they were in a better position at a particular point of the game. This bothered the Indian audience. Their faces showed the worries of their incapacity to meet the defeat. Then started a unique match by the audience. They started beating their empty plastic bottles with hands and other materials and made a big noise in the ground to distract the rivals. It was very much frustrating even to the TV watcher. How the rivals would have felt? Thousands and thousands of people covering around two persons and making extremely ugly noises and smokes. Due to this ugly behaviour of the audience, the Zimbabwe had to lose its last five wickets for less than 10 runs. After this 'victory' the audience jumped into the sky for their 'extra-ordinary'-performance.



Yes, it is extra ordinary, in the sense, the match was played by the audience - not by the players. Of course, it is acceptable for the audience to express the pleasure and pain. But this is too much. It is a shameful thing to call it a victory. It is a shameful thing to call them 'the audience'. These sorts of audience are not only in India - but also in some other nations. 'Win through hook or crook' is not India's policy, even if it is a game! People of India are too much crazy about the game of cricket; cricketers are not the only representatives for the nation's pride. India would feel honor, to her genuine efforts even when she loses, rather to 'a victory' through unfair means.

PURITY IN PUBLIC PLACES:

Purity of public places is the least cared aspect in India. We all claim rights over the public property and fail to realise our duty in keeping them clean. We have so many laws to control pollution in public areas. In trains, we have a caution saying that smoking is prohibited and those who smoke inside the train will be punished. We see our friends smoking right under the caution board. In some other places, we see message boards like 'Please don't pollute this place'. Right on the top of the message, we spit pawn and feel proud of our 'rights' and 'freedom'. We execute this 'right' and 'freedom' in all public places, subways, railway stations, roads. And the pity is the police himself (who is supposed to control these things) pollute the public places.

Nation's pride rests on every individual's shoulders. The following story will reveal this fact.



An Indian friend once had been to Japan. He was traveling in a train. As usual, due to his past habitual practice, he put his foot on the vacant opposite chair which was actually meant for sitting and used it as a foot rest. In a station a Japanese got into his compartment. He came near to him and saw our friend's posture. Our friend got puzzled as what the Japanese friend was going to do. The Japanese took our friend's legs, sat on the chair and kept our friend's legs back on his (Japanese) laps. Our friend was really amazed of this behaviour and asked, "Sir, what are you doing? Your dress gets dirt". The Japanese friend replied: "If my dress gets dirty, it is an insult only to me. But, if the chair gets dirty, and if foreigners see it, then it's a shame to my nation. I can't tolerate any insult to my nation." This Japanese friend proved responsibility in both the two aspects of keeping his nation's pride, viz respecting his guests and maintaining cleanliness in the public places! I could here someone saying 'it is because of the respect that Indians gave to the 'guests', India got fettered for a few centuries.' The thing that our ancestors showed to the invaders during their entry was not 'respect'; it was 'stupidity coupled with innocence'. Of course, the guests too have rules to follow in lands outside their territory. If they break them with a motive, then they are no more guests - they become criminals. Well, we need to give respect to our guests - not to criminals!



UNIVERSALITY OF INDIA

This question had been harassing me for quite some time when I was working for a foreign bank. “You write in such a manner that you are very much concerned about your nation. But you are working for a foreign bank - for the nation that kept India under its power for more than two centuries. Is that right?”

I expressed this doubt to a few of my friends. One said, “Your nation did not give you any job. So, you are working for someone who gave you a job. It is not your mistake.” Another said, “You have to feed your stomach first. Stop asking questions like this and do the job given to you.” One said, “You should have been in India some 100 years back.” Yet another said, “They ruled us in the long past - but not now. It is not an enemy nation now. Our nation is having mutual understanding with it in several areas.”

I was not convinced of these answers. After two years, I had a job opportunity in an Indian organization. I got through in the written test and was asked to attend the interview. I came out from the foreign organization. The interviewer asked why I wanted to come out from my then employer. I said, “I want to work for India, sir” The interviewer said smilingly, “Though we are based in India, we are doing projects for the US. But the bank you are talking about work for Indians here though they are based



elsewhere.” I tried to convince, “still, the origin is...”. The interviewer interrupted “What is that counts? Destination or origin?” I said “Both”. I felt that it was rather a disobedient answer. I didn’t get the job. Later I started my own small business in my native town. That’s a different story!

But, no one needs to bother about the origin or destination or the place of work. The world has shrunk now. All that need to be bothered is whether we work for the right purpose.

It is said that only two persons are having statues in almost all the nations of the world. Both of them are the citizens of India. One is the Indian born Indian citizen - Mahatma Gandhi. The other one is Albanian born Indian citizen - Mother Teresa. They are remembered till day because they had rendered services beyond the boundaries of their nations. Gandhiji worked in South Africa for more than twenty years and fought injustice done to the humanity in the name of color. Mother Teresa came to India and fought against the poverty of the millions. So, the universal sense of India is very well established by them.

‘Fight injustice - let it be anywhere, in any face. Protect morality in all places by all means.’ - This is the role of India.



JUSTICE

With so many complications and differences, the courts are functioning in tortoise speed. While the majority of transactions are centered toward the cases of politicians and eminent personalities, which are jumping all the desks from the lower court to the special court, from special court to the High court, from High court to the Supreme court till the 'guilty' becomes 'innocent', the layman stands in the queue for decades for justice as I did for 15 years. The lawyers, simply making use of the gap to make money. Something should be done for the timely justice.

Invariably the justice has to be implemented, then only we can call it 'justice'. But what happens is the convicted or the guilty find all 'holes' in our constitution and becomes 'innocent'. A case was filed for me in a lower court. The judgment came after seven years. The convicted went to High court for 'his justice'. Then it took another seven years for the judgment. Meanwhile the Supreme Court had decreased the rate of interest to be paid on the compensations given through court orders from 12 to 9%. Though, the difference was just 3%, it made a huge difference in the original compensation and the revised compensation.

The pity is my shrewd lawyer had received the judgment copy which meant just the opposite to what it should mean. That is, I was asked to pay the compensation to the



‘convicted’! The judicial terms in the court order meant this way!. So, it took another half a year for me to get the correct court order and compensation.

I thought of filing two more suits against the court proceedings. The first one is to know who is responsible for the loss that I bore for the change of interest rate made by the Supreme Court. If I am given justice two years ago, I would have got a huge amount. For the delay in the justice, I should be paid further compensation. But what happened is I was deprived from the original compensation given by the lower court. Who is responsible to this? Is it the Supreme court who changed the interest rate? or the slow proceedings of the High and lower courts? Or myself?

Another suit I thought of filing is against my lawyer. Because of his recklessness, the compensation got delayed for another six months. As a client, I am not expected to know the legal and judiciary terms of the court proceedings. It is his duty to check those terms and to see that the order is genuine and alright. He failed to do this for which I faced the loss.

I told this to my family and was given the following advice. “You alone can not change the people. Somehow, you got the compensation. Be happy for that. We can not go and check the proceedings of the court. Only God can correct them. If you want to drink water in a pool covered with leaves and dusts, just clean the little portion where you want to take water and quench your thirst. If you try to clean the whole pool, you can never quench your thirst.”



The example was nice. It made me think for a while. If I file a case against the case proceedings, there is no guarantee that I would get justice immediately. It may take another 15 years. Even after that, I may not get justice, since the justice changes as it moves across the boundaries of the courts. What is found correct in one court becomes false in the other. If at all I get justice, then it is at the stake of the constitution which is familiar for its loop holes. Our constitution is so wonderful that any culprit can become 'innocent' if he knows to 'strike' the right persons.

Mine was not a critical case. My life was not dependent on this judgment. But what would be the condition of the thousands of ordinary people who await justice to decide their lives? Can they quench their thirst when someone who stands aside is polluting the pool?

A single person may not clean the whole pool. But, if every single person cleans his/her part, the pool will be clean one day.



HERE IS... YET ANOTHER JALIAN WALA BAGH MASSACRE

(The Tamil version of this letter was scripted by me and was distributed in my locality when a project of road expansion took place in 2005. The title is 'Here...is yet another Jalian Wala Bagh Massacre'. Hundreds of well grown trees were cut in the process. I sent a copy of this to the office of the then chief minister of Tamil Nadu.)

* * *

Here hundreds of living beings are being slaughtered. But the heads are not that of humans; but of trees. The selfishness of humanity crosses all limits and is silently killing the human kind itself. Had we asked broader roads? Even if there is a need, let them find a free path. In the name of laying road, they are actually killing the trees, our innocent friends. There is no one to talk for them. There is no guts. Who is the loser? Trees alone? Or the thousands of creatures depending on the trees alone? No. Humans are also the losers.

No rain

Hole in the ozone



Increasing heat

Uncertain weather conditions

Environmental disasters

All these happen due to the lessening trees population and the increasing smokes and industrial residues. We made it that we can not control the anti-natural industries. But if we cut down the peace makers who stand against the effects of the anti-natural elements, where will the creatures go? Where can we go? Due to the demonic selfishness of the humans, mother earth is getting devastated. A scientific study says that the temperature of the earth is going up. The reason for this is the exploitation of natural wealth and the increasing industrial rests. The side effects of this are perilous. Here is one for example. A scientific study tells that the coming generations will have to live in the average temperature of 50°C.

Friends, think and wake up. Protect the trees. And protect yourselves. Let us stop this 'Jalianwala Bagh' that is happening very simply and casually. Let us protect the trees. Let us safe guard the natural wealth.

A PLEA TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT:

The Great Asoka planted and preserved trees. The present rulers kill the trees. 'We will plant many trees for the sake of one tree cut by us' - this philosophy doesn't work practically. Later they will say: 'We don't have enough water even for humans. Where will we go for trees?' Even if they could, it will take many a years.



The trees standing here at present are about hundred years old. We don't want to lose one century old friends. Please consider avoiding the present path which is full of trees and try to find another way where we have less no of trees. If not for the sake of other creatures, for the sake of humans atleast, let the trees live. Thanks.

* * *

No action was taken against this letter. I think, politicians are not the only concerned entities to bear this responsibility. All individuals and family holders have a role - probably greater than that of the politicians' - in growing and preserving more and more trees. It is not a great thing to see trees in the forest. If we could see more giant trees in towns, cities and in all hostages of humans, then it is great and good thing. If I ever plan to do any service to the living kind, I will show it through the plantation and preservation of trees.

I am seeing every tree as a silent monk - doing many good things to the living beings without any expectation and taking many blows from the living kind, humans in particular, without showing any opposition. They are the symbols of unconditional love and vairagya (detachment).



GANDHIJI AND VIOLENCE

This is something different. And it is scripted not to give a different taste but to tell the reality to all. We all know that Gandhiji stood for the Truth and the weapon he used is non-violence. But he didn't prescribe non-violence plainly. There had been times when Gandhiji prescribed violence also. Now let us see the basic idea behind his way through the view of Sri Paramahansa Yogananda.

“In speaking of “resistance by love”, Gandhiji said: “If you have a revolver and your powerful enemy has another, and if you are afraid and flee, saying: ‘I forgive him’ then you are a coward.” He (Gandhiji) said also that it is better to use the gun than to be a coward, but he advised the use of a superior weapon - instead of either running away or shooting - when confronted by an armed enemy who has done wrong. This superior weapon is “resistance by love and non-cooperation” with the enemy’s evil ways.”

But Gandhiji didn't prescribe it for all people and for all occasions. He didn't ask a woman to ‘resist by love’ when her very morality is threatened. He advises the fair sex to use knife and their nails to protect themselves at such times. He had recommended the mercy killing of a dying calf. Thus ‘non-violence’ may not always mean ‘not killing’. The type of the victims and the nature of the enemies decide the meaning of ‘non-violence’. If the victim is helpless and



weak, then he may use the weapons to protect himself. It is better to use the weapon and survive than to yield and die to the evil ways.

If the victim is a stronger person, then he may use the superior weapon of “resistance by love and non-cooperation with the enemy’s evil ways.” But this weapon will not hold good to all strong people. A government who is answerable to the whole nation can not escape from it’s responsibility showing Gandhiji as an excuse. Particularly when, the enemy keeps on refusing to respect human values and their enemy’s strength, the weapon of “resistance by love and non-cooperation” will lose its effect. At such times it is better to use the weapon than to beg the world to correct the enemy.

In the Bagawat Gita, Bagawan Krishna did not prescribe “resistance by love and non-cooperation” to Arjuna. He took sincere efforts to solve the problem in a peaceful way. When it failed, he advised Arjuna to fight. Arjuna, being a ruler, couldn’t escape from his responsibility. So, too the government can not escape from it’s responsibility on the account of Gandhi’s advice. Rather Gandhiji would advise us to use the weapon than to die without the knowledge of being killed.

And this is for the rulers. If the rulers keep on showing ‘resistance’ to the terrorists, without properly educating them ‘love’, then it may bring great danger to the whole nation. The people of India nevertheless should not forget the way of Gandhiji. We have to show “resistance by love and



non-cooperation” to the internal parties in India who come in disguise as public-servants and do everything against the interests of the nation - behind and front of the screen. If the enemies inside too prefer to use the awkward methods, then let us not hesitate to support the Indian powers to change their weapons!



UNTOUCHABILITY

Late night in a day of 2008. I was returning to my home in car with family after attending a function. Just 3 more kilometers to go. My car got heated and broke down on the way. It wouldn't go even a kilometer. I stopped the car in a nearby temple. It's a well known temple to me. I know the temple priest personally. I thought of leaving the car near the temple and reach home using some other mode of transport. I could take the car the next day with the help of a mechanic.

I placed the car near the temple. Meanwhile, my baby, one and a half year old, started weeping in want of water. We didn't have any water with us then. I sent my wife to the temple priest's home to fetch some water. It was a few feet away. She went and asked for water. I was standing near the car. Nearly 10 minutes passed, she didn't return. I went close to her and asked what was happening. She said, "I asked them several times. So far, no one had responded." I asked for water a bit loudly. The old priest of around 80 years old and who was well known to me came out and responded, "Don't shout, they are a little busy inside. I will bring the water."

After some time, he came with a small vessel and handed over it to my wife and said, "Don't let the child drink the water biting the vessel. Keep it away from her and feed



water.” Rather, it was a command and he was still standing there to check whether we carry out the condition without fail. We were shocked. Then I went to my car and brought an empty bottle. My wife shifted the water from the vessel to our bottle and returned the vessel back to the priest.

How could a baby, hardly two years old can drink water without biting the vessel? This incident happened not in the 19th or 20th century. It was 2008. This is the 21st century. How deeply the bitter seed of untouchability should have been routed in the soil of India?

This is not prescribed in scriptures. This is not supported by leaders and seers. Sri Rama didn't mind to touch Kuha who was supposed to be an 'untouchable'. Sri Krishna lived among cowherds who were supposed to be of a lower cadre cast. God ordered the temple priest of Sri Rangam to bring Thiruppanazhvar who was considered to be an 'untouchable' by the priest. The priest carried Thiruppanazhvar on his shoulders. God allowed Kannappa Nayanar, a forest dweller, an 'untouchable' in the eyes of 'the elite', to touch the eye of His Sakala Roopa through his foot. These incidents clarify that untouchability is not prescribed anywhere in India by the spiritual seers.

I don't blame the caste system blindly. I don't prescribe any communalism here - all should share the food equally and should wear the same coat. No. The individuals have the freedom and right to lay down some restrictions and design some philosophies to protect their self discipline, I mean the inner discipline. Assuming that I am of a 'superior'



sect in the society (but I am not so in records), and if I happen to see some being of a 'lower' cadre (let it be any creature) drowning, I will not hesitate to give an arm to lift it up. Because, humanity is the highest philosophy that all true religions ask their people to pray and practice.

Untouchability should not be taken in gross level - in a physical perspective. What scriptures had said is this: Those who are pious, sathwik (noble minded) and sincere in seeking God, should stay away, by all means, from the bad company of the lower minded persons - those who act upon the influences of the delusion. Instead they should mingle with the Satsanga - the like minded people who are noble and God seeking. Even a person said to be a Sudra (lowest cadre in cast system) by birth, is admired in all ways, if he is found to be God loving. Even a person who is said to be a Brahmin (highest cadre in cast system) by birth, is sacked, if he is found to be guilty in preserving the high morals. It is not the birth that decides one's community but the behavior. It is true that if a person happens to take birth in a moral society, he is likely to possess the good morals of his surroundings and has all advantages of Satsanga. But, he has no need to look down at others who had not been given that opportunity. If he does that, it means he is pushing himself down to the stature of petty minded people.

There have been many Brahmins hailing from Brahmin community with ideal Brahminic qualities viz. humility and humanity. I revere them. Everyone revere them. They are adored till day not for the reason that they took birth in



Brahmin families, but for that they respected God seekers of any community and tried to lift other people with kindness. All those who have these qualities are Brahmins. This is a layman's definition. Now, let us look into the scriptures.

“There are four kinds of people: Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Sudra. Among these, Smrithis based on Vedhas tell that Brahmin is the important one. Then who is Brahmin? Brahmin is not Jeeva (soul with a body) as the soul takes birth in many bodies of varied colors. Brahmin is not the body as the metabolism of body is the same for all from the elite to the mean. Brahmin is not a matter of caste (based on birth) as realized souls had come from all castes. Even the intellectual mastery does not decide the Brahmin. Brahmin is decided not through his actions and generosity. Then who is Brahmin? Brahmin is the one who is non-dualistic embodiment of Sat-Chit-Ananda; ...He doesn't have any caste, virtue or action; he is the base for all imaginations - the indweller of all beings; ...He stands as the blissful unbreakable sky which is the same inside and out side the empty vessel (i.e. body)....He is beyond all likes and dislikes; He is the embodiment of the very Self...”
- Vajra-susikopnishad

The Upanishads are very clear in this. Humans seem to be diversified only by their mental attitude and behaviour - not by birth. They also listed the levels of humans on the basis of their moral attitudes. The scriptures do not thrash these caste systems into the society. They just pointed out the stages of maturity. The same person can remain as a



.....

sudra at a point of time, a kshatriya at another point of time and Brahmin in yet another point of time. These stages are more of moral (internal) nature. But, in due course, these stages were taken in the socio-economic (external) level and became rigid on the surface. This is not the mistake of the scriptures. It is not the mistake of the religion. I am not against/for any caste. I bow down to all the true Brahmins who satisfy the qualities prescribed by the Upanishads. Literally speaking, Brahmin means Self-realised. The religion wants all to become Brahmins - the self-realised.

This issue was discussed in the chapter 'Community' under Part 2 of this book. This is about the way (there are several such ways!) in which the ideals of the religion should be understood.



MAGNANIMITY OF UPANISHADS

Some scholar remarked that Upanishads need not have been so elaborate. All the Upanishads could have been said in a few lines. And he also said those few lines which he grasped as the essence of Upanishads. The seers themselves had given a much more condensed version of Upanishads, which run into words - not lines, for the elite who call it Maha Vakyas (Great sayings).

A FEW EXAMPLES:

Prajnanam brahma (Consciousness is Brahman) - Aitareya Upanishad

Aham bramasmī (I am Brahman) – Brihadaranyaka Upanishad

Tat tvam asi (Thou art that) - Chandogya Upanishad

Ayamatma brahma (This Atma is Brahman) - Mandukya Upanishad

There were people like Chaitanya Maha Prabhu who got realisation through listening and contemplation on a few words. But, all can not be Chaitanya. We don't need 'Realisation' to condense things. Every scripture can be condensed to a few lines. "Love all. Forgive others- you will be forgiven. Shower your love on your Father and all His children." This can be said as the essence of the Bible. No one can deny the facts said in the condensed version



of our Bible. And to say that Bible is more than these few lines, voluminous texture would be required to convince which again can be put in a few lines by the ‘witty’ logical, rational and tricky mind.

Condensing is not a big job - but perception is. What we understand should become practical, a part of our life. Mere reading or commenting or condensing wouldn’t help anything.

Of course, they contained examples and explanations based on the life style of that era. We can take what is suitable to our times. To convince and to encourage the common man to take the ultimate truth as it is in his personal life, so much is delivered by the seers in the forms of textures, hymns, symbols, stories and what not. There is no wrong to add even a few more, if it could help the laymen on their spiritual evolution – not all would grasp the truth through a few lines.

If a ‘learned’ man catch hold of a kinder garden kid who is there to learn the Einstein’s theory of relativity and says, “Hey, you, $E=mc^2$. That’s it. You can go now,” does it make any sense? Can the kinder garden kid be able to understand the most condensed version of Einstein’s theory of relativity, just in a line? Even it may be possible - but not the wisdom of the Self, though it is said to be the simplest truth. We make simple things complicated and believe only in the complications. Much more aspects are involved in the process of self realisation than mere understanding of texts to its length and breadth. That’s why the seers had taken so much effort for the good of humanity.



And these scholars condemn the Upanishads and the sect itself as they prescribe classification (differentiation to say in their terms) of humans. It is something practical. I recall an incident here. A servant was working hard in my home from the morning. A doctor came in the evening, said a few things and got his fee which was quiet greater to that of the servant. After the doctor's departure, the servant yelled in anguish, 'what atrociousness is this? I have been working here very hard for hours together, this guy in white dress came here and stayed here for only a few minuets. But you gave him more compensation than to that of mine. Is it not injustice? Is it not suppression of humans?' What will you do for this? You can laugh at him - nothing more than that.

The differences are inevitable even in the socio economic level. As you would admit, it is not injustice. If a servant takes hardship physically, a doctor too takes hardship in some other aspect. To pay more for the doctor, is not injustice in the eyes of everyone. Where has gone the 'equanimity of the humans' here? (I am not here to talk to those who say, 'no, no, the servant should have been paid at par with the doctor - on the basis of duration of time served').

If it is so, some classification was required to teach the humans on the basis of the mastery of mind. It is in this place that we come across terms like communities, sects and -isms. Pathetically, the humans through their cunning mind started to misuse these classifications. It is



not the fault of those who prescribed these classifications. They make classifications for equanimity. As a school trains students through several standards to give them the same common education periodically and methodically, the seers draw some classifications only to ease and provoke the spiritual evolution. At the end, we are going to learn that we all are one and the same. But, this can't be made clear to a kinder garden student and to a secondary student. So, classifications are derived - only to help them learn better. These classifications are derived not by the social differences, but by the understanding of the Self. As in some schools brilliant students get double promotion, those who got better understanding of the Self are placed in a higher plane. But, others can't claim it straight away; they need to work for it; they need to prepare themselves for it.

Is it possible to have a world of same color for all - from a street beggar to the sovereign king? from a blind man to an admirer of arts? from a layman to an intellect? from a lunatic to a self-realised seer? It is not possible for ordinary people like us. If a few classifications had not been derived by the seers, humans themselves would have drawn hundreds of classifications through their physical and mental faculties and would have extinguished the human race from this world through fights and wars - long time ago.

So, Upanishads got to be magnanimous with some classifications - only to help the human race on its evolution to the ultimate reality.



TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY

Malaysian Prime Minister once said that India's problem had been 'too much democracy'. What he said is a two hundred percent truth.

Democracy, in India, means 'any one can talk or do anything and can escape from the consequences, stamping it - democracy.'

Similarly, anyone can talk or do anything in matters related to religions. We call it 'secularism' here.

A somewhat similar phrase is 'human rights'. Now a days, we can see these terms in the media quiet often. If it is used in the right times, it is good. It is understandable to raise the issue of human rights when the accused is proved guilty only once or at unavoidable circumstances. But these people make it a trend to croak about human rights even when a serial killer of hundred innocent people (or even more) is punished. Will they talk about 'mercy', if someone in their own family is killed or affected by such criminals? I don't know why these people refuse to see the victims' side. Don't the victims deserve the right to claim justice for the brutal actions done in their family? Is mercy so cheap or what?

There could be only two reasons for the 'human gods' who claim human rights for the human killers. Either they



would like to get publicity through talking about such issues or they might play politics to bring down the merits of the government that did well in this matter. No doubt, those 'human gods' are more dangerous than the criminals.

If punishing the criminals itself is at the stake of democratic rights, we don't need to tell more about the 'rights' of the politicians and such other stronger people. Ever since independence, no politician is punished severely. It doesn't mean, all the politicians in India are honest to the core. We can see many politicians and sound personalities leading comfortable life – with trivial punishments or 'legal' postponements of proper enquiries - even when they are caught up with grave blunders. It is possible in Indian democracy. There appears a mask that the Indian laws are so strong and common and is doing its job quiet impartially. But, the cases concerned with murders, sexual abuses, bribes are countless and they are handled differently for politicians and other privileged people. There are politicians sitting in the Indian Parliament who are sentenced with life imprisonment. They seek 'justice' in higher courts and take sufficient time in getting it - just to escape from the actual punishment. If at all a politician is punished severely, it means, he is having the opponent in the center. He can make his own judgment when the rulers change.

The politicians are not bothered about laws. But, they too have someone to fear at. It's the media. They are the real king makers. They are capable of making the false appear true and the true appear false. They are the instant judges.



They fix the charges, throw the blames on whomsoever they want and even declare the judgment. Because in India, 'talk whatever you want' is a democratic right.

The common people too 'use' their democratic rights. They would demand public services; when given they would pollute those services. If some clash bursts out, they will damage public buses, buildings and other properties. They know that damaging and polluting public properties is their right. This is not a written right any way; they learnt it from their political brothers.

Take and give extra to get even simple things done - is an unwritten and well known law to all people here. The public servants, the political administrators and even the common public obey to this rule. The politicians give a lot of things freely and get the votes of the people. People in return pay so many things extra for even the ordinary services required from the administrators.

We can say more about Indian democracy. I close this with the following: Practically speaking, Indian democracy had given too much freedom to the people here.



MISSION POSSIBLE

TWO OATHS TO BE MADE BY EVERYONE:

- + I will try not to pollute my mind
- + I will try not to pollute my atmosphere

Implementing two things immediately would be the first step in bringing the ideal nation.

- + Bringing moral education in schools
- + Indulging in eco-friendly life

Bringing laws to have a check on the following is the next step.

- + Controlling the filth contents of multimedia (tv, internet and others) through strict laws

- + Controlling the asymmetrical flow of religions through enactment of true secular laws

- + Controlling the serious anti-natural industries through stringent environmental laws

Improving the following will let the nation keep pace with the world.

- + Balanced growth centered in agricultural and rural development
- + Strong security inside and in the borders



+ Better still undiluted external relations

Execution of the above will bring the following in the long run.

+ Amicable inner environment

+ Amicable external environment (of these two the first one is the most sought -if it is achieved, the latter is the most certain)



CONCLUSION

With this our work ends. And it is only a tentative end, since we can't have any end for this topic. Throughout this work, we had seen about the role and nature of individuals. I hadn't tried to oppose any particular group, nation or belief. It is not to offend anyone - but to defend myself - my individuality - the true individuality of everyone! If you want to correct the world, start with yourself, probably with the steps given in 'The Religious culture'. Religion forms the character of a person. India bothers about the character and right conduct of the individuals. Obviously, religion is the base of this nation.

When we say religion, it doesn't imply any group of persons. Many persons including my countrymen are confused with the term religion. India's religion is the religion of the Self. It's the religion for Self - Realisation. It has no founders, only followers. Any trade, politics or any other instruments aimed at collapsing the religion will soon or later meet failure. Because, the religion lives by the practice of morals - not by trade or politics. There are always people who live by morals. The nation produces a few dedicated individuals in all times to prove her individuality and to vitalise the individuality of everyone.

Though I hadn't started my writing with any idea of the religion, the religion accompanied me from the beginning



and talked about its individuality through a sacred place Thiruvannamalai, through some sacred phrases like “Sath Chit Ananda” and through a sacred scripture Siva Gnana Bodham. We still have thousands of places, phrases and scriptures in our nation with regard to the religion. One life would not be enough to give an account for all. And it is not our goal. The purpose of life is to respond to the inner calling that urges us to set our path in the right way. The inner call may be triggered by any means. The most important thing is how we respond to it.

My concern is not to gain publicity for my religious faith but to strengthen it silently. This is the lesson stressed by my religion. It is not my business to drag the people of different beliefs to my side. At the same time, no one can do anything with my beliefs and faith. Let everyone have freedom to choose our way. The religion is not in gaining publicity or superiority over the other but in the proof of self realisation or God realisation. ‘Being in a religion’ may not mean ‘Being religious’. The one who is religious loves the people of all religions. Let us be religious.

I AM CLOSING THIS WORK WITH THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE WORDS OF SRI PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA:

“Only spiritual consciousness - realization of God’s presence in oneself and in every other living being – can save the world. I see no chance for peace without it. Begin with yourself. There is no time to waste. It is your duty to do your part to bring God’s kingdom on earth...God doesn’t expect



you to be a perfect model, but He does expect you to keep on trying! Even when you fall short of expectations, remember, God is not so much concerned with your success or failure; He wants to see if you will keep on trying... “

“Where the Ganga, Himalayan caves and the men dream God, I am hallowed, my body touched that sod.”

- Sri Paramahansa Yogananda

THIRUCCHITTRAMBALAM

(SALUTATIONS TO THE LOTUS FEET OF THE
SUPREME INDWELLER)

