

STATE TIMES

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Your Companion for a Funday



Peace is the only Religion for both men & Universe

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Peace is the first opportunity and final solution for all issues. Peace is the nature of every perfect system. Peace is deeply linked with entirety of human life. Peace is a complete ideology in itself. It is a master-key that opens the doors to every success. Peace creates a favourable atmosphere for success in every endeavour. Peace rising inside a person provides all sides, crossing the boundaries of space and time, influencing every dimension - every aspect of life. Peace is a wish tree that grants everything. Wishes obtained elsewhere are unsafe for us and others. Peace balances senses and emotions and halts hasty decisions. Right decisions form the base of personal and social success. Through peace only we recognise that we serve ourselves by serving others and any harm for us is nothing but self-harming. Peace is the real God's particle, foundation and purpose of existence and its omnipresence. Peace work is work for God, work with God and work as god. Peace is only object of worship that promotes the worshipper. In worship of ideals and icons of society, we will be left in a pitiable status of watching other's unfair growth. Peace has a special alchemic power to convert every bit of failure, frustration, loss, pain and fear into multi-fold units of peace and implant in its workers and targeted recipients. Peace is all powerful. Its aura drives us to the person with whom we have to work, brings us partners, associates and assistants to us, shows us the ways, opens gates and removes all barricades. Peace bird has two wings, love and service.

What is religion?

There is a beautiful legend which says that in the olden days God spoke from Mount Sinai. And when He spoke, the voice was heard by the people as they listened from east and west, from north and south, from earth and heaven. But each man - we read - heard the voice in his own tongue.

That story is suggestive of a great truth. The one voice of God has spoken to all but has, in its utterance, become many. The one Religion has become the many religions of the world. And this truth has been intuited by the great religious geniuses of the race. So one great Sufi writer says, "The

ways of God are as many as the breaths of man". And a text in the Gita expresses the same idea wonderfully well: On whatever path men approach Me, on that I go to meet them. For all the paths are Mine! Prophets of the race in east & west glimpsed this great truth. And yet there is a conflict in the religious world. Moreover, the word "BHAG-WAN" is composed of "BH" Bhumi (earth), "G" gagan (sky/space), "W" Wayu (air), "A" Agni (Fire), "N" Neer (water). The Muslim God "ALLAH" Aab (neer/vater), "L" Lab (Bhumi/earth) "T" illa (Wayu/air) "A" (Aasmaan/space), "H" Harank (Agni/fire). The God is "G" generator, "O" operator, "D" The annihilator.

Thus every religion in this universe came across these five elements which make the universe and they mostly have the similar interpretation. Each sect recognized its supreme binding force, started drawing inner strength from it and perceived the Supreme Lord depending on contemporary geographical location, climate conditions and ease of praying. We may have named our perceived Lords by different names but the basic faith underlying our emotions, research and understanding is same. Then we started making a beeline to get into the semantics of promoting our religion and that's we started an avoidable acrimonious debate laced with bloodshed, hatred and disrespect for each other. Least realising that we all pray to some entity and we all believe in the same 'Supreme Element' but only in a different form.

Rivalry in religion, as it seems to me, is due to two things - want of knowledge, and lack of sympathy; sometimes, there is lack of knowledge; sometimes, there is lack of sympathy; and often, I think, there is lack of both. There are some who believe that there is but one and full and final revelation of the 'Spirit'; so that those who stand outside the circle of their own faith must necessarily be in error. Again, there are some who approach the religious problem in no spirit of sympathy. They fix their attention on certain aberrations and extra-vagances of a particular religion and say, "Look here, this religion is a monstrosity". So, due to such an attitude that quarrels, discord, and hatred, haveentered the religious world. Religion, which was meant be a bond of union, has become a source of sectarian strifes.

The cause is lack of humility, the humble are simple, straight forward, gentle, sympathetic, compassionate, kind and reverent. "Except ye be as little children", said Jesus, "Ye cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven". When we forget this, we have quarrels and controversies in the name of religion. They spring, often, from pride. Is truth our monopoly, and denied to those who do not have our religious hall-mark? Is not truth infinite? Is not God the Lord of all or is He the king alone of one Community?

Religion is Love! The highest force in life is Love! Love is in truth the profoundest philosophy of life. For Love is expansion of the self. The Lord of Love is the inspirer of all religions.And the paths of all converge to a common centre.

Relationship of religions with peace:-

Religions are, therefore, expected to assure earthly peace for all of its believers as well as for differing and faith-free brethren as per their real teachings. First is their religious duty and second is global responsibility that needs to be displayed by non-interference and humanitarian bondage. Eternal peace for all is at the disposal of God. All religions, therefore, should teach the art of praying "With" like minded and praying "for and on behalf of" all others. God may not have any second opinion.

What do religions say about peace?

Peace! It is as if we have become immune to this world! Although it is frequently in use, it seems so alien to us in reality. But is not peace the ultimate of every human heart? Are we not all lovers of peace? Is not peace the only religion for both-man and the Universe? Peace is what we all crave. Peace is what humanity has piteously cried for; age after age. Peace, peace, peace - in this one word we have the secret, the answer to all our questions.

All religious scriptures of all religions have used lavish words of praise to indicate the significance of peace.

Hinduism:-

Peace will not come to us by fighting circumstances and struggling against so-called difficulties and misfortunes. Peace will come to us when we ourselves enter into the Great Peace of God. To enter into the Peace of God is to relax and stand still - to stand where we are. To accept the will of God is to know that we are nothing, that He is one 'Worker' and, therefore, in all that happens is our good. The more we grow into this realisation, the more relaxed we shall feel: and we shall gradually know what it is to become perfectly still in God. Every experience He sends us - be it pleasant or painful - is meant to enrich our inner life. We must not shun it: we must not avoid it. We must accept it as a gift from Him in whom is the peace we seek, the peace that passes, surpasses understanding.

The opening verse in the Chandogya Upanishad is named the "peace chant", Shanti, peace, is the word on which close Hindu prayers and scriptures are based. Some steps have been suggested in Hindu Scriptures to have an inner peace.

(i) Right Attitude:- Stop be an escapist or a surface liver; as these attitudes can only cause in harmony in our life. Face life squarely and get down beneath the forth on its surface to discover its verities and realities. Solve the problems which life sets before us, and we will find that solving them contributes to our inner peace.

(ii) Simplify life:- Cluttered lives are out-of-harmony lives and require simplification. Wants and needs can become the same in a human life, and when this has been accomplished there will be a sense of harmony between inner and outer well-being.

(iii) Good Beliefs:- There are laws governing human conduct which apply as rigidly as the law of gravity. Obedience to these laws pushes us toward harmony. No life can be in harmony unless belief and practice are in harmony.

(iv) Good Motivation:- We should begin to live by doing all the good things we are motivated toward and giving these things priority in our life over all the superficial things which customarily occupy human lives in order to have peaceful life.

Hindu Scriptures stress that until peace abides in the hearts of men there can be no peace in the outer World and peace cannot abide in our hearts unless our hearts, through obedience to the Divine Law, beat in perfect union with the Great Heart which embraces and loves all and alike. Love is the essence of peace; peace is the spirit of brotherhood; brotherhood is the fulfillment of the Law, "Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself", and the salvation of the world.

Peace must be of the heart, not of the mind nor of the lips. It is not enough to think peace and talk peace; we live peace so long as selfishness fills our hearts and rules our lives. Peace is one of the fruits of Spirit. Love is the only weapon which destroys hate, resist not evil but overcome evil with good.

In every sacred scripture of Hinduism it is said, "Great is peace, for God's name is peace..... Great is peace, for it encompasses all blessings..... Great is peace, for even in times of war; peace must be sought". Think of the great Rishis of India, the great Rishis of Arjavarta, who held peace very dear in their hearts. That is why at the end of every Vedic prayer we have the sacred chant Om Shanti Shanti Shanti! Scholars tell us that the sacred word is uttered thrice to heal us, protect us, give us freedom from three kinds of ills that destroy our peace.

- (a) Adhyatmika - the mental, physical, and spiritual troubles and ills that we cause ourselves.
- (b) Adhibhantikam - the troubles and ills caused to us by others, outside of us.
- (c) Aadhibhauvikam - the troubles caused to us by natural phenomena such as rain, storm, thunder, earthquakes, lightening, fire, floods; etc.

The three-fold recital Om Shanti ShantiShanti brings us peace by relieving us from all three evils. Om Shanti ShantiShanti, the sweet serene feeling of good will to all i.e. the whole humanity in the universe, the sweet serene feeling of positivity to all, the sweet serene feeling of peace to all.

Islam:-

We think of the great prophet of Arabia, the prophet of Islam, Prophet Muhammad. We read of him, that one day a man came to him and said, "O Prophet of Allah! Give me a command"! And the Prophet said to him, "Be at peace with all". The question was repeated several times, but the answer was the same: "Be at peace with all".

Even the very word Islam is derived from a root, which means peace. Etymology tells us that Islam is derived from sin-lam-mim, which carries the basic meaning of safety and peace. Islam, therefore, a religion of peace and compassion.

The Holy Qur'an states that one of the Attributes of God Almighty is 'Salam' which means He is the 'Source of Peace'. It follows that if God truly is the 'Source of Peace' then His peace should encompass all of His Creation and all of mankind, rather than be limited to a specific group of people. Allah the Almighty has answered this point in the Qur'an. Allah says: I swear by his repeated cry "O my Lord!"that there are a people who will not believe. Therefore, turn aside from them, and say, "Peace", and soon shall they know, (ch.43: v.89-90)

These words illustrate that the Holy Prophet Muhammad brought a teaching that was a source of mercy and compassion for all people and thus was a means of peace for all of mankind. Peace was, therefore, the guiding principle of Prophet's Character. The Prophet of Islam believed in cultivating a peaceful character. The Prophet of Islam conveyed God's guidance to humankind in a peaceful manner. He believed in that any mission of communication can only be successful when the circumstances are harmonious and peaceful. It is very much clear that mission of Prophet was not rule over people, but to change their minds and hearts towards spirituality; to teach them God-oriented living, making them divine personalities so that they can be successful.

In this world and the hereafter; to take them peaceful personalities so that God may give them a peace in this eternal 'Home of Peace. Accepting others has been the rule throughout the history of Islam. Islam believes in that there is only one way to solve the issue of religious differences, and that is: "Follow one, and respect all". The law of nature says that peace can be attained only on a unilateral and not on a bilateral basis.

Sikhism:-

(a) Sikhism is one of the six higher religions in the comity of world faith. Sikhism is a universal religion because it has message for the whole mankind. It believes in a moral, peaceful, just and benevolent world order and it aims at the creation of a new egalitarian and moral society. The core belief of Sikhism, articulated in the Guru Granth Sahib, include faith and meditation on the name of one creator; divine unity and equality of all mankind and peaceful co-existence and living. Sikhism also believes in the existence of only one God having no form or gender.

(b) Message of the Guru Granth Sahib:-

(i) God is the Lord of the whole universe. He alone is the Father-Mother for all of us. While the universe is moving and changing according to His Will, He alone is unchanged, beyond time.

(ii) There is only one religion and it is practiced not by performing rituals but having sincere love for the people irrespective of their caste, colour, country, community, belief etc.

(iii) Try to live with your neighbours in peace, in amity, in harmony and in agreement. Without peace progress is a corpse and civilization a skeleton.

(iv) The religion of Guru Granth Sahib is a universal and practical religion based on love, peace, truthfulness and fearlessness, a message for all mankind.

(v) To reach God - teaches Guru Granth Sahib - walk the way of love and peace. Peace is the first opportunity and final solution for all issues. It pleads that we need peace and love in experience; not in form of demand, discussion and declarations.

Doctrine of Christianity:-

Jesus Christ came to the world with a message of peace and love. Love thy enemy is the most intrinsic message of Jesus. The spirit of love and peace, as given in the scriptures in the Bible, is the only solution to hatred and violence.

Think of blessed Jesus. Of him we are told that as he travelled from place to place, from town to town, from hamlet to hamlet, there was a one word he uttered again and again, in Aramaic, which was his mother tongue. Whenever he entered a house or left it, whenever he addressed a crowd of men, whenever someone came to him for blessing or healing, he uttered this one word: "Shalomica, Shalomica". Peace! Peace! Of such peace, did Jesus speak when he said: Blessed are the peace - makers!

His message that one small opportunity to unite is plentiful source for a peace maker whereas even thousand great opportunities are immaterial to convince a peace assassin. He, as a technician, became a peace builder and capable of packing global love and care in a small heart space. True wish, honest endeavour and discipline are true sides of peace triangle, according to Jesus. It is, thus, clear that he, too, gave faith rather credit to peace and supported this fact that "Peace is the only religion both for - man and the universe.

Doctrine of Buddhism:-

Siddhartha Gautama was the founder of Buddhism. Buddha realized that human beings who take birth on this Earth are suffering due to one or other reasons. He said, "Suffering implies world which is truth. One can get relief from suffering by understanding its reality, and adhering eight fold paths based on following the middle way". His eight-fold paths were:-

Right Understanding, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration.

Buddha means enlightenment and a sense of awakening to build a peaceful, harmonized and just society. The significance of vesak lies with the Buddha and his universal peace message to mankind.

Treading the above said - the Eight-Fold path - the mortal may attain to the 'Perfect Life' which the Buddha referred to, again and again, as nirvana (Peace). According to Buddhism Nirvana (Peace), is not annihilation but at-one-meant with source of light. It can easily be understood that Buddhism also stand for that "Peace is only religion both for - man and the universe".

(F) Doctrine of Jainism:-

The most revered the last Jina was MahaviraVardhamana means the great hero - the founder of the Jain Community. Lord Mahavira preached the gospel of Universal love, emphasizing that all living beings irrespective of their size, shape and form are equal and we should love and respect them.

He believed in that love in peace content is an empowered ethical emotion. Other feelings are emotional blunders. Love is the mother of peace. What we know and have as love and peace either tinsels or their fraction. Only virtuous, courageous, compassionate and dynamic have right and direct access to peace. Other peace shareholders are their dependents. Jainism also believes in that peace is the only religion both for - man and the universe.

In the end, I would say that India has survived the many shocks and changes of time, because I believe India is meant to be the standard-bearer of a great message. I believe that India is meant, under the grace of God, to be an interpreter to the nations of - a religion of reconciliation, a religion of harmony. But India may not enter upon her world-mission if we do not strive to verify in everyday life the vision of harmony and love.

Need for peace is accepted by all. But threatened by the outrageous vision of disorder; they ask; "Is peace possible"? Convinced by irreplaceable grandeur of peace, I present the same statement with a small change; "Peace is Possible". Neither a hard core spiritual way nor a tough political system can bring peace. Only their proper version, association or combination can produce it.

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