

# OUTCOME OF SPIRITUALITY : VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

—Dr. Sohan Raj Tater

## Abstract

### **Fundamentals of Spirituality**

**The heart is God's treasury**, keep it pure and radiant. Let our thought be pure, let our words be pure, let our actions be pure, let our whole life be pure. It is also very necessary to teach our children about the importance of purity in life. Moral education is a must today. Young children have impressionable minds and we should try to develop a spiritual outlook in them from a very young age. We should help them inculcate good values and thoughts. **It is said, "One hour of reflection is equal to seventy years of pious worship." It is only when we introspect about good things that we try to imbibe them in our life. Non-violence is the heart of Jainism. There is nothing in the world or even out of it that can be called good except the principle of non-violence of all living beings.** The root cause of violence is material goods. The virtue of non-violence and Aparigraha are capable of establishing universal peace.

### **Fundamentals of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is essentially a cultural and spiritual concept. **It looks upon the whole world as one's own family.** Love and harmony, co-operation and mutual support are the basic ingredients here, as in a family. The all human beings are small part of this great universe. The time has arrived when we should come close to each other for realizing the one world dream. India is land where ideal of unity in diversity has existed for long. A verily of religions like Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam and Christianity flourish there. The jointer family system of India is another

example of unity in diversity. In this dangerous situation respect for all religions and "**Vasudhaiva kutumbakam**" can usher peace in this world.

### **Outcome of Spirituality : Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**

**The aim of life should be to realize God and Follow his teachings.** We should think twice before we act so that our actions don't cause miseries to other. According to Jainism, " Do not indulge mind, body and speech in the evil of all other creatures." According to Islam, "O God! give prosperity to all humanity." Vedas say," For wise people, the entire humanity is but one family." Ramayan preaches God is present in all human beings. The Gita teaches, "Be involved in the good of all humanity." Let us dedicate the rest of our life in the service of God. The best service to God is service to society. Let us turn our own-self interest into public interest. **Renouncing selfish desires is the highest state of renunciation.** When Such a divine state is achieved one dedicate oneself to the service of mankind.

### **Conclusion**

Every creature of Globe wants to live and nobody likes to die. Therefore no one has any right to destroy or harm any other living beings. Jain ethic believes non-violence means universal truth. There is only one caste namely manhood. Our forefathers were great visionaries for advocating world peace and world unity. Therefore, they incorporated article 51 in the constitution of India to enjoin the Government to work for the unity of mankind in the spirit of our ancient belief of "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**".

*—Advisor, Jain Vishva Bharti University, (Ladnun)*

# OUTCOME OF SPIRITUALITY : VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

—*Dr. Sohan Raj Tater*

## **Fundamentals of Spirituality**

We are not living in isolated compartments the world has become one family. In a society plagued with domestic and communal violence, we need to globalize wisdom. Though we have advanced technologically, we have cared very little for the emotional and spiritual needs of people. A sense of belongingness with the whole world-rising above the narrow considerations of color, culture or back ground, is the need of the hour. We need to look back and learn from the mistakes of the past, we need to understand what is lacking in society and how we can nurture the human values without which his earth cannot be sustained.

Once the spinning impact of west becomes weak, there is bound to be a more helpful and harmonious process of mutual give and take. And that will be for the benefit of all. But for this to happen, India will have to intervene with his powerful spiritual influence and his characteristic integral philosophy and way of life. That alone will help resolve the conflicts of the present situation and reconcile the seeming contradictions in a harmonious and holistic vision. That is the role which India is declined to play in the new millennium.

Mere listening to spiritual discourses is not enough. One should always sit back and reflect on what had been said to actually benefit from them. **It is said, "one hour of reflection is equal to seventy years of pious worship.** It is only when we introspect about good things that we try to imbibe them in our life. Listening to the best of things without reflecting back on them has only superficial affects, By reflection, one can realize the depth of the issue and its meaning.

Janism says that the dharma is made up of "Non-violence, Self control and austerity."<sup>1</sup> Positive emotions bring pleasure and negative emotions make life miserable. **Non-violence is the heart of Jainism.** All worldly problems can be solved by keeping non-violence in center. We can protect environment (i.e earth, water, fire, air, vegetables and small creatures) by reducing our day to day requirement by reducing our greed. We should meet on injustice not with the force but with forbearance, **Violence begets violence, emity leads to Emity. There is nothing in the world or even out of it that can be called good except the principle of non-violence of all living beings.** The root cause of violence is material goods. The virtue of non-violence and Aparigraha are capable of establishing universal peace. Anand (bliss) is experienced by the sage who is free from all desires. Gita tells us that the actions should be performed after brushing aside all attachment and the desire for the fruit. The highest aim of human life is to attain eternal bliss. All the conduct should be such as would bring us the maximum of happiness and remove miseries from our lives.

**Religion is the banana skin and spirituality is the banana.** The misery in the world is because we through away the banana and are holding on to the skin.<sup>2</sup> Knowledge and spiritual awareness should go hand in hand win social and political systems. Religious leaders, political leaders, business establishments and social workers should get together and spread the message of unity. All religions and traditions have a common value system. These shared values have to reach every corner of the world. Even if one pocket of the world remains ignorant of these values, the world will not be a safe place.

Sit a while in solitude, meditate, reflect on your thoughts, actions, your immediate environment the world around us. Think over and over again, introspect, and we will here that inner voice, God's voice, cleanse our soul always. Never let dust or dirt settle on it and distort our vision. Keep it bright and Shining. **The heart is God's treasury. Keep it pure and radiant.** Let our thought be pure, let our whole life be pure. It is also vary

necessary to teach our children about the importance of purity of life. Moral education is a must today. Young children have impressionable minds and we should try to develop a spiritual outlook in them from a very young age. We should help them inculcate good values and thoughts.

Religion comes from the Latin word religate, which means "to bind". Thus, the rule of religion is to bind, to unite. Religion is a unifying force that which unites man to man. Religion simply binds us by commands so that we may not degenerate in misery-bodily, mentally or spiritually. We ought to be sensitive to the cause of the society and humanity. We must involve ourselves in the activities of the society and try to reform it from within as much as we can. We should not shut out eyes to the crimes taking place in the society.

We are about to enter a new era, which will see the dawn of a new divine civilization on earth. Let us now try not to divide the people into smaller sects or sections but unite them to accept one religion, one God and one humanity. Remember, we are not an integral part of God. All religions emphasize moral and spiritual values of love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and good conduct.

## **Fundamentals of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**

**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is essential a cultural and spiritual concept. It looks upon the whole world as one's own family.** Love and harmony, co-operation and mutual support are the basic ingredients here, as in a family. Naturally the idea of exploitation is alien. Individual and collective interests are complimentary to each other. Unlimited consumerism is ruled out, because every one has to be provided with the necessities-the cake has to be shared more or less equally.

According to Vedic traditions God has gifted intelligence to man. Let us make full use of this intelligence in uniting the mankind. **The earth is the garden of God.** Let us not spoil it. Let us not annoy God by destroying what

he had built with love. The best thing is to begin with children. Let us sow the seed of love in them and not to say or do anything that would create feelings of hatred in them. Why say this country is mine, that country is yours? Why not say the entire universe is mine and thine? Are we not foolish for fighting each other in the name of religion or nationality. When the entire universe is ours and the Almighty God is one. There is hardly any sense in fighting each other and destroying God's creations. It is not painful? Think over it. The Indian sages and seers propounded the gospel truth "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". Let us Vow to follow this divine teachings and consider ourselves as the citizen of the world. We need unity to build a new one world country.

The concept of human unity is very old. Indian seers had unequivocally proclaimed that not only humans but the entire creation is one single family. For those who have a refined and generous outlook, the whole world is just one family.<sup>3</sup>

The joint family system of Indian is an example of unity in diversity. In most Indian homes it is normal to see a family living together with the grand parents. They are of different age, yet they are all united and happy. All this is due to the great teachings of our religion. Hinduism believe in universal unity and happiness. As one of its prayer says, "May all be happy."<sup>4</sup> That is why some religions, so may races live in unity in diversity in peaceful co-existence in India. The Hindu system of varnashram dharma and the four Purushartha reinforce unity as well. They are meant for the proper development of society. **Shri Krishna himself made it clear in Bhagavad Gita that a person's action determines his caste.** The message of Bhagavad Gita is addressed to all men without distinction. The famous law of karma and rebirth, the concept of immortality of the soul give hope and light, peace and solace to people of all castes, creeds and religions. It is considered a universal gospel.

Peace and harmony in the world will come through brotherhood and love. With true enlightenment a person rises above the level of boundaries of

race, religion, language or nation. Unless our mental horizon and perception is broad we cannot achieve success in life. Due to our ignorance we are trying to establish the superiority of our own race and religion. The cause of today's dangerous situation is the ignorance of mankind . It is by understanding the spirit of "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" that world peace can be ushered in this world. Today the world is on the verge of total destruction. Every country in the world, in the name of peace and self defence, has accumulated weapons of mass destruction. But through such weapons peace cannot come in this world. In this dangerous situation respect for all religions and "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" can usher peace in this world.

India is land where ideal of unity in diversity has existed for long. A variety of religions like Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam and Christianity flourish there. The Hindu religion itself is made of many creeds like Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Shaktism. This clearly give us an idea of unity in diversity existing in the heart of Hindu religion. **India is a world in itself for its diversity.**

## **Outcome of Spirituality : Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**

**The aim of life should be to realize God and follow his teachings.** We should think twice before we act so that our actions do not cause miseries to others. Let us dedicate the rest of our life in the service of God. The best service to God is service to society. Let us turn our own self-interest into public interest. **Selfless actions are the actual prayers to God.** Hatred in society has caused immense harm to the society. Worship is that which inspires us to perform a good deed, worship is that activity which makes other happy. Worship is that which provides succour to the needy.

**Renouncing selfish desire is the highest state of renunciation. When such divine state is achieved one dedicates oneself to the service of mankind.** Only a selfless person is worthy of leading the mankind. A selfless person belongs to no particular nation, religion or culture. Such a

selfless person is a citizen of the world. Let us follow selfless person for achieving one world dream.

The basic teachings of all religion are same. Prophets of all religions have stressed upon the need of knowing and realizing God by following his teachings. Vedas say, for wise people, the entire humanity is but one family. Ramayana preaches God is present in all human beings. **The Gita teaches, "Be involved in the good of all humanity". According to Jainism "Do not indulge mind, body and speech in the evil of all other creatures." According to Islam, " O God! give prosperity to all humanity."** According to Guru Granth Saheb, "All humanity has sprung from light of one source i.e. God. Who is big, who is small? i.e. all are equal. Bible teachers, "Love they neighbor and the world is but family. All religions give the same divine message of unity of God. All schools should, therefore, teach children to follow the teaching of all prophets. **From the first day in school, a child should learn that God is one, religion is one, humanity is one.**

The simple truth is that every one of us belongs to this universe and the universe belongs to us. The all human beings are small part of this great universe. Then why this disunity, why this mutual hatred. Why this mutual suspicion? According to Vedic philosophy, "God conveyed his message through his messengers that we are all his own creation. Does this message not enjoin us to live in unity, peace and harmony? We all are equal in his eyes. Why should we then create differences and manipulate things to act against God's design? The time has arrived when we should come close to each other for realizing the one world dream.<sup>5</sup>

## **Conclusion**

**Every creature of globe wants to live and no body likes to die. Therefore no one has any right to destroy or harm any other living being. Jain ethics believes non-violence means universal truth. There is only one caste namely manhood.<sup>6</sup> Jainism teaches us "Attainment of total**

freedom from the cycle of birth, life, pain, misery, death and achieving the blissful state of one's pure self, unity, tolerance, non-violence, truthfulness, chastity. Complete detachment from people, places and material things. Lord mahavira's teachings are to highlight the importance of practicing unity, non-violence and giving up anger, egoism, deception, greed and similar vices to be able to attain salvation.

There are countless persons or organizations in the world who advocate world peace and world unity. Our forefathers were great visionaries for advocating world peace and world unity. Therefore, they incorporate article 51 in the constitution of India to enjoin the Government to work for the unity of mankind in the spirit of our ancient belief of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**. Taking a cue from this article of the constitution of India we should try to build a global opinion for formation of a World Parliament and World Government, so that the entire world become one country and the mankind its citizens. All wars will come to an end when the World Government is framed. The existing stockpile of nuclear weapons will be destroyed by the World Government thus formed. A new era of everlasting peace will then prevail on earth, ushering in a new civilization. Come, let us all join in this World Government movement. Humanity will forever remember India for bequeathing to it the ideal of **Vasudhiva Kutumbakam**.

—*Advisor, Jain Vishva Bharti University, (Ladnun)*

#### **References :**

---

<sup>1</sup> Dasavaikalika, 1.1, Dhammo mamgala mukkitham ahimsa samjamo tavo.

<sup>2</sup> Sri Sri Ravisanker—[www.vasudhaivakutumbakam.com](http://www.vasudhaivakutumbakam.com).

<sup>3</sup> Udara charitanam tu vasudhaiva kutumbakam.

<sup>4</sup> Sarve bhavantu sukhinah : sarve bhavantu niramaya.

<sup>5</sup> [www.jagdishgandhi.org](http://www.jagdishgandhi.org), p. 4-13.

<sup>6</sup> Adipurana 38.45, Manusyajatirekaiva.