<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hinduism and culture of peace.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Hathiramani, Nina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10220/3092">http://hdl.handle.net/10220/3092</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HINDUISM AND CULTURE OF PEACE

THERE WERE TWO MEN WHO HAD A DISPUTE OVER A BOUNDARY LINE. ONE SAID THIS LAND BELONGS TO ME! THE OTHER SAID IT IS MINE! SO THEY FOUGHT AND FOUGHT LIKE 2 WILD BEASTS AND OH.... THE BLOOD THAT WAS SHED. TILL ONE OF THE MEN WAS CRIPPLED FOR LIFE, .... AND THE OTHER MAN DEAD!

THEN THE CRIPPLED LIVED IN MISERY AND HE CRIED IN HIS DESPAIR: WHAT FOOLS WE WERE SO GREEDY TO BE! THERE WAS PLENTY FOR BOTH TO SHARE!

TAKE THE MAP OF THE WORLD, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PUT YOUR FINGER ANYWHERE YOU LIKE. IS NOT THAT AREA DISTURBED, HAVING MUTUAL KILLING AND FAMINE? IS NOT THAT AREA CRYING FOR A SOLUTION? WHAT IS THE SOLUTION? NO TWO COUNTRIES CAN LOOK AT EACH OTHER WITHOUT ANGER – WHY IS THIS OUR STATE?

FOR YEARS WE HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING IN THIS GREAT INSTITUTION: WE HAVE TRIED POLITICS, CHANGED THE CONSTITUTIONS AND SOME LAWS. DIPLOMACY .........? PROGRESS .........?

TECHNOLOGY HAS BROUGHT ABOUT GLOBAL COMMUNICATION. KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE HAVE DEVELOPED TREMENDOUSLY. WE HAVE CONQUERED THE WORLD AND OUTERSPACE, YET WITH THESE ACHIEVEMENTS, PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING AND UNHAPPY. THERE ARE PROBLEMS AFTER PROBLEMS.

INDEED, WE HAVE EVERYTHING. BETTER HOUSING, CLOTHES AND FOOD. YET WITH THE LUXURIOUS PLENTY OF THE OUTER WORLD, YOU AND I SIT ON CUSHIONS AND WEEP.

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR MAN IN LIFE IS CREATION AND NOT DESTRUCTION. THIS TRUTH SOUNDS SO SIMPLE, BUT WITH ALL ITS SIMPLICITY IT HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN AND IS RESTING IN THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND OF MAN, AS HE CONSCIOUSLY PURSUES JUST MATERIAL AFFLUENCE WHICH DOES NOT GIVE HIM PEACE NOR TRANQUILITY.

THE OZONE LAYERS BEING DEPLETED. WE ARE PLUNDERING MOTHER EARTH COMPLETELY OF HER RAW MATERIALS IN ORDER TO HAVE LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION SO THAT EVERYBODY MAY HAVE ENJOYMENT FROM OUTSIDE. SCIENCE DEVELOPS WITHOUT CONTROL, AND WHERE ARE WE NOW? .......... NEVER BEFORE HAS THE WORLD BEEN IN THIS CONDITION.


DR. CARL SAGAN EXPRESSED THIS WHEN HE SAID ....... “THERE IS SOMETHING LACKING IN OUR STEWARDSHIP OF PLANET EARTH – I LOOK INTO THE EYES OF
MY 5 YR OLD DAUGHTER AND I WONDER WHAT KIND OF WORLD SHE WILL INHERIT.
THE PROBLEM OF OUR WORLD ARE ESSENTIALLY OF OUR OWN CREATION.
WHEN HUMAN BEINGS IN THEIR ARROGANT EGO, VAINFULLY DECIDED THAT,
THROUGH THEIR ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE, THEY SHALL CREATE HAPPINESS
AND PLENTY FOR THE WORLD, WHILE DENYING THE LORD AND SPIRITUAL
VALUES, THEY INVOKE THESE UGLY PROBLEMS.

IN ORDER TO HELP USHER IN THE GOLDEN AGE, WE MUST SEE THE GOOD IN
PEOPLE. WE MUST KNOW IT IS THERE, NO MATTER HOW DEEPLY IT MAY BE
BURIED - GOOD IS THERE. IT IS NOT THROUGH THE JUDGEMENT THAT THE GOOD
CAN BE REACHED, BUT THROUGH LOVE.

IN THE THIRD CHAPTER OF THE BHAGAVAD GEETA, KRISHNA SAID
“PEACE IS NOT GAINED BY NOT DOING MY DUTY OR BY MERE RENUNCIATION,
PEACE IS A CHARACTER OF A PURIFIED MIND”

AN INVERSE RELATIONSHIP IS BEING SEEN AND EXPERIENCED BETWEEN
WORLDLY ADVANCEMENT AND SPIRITUAL PROGRESS.

AS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ONCE SAID, “OUR SCIENTIFIC POWER HAS OUTRUN
OUR SPIRITUAL POWER. WE HAVE GUIDED MISSILES AND MISGUIDED MAN.”

ALL RELIGIONS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO RAISE MAN HIGHER.RELIGION IS LIKE
A FRIENDLY POLICEMAN WHO GUIDES MAN THROUGH THIS TRAFFIC OF LIFE TO
REACH THE GOAL OF A PERFECTLY HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL LIVING.

AS A GREAT HINDU SAGE SAID “ALL RELIGIONS ARE FACETS OF THE SAME
TRUTH. ALL SCRIPTURES ARE HOLY. ALL PLACES OF WORSHIP ARE HOLY. ALL
RELIGIONS ARE SEEKING THE ONE AND THE SAME GOD, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY
CALL HIM BY DIFFERENT NAMES.”
IT IS THE OUTCOME OF MAN’S ENDEAVOUR TO REGAIN DIVINE GLORY OF THE
SPIRIT. ONLY RELIGION CAN INSTILL VIRTUE IN HUMAN CONDUCT.

ALL RELIGIONS ARE EQUALLY GREAT AND TRUE – THEY ARE ALL BUT
DIFFERENT PATHWAYS LEADING TO THE SAME GOAL - THEY EMPHASIZE THE
BROTHERHOOD OF MAN AND THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.
ALL PREACH THAT MAN SHOULD LOVE HIS FELLOW BEINGS AND ALL
CREATIONS – ALL RELIGIONS EXHORT THEIR PEOPLE ........ BE GOOD.... DO
GOOD.... SEE GOOD – BUT IS THIS ENOUGH?

TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES ARE INCREASING TO BECOMING MORE AND MORE
RITUALISTIC AND MECHANIC IN NATURE - WITH VERY FEW TRULY
UNDERSTANDING THE REAL MEANING OF THE RITUAL, SYMBOL, AND THE TRUE
TEACHING OF THEIR OWN RELIGION.

INCREASING STANDARDS OF LIVING ARE BRINGING ABOUT DECREASING
STANDARDS OF LIFE. AS PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASES, PER CAPITA
SPIRITUALITY AND HUMAN VALUES ARE DECLINING.
NO TEACHER OF RELIGION HAS EVER DREAMT OF LEADING MAN TO SELF
DISILLUSIONMENT.

IN HIS BOOK, THE “SONG OF THE BIRD”, ANTHONY DE MELO NARRATES.
THE MYSTIC WAS BACK FROM THE DESERT. “TELL US.” THEY SAID. “WHAT GOD
IS LIKE.” BUT HOW COULD HE EVER TELL THEM WHAT HE HAD EXPERIENCE IN
HIS HEART?........ CAN GOD BE PUT INTO WORDS?... HE FINALLY GAVE THEM A
FORMULA – SO INACCURATE, SO INADEQUATE – IN THE HOPE THAT SOME OF
THEM MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR THEMSELVES. THEY SEIZED
UPON THE FORMULA. THEY MADE IT A SACRED TEXT. THEY IMPOSED IT ON
OTHERS AS A HOLY BELIEF. THEY WENT TO GREAT PAINS TO SPREAD IT IN FOREIGN LANDS. SOME EVEN GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR IT. THE MYSTIC WAS SAD. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF HE HAD SAID NOTHING.

IT IS BETTER TO PUT AN END TO ALL QUARRELS IN THE NAME OF RELIGION AND AT THE SAME TIME TRY TO FOLLOW TRUTHS OF RELIGION. THERE IS NEITHER MONOPOLY, NOR COPYRIGHT, NOR PATENT ON GOD OR DIVINE WISDOM.

WHILE THE WORLD HAS REACHED A POINT OF CROSSROADS IN ITS ONWARD MARCH, THE WORLD GROPS IN DARKNESS, SEEKING THE RIGHT PATH BECOMES INCREASING AND UNEASILY AWARE THAT IT HAS ACCUMULATED WEALTH. BUT HAS IT RAISED A CIVILIZATION IN WHICH MAN HAS CAUSED THE DECAY OF THE WORLD. A GREAT MONK NARRATED THIS STORY WHICH I LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU.


HOW DOES ONE SPEAK OF THE OCEAN TO THE FROG IN THE WELL; OR OF REALITY TO THE IDEOLOGUE?

THE FEELING THAT ONE'S RELIGION IS THE BEST AND NOBLEST AND ALL OTHER RELIGIONS ARE FALSE AND IGNORABLE HAS COST MANKIND MORE BLOOD THAN PERHAPS ANY OTHER.

HINDUISM IS THE MOTHER FAITH OF HUMANITY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT IMPOSE ON ANY ONE, OR ON ANY DOGMA IT ENCOMPASSES ALL CREEDS. IT DOES NOT INSIST ON ANY SPECIAL MODE OF PRAYER OR WORSHIP AND DOES NOT PIN DOWN INDIVIDUALS TO EXCLUSIVE ALLEGIANCES TO ANY SPECIFIC PROPHET OR SCRIPTURE.

HINDUISM IS LOOSELY - COINED TERM FOR THE RELIGION KNOWN AS SANATHANA DHARMA, OR ETERNAL TRUTH. IT IS NOT A RELIGION BUT A WAY OF LIFE AS THOUGH RELIGION AND WAY OF LIFE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS - THERE CANNOT BE A RELIGION WITHOUT A WAY OF LIFE - IN FACT RELIGION IS A WAY OF LIFE. HINDUISM BELIEVES EVERYONE IS MY BROTHER BE A CHRISTIAN OR MUSLIM. IT PERMEATES TOTALLY THE LIFE OF EVERY HINDU FROM THE MOMENT OF HIS BIRTH, BE HE A BELIEVER OR NON-BELIEVER - THIS THE REASON THAT IT IS SAID TO BE A WAY OF LIFE. IT IS BASED ON THE ETERNAL TRUTH, PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF LIFE. THE SOURCE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE FOR THE HINDUS IS THE VEDAS. THE VEDAS BE THE VERY BREATH OF THE LORD AND HAVE NO SINGLE AUTHOR - NO FOUNDER.

VEDA IS DERIVED FROM THE SANSKRIT ROOT "VID" WHICH MEAN "TO KNOW" - IT COVERS ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN.

THE RISHIS WERE THE SEERS AND SAGES TO WHOM THE VEDAS WERE REVEALED BY DIVINE INTERVENTION AND IN WHOSE HEART AND MINDS THEY HEARD AS THE UNCHANGEABLE AND ETERNAL REVELATIONS. THEY TEACH THE HIGHEST TRUTHS EVEN KNOWN TO MAN AND ARE VALID FOR ALL TIMES. IT IS VERY RELEVANT EVEN TODAY.
THE VEDAS TEACH US THAT CREATION IS WITHOUT BEGINNING OR END – GOD IS THE EVER ACTIVE PROVIDENCE.

MAHATMA GANDHI SAID “THE MAIN PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO LIVE RIGHTLY, THINK RIGHTLY, ACT RIGHTLY; THE SOUL MUST Languish WHEN WE GIVE ALL OUR THOUGHT TO THE BODY.”

THE VEDAS DECLARE: I AM THE SPIRIT LIVING IN A BODY – I AM NOT THE BODY – THE BODY WILL DIE BUT I SHALL NOT DIE.

THE WHOLE OBJECT IS, BY CONSTANT STRUGGLE, TO BECOME PERFECT, TO BECOME DIVINE…… … …, TO REACH GOD……………, SEE GOD. AND THIS REACHING GOD……………, SEEING GOD ……………BECOMING PERFECT
………..CONSTITUTES THE RELIGION OF THE HINDUS.

THE SUPREME REALITY CAN BE THE THREAD UPON WHICH, THE PEARLS OF THE INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT OF PLURALITY ARE STRUNG TOGETHER TO BECOME THE NECKLACE OF THE HARMONIOUS UNIVERSE.

A ONENESS WITH THAT, WHICH PERMEATES ALL, BRINGS ALL TOGETHER AND GIVES LIFE TO ALL.

HOW DO WE WORSHIP THE SUPREME BEING?…………………..

HOW DO WE REACH OUR GOAL? “THROUGH LOVE”

IN THE EGYPTIAN TOMBS IN ONE OF THE PYRAMID THEY FOUND RICE GRAINS WHICH THEY ASSESSED AS 500 YRS OLD – IT WAS FOUND THAT THESE GRAINS WHEN SOWN IN THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT WERE ABLE TO SPROUT.

ALL RELIGIONS ARE THIS WAY IF PROPERLY SOWN IT WILL GROW – THE SEED HAS THE CAPACITY TO COME OUT TODAY AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO GROW – LET US SEE, HOW CAN WE CREATE THAT ENVIRONMENT FOR PEACE TO BLOSSOM, HOW CAN EVERY INDIVIDUAL UNFOLD – KNOWLEDGE OF RELIGION MAKES US UNFOLD.

THE WISE MONK SAYS
“FROM SKY DROPS OF WATER FALL.
WHEREVER IT FALLS, IT JOINS INTO THE RIVER
AND FINALLY REACHES THE OCEAN.”………..

THUS WHICHEVER GOD FORM YOU WORSHIP IT REACHES HIM ONLY.

EVERY RELIGION PROFESSES LOVE “UNCONDITIONAL LOVE”. IF WE CAN CONSCIOUSLY HAVE LOVE, NOT BECAUSE OF BUT INSPITE OF……..BUT INSpite OF……….., IT IS A POWERFUL TOOL – HATE THE SIN, NOT THE SINNER SAYS SWAMI VIVEKANANDA.

CHRIST SAID LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THY SELF.

BUDDHA LOVED EVERY ANIMAL, EVERY BIRD – ALL SENTIENT BEING.

MOTHER THERESA WON THE NOBLE PRIZE FOR HER LOVE AND SERVICE TO POOR SICK AND DYING PEOPLE OF CALCUTTA – SHE LEFT HER HOME IN ALBANIA – AND TRAVELLED THOUSAND OF MILES TO INDIA – SHE LIVED A VERY SIMPLE LIFE AND SERVED HUNDRED OF ORPHANS AND DYING OLD MEN AND WOMEN – HER FACE RADIATED WITH LOVE. SHE SAID THAT SHE SAW GOD IN EVERY PERSON SHE SERVED.

ALL HOUSES OF GOD EXPRESS LOVE THROUGH SERVICE IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD. MANY GREAT SAINTS AND MASTERS SPENT THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE.

LOVE AS THOUGHT IS TRUTH
LOVE AS ACTION IS RIGHT CONDUCT
LOVE AS FEELING IS PEACE
LOVE AS UNDERSTANDING IS NON VIOLENCE.
A serious threat to peace is posed by intolerance which manifests itself in the denial of freedom.
In Bernard Shaw words "though all society is founded on intolerance, all improvements is founded on tolerance."
Where do then we search for the answers to peace?
Let us turn to religion and history. Religion helps us to live the life of harmony and gain poise of personality.

Mahatma Gandhi was a apostle of peace and nonviolence. He was a source of inspiration to the nation. He was universally loved and respected as the father of the nation.
When Gandhi was shot - even at his time of death, he did not hit out at the killer or shout. He died with God's name on his lips - he forgave his killer.
Ahimsa Paramo Dharma...... Non violence is the highest virtue in Hinduism stressed that people return good for evil.
For thousand of years, people in the world over have sought to experience Ahimsa as an inherent living and active expression of the God within. Ahimsa does not merely encompass the renunciation of the will to kill and on the intention to hurt any loving being - this spirit of non violence is prevalent among all religions.

I learned the lesson of non violence from my wife, when I tried to bend her to my will. Her determined resistance to my will, on the one hand, and the quiet submission to the suffering my stupidity involved, on the other, ultimately made me ashamed of myself and cured me of my stupidity......... In the end, she became my teacher in non violence. Gandhi's quote.

Peace comes out of human life and war comes out of human life. The choice is ours.
Thus, for peace we have to start at individual level - within ourselves is the source of peace - where do we experience peace - in the mind. The ultimate answer for peace of mind is "detachment" - to be aware of yourself - to look at yourself from outside of yourself and not to become too attached to people, objects, situations and positions. To recognise that everything is transient, and to get attached to that which is transient, is to lay the seed for future sorrow and unhappiness. We must teach our children and we must teach ourselves that the problems of the world, the problems of our lives will not cease. Rather we make our minds like the immovable rock - steady and strong, fearless, daring to take the challenge of life but make our hearts as soft as butter and silk - able to melt but not to be easily torn asunder.

The wise words of Maxwell Malte - "times will change for the better when you change."
The Sanskrit hymn often chanted says:
Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaah......... Means may all be peaceful - not only just the Hindus but all sentient being.
Sarve Santu Niramayah.........May all be healthy
Sarve Bhadraani Pashyantu.....May all enjoy prosperity
Maa Kaschid Dukhha Bhag Bhavet.......... May none suffer
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Hari Om - Shanti - Shanti - Shanti