



SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH INTERPRETATION OF RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES

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ABSTRACT

Religion is simply an accepted pattern of behavior showing gratitude, an integrated system of expression and the spiritual or emotional attitude towards the God. Since the human civilization had developed in different social groups under different regions, different religion came into existence with some distinct practices or better to say with distinct strategies as developed by the concerned social groups. These all strategies were developed in the name of oral and written commands of God and later on converted into 'Holy Books.'

Nothing wrong was there until different social groups interacted with others and tried to establish the superiority of one's own belief over the others. Since the interactions were and even is inevitable, so is with religious conflicts. These conflicts have remained a root cause of many social tensions but no effort has been made to use distinct religious principles, relatively, to establish social cohesion and peace in the society except by saying that God is one. If we debate on these religious conflicts and try to find out the root cause of this conflict multiple reasons may be recorded but, as per the opinion of authors, 'misinterpretation' of Holy Scriptures, patterns of behavior, expressions and spiritual or emotional attitude of different 'belief' groups is the only one. Hence under this literary work, the authors have tried to explain that reasonable and contemporary interpretation of all religious scriptures, religious practices etc. would certainly end the conflicts and would promote brotherhood, harmony and solutions of many known and unknown issues whereas misinterpretation of religious scriptures would certainly end humanity and society if not controlled within the stipulated boundaries.

Key Words: Misinterpretation, Religious Conflicts, Social Cohesion, Holy Scriptures.

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DOI: 10.48047/ecb/2023.12.si10.00309

INTRODUCTION: “In a world where various forms of modern tyranny seek to suppress religious freedom or try to reduce it to a subculture without right to a voice in the public square or to use religion as a pretext for hatred and brutality, it is imperative that the followers of the various religions join their voices in calling for peace, tolerance, and respect for the dignity and rights of others.”

Pope Francis

Religion means faith in a supernatural power which is far more superior than human beings. But since past decade it has witnessed a sharp increase in the violent religious tensions. It starts from Islamic extremists waging for Jihad at a global level and the struggle for power between Shias Sunnis to the persecution of Myanmar and Simultaneously an outbreak of violence among Muslims and Christians at South Africa. Today the spike in religious conflict is not only at National level but globally. Religion is not a phenomena of recent emergence. Its beginning is unknown. Some of the boreal practices of Indian man indicate that human being was a religious creature long before history began. Institution of religion is universal it is found in all the societies past and present. Laws customs conventions fashions, religion are not only the means of social control but it is all our religion and morality which formulate and shapes all of them. They are not only the most influential forces of social control but also the most effective guides of human behavior. The social life of man in addition to its economic political philosophical, scientific and other aspects has also one aspect that is the religious aspect. Religion has been in existence from the beginning but also it has been exerting a tremendous influence upon the institutions. Religious dogmas have influenced economic and political movements’ property dealings educational tasks ideological approaches etc. Religion which is based on the cultural needs of man has added new dimensions to human life and human development. Religion revolves around mans faith in the supernatural forces. It is the concrete experience which is associated with emotions especially with fear or irreverence many societies have a wide range of institutions connected with religion and a body of special officials with forms of worship ceremonies, sacred objects, titles images and the like. In modern civilization it is religious leaders who have developed various theories to explain man's place in the universe for religion is closely associated with morality and has elaborate rules of conduct for the world religions. Hinduism Buddhism, Christianity and Islam are really sentence of elaborate cultural systems that have

dominated all societies for centuries. It tries to throw light on the fact that how sacred or pure things came into being, showcases the evolution of such concepts, their historical background, the creatures inhabiting it and present concerns. It provides valuable information regarding universe, about the creation of life, the end of the world etc. It gives us the idea of empirical world. It tries to establish the relationship between empirical world and sacred things. In both of these cases belief rests upon faith of the people and their perspectives rather than on observation. Universal acceptance of religion shows that religion has a great survival value.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER:

1. To instill logical psychological tendencies in the minds of the youth that the religious teachings of all the institutions are one and the same.
2. To promote solidarity and unity in society through revival of culture in religious context that has forgotten long back by people.
3. To highlight obscurantist and fundamentalist approach in the name of religion exaggerating hatred and crime in society.
4. To explore the fact that how religious texts has been misinterpreted by the Priests and Maaulvis for the fulfillment of their own vested and selfish ends.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY USED: To substantiate the key arguments presented in the aforementioned section, the present study invokes a case study research approach. In simple terms, a case study covers the entire gamut of a particular phenomenon by covering all its aspects such that the unit/s of analysis is probed at length (Yin, 2013). Whereas the present study conceptualizes a historical period, the lessons derived there from constitute an intrinsic dimension for understanding the present-day fundamentalist approach in religion. To put it clearly, the present study refers to the Shlokas of Rig Veda and Teachings of Quran, Bible and Guru Grantha Sahib as a base to understand how logic and rationality of a religion surpassed the meek arguments of today’s fundamentalists when the societal fabric is tossed in favor of giving a political color to religion.

UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES OF RELIGION:

The universality of religion is not based upon the forms of belief and practice but upon the social functions which religion universally fulfills. Religion provides a religious experience it provides peace of mind. It provides for the individual the most desired peace of mind, at every crisis we look for harmony and mental peace. Religion molds the

personality of the people in a proper direction and exaggerates morality among them. In an uncertain world, full of dangers, the very challenges of every single day there is a die need of protection and security. Religion eradicates all the negativity of life. It minimizes the genuine grievances of the people to a considerable extent. Religion showers an emotional and moral support in this uncertain world and helps in accommodating the complex situations of life. It helps in reconciliation whenever people in stressful situations which is a gift of norms and value system of society. At the same time, it is the religion which offers inspiration, hope, optimism and courage. Religion is also expected to promote social solidarity in society apart from unity and identity. It is because religion upholds and validates the traditional ways of life more than it unites the people it is known that the common faith common value judgments, common sentiments, and common worship are significant factors in underlying people. By their participation in religious rituals and worship people try to identify themselves as having something in common. According to Davis religion provides recognition, identity with the past and the limitless future. A.W. Green has pointed out religion is supremely integrating and unifying force in human society. Religion conserve the value of life relation; it is an effective means of preserving the values of life. It defines and redefines the values morals spiritual and social values which are greatly supported by religion.. But unfortunately in present scenario religion has been held responsible for promoting violence conflicts in society. It is a well-known fact that the religious scriptures of every religion be it Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, or Christianity speaks something good but sometimes bad, or absurd It is often said that theses scriptures are the statements of God. But can we trust that they are not written or manipulated by man? It may be possible that some clever people wrote them and spread them in the name of God. What should be done, even if they are voice of God should we accept them if they are opposed to logic and reason. Those who believe that whatever is written in religious text is up to the mark are so much fanatic about it that they do not tolerate any deviation from its norms which is mentioned in the religious text books or scriptures irrespective of the fact that these religious scriptures are misinterpreted and drafted by religious leaders to spread false ideas. They are of the opinion that the entire truth is vested in their own religion. They think that what is not mentioned in their religious texts is not true. It is for this reason that they cannot develop the tolerance attitude towards the other religions, they believe that other religions are false

and only their religion is idealistic while others are barbaric. It is because of this that they want to crush them. They fail to understand what is mentioned in all religions is extremely true and all have common teachings and preaching's towards humanity.

The task of the religious texts should be to help a human being in eradicating false sense of ego. To live happily there is a need to understand these texts in an ultimate way. Once human being is able to understand its sublime essence the confirming action will be in the interest of humanity. However there may be certain things in the religious texts which does not go with modern society but with wise wisdom and complete knowledge we can never deviate from our customary track but unfortunately toady neither these religious texts are interpreted in a proper way nor people understand why religious texts are being misinterpreted.

VEDAS AND RELIGIOUS UNITY: There is a false belief that Hindu scriptures promote caste system in society. However, the fact remains is that the foundation of mankind in society is in the form of one of the priced possessions i.e. Vedas. It is the Vedas which treat every human being with equal respect and dignity. (KRINVANTO VISHVAMARYAN) which states nobility of humanity and opposes birth based caste system. With respect to caste system, Guru Madhwacharya clearly stated that, It's your attitude, it's your aptitude, it's your deed and it's your actions which decide your caste. If you are engaged in business you a Vaishya, if you are a monk you a Brahmin irrespective of your birth 'if you are in military you are a Kshatriya. If you are doing nothing in society, you are a shudra. Even the creation of caste and outcaste is unnatural, superficial, and unspiritual. An ancient version points out that Brahmin and outcaste are blood brothers. (Hindu Dharma:General, 2022)

**“अन्त्यजो विप्रजातिष च एक एव सहोदरः
एकयोनिप्रसूतस् च एकसाखेन जायते ॥”**

According to 10-13-1 of the Mantra of Rig Veda the entire humanity are the children of divine (SHRUNVANTU VISHVE AMRUTSYA PUTRAHA). Mantra 5-60-5 of the Rig Veda addresses that all men are brothers; no one is big or small. All are equal. Mantra 16.15 in Yajurvedaspecificsthatall men are brothers; no one is superior or inferior. It reiterates that all men are brothers; no one is superior and no one is subordinate. Mantra 10-191-2 of the Rig veda addresses that,” humanity needs to be united to have a common mind and common speech. Mantra 3-30-1 I Atharveda addresses that all human beings needs to be affectionate, love each other in the same

manner as the cow loves the calf. Mantra 3-30-6 of Atharveda commands mankind to lunch and dine together and to be firmly united as the spokes attached to the hub of a chariot wheel. The Upanishads and Bhagwat Geetaecho many such Vedic doctrines of humanity and oneness. One of the shlokas of BhagwatGeeta states;

**भोक्तारं यज्ञतपसां सर्वलोकमहेश्वरम्।
सुहृदं सर्वभूतानां ज्ञात्वा मां शान्तिमृच्छति ॥**

When man realizes that I am the enjoyer of all sacrifices and austerities and selfless friend of all creatures in the entire world they actually attain happiness. Shloka IX (29) states that

**समोऽहं सर्वभूतेषु न मे द्वेष्योऽस्ति न प्रियः।
ये भजन्ति तु मां भक्त्या मयि ते तेषु चाप्यहम् ॥**

God loves every individual equally and whosoever remembers God stays in his heart (*IshwarsarvabhutajnnamhrudyessheArjunatishthti*).

ACTUAL INTERPRETATION OF RAM

RAJYA: The actual meaning of Ram Rajya does not mean Kingdom of Ram rather it indicates, 'Kingdom of God'. For Ram and Rahim are not separate deities rather one same God meant for justice and truthfulness. It ensures equal rights whether to a Prince or a Pauper. It includes respect towards all religions. Mahatma Gandhi stated that Praying to God for our own protection is a sin until we aim at protecting the weak. This is supposed to be the Swadharma of all human beings irrespective of diverse religious backgrounds. Chanakya in Arthashastra stated that, the pleasure and happiness of a ruler lies in the happiness of subjects. What matters is what the people like rather than what the king likes". It reflects sovereignty of the people which is based upon pure moral authority.

प्रजासुखे सुखं राज्ञः प्रजानां तु हि ते हि तम् । नात्मप्रियं हितं राज्ञः
प्रजानां तु प्रियं हितम् ॥

Almost all the religions of the world have some of the universal features accepted by man. For example the Prophet preaches the message of God which has been granted to him graciously by God. The holy book Quran is considered as the exact record of prophets preaching. It was further maintained by his disciples for their own purpose and later on for the benefit of posterity. In the same way with respect to priests it is well said that, that they gone through the religious text books thoroughly and succeed in attaining the intuitive wisdom to crack the hard cover of ambiguity in order to get under the roots of underlying truth in the words of holy book. They consider themselves as the harbingers of reformation in society and

religious diversities. Because of religious misinterpretation society is becoming stagnant. The main aim of most of the fundamentalist religious leaders is to advocate for conserving the religious principles and always build a resistant to new reforms or to new ideas. The scientific approach has a tendency to question and question again and again in order to find out the ultimate truth.

Since time immemorial religious leaders try to gain the trust of the masses in order to have political gains but also to mislead the people. In 16th century the Greek pope misused the faith of the people by selling the indulgence and motivating the people for crusade. In the same in 19th century Bahahullah was put behind the bars for lifetime in Israel as he aimed to bring about reformation in Islam. Today we observe violence in religious institutions because of these religious misinterpretations. It is because of this approach and attitude that there is a resistance to new principles, new ideologies and new thoughts. The situation is further triggered by the fundamentalism approach of religious leaders which causes far more damage to human lives and human societies. It has become a major challenge for the development of the society. Every religion consists of educated class of people who can better interpret the meaning of religious texts in a well defined manner relatively to that of religious leaders but it is very unfortunate that their voices are not audible to the people as they are suppressed by the powerful fundamentalist leaders who dominate the roots of the minds of people. Saints and Priests want everyone to believe that their religious text is the absolute and the final verdict and statement given by God. If things are not mentioned in the religious scripture which they read it's all false according to them. There are very prominent religious scholars who have raised a question mark on the incomplete knowledge of most of the saints, priests and maulvis.

Be it priests or saints all read religious texts or religious scriptures to stir up arguments and to bring about controversies in society.

It is those religious maulvis or priests who lack spiritual knowledge and wisdom and only sing religious songs. A Mullah who is hungry turns his home into a mosque

In yet another statement, it is stated that if a person wants spiritual hollowness or emptiness from inside one should have friendships with a Sheikh. What actually helps is soul connecting with soul rather than reading religious books and scriptures. (Sufi Jallaludin Rumi).

Religious scriptures mean an instrument of knowledge.. Hence religious scriptures are the instruments of knowledge empowered to mankind for self realization or attainment of the knowledge

of the self (Aatm- Gyaan). Thus this true knowledge can help a man to understand the reality- the actualization of one's true nature as Pure Consciousness. It is for this reason that Gurbani holds the perspective that there must be a true understanding, realization and comprehension of religious texts (DHARMAWIKI, 2018). In Suggs 148 it is mentioned that it is by understanding the religious scriptures that mystery of life can be easily understood.

The objective of religious texts is to reveal the path of righteousness to mankind suffering in bondage. The religious texts teach a man how the demands and desires of senses are reconciled by following right path part of every human being and hence one should love all religions. . Man be remind himself that above all man is a human being who should follow the path of righteousness but it is very unfortunate that these religious texts are misinterpreted by the Saints, Priests and Maulvis. Divinity is a In present scenario misunderstood in the name of religion which breeds chaos, disorder, conflicts riots , tensions, strains, extremism , blind fanaticism , fundamentalism , religious intolerance , bigotry and a host of many problems in society which have resulted in bloody tragedies and wards in the name of religion. These misunderstandings are result of our lack of adequate knowledge and lack of actual understanding. Today man remembers everything excluding humanity or humanitarian values. The moral values, civic virtues which we learnt in traditional societies are all missing today. We do possess knowledge but it is impartial, incomplete and it is a well known proverb that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. We lack wisdom, reality, truth, faith, love devotion, spirituality, inward purity, mental stability and steadiness, inner peace, integrity, kindness, hospitality, generosity, self control, self discipline , forgiveness, compassion, patience, fortitude, pride, sympathy, attachment , determination, vigor, introspection, renunciation from inside, noble values, correct information, charity, freedom from greed , desires internal thieves etc. We need to find our own faults and analyze and find faults within inside rather than every time blaming on others.

HUMAN LANGUAGE&RELIGION: Since the gist or theme of all religious scriptures focuses around Transcendental Truth, the truth which is eternal, which is infinite beyond the purview of human mind, body, intellect. Hence, neither the phrases, nor the words can completely express the depth, reality, perspectives and report on the perfect and the infinite and complete reality. Limited number of words expresses limited number of truths. The men of wisdom is of the opinion the

language must be such that it can express four types of thoughts, (Padarth or Vastu), (Gunas or qualities), the activities (Kriya) and the relationships among the finite objects of the Universe (Sambandh). Theses four important aspects of language can constitute this entire world of infinite things.

MISINTERPRETATION OF ISLAM: Today people are being killed due to religious fanatics and people are indulged in wars in the name of religion. Maulvis and Ulemas which is the name given to Muslim religious scholars through believed to have extra ordinary knowledge regarding religion and religious texts who completes their education in Madarsas or DarulUloom. They are being considered as the representatives of God, hence a major responsibility vests on to their shoulders to impart religious education in a well defined manner so that the same may not be misunderstood by the people. But it's very unfortunate that we are observing the opposite of it in present scenario. They are posing a big threats to the Muslims for they interpret the Holy Text Quran in their own ways or the ways that suits them and hardly mention the remaining text to their advisees and completely manipulates their mind in the very initial stages of their life when they are not in a position to distinguish what is right and what is wrong. Their controversial statements can be observed through social media, print media, news channel which are the open platforms to judge the mindset of the Muslims and hence given the names of terrorists.

One of the most prominent religious scholars named as, ZakirNaik has out rightly appreciated Bin Laden for his statement on What Laden did by stating that," If Osama Bin Laden is squabbling for Islam I am the one who is with him. And if he is terrorizing America, I am with him". People who are born in Islam religion ought to be terrorist. But the ground level fact remains that Islam teaches peace, it is a religion of peace and these statements just instigates the people to develop an intolerant attitude among the Muslims. The discrimination promoted by religious leaders is creating societal issues and problems and encouraging a situation of relation crisis among other states. ZakiirNaik gave this very controversial statement in front of the media because of which he was banned. Though he is banned to control the damaged situation but unfortunately his followers are doing the same task of spreading hatred in the minds of people by misinterpreting other religious texts. The consequences of giving birth to multiple religious sects in Islam have resulted in bitter consequences not only for the people but for the society too.

Consequently, there are many religious beliefs and sects in one religion Islam which makes it difficult to the people to understand to which school of thought they need to practice and to which they need to leave behind.

From a Sociological point of view, none is by birth a criminal so as the case with terrorists too. None of the person is by birth a terrorist or extremist rather it is the social situation or circumstances or primary groups which persuades the people for same. It is observed that the preaching of Maulvis is biased especially when it comes to other religions and cultures. Such Maulvis do not measure the standards of religion, for they do not work in the interest of their own religion Islam rather for their own individual and vested interests. These vested interests begin from having too many followers who could work for them and perform many rituals in order to gather and store more and more money. The name given to such people are not protectors rather destroyers of religion. A person who is not good and worthy of humanity and hides himself under religion and spreads the same virus in society must be totally discarded. It is because of such misinterpretations that Taliban is born which is actually a fundamentalist political movement which started in Afghanistan and aimed to promote jihad. These Talibanis receive training in Afghanistan to kill people. These people went to the extreme level of extremist approach they started killing people in the name of Islam and believe that the reward of the same be given in paradise when they will sacrifice their life on this earth. The reason behind this brutality is that they are not genuinely taught the preaching's of Islam which condemns mercilessly killing of innocent people. Neither it is the Islam which teaches the people to kill the others those who do not practice Islam or deny practicing it. Another incident which proved this fact was which took place on September 11, a series of planned attacks by the terrorist group Al – Queda on US. The result of this attack was 2996 people lost their lives while 6000 were severely injured. Equally a huge amount of infrastructure was also devastated. This incident affected globally as the destruction not only ended here but simultaneously the destruction of World Trade Centre adversely affected the economies too.

It is this dysfunctional role of Maulvis and saints which is again creating differences in the minds of people. They manipulate the minds of the youth and try to paint their souls with falsehoods and fallacious thoughts in the name of religion. Though literature may have a different perspective that why people terrorists but it is somewhere the false preaching's of Islam which drives the people

towards terrorism and extremism in the name of religion.

A deep analysis of this situation reveals the fact that there is a close relationship between Talibanis and Mothersas for these were trained and educated at Madarsasa of their area. It is the need of the hour that the government needs to keep a stern eye on the working of these Madarsas and visit these Madarsaas at every Holy place for the sake of humanity. This social problem today is a matter of concern for the maximum nothing of sociologists. As a result of this religious misinterpretation people are fighting with each other in the name of Holy War. Taliban is in Afghanistan having imposed Sharia Law, a part of Islamic Law on the basis of which different aspects of the life of Muslims is regulated.

In an interview conducted in Lahore on 20th October 2012 , Chief Justice Iftakar Ahmed not only agreed to the point that of religious misinterpretation but also stated that ‘Fragmentation of religion without understanding the exact philosophy and actual spirit behind the same has given birth to extremism, fundamentalism and terrorism adversely affecting global peace and harmony. It has resulted in communal violence, wars and bloodsheds in the name of religion in society. The question emerges here is that why Islam is being misunderstood or is it really a religion which produces terrorists in society? Is there an answer to this question? Perhaps yes, there is a need to instill new psychological tendencies in the minds of people so that the reasons behind their abrupt behavior could be understood. And misinterpretation in the name of Islam may be eradicated from the minds of people and an approach focusing on actual religious texts must be inculcated before another solution is formulated. War is the last option in Islam, it is only justifiable in extreme conditions and at the same time has certain limitations. Quran states that , Fight in the cause of God who fight against you , but one should not transgress the limits. God has no love for transgressors.’”

JIHAD MISINTERPRETATION: Jihad actually means a holy war against the evil in you and society. It means if someone is suffering from any negative power one must get rid of it or one must get rid of misfortune. For example, if a person suffers from economic crisis and if he works hard for the same this effort is known as jihad, Even in Arabic there are words to express this gesture of humanity. However there is a difference in between the word jihad and struggle. The word struggle does not reflect any sort of worship in religious sense of word. But when this term became a crucial

part of Islamic terminology, the sense of worship became associated with it, which means if struggle means struggle in simple sense jihad means a struggle for worship which results in giving reward to a given. Unfortunately this term Jihad has been highly misinterpreted by American media, lot many Muslims, as well as in some of the verses of Quran which gave birth to Islam phobia. At present the word Jihad has been closely associated with terrorism and merciless killing of people. This negative interpretation of this term is destroying the harmony of society.

According to orthodox Islam, women do not have souls which is erroneous and contradicts with Quran(4: 124. It is because of these reasons that religious conflict is caused by religious intolerance against other religious beliefs and practices. Today we observe intractable inter religious wars between different Muslims and Jews in Palestine, Muslims and Hindus in South Asia and in many other places. Throughout 1950s- 1996 out of the total 47% 33% of the conflicts are religious conflicts. However the fact is that people do not understand the true essence of their religious spirit. The situation gets worsen when these texts are further misinterpreted by the religious leaders. It is all about proving which religion is inferior and which one is superior. Some of these conflict mentioned in Indian history are

Palestine and Israel Conflict: The root cause behind this conflict can be traced out long back in the migration of Jewish people to Israel. Both Muslims and Jews regard Jerusalem as their native and holy and thus both the countries aimed to occupy it.

In the same way Hindu Muslim conflict. Hindu-Muslim atrocities are closely associated with Babri mosques and Ram Mandir. Reprisals are one of the most prominent reasons which exacerbate violence among Hindus and Muslims. It was systematic incitement of hatred and jealousy which was instigated by the religious leaders of both the communities which exaggerated the situation further.

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS: The faith of the people is misused and misguided by the religious leaders. It is not confined to one particular religion rather applicable to all. On the basis of the study conducted through various religious texts and viewpoints of religious leaders it is clearly understood that it is both fundamentalism and obscurantist leaders of different sects and religions who are causing more damage and harm to society. In the name of God not only a fatalistic outlook is being promoted but prejudice and hatred is trying to be evoked in the mind sets of people. There is a

difference in what is exactly mentioned in the holy books and how things are misinterpreted by religious leaders to common people. People have forgotten that truth is God and religion is one of the simplest ways to reach the ultimate power. Education rationality is all in vain when man has lost the capacity to differentiate in between the right and wrong path and in between truth and falsehood. Because of the religious misinterpretation society has not only become stagnant but on the pave of disorganization with humanity in peril. On the basis of these analysis it can be stated clearly that religion has played a crucial role in radicalizing people and mobilizing them for a Holy War around the globe against their rivals. Most of these Holy Warriors are misguided in the name of religious texts which further misinterpreted by religious leaders to lash out and kill humanity in the name of religion. (Johnson, February 10, 2018)

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS: Though a couple of years back religion was considered as a crucial agency of social control but in present scenario there is politicalization of religion which has shaken its very foundation. Hence there is a need to develop new psychological tendencies and revive ancient Indian scriptures of all religions which aims at promoting humanity and cosmopolitan in approach. In this concern following suggestions are put forward so that social harmony and peace could be established across international boundaries.

NEED TO DEVELOP THE CONCEPT I AM WHAT YOU ARE: Today there is a need to develop the feeling of brotherhood and belongingness if we need to change the scenario. The feeling the same God resides in me which resides in you. It is high time to go back to these teachings from our scriptures. When one greets someone he should greet as if he is greeting God. There is a need to instill these psychological tendencies in man so that the entire hatred and bitterness be converted into humanity. It is only when we inculcate the feeling of belongingness and brotherhood we can truly believe that God resides in every human being and then truly we can create a divine environment around us on the basis of harmony, solidarity and peace. Social harmony can be established only when all the religious organizations step forward to spread the common message of humanity in the following ways:

COSMIC VISION REFLECTED IN THE IDEA OF SATYAM, SHIVAM, SUNDARAM: The frame of Indian culture which considers every

human being as a divine creature must be revived globally. This anthropocentric approach considers every living and non living being as the manifestation of God. It is this approach which promotes the idea of co-existence. This type of vision will thus synthesize, God, human beings into an integrated whole.

DEVELOPING THE ATTITUDE OF TOLERANCE: Since time immemorial, all the religions have been focusing on the spirit of tolerance and patience. Be it Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity or Hinduism. In BhagwatGeeta. It is clearly stated that by Lord Krishna, “Those who are praying for others are actually praying me”. This thought reflects extreme of tolerance. There will be a coexistence of various religions if the same attitude be accepted by the people. People should be taught the manifoldness of reality and should have the capacity to assimilate plurality of viewpoints.

SENSE OF INNER HARMONY: Inner harmony is the base of outer harmony. People must be taught that the teachings of all religious institutions are one and the same for every religion teaches altruistic values and philanthropic activities. It is a mere misinterpretation of religious texts which is a source of chaos, violence and deterioration of society. Today religion is considered as destructive rather than constructive force in society due to intolerance, injustice. A conflict which takes place in the name of religion in society is due to the failures of certain creed to comprehend the spirit of religion. The lack of the capacity of the people to grasp the essence of religious teachings is the very reason behind clash of interests among the people at both the social and personal level. It is the neglect of altruistic qualities, spiritualistic attitude which has resulted in an increase in the ratio of prejudice, hatred and religious intolerance among the people. History bears evidence of the fact where religious leaders have used religion as a platform to manipulate the people for the fulfillment of political agenda. Completely imitating the followers blindly with having an in-depth knowledge, one religious institution is undoubtedly a harmful combination. The dirty politics in the name of religion manipulate the emotions of human beings and use wars, jihad, crusade as an excuse for personal and political gains. The problem is not with the religion actually but misuse of power and authority which comes in its way. Hence religious practices must be intertwined with faith and spirituality. Thus to conclude, it is the positive and negative attitude in form of our behavior, psyche

and pattern which affects our approach towards religion.

NEED TO REVIVE THE CONCEPT OF WORLD AS A FAMILY:

Vasundharekutumbakam a thought from Vedic Maha Upanishad. It is a social philosophy which emerges from a spiritual understanding that the entire humanity is made up of One energy. If Supernatural power is one which merges every soul in it then how human beings be different. It inspires us to break the walls of division in our minds, it strives the human beings to be generous souls so that the world could be a better place to live in. It also reflects the quality of man who understands the truth. Today due to divisibility of political, economic, religious institutions it becomes the need of hour to embody this universal principle of One Earth Family. From the perspective of Mahatma Gandhi fulfilling the needs of feeble, vulnerable and under privileged members of society is the main touch stone on which our actions is build. Hence there is a need to encompass an integrated approach with respect to spiritual, cultural, legal dimensions which can bring about transformation in true sense. There is a need to develop inter religious faith cooperation. For the purpose religious organization need to come forward and promote the spirit of Religion and Peace in true essence. The reason behind it is that in a distorted and fractured world of today signs and symbols of collective action across religious divides are most needed.

Need to oppose ills in the name of religion: Religion in present day society has become too complex on account of the fact that it is intermixed with economic, political, racial and cultural issues. In every religion there are people who want to exploit the others in the name of religion. People undermine the rights of others in the name of religion. This type of behavior not only harms public interest but also discredit faith of the people. It thus becomes the duty of all religions to protect religious faith so that religion be given its original face so that no room be left for evil doings in the name of religion. Religion should help to promote solidarity and resolve the issues minimizing the conflicts. It should not be used as a platform to promote radicalization in society.

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