

Collision of Religion and Society

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Pervin J. Mistry

Introduction:

Religion and Society together present the Oneness of Life and the Oneness of Humanity. Religion did not originate with primitive mankind out of fear. It is a moral code of conduct and has existed from the time mankind appeared on earth. It is a relationship between the Creator and His creation. It fulfils the will of God.

Life and Religion are both interwoven. The purpose of Religion is to know about Life and the purpose of Life is to be reunited to God through Religion. Every moment of life, every thought, every word, every deed, is an act of Religion. It is Universal and ALL Religions ARE universal because the SOURCE is the same.

God is one! Religion, per se, is One. The Heart of our Solar System is also One - which is our Sun. But, the Sun cannot function alone. It needs all the planets to perform Its task and divide Its light into different spectrums. In the same way, Divinity also needs all the different Religions to perform the task of spiritual evolution for Mankind. Just as every planet is needed to form the family of the Sun, each and every Religion is required to promote the spiritual development of the family of Humanity.

All Religions are based on Truth found in the Laws of Nature. These Laws of Nature - such as birth and death, night and day, tides - are Eternal and Immutable. Nature doesn't change Its Laws for us just because we do not like or do not understand them. To guide Mankind to live in harmony WITH Nature, our Prophets have formulated their teachings on Nature's Immutable Truth. Let no man think he can change Truth. Truth, if it changes, is no Truth to begin with! Our own perception of Truth changes, but NOT the TRUTH Itself!

Society:

While Religion is based on immutable truth, our Society, on the other hand, is made up of imperfect people whose thinking changes daily and who are prone to mistakes. **People are subjected to guidance by their Dual Mentalities and therefore, the change in Society and social trends are not always for and towards spiritual progress.** While Society keeps changing, Nature's Laws remain the same for all Mankind and for all times.

We have two Opposing Forces working on Mankind simultaneously. We have Religion based on Immutable Truth which cannot be changed but must be obeyed and we have Society made up of imperfect people who constantly change their thinking. When Religion and Society collide, there is strife, sorrow and destruction of moral values.

There have been many great civilizations in the past which have disappeared! Civilizations fall when Society forgets Religion. Without Religion, Life itself becomes self-destructive. Swami Vivekananda has said that the rise of every nation and Religion lies in its spirituality and the downfall begins the day that spirituality wanes and materialism gains ground.

Some of the issues which come to the forefront during the Collision of Religion with Society are;

Power of Choice

Freedom

Egality, Rights and Responsibility

a. Women's issues

b. Family

c. Ordination

Ecology and Environment

Preservation of Cultures and Religions

These same issues have led to the downfall of nations and civilizations in the past. These are critical issues and once moral decay sets in, a mud-slide of spiritual destruction begins!

Power of Choice:

Every Religion has taught of the dual aspects of Nature which reflect within Mankind as the dual mentalities. We may call these two aspects as Progressive and Destructive, Good and Evil, Righteousness and UnRighteousness or even positive and negative - if we wish to be scientific!

Mankind has been given the POWER OF CHOICE. We have the freedom to spiritually progress or retrograde by choosing which mentality we put into use. If we choose the destructive mentality or UnRighteousness, we suffer and bring destruction upon ourselves. Evil actions are the culmination of evil thoughts. Only when Mankind reflects the Image of God and chooses Righteousness through wisdom, the Progressive Mind turns towards spiritual progress.

Needless to say, our Society is not Progressive - but Destructive. We must be using the Power of Choice wrongly because there is destruction everywhere - of dignity and moral values. Religious intolerance and ethnic violence are on the increase. Every Prophet has spoken of PEACE and BROTHERHOOD but few seem to know what Peace is! Lack of worldly possession is not destitution - but lack of Peace and moral values IS!

We acquire university degrees to become educated. The world swarms with Churches, Mosques, Temples, Synagogues and Universities. Yet, there isn't enough wisdom in all of these institutions put together to enable us to live in Peace. This is because KNOWLEDGE is NOT WISDOM. Knowledge is rooted in the mind which is imperfect and evolving. Wisdom is rooted in the soul which is immortal and omniscient. Therefore, knowledge acquired through the mind is not transcendent. There are no universities which teach wisdom. **Wisdom is the Kingdom of God which is locked up WITHIN our Immortal Soul and not in our dualistic Mind.** Therefore, to know God and to seek Him, we must seek Him within our Soul where He resides. He will not be found in the universities but He will be found in Silence, through Obedience, Faith and Prayers and in service to Humanity which is an act of Righteousness! None of the Prophets went to universities to acquire wisdom. They learnt wisdom and truth from Nature - by attuning their mind to the dictates of their soul.

Instead of Wisdom, our education today, has taught us only three words - FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND DESTRUCTION. This in turn, has led us to rebel against moral institutions.

Freedom:

Everyone uses the slogan "Freedom to Choose" without knowing what FREEDOM is! As long as we thirst to go to heaven, we are NOT in heaven! As long as we desire and fight for freedom, we are not FREE! **To be free Spiritually, is to be beyond duality when the Mind obeys and surrenders to the will of the Divine Soul - without choosing! When we are free spiritually, we say: "His Will Be Done" - Not my Mind's, which still chooses, is not free and is often selfish and wrong.**

Freedom is not without RESPONSIBILITY. We may be free to do as we please, but we must not forget that every Action causes a similar Reaction according to the Immutable Law of Cause and Effect. We create our own fortune or misfortune since Divine Justice renders every Man his just dues - regardless of his station in life. "As you sow, so shall you reap" is a Universal Truth. Wheat planted in the ground will grow only wheat and not apples or barley. All our actions are the result or re-action of our thinking which brings the consequential effects upon the individual responsible for the choice of thoughts and actions.

The slogan "Freedom to Choose" should be replaced by "the Doer is responsible for the Deed". We are free to choose between life and extinction by choosing Religion against spiritual ignorance.

Equality, Rights, and Responsibility:

Equality is the opposite of Brotherhood. By enthroning equality we have chosen selfishness and personal Rights over universal responsibilities. **There is a total chaos of law and order because every individual and every group of individuals believe themselves to be right and to have a RIGHT but not what is morally right or correct.** In such a chaotic Society, there's no definition of right and wrong, and instead of law and order, there is destruction of moral values.

"Rights" do not imply the assertion of lawless behaviour when these Rights are wilfully destructive - morally and socially. Today, instead of promoting moral values, society promotes "rights".

Is this Equality spiritually progressive? No. We are promoting lawless behaviour in the garb of Equality and Freedom. The evidence lies in the increase of crime and violence, globally.

a) Women: While there is no law against women going to work, is it morally correct and is it a woman's RIGHT to abandon her children in the care of baby-sitters and social institutions for material gains? Some women must need to find employment out of necessity, but unfortunately, it has become a trend for most women to seek employment outside their homes as they find the task of housework and bringing up their own children too stressful! Then why have children? Some women abandon their children in the care of strangers, in order to seek Equal Rights status to satisfy themselves personally. Instead of the loving care of a mother, groups of children are brought up by a stranger in charge. The concept of passing values from parent to child and guiding them has all but disappeared. In most juvenile crimes, the bond with parents, especially the mother, is found to be missing. Today most children learn social behaviour through Society in general and through the media such as television and magazines. Do these institutions promote moral values and divine learning?

Today's society measures success by financial status and university degrees. Men and women must understand that money is NOT the criteria for Equality. Neither is a Corporate Position! **Equal Rights means EQUAL STATUS which a male and a female AUTOMATICALLY share when they unite as ONE in matrimony. They become equal partners in life and in the responsibilities involved in raising a family. Equal responsibility does not mean both partners do identical jobs.** If both partners become bread-winners, then who looks after the psychological, moral, religious needs of the family? These needs are also important.

The success of a housewife should be measured in maintaining the family as a Pillar of Society. When this very foundational pillar crumbles due to greed, Society may advance materially but spiritually, it decays. We will see a trend towards spiritual enlightenment begin when the competition between the sexes for the acquisition of corporate status and material greed gives way to the True status of Equality as being EQUAL partners in respect, dignity and family responsibility - but NOT uniform in duty outside the home as "bread winners". Women ARE Equal - but NOT identical!

b) Family: We are destroying the Family as a sanctified unit and are re-defining it as meaning almost nothing! Society rang the death knell for the family as a unit when it legalized the Common Law way of living together. The ritual of Marriage is no more considered a legal or spiritual bond. There is no binding on the Common Law couples and this promotes easy separation. The increase in single parent families is phenomenal. Society has since started to decline because we ourselves got rid of the word "Family" which meant a husband and a wife living together, after sanctifying their bond through a religious ceremony which was morally binding.

We must put marriage where it belongs - into the sanctity of Religion, as a reminder of the ethical code of conduct and of continuing the Religious traditions since Life and Religion are interwoven. Religion is duty and duty to the family is of utmost spiritual importance. It teaches the virtues of sharing, caring, self-forgetfulness, forgiveness and unity. Without the ritual of marriage, sex is debased. We look at it as a mere biological function without self-control or moral responsibility. Eating is a biological function but obesity leads to sickness. What we eat, and when is important. Similarly, sex has responsibility together with self-control.

Some individuals demand social and legislative RIGHTS to form the unnatural families of partners of the same sex. These individuals must realize that they are defiling the Temple of God by indulging in the purely emotional part of their instincts. Our body is merely the receptacle of the Divine Spirit which gives it the Breath of Life; therefore, we must live a life of righteousness so that our body which is His Temple, is not defiled. By giving way to unrighteousness and promoting the instincts of the flesh in unnatural union, these individuals are acting against Nature. We are causing destruction of physical health by spreading various modern diseases. This is a sin against Life. Righteousness will be cultivated by focusing our consciousness on the virtues and not on bodily desires.

Just as energy and matter are two inseparable aspects of Life, both male and female are indispensable to propagate Life. The Divine Aim of Creation is to propagate Life which couples who are of the same gender are unable to fulfil. The Rights these individuals demand are not morally, socially, physically or religiously progressive. They are DESTRUCTIVE.

All the Religions have described the sins of unrighteousness. However, none have been mentioned more precisely than in the Bible where these sins (of unnatural union) are described in The Epistles: Romans 1.18-32. Saint Paul even adds that such unrighteous acts bring death and destruction upon the society which promotes them.

c) Ordination: It is a fact of Nature that our body starts to decompose as soon as the vital circulation stops. But even when we are alive, any blood/excretion which is severed from the vital circulation within the body, immediately becomes impure and injurious to health. During a woman's biological cycle, the excreted blood pollutes not only the surrounding air but also the aura of every individual within a certain radius. This is because blood contains iron which is magnetically charged. Aura is also magnetic. Women who demand Equal Status in Ordination must first educate themselves about the Laws of Magnetism.

We are yet unaware and ignorant of many things which our physical senses are incapable of discerning. Modern Science has proven Religions to be correct in teaching the physical world of forms to be the outcome of the meta-physical world which cannot be seen but which can be perceived spiritually. Religion, which is the science of mysticism, explains that our body is surrounded by magnetic currents. They are emitted from all around our body, but are specifically more dominant from the eyes and fingertips. During a woman's biological cycle, due to the excreted blood which contains impurities, these magnetic currents become harmful. Many mental and physical disorders arise from such harmful auras. All Religions have laid down certain codes of purity for the preservation and protection of our mental and physical health. Yet, because we do not visually see auras, we wilfully disobey these hygienic laws. These Laws of Purity have been mentioned in the Book of Manu, in the Vendidad, Leviticus and in the Islamic Codes of Purity.

Both Luke and Matthew have written about the aura of a woman who affected the pure magnetic aura of Jesus, robbing him of his own Spiritual Glory. It is written that when such a woman who was haemorrhaging, touched the hem of Jesus' Robe, his own Aura, "Glory" was affected and he exclaimed: "Who touched me? My `Glory' is gone." The Vendidad describes the "druj" (pollution) arising from severed blood as one of the most harmful impurities.

Communion, Yajna or Yasna - whatever name we give to these RITUALS, their goal is to unite the physical with the Spiritual, reflecting the final goal of Life as "Renovation" (Frashogard, Nirvana, Moksha). While performing these sacred rituals during their biological cycle, women produce adverse effects on the outcome of these Rituals, as any severed blood would not effect the union of any impure physical

condition to the Divine Spirit which is Pure. How can there be ritual purity in the midst of bodily pollution? Blood sacrifices are banned in any Revealed Religion since they attract the negative influences of the lower elementals (forces of nature). Sorcery and witchcraft are effectually solemnized through blood which is the agent to attract the negative forces of Nature.

To bring about a Divine Union of Spirit and Matter as a result of these Rituals, some priests of certain Religions observe RITUAL SECLUSION for days to purify their aura. Only men undergo and perform these higher ceremonies. Due to our biological difference, women cannot perform Rituals as the Ritual purity is vitiated. In some religions, even men are debarred from the performance of rituals under certain physical conditions.

When we speak of the Male and Female aspects of God, we must realize that we are NOT Gods yet and have not yet attained the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, as human beings we must accept our differences with grace and wisdom, instead of questioning the Will and Purpose of everything God in His Infinite Intelligence has so ordained. Ignoring Nature's Laws is not civilized education but barbaric ignorance! Have we forgotten Faith and Obedience as Virtues which are absolutely essential to Wisdom? The cults of Priestesses were replaced by Revealed Religions. Besides, God is a spiritual Being devoid of any physical form. Monotheistic religions believe in only One Supreme Being and not in the cults of gods and goddesses. The angels and archangels are theological concepts attributed to One Supreme Being, and being Divine, they too, as spiritual "Beings" do not possess physical forms as humans do. To say that God is male/female, is to bring the spiritual and the sublime to the levels of pure materialism and profanity.

The Prophets of all the Revealed Religions have been male because esoteric teachings universally acknowledge that man was created first and according to His Plan; the biological difference developed later as a necessary step towards physical creation. As mankind advances spiritually, at the time of Renovation, physical procreation will not be needed and mankind will regain the spiritual existence experienced in the beginning of creation, in the spiritual world, where physical and ultra-physical forms are not needed. Biological difference is but a passing yet necessary step in our evolution towards being Perfected in order to attain Renovation.

Ordination means conferring or enacting something divine. A person who has reverence for God will not rebel against His Infinite Intelligence. Is God a sexist to create us differently? Equality in Ordination may not be what God in His Wisdom has ordained. Nature Itself has not created male and female identical but different. We are biologically different. Therefore, psychologically different as well. **The biological difference is caused by the mind itself since thought is the blueprint of all creation.** The desire for Earthly existence originates in the mind. Religions teach that God fashioned the Universe which is His physical Body, out of His Divine Mind by reciting the Holy Word. What is a word or sound if not the vocalization of thought? It was the Primordial Thought which created the Universe! In Mankind, this desire to manifest is carried out by the individual mind which then sets out to build the body through the vehicle of blood. It is blood which sustains the body by providing the vital

Breath of Life and also the different genes, hormones, etc., which ultimately result in biological differences.

Biology is not simply a matter of the physical body but is a part of mental consciousness. **Mind, the instrument of thought, decides through the blood, the gender of the individual and also the psychological characteristics. Each individual is different and has a different personality based on the individual needs of the mind. It is the psychological difference which causes, and is inseparable from, the biological differences between the sexes and between each individual.**

Women CAN and DO attain the spiritual heights any man can, but the difference is in manifesting the outcome of the sacred rituals which rigid purity demands. Women, biologically, are unable to maintain ritual purity; therefore Equal Status in Ordination is spiritually untenable.

Ecology and Environment:

Brotherhood does not mean Brotherhood between human beings alone. True Brotherhood means the vital coexistence and the interdependence between ALL the Kingdoms of Nature, including Mankind. Mankind cannot survive without Nature and Nature does not exist without plurality. We are all a very integral part of Nature. By destroying Nature, we are destroying ourselves. Modern man has become a virus on the face of the Earth because we are destroying the very host (the Earth) and its species on which our lives depend. By destroying the plant and animal species we are depleting the oxygen supply and affecting the ecosystem.

NUCLEAR pollution is one of the WORST. Is there any need to create and store nuclear weapons if we are going to safeguard them and do not intend to use them? Even if we never use them, the waste we have stored in the process of making them, as well as the by-products from nuclear power, is destroying our earth AND our health. Why do we need the might of the nuclear weapons to defend us? Are we so evil and destructive that we need to protect ourselves from each other through such brutal force?

The only thing which we are afraid of and want to protect ourselves from is the POWER OF EVIL. Evil IS WITHIN us. Our Mind is the real battlefield or Kurukshetra where the two opposing powers of good and evil are constantly at war. **The greatest victory of man is over his own imperfections.** Our own vices within each one of us are our biggest enemies. **We do not need to protect ourselves from outside because the greater enemy is WITHIN. We do not trust each other because our Mind reflects the evil tendencies of the Destructive aspect of the dual mentalities! We don't trust each other because we don't trust ourselves!** And in the process of building these weapons for our protection, we are destroying ourselves through pollution. Is there any logic or sanity in this?

By freeing our Mind from the evil mentality, we will free ourselves from all seen and unseen enemies. We will not need any weapons - least of all the nuclear weapons which are tools of Destruction. **Only by destroying our Destructive Mentality, we can re-create a Society which will be based on Peace and Brotherhood and not a Society which needs to protect itself from its own evil reflections!**

We send probes to our Solar System and beyond to acquire knowledge of the universe and of ourselves. We anticipate future inter-stellar visits... Pause!...Let us think about it for a moment! Are WE not children of the stars ourselves? Are we not built from the same cosmic dust and elements the universe is made up of? Does the Soul not have Its existence in the Stars? The Soul being luminous, Immortal and Omniscient, survives the death of the physical body and continues Its existence in the Inter-Stellar region! Our soul IS a cosmic pilgrim. It doesn't need probes and space-ships to wing its way through Space. Seers and Sages knew astronomy and astrophysics without space travel or using telescopes! Our Prophets did not physically undertake space travel but they knew the Universe and all of Nature's Universal Truths through the wisdom of their Soul!

Religions and Tribes which are thousands of years old have a knowledge of, and litanies written to the various celestial bodies including Sirius, Sirius B and other Stars as well as the Planets and Constellations. How did they arrive at such precise astronomical knowledge without telescopes and probes? This proves that our ancestors were far more spiritually advanced and in tune with Nature. They knew Nature's secrets which we have forgotten.

There ARE Beings and Intelligences in the universe far greater than us. These are the Divine, Celestial Beings whom we call Angels, Archangels, Dhyani Buddhas, etc. They live in the universe as a part of Nature, as Nature's Aspects, Attributes. We ourselves are also a part of that very same Nature, therefore, also a part of those Divine Beings! Why can we not discover these Exalted Beings here, who are with us, within us and who work through Nature and ARE that Nature? They are defined as the divine attributes of God. We can know them and be one with them through cultivating our own virtues and uniting our consciousness with Theirs. The Zend Avesta mentions the seven Archangels as Amesha Spentas and calls them the seven Divine Attributes or Channels of God. By perfecting these Divine Attributes within ourselves, we attain immortality.

All the Sages have said: "Look within! The Kingdom of God is WITHIN you. The Spirit dwells WITHIN you!" **Yet, we look and search for God and Beings in the Universe when they are right here - within you and me!** Because these Beings are so Exalted, we do not see them or hear them with our imperfect sense organs. In time, when we develop and cultivate our spiritual senses which are the SENSES OF OUR SOUL, then we will discover these Beings and communicate with them. **By uniting our consciousness with our Soul, we, like the sages and the seers, can also achieve Divine Wisdom which is Omniscience.**

It is vitally important to remember that Soul Powers are not to be cultivated in any other way except through Righteousness and Living the Life! Instead of spending billions in space programmes and nuclear power which is destructive, would it not be better spent in serving our own hungry and needy?

There are many rural communities in the world today who still live without all our technological advances. They are healthier and more at Peace. We, in spite of our hi-tech advancements, are still at the mercy of Nature, unable to prevent floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc.! Ironically, **our destructive Society, through hi-tech education is busy destroying the earth and is yet compelled to bow to the mercy of Nature, while the so-called primitive, pastoral, unprogressive Society is not polluting the environment. Has our technology mastered Nature or is Nature now destroying us through technology?** Science and technology must be used to enhance life and not to destroy it through war and profit.

We may put an end to the physical pollution of our environment, but let us first put an end to our MENTAL and MORAL pollution. Mankind needs the purity of the physical elements for our physical well-being but we also need the purity of thought for our mental, moral and spiritual well-being. Good thoughts, Good words and Good deeds should be the motto of every human being. Since thought precedes action, only when we decrease our mental and moral pollution, we will arrive at the thought of preservation and unity.

Preservation of Cultures and Religions:

We are concerned about the survival of plant and animal species due to the destruction of their natural habitat and environment. Have we given a similar thought to the preservation of our RELIGIONS which can survive only if the rituals and traditions are preserved and practised? And what of our CULTURES? Different Cultures stem from different Religions, ethnic backgrounds and different values. They celebrate the diversity of Humanity and mirror Nature in Its manifold existence. We need all the different Cultures and Religions to form the Brotherhood of Humanity. We are not all alike. Brothers are not all alike! Brotherhood means having more than just one Brother!

How will we preserve our Cultures in today's changing world? So many Cultures vital to Humanity's spiritual growth are dying out due to intolerance of differences, due to the "melting-pot" concept and mostly due to inter-marriages which are becoming the prime concern of most minorities.

In the July 1991 issue of National Geographic, an anthropologist writes about the tribe of Birale in Africa. Due to marrying outside the group, the children, who though they may see themselves as Birale, do not speak their native Birale language. Thus, the language and perhaps the tribe itself may be doomed. This is a typical example.

In any inter-marriage, it is hard to instill one set of Religious values to the children who are caught between two Religions and two Cultures. Inevitably, the sense of belonging to one particular Religion is missing.

Physical love is not enough to bind a family together in times of trial but Religion being a basic psychological need to turn to God for help, unites a family during trying times as both religion and life are interwoven. In any inter-marriage this psychological need is not satisfied since the bond with God through any one particular Religion is missing. In many inter-married families, little by little, Religion is set aside and forgotten. Social acceptance and attending community functions do not enable the children to learn Religion. It has to be lived and practised daily.

The child may be initiated in the Religion of one of the parents or in both the Religions - but the child does not really belong to the Culture and Religion of either parents. To be simply initiated is not enough. Religion has to be lived and practised through traditions and rituals which the environment of inter-marriage cannot provide. In most inter-marriages, one partner converts to the Religion of the other to keep peace at home or both compromise and tend to move away from the traditions and disciplines of their own. In either case both the Religion and Culture are diluted or forgotten.

With the loss of Cultures and Religious values, Family, which is the Pillar of Society, is declining and Society itself is becoming morally destructive. Today, more children are growing up without Religion. **Life without a Religion is like a state without law. Spiritual disciplines are absolutely required to resist the inherent evil tendencies of the human mind which is still evolving.**

With the destruction of the Rain Forests, we have already lost animal species and medicinal plants. So many native tribes with their culture and wisdom are now extinct because we destroyed their way of life. **With the loss of Cultures and Religions in most urban parts of the world** (due to intermarriages and changing lifestyles), **we will also lose much of the Religious and esoteric wisdom which is essentially vital for preserving our past and which will help us progress spiritually in the future. We will lose precious spiritual knowledge and that will be the worst destitution Mankind can suffer. There is a wealth of mythical and mystical knowledge in the sacred scriptures of all the different Religions, written in many different languages and we need to preserve them.** As Swami Vivekananda once observed, spiritual giants have been produced through a rich lore of mythology and devotion to the rituals. For humanity to progress spiritually, it is vital to preserve all the Religions with their scriptures and rituals intact.

The Inter-Faith movement was started to promote the idea of Brotherhood by emphasizing the universality underlying all Religions. It promotes dialogues in order to enhance understanding between the different religions. It must also promote dialogues and harmony within the different sects which exist within some of the major religions. Only then, can each religion understand the other. For example, if Christianity has numerous sects, which sect represents the authentic religion which Lord Jesus Christ revealed? These sects must unite and speak as one voice to promote understanding with

other religions. There cannot be different Christianities since all Christians follow the teachings of One Master - Lord Jesus Christ. Misunderstanding and misinterpretation of scriptures comes in the way of universal peace and brotherhood as the foundation to harmony lies in Truth and Wisdom. When the diverse sects within each religion will unite as **one** religion, understanding between the major Religions will follow.

Speaking at the Parliament a hundred years ago, Swami Vivekananda said: "We accept all Religions to be True. The Christian is not to become a Hindu or a Buddhist - nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian. Each must assimilate the Spirit of the other and yet preserve his individuality and grow according to his own law of growth."

The prime cause of war and disunity is our refusal to accept the Right of other Religions to exist. Divinity is Universal. The Source being the same, the Teaching is also the same. All the Prophets have taught of the Immortality of the Soul, of Resurrection of the Spirit, of Renovation, of the Law of Cause and Effect based on the Principle of Duality, etc. **As every Religion teaches the same Truth and reflects one prismatic colour of His manifold existence, the only difference among these Religions lies in expressing this Universal Truth by way of different practises and disciplines. Do all trees grow in the same climate and soil? No! The requirement of each is different. Similarly, our Souls require different Religions as different prescriptive medicines for the spiritual needs of each individual accordingly.** Therefore, although the teachings are identical, the practices and rituals are different. There is diversity in Nature itself. HE has willed the different religions to exist according to the diverse spiritual needs of humanity.

All Religions are established according to the will of God. At different times and in different places, when there was need for a particular group of souls to organize themselves into following certain spiritual disciplines, Prophets have manifested according to these psychological and spiritual needs. The Prophets only gathered the men who were waiting for their particular Revelation - universal yet distinct. Later, it was the imperfect followers who did not fully understand the mysteries and started conversion, disobedience and hatred.

The mandate given by all the Prophets to their disciples is to convert Evil into Good, ignorance to wisdom, unrighteousness to righteousness - NOT convert the practitioners of other Religions and thus cause them to disobey the choosing of their Immortal Soul.

The Soul being Immortal is Omniscient and chooses before birth, the parents, time of birth and Religion. One cannot change one's parents or the time of birth. The blood, the genes of the natural parents will flow in the veins throughout the life-cycle as will the astronomical signs at birth guide the destiny of that individual throughout their lifetime. Similarly, it is the divine duty of each individual to obey the dictate of the Omniscient Soul and practise the Religion which is endowed at birth. **The voice of God resides in our Soul, not in our Mind which is imperfect. Therefore, the mind must obey the dictate of the soul and follow the Religion bestowed at**

birth. The act of choosing is dual. The mind chooses between good and evil in every thought, word and deed during Earth-life but the Soul chooses before birth, the parents, time and Religion to be born into.

Unless a person is converted from WITHIN, unless a person leaves evil and chooses good, will it help that person to attain spiritual enlightenment by changing the name of the Religion he or she is bestowed at birth? Merely changing the name of the Religion does not make that individual spiritually enlightened. If the individual is not able to find wisdom from his own Religion, will she/he benefit from another's? If one is rebellious and does not like or doesn't follow the mandates of one's own, will she/he obey another's? Conversion from Religion to Religion is against Nature, against Dharma, against the dictates of the Soul.

In fact, conversion is the cause of eventual hatred and wars, as the dictate of the Soul is replaced by the choosing of the Mind which is dualistic. When the Mind is in accordance with the Soul, it stops choosing! **It is the sum of deeds and thoughts which makes a person Good or Bad - NOT the name of the Religion! All Religions teach spiritual wisdom and all are equally spiritual.**

Mahatma Gandhi has said: "All Religions are branches of the same mighty tree. But one must not change from one branch to another for the sake of expediency. By doing so, one cuts the very branch on which he sits."

Another Yogi, Coomara Swami, said: "There are many Paths that lead to the same mountain. Their differences will be more apparent the lower down we are - but they will vanish at the Peak. He who goes about looking for another Path is not climbing!"

The teachings about missionaries is misunderstood. It is a parable; a mystic teaching that the missionaries went to far off places to convert their own and others. Esoterically, it meant that these holy saints travelled far on the Path of Righteousness to convert their own *Evil* into Good. They didn't convert people from Religion to Religion but themselves and others from unrighteousness to Righteousness. The Real Conversion is Self-Conversion and converting to Righteousness.

None of the Prophets converted other believers. When Prince Sidharth became Gautama Buddha, he was Silent! The story goes that Gautama's disciple Ajatakshtu asked for advise to conquer the Vajien Kingdom and convert them to Buddhism. He was advised that as long as the Vajiens obey and respect their religion, religious institutions, priests and king, they should be left alone. It was Ashoka, Confucius and others who spread Gautama Buddha's teachings. Prophet Asho Zarathushtra did not convert people from religion to religion but preached moral conversion; converting the evil mind (vices/Angre Mainyu) into Righteousness (virtues/Spenta Mainyu). Shri Krishna, in the Bhagvad Gita, advises Arjuna to do the same. Since religion is universal, Lord Jesus Christ and Prophet Moses also, spread their particular spiritual disciplines among those who needed those particular rituals suited for the progress of their souls. The words of

Saint Paul (Corinthian - 1.17-18) that Christ sent him not to baptise them but to preach the Gospel: not with wisdom of the words,..... but to be saved by the power of God are suggestive that Saint Paul teaches the same inner conversion as the Bhagvad Gita and the Gathas of Asho Zarathushtra teach, since the power of God resides in the soul, while the wisdom of the words refer to the choosings of the dualistic mind. Hazrat Mohammed also said NOT to convert the people of the "book", meaning those who were already following a Revealed Religion. It was not the Prophets but the disciples who started conversion of others from Religion to Religion which lead to wars and bloodshed. Please remember, it is not the name of the Religion which makes a person good or bad. It is the following of any one Religious discipline which makes the person eventually a better human.

Today, we face a new and more dangerous conversion which is practised through inter-marriage. It is called "Acceptance" meaning accepting the spouse into the Religion of the partner. This of course, is asking one's partner to convert to another Faith. In this case, it also makes Religion secondary to physical love. When Religion is compromised and changed to suit Society, there is a Collision like the one we are witnessing today. When Culture and Religion are diluted or set aside, there is a phenomenal increase in the destruction of moral values.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I would like to say: to promote Peace and Brotherhood, every Religion must cooperate with and support the other Religions. Every Religion and Culture must respect the Rights of other Religions and Cultures for harmonious co-existence. This Parliament must promote Peace and Brotherhood which will be achieved NOT through science, trade or technology but through religion, by re-establishing the sanctity of marriage as a Religious Institution so that Family once again becomes the Pillar of our Society.

If Humanity wishes to progress spiritually, we must stop this Collision of Religion and Society which is self-defeating and self-destructive. Let there be PEACE! Let Society and Religion come together in harmony by respecting Universal Brotherhood and respecting all religions to be HIS manifold manifestations! When collision between religion and society stops, the spiritual development of the family of humanity will be accomplished; the Divine Will of God will be fulfilled. There will be Peace!