



# UNITY IN DIVERSITY



— Joseph T.D., Bangalore

**T**hough differing in shapes, all houses will have the SAME basic facilities—a bedroom, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen, bathroom and toilet etc. Can you say the same with regard to religions of the world? The English word ‘religion’ comes from Latin word ‘religare’, which means to re-unite. Hence, religions are the external helps in people’s effort to re-unite with God. Separation happened when people became body-conscious and began to indulge in resultant vices—lustful desire, anger, attachment, greed and ego. Re-union will happen when people revert to their original nature, manifesting Spirit’s qualities—wisdom, purity, peace, happiness, love, bliss and power. This is possible, because God the Father is the “spirit” hence, His children are also basically spirits in a costume called body. (John 4:23, 24). Therefore, it is natural for a human being to display those qualities of spirit, which is called spirituality. When one does that, he is re-united with God, which is the very purpose of religion.

Andrew Wilson, a great

scholar of our time, made a comparative study of 268 sacred texts of world religions, and produced a wonderful work entitled *World Scripture*, containing over 4,000 passages gathered from those holy books and 55 oral traditions. You will be surprised to know 80% of each scripture agree on major subjects! Let us take just one example—every one’s common concern—why is there so much injustice? Or what is the truth behind all happenings? All major religions, in one voice, proclaim the principle of cosmic justice or **THE LAW OF (Karma) CAUSATION** that a person reaps what he has sown in the past—in the immediate past or in some distant past. All happenings are like jewels strung on **THE THREAD** of a necklace—the thread called Law of *Karma*. There is definitely some cause(s) for each happening—whether visible or invisible, perceivable or imperceptible. Once convinced of this Law of *Karma*, one will naturally “take delight in the welfare of all,” which is called *sanatana dharma* or “eternal

duty”. – Gita 12:4, 20; compare Bible book of Galatians 5:22-26.

Taking the Law of *Karma* seriously means living a life of purity. This may not be so easy in this world of insanity and permissiveness. Getting the knowledge is one thing and living it out is entirely another thing. This is true even in a secular sense. That is why people, after becoming Doctors, Engineers, Advocates, Architects or Artists etc., search for a favourable environment to practise their newly acquired knowledge, and they move to an ideal location at the earliest. Similarly, can we find today an ideal location to practice spirituality with absolute clarity and also with ease? As we saw in the beginning, religions do not differ in essence.

**Hence, let us take some of the important teachings of one religion as a sample, and examine where we can find it’s clearer and more systematic expression:**

## **BIBLE AND KARMA PRINCIPLE**

Bible declares good action produces good results and bad action bad results. (Galatians 6:7; Romans 14:12; John 5:14; Mark 4:24, 25). The Brahmanism have firm belief that at the Confluence Age, with knowledge, meditation and yoga, the soul has the power and

understanding to perform the right actions, which is the foundation of the Golden Age that is to come very soon. They also present the unique concept of “number-wise” which highlights the perfect justice of God the Father—who returns in proportion to the degree of effort one puts in. His oft-quoted statement is: LET THOSE WHO CAME LAST GO FAST. The story of Sudama who gave all he had—a handful of rice—has the significance that he surrendered “body, mind and wealth” [or tan, man, dhan] to God in the confluence age and in return he received the inheritance of fruition for 21 births.

### **BIBLE ON OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

Bible says God is a person (not an omnipresent power), and resides in a particular place. (1 Kings 8:49; Matthew 6:9) and presents Him as ONE FATHER for all humanity. ALL humans are His children. (Compare Deuteronomy 10:17; Matthew 5:44; Romans 3:29) Hence “there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised.” (Colossians 3:11) And His predominant quality is benevolence. (Matthew 5:44-48; James 1:17). The Brahmakumaris teach that all humans have only One Supreme

Heavenly Father (just like there is only ONE ocean), and address Him by His most appropriate personal name with affection as SHIVA BABA, meaning our MOST BENEVOLENT FATHER. [Name has meaning only when it stems from one’s most important quality – BENEVOLENCE, as testified by Jesus himself in Luke 6:32-36] In Sanskrit SHIVA means Baba “and BABA means Father. Any one will be too delighted to hear them calling God as Sweet Shiva Baba with so much of love and power filled in, and Him addressing them as “My Sweet Children”. They who are from various religious back-grounds feel a oneness with their heavenly Father and with fellow humans—a cherished condition for which Jesus himself prayed for his followers, yet finds its fulfillment among Brahmakumaris: John 17:21.

### **BIBLE ON END OF THE AGE [OR KALIYUG]**

Bible does speak of “last days” and end of the ages (Matthew 24:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and Daniel 2:44), but does not say when. Many Christians believed it would happen in 1st Century itself. (1 Corinthians 10:11) Brahma Kumaris believe that just like in a day of 24 hours,

man passes through wakeful state, dreamy state and deep-sleep state, history too passes through similar states. History repeats itself after every 5000 years, of which the first half (2500 years = 1250 years of GOLDEN age + 1250 years of SILVER age) could be figuratively called as DAY where humans live in soul-consciousness, manifesting seven (saat) qualities (sato-pradhan living)—wisdom, purity, peace, love, happiness, bliss and power. And the other half is called NIGHT (2500 years = 1250 years of COPPER age + 1250 years of IRON age) where humans fall into body-consciousness, manifesting five vices, dreamy first, and then asleep towards righteousness and sanity as those seven qualities deteriorate to become nil (tamo= means darkness) in the end. Further it teaches that the present time is very special, it is the transitional stage (called the Confluence Age—a small period between the running Iron Age and the incoming Golden Age), and that Golden Age will become a reality here on earth very soon.

### **BIBLE ON GOD’S ORGANIZATION ON EARTH**

Interestingly, Bible also speaks of a positive

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development taking place in juxtaposition while global moral break-down reaches its climax. It simply presents the following two prophecies:

(1) There will appear, on the world scene, an organisation of “WISE VIRGINS” who will be “lamp-bearers” or spiritual guides for the whole humanity, with enough fuel-supply to accomplish the global teaching program before the destruction strikes the world (Matthew 24:3; 25:1-13),

(2) They will have their world-headquarters on a mount where they will receive spiritual feeding program from their heavenly Father (Isaiah 2:2-4).

These two prophecies fit, in principle, perfectly with the Brahma Kumaris organization, because they are internationally known for their practice of celibacy—something which Bible unequivocally commands its followers to practise (1 Corinthians 7:29), and their head office is situated on a LITERAL mount (Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India) to which people from ‘all the nations stream.’ A group of over 25,000 people from all over the world come here on rotational, stay and take in advanced spiritual feeding program for a week. FIGURATIVELY too, these people are on an exalted

mountain because of their high moral standards and purity (Psalm 73:1). The prophecy also says: “they will not take up sword against nation”—including the nation of animals. (Isaiah 2:4) This prophecy too finds its 100% fulfillment among Brahma Kumaris, because (1) they practise non-violence in all its forms (Matthew 9:13), and (2) to satisfy their sense of taste, they do not slaughter animals on the altar of greed, as they are pure vegetarians. (Philippians 3:19) Appearance of this holy people on the world scene is the result of God’s planting of a new seed, the foundation for a new tree, which would become the THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEW WORLD.

### **BIBLE ON NEW PERSONALITY**

Bible says one can “put off” old personality and “put on” the new personality as easily as one changes his cloth. (Ephesians 4:23, 24).

Brahma kumaris practises this literally. They go to the root and teach: When you change your thinking pattern, you can bring about any change. When chased by a hungry lion, your normal running speed doubles and you may even climb a thorny tree for first time. From where do you get this strength and knowledge? You sense the

need, and simply do it, because you are a child of the Almighty. This ability to bring instant change is available in the realm of spirituality too, as the above-mentioned Bible verse claims. This is exactly what Shiva Baba too says in Murli (23.10.1970): “When the Marshal says “RIGHT” soldiers turn RIGHT in one second, because he is on the battle-field. Similarly, you are at war with MAYA (the attraction of this world— you feel attracted towards false source securities such as your body, assets and relatives). You are fighting with Maya holding on Shiva Baba’s hands. *Sanskars* are our own creation, hence can be undone just like a path formed after walking over grassland disappears when we no longer walk over it. Brahma kumaris and Kumars take to heart what Baba says: “Pay constant attention to yourself as you pose for a photograph, being careful not to make any movement. Consider that your photograph is being taken at every second.” (Murli 5.11.1970) Such a care is possible because soul is superior to your senses and more powerful than any situation. (Gita 7:4; 3:43) One has to simply reclaim or re-establish mastery over his senses.

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**Reduce Multi-tasking:**

Multi-tasking is considered as a great talent – a time-saver – a sign of smartness, clever heads. Your ego gets easily fed by multi-tasking. But do you know what multi-tasking does to your mind? Mind gets stressed out, trying to manage all your sense organs – eyes, ears, hands and body in

proper synchronisation for each of your task along with your brain activity. Peace of mind is experienced where there is focus and concentration. When a single task is done peacefully with mind and brain co-ordination; that task is completed successfully and quickly when compared to three or four tasks at a time.

Take a task – Focus – Do it with full interest and attention...

Acknowledge and appreciate yourself...

Then move on to the next task...

This brings great peace of mind and other minds would love to be in your company.

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us the eye of wisdom.” The Eye of wisdom means the power of understanding. Human beings also pray, ‘Give us constant peace and happiness by giving us the knowledge’ because they are tired of searching. The more they search for peace through new inventions, the more unhappy and disquiet they become. The facilities, luxuries and comforts invented by science are increasing day-by-day, but unhappiness continues to increase many-fold.

Why does the intellect not help man at such a time? It is so because the intellect stands divorced from God. It means that there is no love for God. If there is no love for God, what happens? There will be love for Maya, the five vices.

Because of these five vices, everything has become a cause of sufferings. Sorrow comes from money, from the body; rather everything in the world is causing sorrow. This is because Maya has entered everything: everything is under the sway of five vices.

The Father assures us and says: ‘I remove this Maya from your path.’ Once Maya is removed, we’ll get happiness from wealth, from property, from the body and from the world, as the deities used to get. They were ever-healthy, ever-wealthy and ever-happy as explained by our incorporeal God Father Shiva. ●

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One can find among Brahma Kumaris organization a systematic expression of all the above mentioned Biblical concepts found SCATTERED in the Bible. So is the case with other religious texts of the world, which, as we saw in the beginning agree in essence. The more familiar one is with his religious text, the more acceptable Brahma Kumaris teachings become to him. Because all scriptures preach purity, and Brahma Kumaris practise purity.

**“If you want others to be happy, practise compassion. If you want to be happy, practise compassion.”**  
**– Dalai Lama XIV**