

TRUTH CANNOT BE BOTTLED FOREVER!

—BK Joseph, Laggere, Bangalore

Religious surveys have been consistently showing that the numbers of people who are religiously affiliated are on a steady decrease everywhere. To be worse, there is bad news from Scriptures too. For example, God of *Gita* declares: “*Devas* and great *Rishis* do not know Him” and asks everyone to renounce all their religious duties and take refuge in Him only. (*Gita* 10:2; 18:66) Bible too disdains the religious leaders. (Jeremiah 8:10, 11)

Why do scriptures, such as the *Gita* and the Bible, disapprove of religion? Because, religion has failed in its primary duty of RECONNECTING (*religare*, Latin) man with God and fellow humans; and ironically has led to numerous divisions and disunity! (For example, there are over 41000 sects in Christianity, according to *The Centre for the Study of Global Christianity*, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary). The waves of extremism, disagreements and confusion has led to divisions and

rise of different sects, with each one being more concerned about safeguarding their own identity. Religion was supposed to bring us closer to God and give rise to the feelings of love, goodwill and brotherhood. However, this is not the case because each religion comes right out and says that it is the best or the only way to God while others are inferior or should be pushed away or destroyed by force. Moreover, the prayers, rituals and offerings encourage people to seek mostly material benefits from God, thus unwittingly RECONNECTING them more and more with the materialistic world. And what is the result? “Disquiet and Disharmony.”

Religions, in general, have further distanced people from God by diluting the Law of *Karma* through their lighter view of sin and sin-atonement sacrifices. For example, though Christ had stressed non-possessiveness (Mathew 5:3), purity in thought and action (Mathew 5:8, 28) and declared some sins are unforgivable (Mathew 12:32),

his followers softened it by teaching: “Anyone who has died has been set free from sin, for the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:7, 23) This naturally makes people wonder: “If death nullifies vices, will it not do the same with virtues also?” Obviously, such teachings offer no motivation for people either to do good or to avoid sin. No wonder the Bible declares the Judiciary of all Governments (not religions) as “God’s servant on earth.” (Romans 13:1-6) Judiciary deserves this praise because it exists only to uphold the Principle of ‘Cause and Effect.’

Religion has failed in that as it has given us incomplete knowledge about the self and has created barriers on the basis of caste, creed or culture. True religion means to understand God – that there is only one Supreme Father – and to abide by His teachings. It means to understand the nature of the soul, which is to love without prejudice or bias i.e. to have the knowledge that we souls are children of one Supreme Being.

We had that awareness during the beginning of the world cycle. During the first half of world cycle characterized by Golden Age and Silver Age, man lived in a state of soul-consciousness (*atma + abhiman*), and was in perfect

harmony and unity with fellow human-beings thus reflecting all the divine qualities. As he plunged into body-consciousness (*deha + abhiman*) which characterizes the second half of the cycle, he became blind (like Dhritrashtra of Mahabharata Epic) to the truth that he is a soul: and this fathered many vices (*vikars*, deviations from being divine). The ignorance of spiritual reality led the world into a vicious cycle of hatred and prejudice (like Abhimanyu of the same Epic who knew how to enter into *chakravyuha*—the wheel-formation of the vicious Kaurava army—but did not know how to come out of it); and now the downward spiral is nearing its rock-bottom. The ancient-scholars who coined the word *swarth* (*swa* for soul + *rath* for chariot) for selfishness (which is at the root of all vices) very well knew that all the problems start when one begins to think: “I am this body,” forgetting the whole truth about himself: “I AM A SOUL and body is just my chariot or vehicle!”

However, truth cannot be bottled forever; it comes out at its own time. At the fag end of this Iron-aged World when irreligiousness is at its extreme, God Himself comes to remind us of our spiritual identity. As we

come closer to the Supreme Being, we see everyone equally with spiritual vision, we realize that we are spiritual beings temporarily residing in this material world and hence the futility of wars and quarrels. Even Science today has come out with theories on Past-Life-Regression and Near-Death experiences which tell about our eternal identity – that of a soul. Those who had Near Death Experiences and millions of people who had undergone Past Regression Therapy are now absolutely convinced that death comes to the physical body, but soul “takes new body just as a man casts off worn out clothing and takes new one.” (Gita 2:22) Consequently, they see life as an opportunity for learning and enrichment; and enjoy the unlimited blessings of putting God first in their lives.

It is the time we uplift our consciousness to a higher state of being. When the collective consciousness of people will be purified, the necessary changes will begin to manifest and this very planet will be renewed.

A **GRAND PROPHECY** is found in the Bible: “**I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.**” (Mathew 21:43) This shows God is

impartial and leaves everything to the Law of Karma. It also means that the Kingdom of God or the Paradise is open to those who re-awaken their dormant divine consciousness; who go through an inward process of spiritual transformation and share this knowledge with others. People who choose to live by God’s *Shrimat* (dictates) display ‘Kingdom Fruit’ which means:

- ▶ They view God as their KING i.e. abide by His teachings (Isaiah 2:2-4; Psalm 47:7; 22:28, and Gita 10:3, 15; 15:18),
- ▶ They esteem another subtle KING called the *Karma* Principle (that rules over all happenings), and
- ▶ They themselves become KINGS of the kingdom called their own bodies (Galatians 5:22-25, and Gita 15:9); symbolized by the popular symbol, Cross, which is made of two beams—longer beam (signifying Soul) being triumphant over the shorter beam (signifying body which is fleshly and weak—Galatians 5:16, 24).

Moreover, the context of the *Gita* 18:66 (where God asks people ‘to renounce all religious duties’) too describes the above, and further enlightens us on the

characteristics of God's people:

- ▶ They view themselves as 'an instrument' and trustees; hence do not have the diseased mental attitude that "I am the doer." (Gita 18:14, 16; compare 11:33)
- ▶ They dispassionately view every happening as one thing leading to the other (or as a Drama); hence do not interpret happenings as good or bad. (Gita 18:17)
- ▶ They worship God with whole-hearted performance of their duties and become perfect. (Gita 18:45)
- ▶ Renouncing ego, they attain 'supreme perfection' and enjoy unity with God (Gita 18:49, 50)
- ▶ They purify their intellect, mind and *sanskar*, have control over their senses, eat in moderation, are ever absorbed in *yoga* or meditation, relinquish all vices, and enjoy the REAL PEACE and "oneness with the Supreme Being." (Gita 18.51-53)
- ▶ They are even-minded towards ALL situations and ALL beings, and attain "supreme devotion." (Gita 18:54)
- ▶ They know God as a person (Gita 18:55; Compare 8:9 and 11:43 that says God is "minuter than the minutest,

yet greater than the greatest, and Ruler of the Universe"). They manifest qualities of God in their day-to-day lives and thus provide a vision of their Heavenly Father to the world.

Then God concludes: "Share this knowledge only with the worthy ones." (Gita 18:67) Hence we invite all sincere truth-seekers to examine and see for themselves whether *Brahmakumaris* have 'the Kingdom fruit' or match the above descriptions. You will find they are not only connecting themselves with God and with fellow human-beings, but they also have many other good things you would like to see in God's people. To mention a few:

- ▶ Their mantra : One God, one world family.
- ▶ Their high regard for : Sow and Reap Principle
- ▶ Their relationship : Respect
- ▶ Their way of living : Happiness
- ▶ Their hallmark : Purity
- ▶ Their religion : Peace
- ▶ Their language : Love

They have such fruits because they are directly being taught by God Himself (as promised for our time – Gita 4:7),

hence, such human souls are living a Golden-aged life, true to the meaning of *atma* (combination of a negative prefix "a" and "tamo"): "that which does not have darkness."

LET GO...

– Saanj Thimmayya,
Bangalore

I haven't stopped caring ,
Yet I may have to let go...
There is a
powerlessness,
And life just has to flow.

It's not to cut myself off,
But another I can't
control..
Incomplete though I may
be,
This hurt wont make me
whole.

The time to love is short,
The chasm in between
looks deep..
To break away and let go
My courage has to take a
leap.

So now I let go and I let
God...
Do what He wants and
wills ...
This heart has to beat on
To the day the body stills.