

MAHATMA GANDHI

**AMBASSADOR OF GOD
FOR MANKIND
IN 21st CENTURY**

BY SWAMI DWIROOPANAND
(Dr. H. K. Gandhi in past life)

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MAHATMA GANDHI –

Ambassador of God for Entire Mankind in 21st century.

By Swami Dwiroopanand

(Dr. H. K. Gandhi in past life).

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Dedicated to:

With My Respectful Namaskaras (Salutations) to :-

ALL LOVERS OF HUMANITY,
Believers or Non-believers of God,
Believers of need for Morality (Religion) in life.
Believers of noble message in Scriptures of world.

These people are :-

Scientists like **Archimedes, Aristotle, Newton,
Galileo, Louis Pasteur and
Albert Einstein etc.,**

Prophets like **Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Ram,
Krishna, Buddha and Mahavira etc.,**

Political leaders **Abraham Lincoln, John F Kennedy
like Martin Luther King (Jr.) and
Mr. Gorbachev etc.**

But this book is particularly dedicated to a super soul
of 20th century

MAHATMA GANDHI

who was an embodiment of all the beacons of
Mankind, in all the fields of Life, like politics, religions,
sociology, economics, and what not ?

- Swami Dwiroopanand

A Prayer

TO INFINITE GOD OF UNIVERSE

Oh Lord ! Almighty, Oh Lord Oh Thee,
With Folded Our Palms and Bent our Knees,
Together, Together, Together we Pray,
Shall Share, Shall Suffer, Shall Bear we stay.

You are Mountains and Trees, and Rivers and Sea,
You are Water and Land, and Air I Breath,
You are Stars and Suns and Moon I See,
You are Sky and Wind, and Rains and Zee *

You are Cows and Cattle, and Birds and Bee,
You are Plants and Flowers, and Food for Me,
I Praise Thy Glory, with Bent my Knees
Forgive me, Forgive us for Sinful Deeds.

You are Father and Mother, and Brother Oh Lord,
You are Friend and Guide, Oh Merciful God,
You are Near and Here, and There Oh Lord,
In the smile of a Child, You are Present my God.

You are TIME and SPACE, also Life and Death,
Beyond Heaven and Hell, and Mind and Brain,
I Hear, Thy Sound and Feel Thy Smell,
In Wisdom and Hearts, of Saints you Dwell.

In North and South, and West and East,
As Tao. and Buddha, and Moses and Christ,
As Krishna and Ram, and Mohammed and Me,
In Mecca, and Mithra, In Bethle, Oh Thee.

Thou Sendth Thy Message of Love and Faith,
Through Brave and Noble, Thy Sons Oh ! God,
A Message of Courage and Confidence, in Giving,
To Depressed and Needy the Joy of Being.

Thy Cross let Enrich Our Scripts and Spirits,
Thy Mercy as Conviction, and Love Divine,
Beyond Nations and Flags, and Cults and Creeds,
I Feel Thy Presence, in The Truthful Deeds.

You are Father and Mother, and Brother, and WE,
You are Friend and Guide, Oh! Graceful Shree**
I Praise thy Glory with Love Oh! God,
With Folded my Arms and Bent my Knees,

**Together, Together, Together I Pray,
Shall Share, Shall Suffer, with Joy, I Say.**

=====

* Zee = Zero

**Shree = Money, Wealth.

I got Divine inspirations to write this in 1983, when I was in bed and recovering from an attack of hemiplegia. It covers the theme of all Hindu Upanishads. To write such a poetry in a foreign language is difficult. It is not possible without Divine Grace of Lord.

Blessings

Dr. Gandhi practiced medicine in Naroda, Ahmedabad, for many years. Since last ten years he is staying in U. S. A. with his children.

He attended religious talks, contacted many saints, read Western and Eastern philosophers and religious books. I have noted one important aspect of his nature. He will always try to reach the bottom of the subject, he will get interested into. He will prepare notes, graphs and will try to summarize the subject into few lines and one or two charts.

Recently he has come out in field of religious philosophy and literature with the extract of his deep study, original thoughts, which he tries to correlate them with Science.

A mystic type of religious philosophy has been spread in India. There is more mythology and imagination. There is neglect of practical problems in daily life. This has made us poor, ignorant and illiterate. We are worshipping immortal, Hippocratic individuals instead of God.

Dr. Gandhi is not a writer of religious mythology, but has a positive and practical approach to problems in day to day life. **He has tried to link religion with science. His science does not lead to atheism, nor he ignores the element of faith (Shraddha) required in religion. *Religion is also a Science.* He has beautifully tried to intermix such diverse subjects under one dome. May it be Gita, Upanishads or any other subject. The clarity of his thinking, the truth mixed with reason, and the fearlessness in presentation are obvious to the reader.**

Some times he is a bitter and harsh in his criticism, when he is pointing red signals towards, some age old wrong beliefs, false rituals, and rigid traditions of religion. It is but natural that interested religious heads and their blind followers may start boiling with anger at such remarks.

It is good and necessary that an individual and society should be religious. But when this crosses certain limit, it leads to foolish behavior, myth propagation and fruitless imaginations. Society and individuals get misguided, live in false hopes, blind faiths and fears, and become human worshipper.

In name of religion, the wealth of people gets locked into temples and few hands, and people forget the basic issues leading to poverty, slavery and grief. People become lusterless, frustrated and inactive. They are taught to bear whatever comes as fate and fortune designed from God. This leads to stagnation, inaction and inertia. This is a painful situation, artificially, created by unwise priests in name of religion.

More and more individuals like Dr. Gandhi should come forward to catch the bull by horns. I am pleased to note that Dr. Gandhi has taken a bold, determined, useful, praiseworthy and worth welcoming step in this direction, in the interest of people and future generation.

I pray God that our society may receive more and more useful and inspiring books, booklets and literature from him.

Hari OM TAT SAT

Swami Sachchidanandji

Bhakti Niketan Ashrama. (DANTALI).

P.O.Box - 19 Petlad. Dist Kaira.

Gujarat - INDIA.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Gandhi's book, on Mahatma Gandhi and true message of Gita and Hinduism in essence, is an attempt to place before the readers an ideal of universal religion, one nation and one world. It proclaims the accepted goal of world peace, and peace of mind as well as spirit of all human beings. He has a dream and a plan which prescribes the manner and method by which an ideal religious and political system can be evolved, which will best serve the needs of mankind in the 21st century.

International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha (IGDS), proposed by Dr. Gandhi can become a world organization which will function in all walks of life, e. g., religion, politics, social and economics. The organization shall strive to bring about world peace and happiness. In this plan, the emphasis is on Gandhian philosophy - religious, political, economic and social. Dr. Gandhi has discussed with considerable success and demonstrated as to how and why it is only Gandhian philosophy which can serve as a 'light to guide and rod to check' human activities in all fields of life. I agree with Dr. Gandhi and firmly believe that Mahatma Gandhi was in stature the tallest, not only in his contemporaries, but of all the politicians of all the times. He was in stature the tallest amongst the economists and social reformers too. He was the only leader in all the fields of life who laid utmost emphasis on the practice and principles of "truth and non-violence" (Satya and Ahimsa). He not only scrupulously preached and practiced these principles, but insisted on the need of purity of means and purity of aims and goals. After his assassination in 1947, the nation became poor because there remained no leader of his stature, character, sacrifice, strength and courage, dominated by the practice of truth and non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi was the greatest leader, because he had translated in his life the following Upanishad verse.

"OM, Sarvesham Swastir Bhavatu,

Sarvesham Shantir Bhavatu;

Sharvesham Purnam Bhavatu

Sharvesham Mangalam Bhavatu."

Let good things reach everyone; Let peace remain with everyone; Let everyone become perfect in all respects; Let everyone prosper and progress."

This attitude was elaborately demonstrated by Mahatma Gandhi during his entire life, which makes him a divine incarnation. Dr. Gandhi in his book has successfully tried to prove that Mahatma Gandhi was an Avatara or incarnation of God.

Dr. Gandhi is not trying to prove the superiority of Hinduism over other religions of the world. What he propounds is that the basic principles of all the world religions and those of Hinduism are similar and identical. Therefore Sanatan-Dharma (true name of Hinduism) can become the world religion during the 21st century. IGDS is a revised version of Sanatan Dharma.

I congratulate Dr. Gandhi for his bold approach of putting forward his original ideas of one religion, one God, one state and one world, with the goal of world peace. I admire him particularly for projecting Mahatma Gandhi as an apostle of scrupulous practice of truth and non-violence, which only can achieve the goal of world peace and happiness.

I wish a long life and good health to Dr. Gandhi so that he is able to translate his dream of IGDS into a reality.

Mukundbhai. C. Trivedi

Retired Judge,

February, 18, 1992

High Court of Gujarat,

Ahmedabad.

P R E F A C E.

A western philosopher has said;

“Oh God, you give me the Serenity to understand the things that I can change; Oh God, you give me the Intellect to understand the things that I can't change, but above all give me the Wisdom to understand the difference between the two.”

If this philosopher had read the Gita he would have got his answers. In this world we see so many man made things like clothes, books, utensils, houses, furniture, temples and churches, roads and dams, cars, T.Vs and computers etc. These are non-living material things which can be valued with man made money. But there are infinite numbers of non-living things that are not man made. These are the land, water, air, light, heat or fire, sun, moon, space and millions of stars and galaxies in the universe. There are many living creatures which are also not man made; we can call all these as God made things. Similarly we have man made rules which can be changed, but the laws of mother nature are eternal, and any man cannot change them.

The above question could be answered thus. “Man can change man made laws and things, but he cannot change God made things and God made laws”. To gain this wisdom we have to understand the difference between mind and intellect. Science roots from the intellect. A scientist tries to discover the laws of mother nature governing non-living objects. But he fails to appreciate the invisible eternal laws of God that govern all material objects (Jad) and all living creatures (Chetan) in an uniform manner. Real wisdom

comes after this understanding. Then the seeker feels the presence of God at all places.

A man of highest military power (or a king) cannot change the laws of mother nature (God). But any average man can change king's laws or man made things. In same way our constitutions, social customs and wrong religious beliefs can also be changed.

I always felt that politics and religion are not separate subjects. The chapters in this book were written as short essays, whenever a thought came to mind. Hence there is repetition of some ideas in different chapters. Some essays were published in the community magazines in USA. The last chapters were completed only recently. I had criticism but no positive suggestions or a way out. The idea of International Gandhi Gita Dharma Sangha came like a flash and I wrote it down as a plan. This book is the nectar I have extracted after churning the ocean (*Samudra Manthan*) of world's religious scriptures.

There is frustrating degree of corruption in India in political and religious fields. People remain poor beggars when this goes on for a long time. After the Puranic period (last 2000 years) the Sanskrit language was a monopoly language of the class-Brahmins only. No other class could study, read or speak Sanskrit. It was a religious taboo. Commandments like "cut the tongue of a Shudra if he spoke the Veda Mantras", were issued by later Jagat Gurus and Shankracharyas. After the country's independence in 1947, the socialistic ideology of Nehru dynasty has made India a poor country today. During last 40 years, the Swamis promising Moksha in next life (not in this life) have constructed palatial temples and about 2500 Asharamas around Haridwara alone. The advise of ancient

Rishies of giving education (Gyana Dana), to poor students in backward areas was forgotten by these Gurus.

In every century a few great personalities are born in India who revive the faith and revise the golden heritage of the Gita and Upanishads. Mahatma Gandhi was such a personality. Gita proclaims freedom of speech as God given human right. Gita has remained an ever burning torch of spiritual light during all the past centuries. Four great Acharyas wrote commentaries on the Gita and started their schools of philosophies during last 13 centuries. But their noble preaching turned into temples of idol worship and estates of selfish, uneducated priests which gave them hereditary rights and ownership of the temples.

Freedom of speech is important human right in a democracy. There is still a grain of democracy in India. In two chapters I have given my observations on the policies of Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi with due respect. This is my Dharma or moral duty. Criticism without positive suggestions is of no use. So in one chapter I have given a few suggestions according to my ability and beliefs for the changes needed in the constitution of India. I feel that such changes should be done in the constitution at the earliest. Gita, Ramayana and Mahabharata had all the answers for an ideal political system. There was no need for Nehru to look at foreign countries like Russia for political and economic guidelines.

India today is economically a slave country dictated by the rich countries like Japan and America. In one chapter, I have compared the progress of India and Japan during last 40 years. I am a medical doctor. I have given my diagnosis of the disease, suggested a few palliative measures and suggested a radical

operation - the step of decentralization of political and economic power. These sound economic principles come from our ancient wisdom which apply to any country or a kingdom. A learned reader may not agree on so many points. But I am sure, this book will trigger a wave of new thoughts and indicate a direction to those who love our culture, know the message of the Gita, respect Gandhiji, and love our great heritage and mother-land India.

Like so many foreigners and some Indian scholars, I have equated Gandhiji with Jesus Christ and the founders of world religions. He was a Vibhooti, an Avtara or an incarnation, a messenger, a Tirthankara, a prophet- whatever we call him. Hindus do not believe in human worship or idol worship, but believe in worship of natural elements like the sun, the water, the land, the air, and Yoga and Vedanta teach us to find relationship of these things with body (self). Hindus believe in Ved-worship and Avatars or Vibhooties. Men knowing SPACE, TIME, (ATMA) SELF and morals are called Vibhooties.

There is a permanent way of searching God in India since ages. Who am I in this endless UNIVERSE ? Hinduism possesses an unique literature on this subject of SELF. Self-study (Atma-Gyana or Atma-Bodha) is an old time tested science, which leads to conviction about one supreme being, a perfect maker of this wonderful universe.

Today I am a semi-retired (Vanprasthi). One of my foot is in family and the other is in grave. I search for answers to India's problems from recent historic events and our ancient heritage; and not from the political systems and ideologies of the West. I was not active either in political or religious fields during the years of my

medical practice. Today, I am happy in USA but unhappy looking at the down going economic trends of India. What factors have brought us to the present political and economic slavery from the freedom that we fought for and gained, is my search.

I appeal to all true Hindus and lovers of Gita and Gandhiji. Let us start an International Gandhi Gita Dharma Sangha (IDGS). It will uplift the morals of people and give them new hope and courage. I invite open minded talented people of all religions and countries to form a federation of world religions like the political body UNO. By understanding, adopting and propagating the political views of Gandhi and equality of all humans as preached in the Gita, such a dream is fairly possible by the end of this 20th century. If this book ignites a spark of new thoughts in the minds of all teachers, politicians, scientists, thinkers and industrialists, I think this effort on my last 68th birthday will not be wasted. I am an optimist and see a kingdom of God on the golden dawn of the 21st century.

I offer my Namaskars to Rev. Swami Shri Chinmayanandji and Swami Shri Sacchidanandji of Gujarat, who have inspired me towards the study of Gita. I thank Prof. D. N. Pathak of Ahmedabad, and Mr. Mukundbhai C. Trivedi, retired Judge, High Court of Gujarat, who read the manuscript of this book in very short time and wrote encouraging words for me. I express my sincere thanks to Prof. Ketu Jagatiyani (Ex-Prof. of Physics at different colleges in Gujarat and Delhi), and my friend Dr. Jayant N. Shah of Ahmedabad who helped me in correcting the manuscript and gave me new thoughts. Prof. Ketu Jagatiyani is 78 today, and I wish him a long

and healthy life. I also thank Mr. Rasik Thaker of Suramya Press and his devoted son Mr. Kiran Thaker and the staff. I thank Kirit, Bharat and Rohit Patel of Krishna Printers, Naroda for printing this book in short time. **Date: Feb. 25, 1992.**

Swami Dwiroopanand (Dr. H. K. Gandhi in past life)

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A word about Dr. Gandhi's Publications

Publications of Dr. Gandhi H. K. are usually not sold in book stores. They are meant for propagation of moral, ethical and inspiring religious thoughts of world literature, thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and true message of Gita.

The books of Dr Gandhi are available from Adhyatma Vignan Prakashan in India at present at Naroda Office.

If service organizations like Rotaries, Lions Clubs and others social organizations in USA want these books for their fund raising activities they will be available lower price.

Contact Dr Gandhi at Email Add dwiroop@yahoo.com.

Adhyatma Vignan Prakashan donates 100% of its profits for education and medical aid activities in villages of India.

Vinod Bhatt

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1. THE IMMORTAL SOUL - MAHATMA GANDHI

Mrutor Mam Amrutam Gamaya

"Give me immortality by my death"

Janma Karma Ch me divyam

Evam Yo Vetthi tatvataha-

Tyaktwa deham Punarjanamam

Naiti Mamaiti Sorjunaha

Gita IV - 9

Lord says " Oh Arjuna, one who knows with conviction that his birth (as human) is divine and he has to do divine deeds, does not get rebirth after his death, and his liberated soul merges with me."

The same theme is expressed by Saint Kabir in simple words.

"Jab tu Ayo jagatme, lok hase tu roye,

Karni aisi kar chalo, tu hase jag roy."

"When you were born, you were crying and people round about were laughing. You do such deeds in life that when you die, you are smiling and millions are crying." Many people should mourn your death.

The difference between average person and a great soul (Mahatma) is this. Greatness does not come by birth alone. It

comes only by doing many good deeds (Karmas). When such a person dies people remember him for the good deeds done by such a great soul. His life is full of struggle and hardships (Tapashcharyas), Success never comes without hardships. Life of Mahatma Gandhi was full of such struggles and hardships. The most important part of any great soul's life is his death event. How he dies, decides his divinity and greatness. He was assassinated by a Hindu, a man of his own religion.

All great souls die the death of a martyr in a particular field. The Upanishad 'Mantra' quoted above, "*Mrutor mam Amrutam gamaya*" is a prayer to Lord. It says "Oh Lord, give me such a death of a martyr, so that I become immortal".

As long as a person is living he can make mistakes and blunders. To err is human but to forgive is divine. It is only after the death that we can evaluate any great man's life. Immortality does not come only by living a life of material achievements in a particular field, but it comes by the manner of death also.

Greatness of a person is judged by the obituary a man receives after death. The path of God and religion is not a well paved highway. It is a path of a martyr's death. Mahatma Gandhiji knew his death was near. Yet he was not afraid of it. Ten days prior to his death he had given an indication about his death to Manuben Gandhi, his grand daughter.

Nearly three thousand messages of condolences of famous worldly personalities were received by the Government of India after the death of Mahatma Gandhi. A few samples are presented here.

Mahatma Gandhi was not the head of a country, a renounced scientist, or a great priest of any religion. Yet, the United Nations lowered its flag, and the Security Council interrupted its deliberations.

The British delegate Philip Noel Baker lauded Gandhiji as "Friend of the poorest, the loneliest and lost; His greatest achievements are still to come. We will watch it in the forth coming century." The movie "Gandhi" by Richard Attenborough has played an important role in bringing to light the life of Mahatma Gandhi. US Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg said, "Gandhi made humility and truth more powerful than Empires". Sir Strafford Cripps, once the chief of a British delegation to India declared, "I know no other man of any time or indeed in recent history, who so forcefully and convincingly demonstrated the power of spirit over material things". General George C. Marshall - the US Secretary of States trying to explain the world's bereavement said, "Mahatma Gandhi was the spokesman for the conscience of entire mankind".

Leon Bloom - a French Socialist wrote, "I never saw Gandhi, I do not know his language, I never set my foot in his country; yet I feel the same sorrow as if I had lost someone near and dear. The whole world has been plunged into mourning by the death of this extraordinary man". The great Scientist Albert Einstein wrote, "Generations to come will hardly believe that such a man in flesh and blood ever walked on our globe earth". The British paper Guardian wrote "Only a country like India and a religion like Hinduism can give the world a man like Gandhi".

Pope Pious, the Dalai Lama of Tibet, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi of London, the King of England, President Truman, Chiang Kai-Shek, the President of France, and the political heads of all important countries of the world except Russia expressed their grief at Gandhi's death.

Pearl S. Buck, the famous novelist described Gandhi's assassination as 'another crucifixion.' Sir Hartley Shawcross, the British Attorney General said in minimum words, 'Mr. Gandhi was the most remarkable man of this century.'

The news were relayed to the country and the world by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in these words. "The light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere. Our beloved leader, Bapu as we call him, the father of our nation is no more with us. Perhaps I am wrong to say that. For the light that shone in this country was no ordinary light. The light will illuminate this country and the world for many more years; and a thousand years later that light will be seen in this country and the world will see it, and it will give solace to innumerable hearts."

These are only a few sentences of great personalities of the world who knew Gandhiji, his life's achievement and his method of leading the struggle of independence of India, but above all his unshakable faith in God and truth.

Four thousand soldiers, one thousand airman, a thousand policemen and one hundred sailors in varicolored uniforms and head-dress, marched in front of and after the bier.

After partition of India, communal riots between Hindus and Muslims had started. They were based upon political and religious hatred.

Mahatma Gandhi was trying to bring about harmony and religious tolerance between Hindus and Muslims. But on 30th, Jan, 1948, he was killed by bullets of a fanatic Hindu belonging to a political party called Hindu Mahasabha which did not like Gandhiji's broad minded religious views, and political principles.

When the final fire rituals were performed, the voices of millions of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsies and Anglo-Indians mingled in loud shouts of "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai". (Long live Mahatma Gandhi). Three Dakota Aircrafts showered countless petals of roses. Gandhi's material body vanished. But his soul and message is still alive.

SALUTATIONS TO MAHATMA GANDHI

Someone is coming and some one is going,
Someone is waking and someone is sleeping,
Someone is standing and someone is running,
Someone is leading and someone is following.

Someone is wedding and someone is separating,
Someone is laughing and someone is crying,
Someone is barking and someone is singing,
Someone is jumping and someone is stumbling.

Someone is blue and someone so red,
Someone is green and someone so pale,
Someone is strong and someone is weak,
Someone is bitter and someone so sweet.

Amazed with wonder I watch this sight,
A non-stop traveler, day and night,
Rabbits are running and deer are dancing,
Birds are singing and the church bells ringing.

I search Thee Oh Lord, and the mystery of Thy joy,
My death is near shall I see Thee Oh God?
Thy Light if seen and ignorance if gone,
Then fear is over, and courage is born.

Few only know what really they need,
The wise only know what one should seek,
No human can give everything people want,
Only few are conscious of the gifts they have got.

Why men are morose and think of dying,
They know not the limits where eagles are flying,
Why few are blissful and millions so sad,
They know not in fact the Beginning or the End.

I dream of that day when everyone is in cheers,
No worries, no hunger, no guns, no fears,
No one is crying and the youth is dancing
And everyone is singing the song of living.

HE gives with faith and courage and vows,
With love divine, no hate for foes,
When forgiveness of Christ pervades every soul.
A girl can say, she has definite goals.

From hell who came and to heaven who went,
Every born has to die the Gita has said,
Few prophets like Jesus and man like Gandhi,
Few scientists and seers are the Immortal souls.

OM Shantihi Shantihi Shantihi. Let Peace Prevail Let
Peace Prevail Let Peace Prevail.

2. THE GOLDEN DAWN OF 21ST CENTURY

Thank God, the third world war of the 20th century in the Gulf is over. The lesson of this war is that the democratic values, scientific and technological achievements have prevailed and remained the decisive factors in ending the war. The people of the world watched this war live on TV screens everyday. The destructive powers of science were seen in thermal guided missiles and thousands of Sorties of American war planes and attacks by Russian made Scud missiles. If we don't want to see such scenes of mass destruction in future, we should stop the production of all weapons of mass destruction. This goal must be achieved by 2000 AD The world events suggest that such thoughts have gripped the minds of leading politicians. The TNT bomb was invented to break the mountains, but it was used to kill human beings in the wars. Moved by this outcome, its inventor had started the Nobel prizes. The political leader of Russia, Mr. Gorbachove received this prize in 1991. A ray of rosy light and golden era of peace is visible on the horizon of the 21st century.

Science is like a two edged sword. Its one edge produces weapons of mass destruction. There is a second positive edge of this sword. In the 20th century science gave us many useful inventions like computers, tele-communication devices, telephones, satellites airplanes, cars, trains etc. We see here the positive side of science. The use of destructive powers of Laser rays in medical field proved to be a blessing for patients suffering from cancer and eye

diseases. Such discoveries of science have turned earth into a small village worth living in. Today radios, VCRs and T.Vs show us live events occurring in any distant corner of the world. The quick transport of the wounded and the sick from the battle field to distant hospitals has saved many lives. Such tools of science should be shared in the spirit of giving the benefits of scientific knowledge to the whole world, so that all individuals and all nations live in peace and happiness.

Propaganda of humanitarian uses of science is possible by the understanding of one infinite God of universe. His mercy and the eternal principles of love, morality and religion are preached in Sanatan Dharma. If the good side of religion and God is forgotten in the euphoria of victory and egoism of scientific achievements, it will usher in another world war. In order to understand the principles of Sanatana Dharma, let us take a quick glance at the history of world religions and the rise and fall of great empires.

Political ambitions of individuals like Alexander, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin and others were responsible for the bloody wars in past centuries. In this century alone, we have witnessed three world wars. Neglect of religion by the Romans was responsible for the fall of the Roman Empire in the 4th century AD. It led to the dark ages in Europe. Nearly five hundred years after Christ, in the 5th century, the Vatican Church was established. Religion came forward to protect people from the tyranny of evil minded rulers. But in the course of a few centuries the Church itself became a rigid empire. Science was neglected by the orthodox church until the 16th century. Men like Galileo were punished by the church for asserting that the earth is a round globe and that Rome was not the center of

the Universe. Poverty and anarchy were rampant in Europe. Freedom loving people of Europe started immigrating to the newly discovered land of America and have continued to do so during the last four centuries. Great progress of science has taken place in this free land. The American people fought against the royal dynasty of Britain and the orthodox church of Rome. The Protestant division of Christianity gained great momentum in this land of liberty and freedom.

Periods of peace and war alternate like seasons. When winter is over, spring follows and brings new leaves and flowers. The fruits come in autumn. When spring and autumn are over, hot winds of summer blow and the leaves 'Fall' on the ground, and cold winter sets in. But there is another spring and new leaves and fruits are again seen on trees. This cycle goes on. In the same way periods of war and peace come and go like alternate seasons. Peace and war appear like the design of God. Old leaders die or are pushed out, and new leaders are born who decide whether to wage war or to have peace.

Prevention of big wars is in the hands of the leaders and not average people. Only leaders (Ganapaties) can stop wars. They can cut down the frequency of wars and increase the periods of peace. It is possible to bring lasting peace and usher in a golden era of happiness for mankind and future generations in the 21st century by sharing achievements of science and correctly understanding of the eternal (Sanatan) religious principles and God. The West will have to look towards the East for many noble thoughts in politics, religion and spirituality.

There are three root causes of great international wars or even little family quarrels. These are beautifully expressed in a Gujarati proverb.

"Jar, Jamin ane Joru, te Kajiyana Chhoru."

Money, land and woman (wife) are the causes of all quarrels and conflicts.

History of all major wars proves the truth of the above proverb. Sanatan Dharma teaches correct attitudes towards these three things. Religion is a science which teaches us good manners and correct attitudes towards material things. Any true and eternal religion must preach equality and respect for all beings and all creations. The story of secular (prophet started) religions indicate one common thing. In the course of time wrong and fanatic beliefs get introduced in these religions. Then the religious priests become the root causes of hatred, and fights and wars. Mohammed has rightly said that "No human can ever be God. A human being can never be worshipped as God."

Greed of money, false religious beliefs and wrong political systems are the causes of big wars in history. After the 7th century AD the crusaders of Islam were responsible for innumerable wars that occurred between the 8th and the 18th centuries. Such religious wars were called 'Jihads'. They were waged in the name of religion and for the expansion and propagation of Islam. The message of peace and brotherhood preached by Mohammed in Koran was forgotten by the short sighted ambitious political leaders. The word Islam means peace. It also means surrender to God or mother nature's laws (Niyamas of Prakruti) as laid down in Koran.

In the last Gulf war we observed that the greed of political power and egocentric ambition of only one man, Saddam Hussain, was responsible for the invasion of Kuwait. He violated the noble spirit of Islam by invading and enslaving another Islamic country for territorial and economic gains only. UNO played its best role of a 'federal world government' in this war. The manner in which American president, George Bush handled Iraq-Kuwait or Saddam - Bush war on the political and military fronts has given us faith in a good political system and achievements of science and technology.

Sanatana Dharma declares "**Satyamave Jayate. Truth only wins**". God is truth. God prevailed and this military dictator was punished for his sins to some extent. But in spite of the surrender, real peace for the people in this region has not emerged. He is still in a commanding position. There are many political issues and problems in the Middle East due to the ignorance of the leaders about the true meaning of religion. They do not know what is an ideal political system. They also do not know what are the duties of the head of a state. The religious priests of Islam are not interested in true world peace, but are only interested in local politics and strengthening their position. They have no knowledge of science, nor are they aware of the changing world trends in different political ideologies.

Scriptures of western religions like, the Bible or the Koran do not give clear cut guidelines on such points. Sanatan Dharma, as preached in the Gita clearly indicates the duties [Dharma] of able and leading people in such matters. The Gita provides guidelines as to when wars must be fought. Gita declares that God's messiahs come in different lands to punish the wrong doers and re-establish

the moral values. "***Sambhavami Yuge Yuge***". I take birth in every era to re-establish the moral values.

Mahatma Gandhi of India was a divinely inspired noble leader or a political saint [Rajarshi]. He lived by the scriptural guidelines indicated in the Gita and brought freedom to India. He had said that **"borders of all small or big countries should be decided by the spoken language, culture and the historic background of the people staying in that region"**. He was an advocate of village autonomy and individual liberty. His political and religious thoughts are worth studying by all political leaders. They are like eternal guidelines for all nations. We are witnessing the foresighted vision of Mahatma Gandhi in the recent events in Russia. The fall of the communist party in Russia, the disruption of USSR and declaration of independence by various linguistic and cultural units of Russia was due to a wrong political system of communism and the suppression of religious freedom in the land.

Religion, pure in itself has no national limits. It is a wonderful humanity binding force. Religious priests are like brakes and steering wheels of cars. In socio-political and economic systems and problems of people they play this role. But when they themselves sit in the driver's seat, as was done by the Vatican Church, the engine and wheels [people and rulers] stop functioning. Only brakes and steering cannot run the car. The car either stops or runs without aim or any direction. We saw this in rule of Khomeini in Iran. Political and religious leaders in a country must function like checks and counter-checks. When one misleads the people, the other should come forward and show the correct path without fear, and even if their high positions are jeopardized.

The message of peace, love, brotherhood and humanity is uniform in all holy books like the Bible, the Koran and the Gita. There is one God and we human beings, male and female, are His children created, nourished and destroyed in a perfect and equal manner. God can be realized by meditation of Self. The Sanskrit word for Self is Atma. Scriptures of this kind are a specialty of all Eastern religions. Self study is taught as eight steps of Patanjali's Raja Yoga. One has to think about his/her own birth, existence and death. Mother nature governs us in a fair and just manner. We are a global family. We are brothers and sisters. Then why do we fight and wage wars in the name of God, land, religious beliefs or other issues of material wealth? The land belongs to God. Jerusalem or Mecca, Benares or Ayodhya are not the only holy places on the globe. Otherwise the statement in scriptures like "God is omnipresent" would appear false. He is present at all places and at all times. All places are holy. Land and temple cannot be the property of one person, or a group of persons. It is time that open minded thinkers, priests and politicians come forward to study the good thoughts of great leaders like Gandhi and the holy scriptures of the Eastern religions. Here are few thoughts from Gita and a few suggestions from Gandhiji.

How can we bring a golden era of peace in the 21st century.

1. All leading countries should stop, immediately, the production and sale of weapons of mass destruction.
2. UNO should put forth a world currency. The currency of all member countries should be linked to it.

3. A peace keeping army of UNO, financed 50% by UNO and 50% by the warring countries be maintained at all disputed borders.

4. The number of men in army and weapons in a country should be decided by the defense requirements of the land and supervised by UNO.

5. Tourists, journalists and men of knowledge of one country should be allowed to enter any country, treated as welcome guests of UNO and respected by the people and the state.

6. All nations should declare that all religions are equal. All countries must give special protection to religious properties and allow harmless method of worship of all religions.

7. Freedom of speech, press and broadcasting must remain with the people and private organizations in all countries at all times and never with the governments.

8. Frequent inter-religious debates should be encouraged by all countries and newer systems of trade and free education be developed.

9. Education and medical help must be the most important activity of any religious community besides prayers and rituals.

10. Some Indian teachers and scholars are great advocates of idol worship. They call it is a science. Such declarations are totally wrong according to the Gita. The Gita preaches one God philosophy and shows different paths of identifying Self with one God.

11. Gandhi Gita Dharma Sangha is a new concept and a new theme. It will meet the spiritual as well as material aspirations and requirements of all the classes and different levels of people.

If the above mentioned suggestions are implemented, people in different lands will become happy and prosperous in a short time and a Golden dawn of peace and prosperity will appear on the horizon of the 21st century.

May God Bless the souls of all departed soldiers in the last war of Gulf.

May God Bless America, India and all the world countries including the people of Iraq, Iran and USSR

May God give us noble political leaders like Mr.Gorbachov, George Bush and Yelstin and religious leaders like Mahatma Gandhi in 21st century.

Om Shantihi, Shantihi, Shantihi.

Let peace prevail, let peace prevail, let peace prevail.

3. THE DARK AGES OF INDIA

Apujaya yatra pujoyante, pujoyanam ch vyatikramah

Trair gatih bhavanti tatra, durbhikshyam maranam bhayam.

"Where unwise (fools) are respected and wise are not (respected), three things happen in that land. People suffer from hunger, die due to famines, and live in fears and worries". The causes of poverty and dark periods in a country are expressed beautifully in the above Sanskrit verse.

The dark ages in India had started after the 11th century AD. Many Muslim kings ruled and robbed India until the 17th century. Then came the British rule for the next 190 years. Politically India remained a slave country until 1947. Freedom of India is only 40 years old. Yet the dark days of India are not over because the people of India have forgotten the above verse. She has foreign debts and needs a good political system and an ideal religious organization.

Four eternal (Sanatana) causes of unhappiness (Dukkhas) are indicated in Gita.

Janma, Mrutyu, Jara, Vyadhi, dukkha doshanu darshanm.
Gita Ch.13.

Birth in a poor lower class family, death, old age and diseases are the universal causes of unhappiness.

Lord Buddha added two more causes to this list. 'Viyoga' (separation) of loved ones and 'Yoga' (meeting) of disliked things and people. After 2500 years we can also add two more causes of unhappiness. Poverty and political slavery. National freedom is important for removal of poverty. Individual's liberation from all material bondage is called Moksha in scriptures. It is a great factor for true mental peace and eternal happiness.

In Vedic times fearless, simple living Brahmins guided the kings in political matters and people on social issues. Vedas declare that there is one all pervading Spirit (Brahman) in all creations, plants, animals and human beings. There was a golden era in India after Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavira who lived during the 6th century BC They organized ancient religions, removed wrong practices of Vedic rituals of fire sacrifices (Yagnas) and prevented killing of animals. India was at the peak of prosperity and culture for the next 1600 years, i.e. up to the 11th century AD Philosophy and noble principles of Buddhism spread in the east and the west.

Great Mohammed has started Islam in the 7th century AD in the Middle East. It also declared that there is only one God, Allah. He united different idol worshipping Arab tribes under the banner of Islam. In the 11th century, Islamic invaders came to India, robbed her temples, and established Islamic rule in Delhi. The people of India, believing in non-violence were converted to Islam by force. When we know the factors responsible for slavery and resulting poverty, then we can find out and implement the ways of eradicating them. The root causes of the dark ages of India can be studied by dividing them into two time spans; a pre-independence era of 800

years and a post-independence period of 40 years of Nehru dynasty.

The dark ages for the 800 years before independence were due to :-

1. Great stress on Ahimsa (non-violence). It was preached by Jainism and Buddhism. Ahimsa brought great peace and prosperity. But the prosperity invited foreign invaders. People could not fight and defend the gained wealth because of too much stress on non-violence. These two religions did not suggest a sound political system which could unite under one banner, the 600 million people of India speaking many different languages.

2. Knowledge and use of weapons was in the hands of the Kshatriyas, which constituted only 3% of the entire population.

3. Renunciation of material wealth and family life, to achieve Moksha (liberty) from a birth-death cycle of soul, lead to indifference towards family responsibilities (Grahastha-Dharma).

4. Egoism of great religious heritage made the Hindu priests indifferent to the growth of religions like Islam in the neighboring countries. Travel by sea was considered as a religious taboo and a social crime, even during the days of Mahatma Gandhi.

5. Knowledge of Sanskrit was denied to majority of population. Misguiding scriptural preaching by the Puranic Brahmins lead to the development of rigid caste system and untouchability. These were improperly preached and propagated in the name of religion and God.

6. Idol worship of Mahavira, Buddha, Shiva, Krishna, Ram and many Gods and Goddesses of Hindu Puranas was responsible for many religious divisions.

7. Debates by learned Acharyas about abstract and invisible God lead people nowhere, during the days of India's political slavery.

Advaita philosophy of Shankaracharya was started in the 7th century AD. He re-established the Vedic faith from the influence of atheism of Buddhism and Jainism. But he failed to remove the untouchability in the religious field. Dvaita philosophy was started by a great devotee of Ram, the Ramanujacharya and Vishistha-adwaita by the great scholar Madhvacharya. Shuddha-adwaita was the philosophy of Krishna lover Vallabhacharya. These three Acharyas lived during 12th to 15th centuries. But their views about God or religion failed to create a spirit of patriotism, remove untouchability, and bring political freedom and national unity in India. On the contrary their debates created many inter-religious conflicts and propagated idol worship. Such practices divided the people. It divided Hindus into different religious cults, sects and paths like Vaishnavas and Shaivaites, Gauda Sampradays of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, and Swami-Narayana path (Sampradaya) of Swami Sahajananda and so on. These Acharyas wrote great commentaries on Gita and gave good moral guidelines. But it was in Sanskrit language only, which the Brahmins only could understand.

Gita preaches love and equality of all human beings. But in real practice the secular religions started by (human prophets) different Acharyas increased hatred and untouchability. A wrong non-vedic

system of hereditary rights and ownership of temple property got introduced. The sons and grand sons of Brahmin Acharyas inherited the head priests positions in all rich temples. Temples neglected the education of people, which was their obligatory duty or Dharma.

In the course of time temples became royal heritage of luxurious life for the priestly families only. That suffering in life was due to Karmas and sins of past births, was preached by selfish priests. Preaching of simple living and renunciations of wealth and family life made people poor and lazy. India remained a slave country during the life span of these three great Acharyas. They never thought of political freedom of the land and individual liberty.

In the 17th century came the British rule. The Christian missionaries started schools and colleges to give education to people including the untouchables. Naturally the neglected, hated and poor untouchables got attracted to Christian faith in course of time. But as promised in the Gita by the Lord (Sambhavami Yuge Yuge), a savior of people of India came in the 20th century. His name was Mohandas K. Gandhi. He understood the true message of human equality preached in the Gita. Removal of untouchability became his life mission. He lead the political struggle of freedom in a non-violent manner and brought freedom to India in 1947. The non-violent struggle of freedom was consistent with the scriptural preaching and cultural heritage of India.

Political freedom of India is now 40 years old. Yet India has not reached the golden stage of the post-Buddha era, because the people are ignorant and live in darkness. People have forgotten the correct path preached by Lord Buddha. A small country like Japan

has made great economic progress within the last 40 years. But India was lead by Nehru (1948 to 1963) and his ambitious daughter Indira Gandhi (1966 to 1984). Nehru's ideas of socialism has made India an economically slave nation. She is still a poor country, and there is absolute darkness and vacuum of political leadership in India. Not a single leader of ability is seen in the sky of Bharata (India) today.

The root causes of post independence poverty are-

1. The first Prime Minister of India Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, in his enthusiasm for rapid progress, adopted a wrong policy of rapid industrialization on the style of five year plans of communist Russia. He started state owned giant industries and used up large balances of foreign exchange to import discarded machinery from Russia.

2. India was trying to find a suitable political system. But the rule of Nehru dynasty has made a cocktail of communism, socialism, capitalism and democracy.

3. Greed of power and unethical practices and traditions, started by Indira Gandhi were responsible for the poverty of India. Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi tried to hold political power by unfair and foul means. Indira adopted the British policy of 'divide and rule' to get votes of various castes, communities and religious sections of people by unfair means.

4. Brahmins and Gurus during these years failed to guide the politicians and the people. Instead they constructed palatial buildings and established their religious dynasties of different temples around one place, Haridwara.

5. Most Indian Swamis and Gurus are like 'frogs in a well'. They don't study other religions or other Indian languages and are not aware of the progress of science and political events taking place in the world. They criticize the achievements of science like T.V, telephone, car, airplane, computer and space satellite etc., and consider them as of material value and hence useless.

6. Guru cults or human worship injected in our minds by religious priests has made its deep impact in political field also. That the Nehru dynasty could rule a democratic India for 40 years with unethical policies is an example of human worship. Today the morale of the people of India is at its lowest ebb. People request Rajiv Gandhi's wife Sonia Gandhi, a non-Indian Italian widow to lead the country (!). India has many hidden jewels. They will come forward if proper guidance is given to the people by a new cadre of priests of 'Gandhi Gita Dharma Sangha'. This Sangha (organization) needs devoted members from the cross sections of all religions, castes and creeds.

India has a political system most suitable to its heritage and culture. What India needs today is one well organized religion, which takes into account the social, linguistic and cultural trends in the entire country and the world. A religion must be in harmony with science, culture, history and noble traditions of the land. A new religion of the above kind is fairly possible with amalgamation of political ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and the eternal truths preached in Gita, Mahabharat and Sanatana Dharma.

Here are some political views of Gandhi:

1. Gandhi believed that the geographic borders of a state or country must be determined by the 'spoken language' (Vani) and traditions of the people.

2. Gandhi used to say, "I am the only real communist in world. Communism says that land and houses belong to the state. I say that everything belongs to God. God is the final truth and much higher than any religion or state".

3. Political views of Gandhi can be had from his books like 'Hind Swarajya' (Independent India), 'Gram Swarajya' (Village Autonomy), 'Socialism of my concept' etc. His religious thoughts on Gita are called "Anasakti Yoga" and in "My religion" his views on God, Hinduism and other world religions are nicely compiled.

4. Gandhi showed the people of world a new way of fighting for basic human rights in a non-violent manner. The oppressed masses of the world can stand firm against selfish capitalist or military forces of bad rulers.

5. The system of justice must be fair, cheap and quick. The laws of land must be written in people's spoken language. The rulers must speak and understand the peoples' spoken language (Vani).

Here are some suggestions to recover from the dark ages and poverty.

1. Retired and learned people, not attached to any political party should come forward to give guidelines to people and politicians, like the Vedic Brahmins of past days. Darkness can only be removed by sun-light.

2. India need not look to the West for political systems, thoughts and ideas. Gandhiji studied Gita in great depth. He has suggested many ideas, which are suitable for the diverse problems of India. Lovers of Gandhiji have to carry forward the uncompleted mission of Gandhiji, namely removal of untouchability in all fields and establishment of equality and justice for all human beings. "All religions are equal" Gandhiji said.

3. There are many 'Acharya'-started religions or Sampradayas in India. They cannot create a spirit of national unity. But we also know that such cults and Sampradayas will exist for some time until an alternative is presented. We can end the system of priestly dynasties and heritage in all Indian Sampradayas by charity trust laws of government. The ancient system of deciding the 'Head Priest' (Maha-Acharya) by public religious debates can be implemented in modern times by publication of essays and literature by the well read priests. TV and radio seminars can also be arranged. In this way maximum number of people can hear and judge who is fit to be the head priest in a particular religious organization. A priest's son cannot inherit the wealth or the post of his father, simply by birth right.

Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha is a revised version of Indian heritage and culture, the 'Sanatan Dharma'.

Om Shantihi

Shantihi

Shantihi

Let peace prevail, Let peace prevail, Let peace prevail.

4. POLITICS AND RELIGION ARE INTERDEPENDENT TOPICS

A lame man was sitting under a tree. A blind man came there and asked him about the distance and direction of a town. The lame man said, "By this paved road the distance is 5 miles. But I know a short foot track which goes through this jungle. I am also going to that town. The distance will be only one mile". The blind man was unable to travel through the jungle. He requested the man to guide him. The lame man informed him about the infirmity of his legs. The blind man carried the lame man on his back. The lame guided the blind through the jungle. Both reached the town by the short-cut in a short time.

Priests and politicians are like these men. A politician becomes blind (Asuri) in egoism of his power without the guidance of noble priest and the good thoughts of religions don't reach people without support of a king or a state. A politician without guidance of religion is like a blind man. Such a political head creates a reign of terror and fear (Devil's rule) like that of Ravana (Ravana-Rajya). Religion without the support of a government is a cry in the wilderness.

Wars have been going on in name of religion since thousands of years in the Middle East countries and in Europe. There is a history of bloody wars between the worshippers of Shiva and Vishnu in India. Western religions like Judaism, Christianity and Islam have

failed to bring lasting peace even in the land of their origin, the Middle East. Divisions of Indian religions were responsible for the political slavery of the last 800 years. Politicians talk of “Peace through strength or power”. To some extent this is true. But real peace comes with love and self sacrifice as preached in all holy books. Removal of false religion and national egos is the first step. Atomic weapons and missiles can never bring ever lasting world peace. Eastern religions and philosophies possess a great heritage of noble guidelines in fields like politics, economics, sociology and spirituality. These thoughts must be presented in a scientific manner.

Religion and politics are two wings of a flying bird. They are two sides of the same coin. They are bound by time and place (Desh-Kala). But religions have longer life than any political system. Both are necessary for the peace, unity and integrity of a society or a country. Religion is an important factor in inter-national peace than a political system like communism or democracy. It is important for unity in family, a village or a country. Sound economics, prosperity and peace are necessary for prevention of wars. In order to appreciate relationship between politics and religions, one should study the history of world religions and the role religions have played on people’s cultures, peace, prosperity and wars. **“Raja kalasya Karanam. Yatha Raja tatha Praja”**. “The king (head of a state) decides the time (an Era). People are what the leaders make them”.

Political and religious leaders mold the minds and the fate of the people. If they think wisely, behave soberly and make right decisions people become happy. Their wrong decision lead to

poverty, unrest and wars during or after their times. The role of a priest is to guide the people and politicians on correct path. The duty (Dharma) of a government head is to protect the property of people, respect the chastity of women, encourage industries and agriculture, build dams, wells, roads, and give quick and impartial justice to people in their spoken language.

Factors that bring peace and prosperity to any country :-

- (1) Spoken language of the people. (very important factor).
- (2) Religion (not secular) in the sense of moral and obligatory duties.
- (3) Geographic conditions like rivers, mountains and natural resources.
- (4) A good political, legal and quick justice system which treats all citizens in an equal and impartial manner.
- (5) A strong army with the latest weapons to defend the national borders and a devoted and service-minded local police force to maintain law and order.
- (6) Love and respect for men of great learning like scientists, philosophers, business people and priests of all religions.

A good government is aware of people's needs and promises social security. The economics of the people and the country depend upon wise leadership. People must care for their wealth and natural resources. Religions teach us to share the gifts of God like water and the land. Freedom of trade and agriculture are also important factors, which bring prosperity.

Out of all above factors, the spoken language of the people plays the most important role. People understand the laws of the country in their spoken language only. Moral, legal or religious guidelines can only be given in the language of the people. People get a feeling of unity when leaders, either political or religious talk in their mother tongue. A spirit of brotherhood, understanding, cooperation and sacrifice develops by linguistic ties only. When a person speaking a different language is in a high political position, the ruled people feel that a foreigner is bossing over them. People having a common language remain well united as we see in small countries. Switzerland and Luxembourg in Europe are its examples. Big unions and federations having many dialects get divided in course of time. We are witnessing these trends in Europe and Russia. It will happen in India too, if English is not accepted as the national language.

Today India needs one federal or central language. It must be English and not Hindi. This may sound like a contradictory statement because English is not the mother tongue of any state in India. But if one studies the history of India, it was the English rule of last 200 years that has brought unprecedented unity in the country. All leaders could speak and understand English language. It is still politically expedient to have English as a national language. The Southern people feel, they are dominated by the Hindi speaking Northern people.

The truth of this statement is seen in the divisions in the Union of States of Soviet Russia. The same will be the fate of the Indian federation in the near future if the issue of national language is not solved wisely. Founded only on the ground of religion, the Islamic

state of Pakistan got divided after a bloody struggle by the people of Bangla Desh within a period of 20 years. The people of East Pakistan did not understand Urdu, the language of West Pakistan's military rulers. In BanglaDesh (East Pakistan), there was a powerful influence of a Nobel prize winner poet of India, Rabindranath Tagore. Iran and Iraq are fighting since centuries, though there is a common religion - Islam. But their languages and cultures are quite different. This implies that a country cannot remain united unless the culture and language of the people is the same. Today India has a common culture, but different languages. Politically united India is only possible if there is only one federal language.

A unique event occurred in Europe, Germany was divided after the 2nd world war into two countries. Different political ideologies prevailed in these areas. Communism made East Germany a poor and miserable country. People of East Germany were fleeing towards the Democratic Republic of West Germany. The man-made Berlin wall ultimately came down. A clear example of one culture and common language uniting a divided nation is seen in this event. Many examples in history point to this obvious fact. But our priests and politicians do not learn from these examples.

“The integrity of a country depends more on the spoken language (Vani) of the people and less on other factors”.

Gandhiji had a perfect vision of this fact. The formation of linguistic states in India after independence was the vision of Gandhiji. It was a correct step. But the issue of national language Hindi created many problems and issues. Unbiased observers of

the political events of the last 40 years in India will agree on this point in retrospect.

We all make mistakes (sins). The mistakes of the head of a family ruin a family and the mistakes of the head of a country ruin the country. World events and home events are not governed by doctrines of religions. They are governed by the rigid or flexible views of politicians and heads of families. The right or wrong decisions of the top leaders influence the events of the world. The correct decision by Gorbachov lead to a chain of events which has brought freedom and peace in Europe and Russia. It is time now that we unite under the banner of a Gandhi Gita Sangha, a new religio-political organization, based upon principles of Sanatan Dharma.

***“Yad yad acharati shreshtaha,
tad tad ave eetaro janaha.
Sa yat pramanam Kurute
lokaha tad anu vartate”.***

Bhagvat Gita Ch.III.V.21.

“People emulate the life style of elite and great (in family or society). They think that their behavior is ideal and worth emulating”. Parents, kings, priests, saints, politicians, rich and successful people (Siddhas) in a village or a country are the elite (Shreshta) people. People behave like sheep and goats in religious and political matters. They are lead away by views of a great political leader or the sermons of a priest from scriptures. Very few think in an independent manner.

Mistake (Sin) of one Saddam Hussain has brought disaster and a dark period for the people of Iraq. Mistakes of one Nehru and one Indira brought dark periods for the people of India. India needs to change all its ideologies in the 21st century according to the guidelines laid down by Gandhiji in politics and religious fields.

May God bless us with good intellect and noble courage.

Om Shantihi Shantihi Shantihi.

Let peace prevail, Let peace prevail, Let peace prevail

5. THE ROOTS OF CORRUPTION IN INDIA.

On Sept.-5, 1989 in a meeting of the Indian community at the Bhartiya temple, Troy, MI, USA, a member of the Indian Parliament (M.P.) Mr.Bhandariji of Bombay was pleading that corruption in India was the result of her poverty. The newly appointed Consular General of Chicago, Mr. Santoshiji had accompanied him. But Mr. Bhandari did not give a single suggestion to remove the poverty in India or eradicate the corruption. I strongly opposed his statements. I said that the poor and average people of India were more honest, more hospitable and much purer than the disciple-hunting Swamis, the rich businessmen, the family minded politicians and thousands of corrupt government officers. Recently India had to sell the country's gold to pay the interest installments of her foreign debts. India is one of the poorest countries in the world today. Why?

There is rampant corruption in government offices from the level of a peon to the Prime-Minister's level in India. After 40 years of hard earned independence, what we see today is great poverty, ignorance and corruption in religious and political fields. ADHARMA or immorality in government offices and in the temples is at its peak. The officers look upon us as if citizens are born criminals. In the western countries we are accepted as honest but if found guilty are punished without mercy. Nobody is above the laws of the land. In England or America a traffic police can issue a speeding ticket to a

prince or to the son of the President. The guilty has to attend the court and pay the fine. Cheating and hypocritical priests like Jim Baker are hand-cuffed and imprisoned for longer terms than average citizens.

In India, government officers, relatives of politicians, priests and the rich are considered to be the only right and honest persons. The laws are for the poor citizens. Ignorant people wash the feet of saffron robe wearing priests and drink that holy (or dirty) water literally. Dishonest politicians and their arrogant relatives are hailed as living angels. This is not a healthy situation either for the priests or for the leading politicians. These are flashing red signals of a forth-coming bloody revolution. We saw this in East European countries and in Russia. Statues of Stalin and Lenin have been demolished from public places. The behavior (Acharana) of priests and politicians mold the minds of people. **“Yad yad acharati shrestaha, tad tad ave itro janaha”** (Gita). People emulate the living style of the rich and the famous.

Since my retirement from medical practice in 1982, I have stayed in USA with my children. Every year in winter I used to visit India. I started reading and writing about Gita and world religions in my free time. I write on subjects like Gita and Vedanta. During the “Quit India” movement in 1942 when Gandhiji had asked the students to abandon the British schools. I sacrificed one academic year. My age was only 19. During those anti-British demonstrations, I had received a wound on my fore-head from the stick of a policeman. The scar starts throbbing, whenever I visit India and look at the condition of people and the neglect of duties (Dharma) in government offices and the nationalized banks.

Five years ago I was in an income-tax office to get a tax clearance certificate. People like me, who have Indian passports, and stay for more than 90 days, during a visit, need this certificate before leaving India. The law requires that this must be issued within 24 hours. I had some idea of the needs of officers and their peons. They purposefully delay issuing this certificate. The officer was a lady. My wife had kept aside some cosmetics to offer to her as a gift(!) if everything went smoothly. The lady officer started looking at our old files which had been already cleared. Looking at her uncooperative attitude we offered her cosmetics. She placed them in her purse without any hesitation or even a word of thanks and asked my wife about the number of 'saris' that she had brought from America. She openly demanded one foreign sari and told us that our certificate will not be ready for next 3 days because she had to study our old files. I was determined not to give her a sari and told her that I shall be coming back the next day to collect my certificate. Next day, we went at 11 a. m. and informed her about our arrival. She made us wait on a dirty wooden bench outside the office up to 2 p.m. Then it was recess time. She told us to come the next day in the evening. We had not taken our lunch. I entered her office and told her that I was going to the Commissioner of Income-tax to file a complaint. She foresaw and realized the trouble I would create and soon issued the certificate.

I am sorry to describe such personal troubles in a book about Gita, Gandhi and Dharma, but I believe that such incidences should be told to people. Politics and religion are not independent subjects. For the last forty years I have studied and analyzed the root causes of India's poverty and the factors responsible for her present

condition. My religio-political views will throw some new light on the causes of India's problems. Correct understanding of God, the real meaning of religion and an awareness of international events will bring true liberty and real prosperity to all the people of India.

We have a great heritage of religious philosophy, spirituality, culture, traditions and holy scriptures which have made us survive the political rule of two strongly proselytizing religions, namely Islam and Christianity. Indian religions have stood like a rock during the dark days of the eight centuries of political slavery. People of any other religion and culture would have vanished. This we know from the past history of the ancient civilization of many countries in the world.

Sanatana Dharma (the true name of Hinduism) has a vast literature on all subjects like politics, economics, science, philosophy, sociology etc. If these principles are implemented by our political and religious leaders, then India can still become one of the richest nations in the world. I firmly believe that most problems of our country will end by following Gandhi's views. Gandhi practiced real Karma Yoga preached in the Gita and brought freedom to our nation. Only a few thoughts from the infinite ocean of eastern wisdom and wonderful heritage are presented here.

After hearing many learned scholars of Bhagavatam, Gita, Ramayana and studying Yoga books during my life, I always felt that religious teachers either ignore the world's political events and condemn the achievements of science by labeling them as material things. Because of this neglect of science and the self-centered preaching of Gurus India has remained financially a poor and slave

nation after 40 years of independence. One should think without any bias towards any religion or any political leader. **I believe, like many, that Gandhi was a true Karma Yogi, an incarnation of God after Lord Krishna and Buddha.** Today the world knows Gandhi as a political leader only. His religious facet is less known. Gandhi lived with poor people. He said that India lives in the 700,000 villages. He had a perfect vision of the political, religious and socio-economic problems of India. But the Indian politicians, particularly Jawaharlal Nehru, neglected the principles of Gandhi. Gandhi had asked to dissolve the Congress. Nehru also neglected the poor people staying in villages of India. Gandhi's religious and political thoughts would have placed our country on level with the leading nations of the world. We can still recover and prosper if we implement Gandhi's thoughts and political ideas. After devoted study of Gita and Hindu scriptures for last the ten years, I have come to the following firm conclusions:-

1. "There is only one God"; this statement can be proved fairly in a scientific way.

2. Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism of India have a vast heritage of social, philosophical, economic, political, spiritual, and religious thoughts.

3. True world peace can come in the 21st century if an unbiased extract of these ancient literature's and thoughts is presented in a simple language.

4. Gandhi was an incarnation (Avatara) of God. His thoughts on Gita and politics indicate a new direction and

spiritual light which will benefit all religions and countries of the world, if they make an effort to emulate these thoughts.

By believing in 'Avataras', Hindus believe that the message of God comes to mankind via media of his enlightened souls (Vibhooties or Prophets) like Moses, Jesus, Buddha, Mahavira and Mohammed etc., in different lands at different times. Gandhi was such an enlightened divine soul. Such beliefs make Hinduism an open minded religion. Its scriptures get "revised periodically". Formless God and idols in the temples cannot speak. I am sure that one day India will shine a torch of spiritual light in fields like sociology, politics and economics.

May God give us courage and good intellect (Sad-Buddhi) to think open mindedly and do something for our next generation and the suffering ignorant humanity. Let us unite under one banner of international Gita-Gandhi Dharma Sangha. (IGDS). All lovers of God, Gandhi and Gita, if you like the views expressed in this book please write or contact me for more details about IGDS.

My humble Namaskaras (salutation) to God dwelling in the hearts of all readers and all human beings, and to all religious and political leaders of the world.

Om Shantihi Shantihi Shantihi

Let peace prevail Let peace prevail Let peace prevail

6. POLITICAL MISTAKES OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

“Janma, mrutu, jara, vyadhi

***dukkha doshanu darshanam”.* Gita. Ch.XIII.**

The Gita declares four causes of miseries and unhappiness (Dukkhas), namely birth, death, old age and disease. If these are not there one should be happy and joyful. But in daily life there is a fifth and important cause of ‘Dukkha’. It is called ‘poverty’. To beg for food is disgraceful for any one at any time, at any place. Great personalities come forward in all lands to liberate people from poverty and ignorance. These are the super-human souls (Vibhooties).

Poverty of an individual, a family or a country can be removed by hard work and not by chanting political slogans like ‘Mantras’ in religious rituals. Slogans like, “Remove Poverty - (*Garibi Hatavo*)” and “Remove the Classes- (*Komvad Nikalo*)” were chanted during the rule of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi for 40 years. Poverty did not decrease but instead increased. Riches come to any land by hard work, production of quality goods, devotion to duty, incentives to workers and farmers, protection of factories and business community, public property and development of public works like dams, bridges and roads. The cultural values preached by the ‘Rishies’ of the past and positive attitudes of all people play an important role in this process. Production of goods and the basic needs is not capitalism but capital creation (Laxmi worship). Its fair distribution is the duty of the state. But the people of India were

mislead by 'slogan chanting' by the politicians and the priests alike for 40 years after independence.

“Bahuratna Vasundhara”. *A land is full of some hidden jewels.*

A country is never without jewels and diamonds like sons and daughters. But people have to find them and recognize their values. The State should respect them and implement their ideas faithfully. The Gita declares this theme in different words. *Sambhavamī Yuge Yuge*. Lord says, “I take birth in every era”. Divine personalities come (are born) in every era. They liberate the people from slavery and slumber. Mahatma Gandhi, born in 1869 was such a Vibhooti or a manifestation of human divinity. He awakened sleeping souls of 700 million people of India and liberated her from slavery of 800 years. Out of dust he made us men. India became an independent country on 15th August 1947.

But within five months of independence, the Father of the nation (Gandhiji) was assassinated on Jan-30th 1948. Gandhi had declared Nehru as his political heir. But Gandhi's political ideas were neglected and forgotten by Nehru. He pursued wrong ideologies and traditions. After the death of Nehru in 1964, his daughter Indira Gandhi made even worse economic blunders. She resorted to unethical political practices to consolidate her position as Prime Minister.

Nehru had no knowledge, foresight or awareness of the needs of people staying in 700,000 villages of India. He did not know India's true culture, heritage and political guidelines given by the great Rishies. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Nehru's love affair with the Red-lady, Russia, brought out a hybrid child in

India. The ideology was named “Socialistic pattern of society”. It was a hotchpotch (Khichadi) of communism and democracy. Both these ideologies are the opposite of each other. The cocktail was not suitable for spiritual people’s minds and conditions prevailing in India during the sixties. His economic principles did not agree with the time tested guidelines given by the wise men of the past. It did not suit people’s religious beliefs and attitudes. There is an age old proverb.

“Raja Vyapari taya Praja Bhikhari”.

People become beggars when government enters in business. Poverty cannot be removed by slogans and printing weak paper currency. Production of quality goods, proper attitudes, means of transport, distribution of goods in country and stepping up exports removes poverty and brings prosperity. The urgent need of India in 1950 was food for its 700 million people, building of roads, dams, irrigation and transport. The Vedic advice of *“Annam bahu kuryat tad Vratum”* - “Grow more grains is your vow” was neglected.

Nehru started state owned big industries. He gave preference to the giant industries and not to the agriculture. Villages became poor and cities started growing without proper planning. India had to import food grains from Canada and USA under PL 480, for nearly twelve years. Foreign exchange earned was spent to purchase food for the people.

Nehru wanted to be an international hero. He adopted a wrong foreign policy of the Panchshilla doctrines (neutrality in foreign affairs) in international relations. During 1950 to 1960, the world countries were divided in two big camps. A camp of Western

countries lead by USA believing in free trade and democratic values. The second camp lead by Russia and China believing in economic principles of Karl Marx. Russia followed communism. These two camps were trying to bring smaller and developing countries under their umbrella by treaties like NATO and SEATO.

Nehru tried to create a third block of economically backward nations under the doctrine of Pancha-Shila. India whole-heartedly did not join any camp. Foreign policy of so called “neutrality” left India without powerful international friends. Pakistan had joined the American block. During Indo-China war in 1962 India had to rush to USA for military help. Then came the Indo-Pakistan war. This time America sided Pakistan. India had to rush to Russia for military help in those days. Nehru’s policy of non-alliance in international politics proved disastrous. He had also messed up the issue of Kashmir by dragging it to the United Nations in the early years of independence. It is still hanging and undecided.

Giant industries like the Bhilai project were started during Nehru rule as government enterprises. Government purchased Russia’s third-rated scrap-like machinery. No private industrialists would have purchased such junk goods. Nehru made many such mistakes. The mistakes started by Nehru are responsible for today’s poverty in India. It was neglect of sound economic principles. No business can run without some profit incentives. These giant government run industries made great losses yet they ran for years and years. They could not be closed or sold because there was no man at the top to take a bold decision.

After Nehru’s death, Lal Bahadur Shastri became Prime Minister of India in the mid-sixties. Fore-sighted Shastriji, gave India

a slogan of “Jai Javan, Jai Kisan”. “Long live our soldiers and long live our farmers”. Powerful army and rich farmers make a country prosperous. Shastriji hailed from a poor family. He was short in height but had a long foresight. He was a true believer of Gandhiji’s principles and a saint of simple life style and great honesty. He gave a correct turn to Nehru’s wrong policies. Villages were placed on a priority basis. The country started producing the needs of the army. The correct policies started by Shastriji have made India self-sufficient in food production today. But within two years Shastriji died in a mysterious way in Tashkent, Russia. He was invited for peace talks with Ahyakhan, the military president of Pakistan, after a short Indo-Pakistan war. Russian leaders always favored the "Nehru Dynasty" in India. They did not like original thinkers and independent persons as political heads in India. Big world powers are always interested in bringing men of their choice as heads in poor countries. They play an indirect role behind the scene in political affairs of all poor countries.

The revolution of Russia in the second decade of this century had killed one tyrant Czar. But one party political system of communism (beauracracy) had created a gang of Czars. The same thing has happened in India. One party rule of Indira Congress has created thousands of political dynasties of immoral politicians all over the country. Today the ideology of Marx has failed in Russia. It will also fail in China. The industries are closing and farm workers are starving. Farmers and workers cannot run international trade or business. A country must remain alert to developments in science and the changing trends of economic values in the world currency. People also need an impartial social judicial system and a sound

economic planning by the government. Production, distribution and export of 'quality and quantity' goods play a vital role in prosperity. Without exports and international trade, the riches of other lands do not come to the people of a country whose doors are closed to new tools, thoughts and developments. Wrong political policies and idealism of Nehru has ruined India. Gandhi's practical thoughts would have worked and saved India. It will save India in future also. To propagate the thoughts of Gandhi and our great scripture Gita, I have prepared a scheme. It is a non-religious non-political movement. It will educate people of all religions and politicians about the eternal truths and principles (Sanatana Siddhantas) in both these fields.

One can write a volume about the wrong decisions of Nehru and its after effects. But one positive point about Nehru must be mentioned before I conclude this chapter. He was a great lover of his country, a true patriot and lover of democratic values. Whatever little democracy seen today, is due to his love for democratic values in life. In homeopathy, drugs having effects like the disease are used to cure the disease. In the same way the mistakes in a democratic state can be cured and corrected by democratic measures only. This gives us some hope and courage and suggest measures that can increase the prosperity of India.

May God give us all the courage and wisdom to review our mistakes and change the policies started by Nehru, totally and radically.

Om Shantihi Shantihi Shantihi

Let peace prevail Let peace prevail Let peace prevail

7. THE BLUNDERS OF INDIRA GANDHI.

Jawaharlal Nehru remained the Prime Minister, uninterrupted for nearly 15 years. After his death, Lal Bahadur Shastri became the Prime Minister for about two years. He tried to give a correct turn to economic policies. But after Shastri's mysterious death, Indira Gandhi, the smart and ambitious daughter of Nehru became the Prime Minister of India in late sixties by playing a political trick. She placed an age limit for the old leaders in the Congress. Thus she prevented the able senior leaders from coming to power.

Then came the elections for the post of the President of India. Mr. Sanjiva Reddy was the official candidate of the National Congress for this post of President. Indira wanted a rubber stamp president who would endorse all her decisions as a Prime Minister. In spite of being a Prime Minister of the National Congress in Government, Indira openly supported an independent candidate Mr. V. V. Giri and got him elected. Because of this open rebellion and dishonest policies, Indira was thrown out from the National Congress.

She formed a new party and called it the real Congress. The 85 year old and strong Indian National Congress got divided into two blocks. One block was called Indira Congress (Congress I). The second was called Congress (O) or Old Congress. During Indira Gandhi's rule, slogans like "Indira is India" were chanted by puppet

president H. N. Barooa of Congress-I. Religious Gurus, since ages had indoctrinated people's mind for idolatry and this trend continued in politics too. She remained in power for next the 16 years except for a short interval of two or three years in between.

To preserve her power and position, Indira Gandhi resorted to many dishonest and wrong policies and made great economic blunders. The chaotic economic conditions in India today are the direct results of wrong policies and unethical laws passed during Indira rule. Volumes could be written about Indira Gandhi's rule. Only a few blunders are presented here in brief.

BLUNDERS OF INDIRA. (GREAT SINS OF INDIRA)

(1) Nationalization of the Banks and Insurance companies.

The greatest blunder of Indira Gandhi was “Nationalization of Indian Banks and Insurance Companies” in the late sixties. Economy of India rapidly went down hill after this step. It violated a sound economic principle stated in the scriptures. A king is a care taker and protector of people’s money and property and not a banker or businessman. The State cannot trade nor assume the role of a money lender.

Indira Gandhi took this step with a political motive of gaining economic control over the banks and financial institutions like Insurance Companies. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) became a government undertaking. Monopoly of government was established in Insurance Business and over peoples’ funds. The nationalized banks started giving irrecoverable, low interest loans to selected backward classes with the only objective of getting their votes. The funds of honest citizens in nationalized banks were used to buy

votes. This policy led to economic disaster and financial suicide for the country.

The money in banks came from hard earned deposits of average citizens and poor people. It was mis-used and mis-managed. Honest business people of sound morality lost control over the banks. An economic disease called 'inflation' entered in an invisible manner in India. We are watching the final results of 30 years of non-stop inflation today as a great economic earthquake.

With her control on bank funds, Congress-I started harvesting crops of votes and won most elections. Like God, government is also an invisible person, but a King, President or Prime minister is looked upon as a living God in any country. The person in the top chair is God or government. The decisions of the head of a government affect the whole country. The day-to-day services in all nationalized banks have deteriorated to unbelievable low level. The manners and attitudes of the peons and the clerks are frustrating for an average customer.

I narrate here my own experience. Four years ago I presented a cheque to get cash from my account. I was the only customer in the bank. Ten clerks and three peons were listening to a cricket commentary. They were clapping and making noises upon hearing the news. They were enjoying snacks with tea at 11-30 a.m., the peak banking hours. Half an hour passed. Nobody made any move to encash my cheque. I got impatient, entered the manager's office and asked for a complaint book. He apologized. The manager came out from his cabin and took care of my cheque and made the payment. The staff was looking at him and enjoying his discomfiture.

In many banks there are sudden strikes, go-slow tactics and an attitude of indifference towards customers. This is the direct result of nationalization. Socialism was introduced by Nehru; it was carried four steps ahead by Indira.

The labor laws in India which favored only the employees, were passed on the communist principles. The motive was to harvest large blocks of votes. The rent laws favor only the tenants. A house-owner cannot increase the rent nor he can evict a tenant, even if he does not pay the rent. A house once rented is lost for ever. I have suffered a loss of nearly Rs. 200,000 because of these laws at the hands of one tenant. Once employed, an employee cannot be fired for any reason. A bank manager cannot give a word of advice to a lazy, irresponsible, irregular and inefficient clerk. He cannot reprimand a watchman who is sleeping while on duty. All India Bank Employees Union has become a powerful body. It opposes introduction of computers in the banking system for the fear of lay-off and learning new methods of account keeping. A country is sure to remain poor when the achievements of science are not accepted by the people and the state. De-nationalization of giant economic organizations must be carried out at the earliest. This is just one example of the many de-centralizations that are required in the country.

(2). Centralization of political power in Delhi by Indira Gandhi.

The constitution of federal India was written after the death of Mahatma Gandhiji on Jan. 30th 1948, during 1948 to 1950. Nearly 300 subjects like, education, land laws, rent laws, etc., were

declared as absolute “State powers”. Greed of political power by Indira, led to many amendments in the constitution. It was framed by a great scholar of world constitutions, Mr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. He hailed from the lower class of untouchables.

The 41st and 42nd amendments are just a few examples. They declare that the Prime Minister, the President and governors etc. cannot be impeached. They are above the law of the country. Many state powers and subjects were shifted from the states to the center during Indira’s rule. Once a cartoon in a newspaper showed a state minister, with folded hands, asking Indiraji permission to construct rest rooms in a public garden.

Lok Sabha or the Parliament (equivalent to the Congress in America) is the supreme body in India. But unlike America the Prime Minister is the ruling head and not the President. It is a British heritage that India has received from England and it is still going on after 40 years. Big and small economic scandals were connived by Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi. Indira wanted to have complete majority of her party in the states and at the center. She wanted to give her post of Prime Ministership to her arrogant son Sanjay Gandhi. But he died in an air crash. Then she brought her elder son Rajiv Gandhi into politics. He contested from two states, U.P. and Bihar to get elected in the parliament. After the death of Indira, Rajiv became the Prime Minister in 1984. Indira loved the chair of Prime Ministership more than the country or people. She had no standards of morality. Freshly recruited Rajiv Gandhi had no vision to see the mistakes of his mother or the wrong ideologies of his grand father, Jawaharlal Nehru.

(3). Power motivated appointments of governors and chief justices.

Governors are not elected in India but appointed from Delhi without the consent of the state legislation or its people. Indira Gandhi started clever and unique tradition of appointing governors and high court judges. Fourteen major states have fourteen different languages. She would appoint governors who did not speak the language of the state they governed. A man from Bengal would be appointed in Punjab. A South Indian High court judge would be thrown in Gujarat and a Gujarati would be appointed as a governor in Madras. I do not understand the reasons of such policies and appointments. If a head of state does not know the common man's dialect, how can he understand complaints of the people. Her motive was that the local people and able leaders should not get united in any way.

(4). Declaration of a State of Emergency.

Without any obvious reasons or urgency in 1976, Indira declared a state of emergency. She placed restrictions on press and information. Freedom of speech was curtailed and a democratic India became a dictatorial state for some time. There was censorship. Divided political parties formed a united front under the leadership of a Gandhian leader, Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan. The United Janata Party defeated Indira Congress by a land slide victory. Before leaving the office of Prime Ministership she had burnt many secret files and documents.

But again she was successful in dividing the united Janata Party. A block, led by Mr. Charansing in Janata Party, proved

disloyal to the united Janata Party and joined hands with Indira Gandhi's minority group. The Janata (people) government fell. Short sighted selfish Charansing was elated to become the Prime-Minister of India. But Indira withdrew her support within six months or so. Charansing's rule came to an end. Indira congress won the next elections and she remained in power until she was assassinated by bullets of a Sikh body guard in 1984.

(5). The Narmada Dam Project.

This was a great irrigation cum electric power project for the four states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The World Bank had approved a low interest loan in the late sixties. A dispute about the height of the dam arose between the concerned states. Finally, all state ministers appointed Indira Gandhi for the final verdict about the height of the proposed dam. She wasted 14 years to decide this issue and ultimately gave up. She did not want to displease one or the other state for fear of losing her popularity and power in that state.

In other countries the heights of dams are decided by expert engineers. They take into account maximum benefits of the dam, its best location and such other details. Politicians approve the budgets and government engineers supervise the construction. Private business corporations carry out the construction of dams. Government supervises the quality of workmanship and insist on a time table. States help the process of acquisition of lands and such matters.

Whom should we consider responsible for the lost prosperity due to 14 years of delay in construction of this vital and important

dam? Today the cost of construction has tripled due to delayed decision of Indiraji alone. The Hoover Dam in America was completed before its scheduled time. An expert engineer and a practical and leading politician of Gujarat, Mr. Bhailal Patel (Bhaikaka) had suggested a practical and interim solution. "Let us start construction with a large foundation. The height could be decided later." But Indiraji was not ready to hear such positive suggestions for the fear of displeasing the ministers of other states. Food production by irrigation and self sufficiency in food matters are important for people than the material comforts brought by things like computers, cars and T.Vs. We are witnessing the results of such mistakes in our country and in other communist countries also.

Russian leader Mr. Gorbachov realized the mistakes of Lenin and Marx. He understood that the principles of economics and political system of communism were wrong. History has proved beyond doubt that the ideologies of Russia or China were wrong. Its evil fruits are seen today in east Europe's countries like Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Albania, East Germany and even Russia. There was Nehru and Indira brand of communism and socialism in India, with a facade democratic political system.

All unbiased political leaders of India should realize the mistakes of the Nehru dynasty and understand the time tested truths and guidelines given by our Rishies. In the scripture of Mahabharata, there is a beautiful chapter of 'Vidura's Raj Niti'. Morals and duties of a state and the political head are described by Vidura, a Shudra son of a maid servant.

Volumes can be written for Indira Gandhi's blunders and her greed of power at the center. Most of the state problems are local and linguistic in nature. There is always a majority of Hindi speaking states in the Parliament. It is impossible for any state to get through a bill that is against the interests of the Hindi members.

With all this criticism I must record a few good qualities of Indira Gandhi. She was a great student, a voracious reader and observer of world's political events. She indirectly helped East Pakistan to revolt against West Pakistan. There was great threat of American war ships (The seventh fleet) in the Bay of Bengal. Yet she took quick and correct decisions of military action to help the movement of freedom by the people of Bangala Desh. East Pakistan became an independent country in 1972. The strength of a trouble making Islamic country on the two wings of India was broken. But she gave up some important territories like Tharparkar near Kaccha, important positions of Kashmir, and some key positions in the Himalayas during the treaty in Simla following this war. Israel has captured Gaza strip, Golan heights and the West bank of Jordan in late sixties. She is not giving them up even under great international pressure.

The roots of poverty of India lie in wrong ideologies started by Nehru and sustained by unfair and corrupt policies of Indira and her ignorant son Rajiv Gandhi. Only Mahatma Gandhi had the true vision of a free India. He had understood people, the message of holy books and the diverse problems facing the country in 1947. Today Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts, message and views are still with us. It is never too late. If not all but many ideas of Gandhiji are Sanatana or eternal. They are like commandments of a religion.

Today India needs a completely re-written constitution on these principles. Then only all the problems of India would come to an end and real peace and progress of India will take place.

There are many wise and retired lawyers, judges, well read selfless politicians and able men and women who believe in Gandhiji's vision and thoughts. We do not need leadership of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. These learned people must come forward and write a sample copy of a new constitution after taking into consideration the current world events, the role played by religious priests, and studying the mistakes of Nehru and Indira in retrospect. This can become possible only if we unite under one banner of International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Shangha (IDGS). An outline of IDGS is given in the last chapters of this book.

May God give us courage to do something for a just cause before we die.

Om Shantihi

Shantihi

Shantihi

Let peace prevail, Let peace prevail, Let peace prevail

8. STORY OF JAPAN AND INDIA DURING LAST 40 YEARS.

“ Raja Kalasya Karanam. Yatha Raja Tatha Praja ”

A king (or a ruling head) decides the times for the people. The truth of above proverb will become evident if one studies the economic progress of India and Japan during the last forty years. Chanakya, a famous saintly advisor of King Chandragupta (4th century B.C.) believed that sound economic principles (Arthaveda) are like the spinal column or backbone of a family and a country.

Wonderful progress of Japan

In Japan presently there is a combined political system of a Royal dynasty and democracy. Buddhism is the main religion. In economic progress, Japan is at the top. In science and technology Japan has amazed all the countries. The land area of Japan is less than that of Gujarat - a medium sized state of India. Japan has no natural resources and there is no big fertile land. The country is made up of small islands, mountains and volcanoes. Japan is more thickly populated than India per-square mile population. The population of Japan is 800 people per-sq. mile compared to 450 per sq. mile in India. Japan has to import food, iron, coal and every item of basic human needs.

Moreover Japan was ruined in 1944 by two atom bombs during the 2nd world war. She is bound by some treaties also. It is not a fully independent country in certain matters like India. Yet this little Japan has shown amazing economic progress. Its top quality cars have captured the automobile market of America and world countries. In T.Vs and V.C.Rs Japan holds a monopoly in the world market. Export of such items has made Japan the 3rd richest nation. Japan is giving a tough time to a country like America in financial matters. The Yen has become a powerful world currency today. Japan contributed billions of dollars in the recent Gulf war.

Japan follows Buddhism. There is little influence of Christianity in Japan. Buddha was born in India in the 6th century BC Buddha did not talk about past lives and future births. He did not discuss there is one God or many Gods. He preached a way of moderation in life, self control, self respect and wisdom. Buddhism was practiced in India for thousands of years and that was a golden era in India, which remained till the 10th century AD Japan has accepted Buddhism and its practical philosophy for the last 1000 years. Now let us look at the economic chaotic picture in India.

A frustrating economic picture of great poverty in India.

India is 'last but one' country among the poorest nations in the world. In so called democratic India, there was an autocratic rule of Nehru dynasty. Hinduism was the major religion of the people. But divided Hinduism has failed to create a political unity or spirit of patriotism during the last 800 years.

Today in 1991, India has a huge foreign debt. She recently pledged gold to pay the interests on her foreign loans. The Indian rupee has lost 75% of its value in last one decade only. The rupee value is only 5 cents compared to its 1950 price. We used to pay 7 rupees to get one dollar in 1980. Today we pay 28 rupees to get one dollar. These hard facts of economics worry all patriotic Indians, but they do not disturb the minds of our Gurus and politicians. We have to study the factors which have brought the present economic chaos in our country.

I can reply in only one sentence. "The family centered politics, socialistic ideology of Nehru, and power greed of the 'Nehru Dynasty' and the problem of untouchability in the religious field are the major factors for the economic conditions and downfall of India." Let us review the factors which prevented the economic progress of India.

Root causes of economic poverty in India

(1) Roots of untouchability. After 7th century AD fruitless debates of one God (Adwaita) and His many forms (Dwaita) had started. Shankaracharya (7th cent AD) and other Acharyas during the 12th to 15th centuries wrote commentaries on the Gita. But knowingly or unknowingly Brahmin supremacy got re-established. Untouchability, removed by Lord Buddha and Mahavir in the earlier centuries, re-entered Hinduism and Jainism also. A theory of Karmas of previous births was preached to explain the causes of miseries and unhappiness in this birth. Birth in lower castes or female form were due to Karmas of previous births. Only Gandhi after studying the Gita recognized that this was not the truth.

(2) Religious division. The worship of idols of different mythological Gods is responsible for the divisions in Hindus. A divided religion cannot create a national spirit or a patriotic and devotional attitude in the people.

(3) Renunciation of wealth was the first step for Moksha. An allergy towards material wealth and science has been created in the minds of people by the Hindu and Jain saints. Hinduism and Jainism preach to renounce wealth and live on alms like an ascetic. This is the ideal way of life. Poverty is hailed as a virtue. Such a nation cannot dream of economic progress and will always remain poor.

In political and religious beliefs, people are generally stone-like (Jad) and ignorant (Agyaani). Priests are not interested in understanding the achievements of science or political events going on in other countries. Indian Swamis call science as materialism of the west. Only the Gita hails science. In so many verses we find such words. **“Gyanam Vigyan Sahitum”** which means knowledge and science go hand in hand. The Gita also declares equality of all human beings. Lord Buddha preached, “Live this life well with full attention to the present (Dhyana Yoga). The same soul pervades in all beings. All human beings are equal. Who knows what happens to the soul after death?

(4). Activities of religious Gurus after independence. Indian Swamis built palatial temples (Ashramas) from people’s funds. Most Ashramas are located near Haridwara, a holy place on the river Ganges. There are nearly 2500 big and small Ashramas in Haridwara alone. This place gives an impression of a religious flea market of so called spirituality. Most Ashramas are owned by Jim

Baker class of priests who visit different cities in India to raise funds. They come to America to hunt rich disciples and get dollars. These funds could have built thousands of schools and hospitals in remote villages of India. The scriptural preachings of giving education (Gyana Dana) in backward jungles (Vana-Prasthanam) was ignored by most Gurus. Religious activities were going on in a wrong direction.

(5). Centralization of Political Power. Political power got centralized in New Delhi like the religious activities in Haridwara. This happened due to the ambitions of Nehru and his daughter Indira for the Prime-Minister's post. Various amendments to a good constitution of 1947 were made. The unrest in many states today is due to the mistakes of centralization of power in New Delhi. India needs decentralization of political power from the center to the states as the first and immediate step.

(6) Neglect of practical preaching of Gita and noble preaching of Buddhism. Human beings possess a unique gift of God, intellect (Buddhi or Pragna). It is also known as fore-sight or the 3rd eye of Shiva. Lord Buddha asks us to use our intellect or discriminative ability and live an active life. We must have noble and high dreams of prosperity for the future. God helps those who help themselves is the meaning of the theory of Karmas. Beliefs of Prarabdha-ved (fate is pre-written by God) were responsible for the slow economic progress in India.

(7). Other factors responsible for poverty are:-

A. Priests praising past glory (Atit Puja), worship of mythological idols and too much stress on Guru puja. Respect for knowledge (Veda) and good-qualities (Sad-Goona) was neglected.

B. Worship of aristocratic priests and family minded politicians like Nehru, Indira and many others.

C. Neglect of science and indifference to events taking place in the neighboring countries. Political turmoil in China was ignored by Nehru. Issue of Kashmir was unnecessarily dragged to UNO. In Simla treaty Indira gave away many conquered territories to Pakistan after winning the war. Traveling by sea was considered a sin. 'Sati ritual' (widow gets burnt alive with the dead body of her husband) is even today seen in remote places and is hailed by some Jagat Gurus.

It is time that all patriotic Indians should analyze the causes and roots of the slow economic progress in India. They must also suggest some steps for economic recovery and all round progress. There was a golden era of prosperity after Buddha. Buddhism had started in the 3rd century BC We must give up false ideology of socialism and communism.

**PROPOSED REFORMS FOR INDIA'S
CONSTITUTION.**

Nindak nihare rakhia, angan kutir bichhaya,

Bin sabun bin aapase dhovat nish-din pap. (Kabir).

“Keep a critic near by and give him residence in your front yard. He will wash your sins without soap or water”. The meaning of this great verse by an illiterate Saint Kabir (12th century AD), is that criticism should be welcome.

The world has yet not found a perfect and ideal political system. Gandhi believed that culture, language, history and religion play an important role in the unity and integrity of a nation. To adopt or discard, criticize or praise this or that political system or religion is not a correct attitude. But the study of past experiences, mistakes and blunders of leaders in light of recent conditions gives some idea about the political and religious changes that are needed with passage of time. By studying different systems, one gets new thoughts to improve present political laws and steps to change the wrong economic policies. Criticism and debates on religious and political thoughts should be welcomed if they provide cause of troubles and give positive suggestions. India has many problems of diverse nature. If only a few rational changes are carried out in the constitution of India, rapid economic progress and prosperity is possible within a decade or two.

India has all the natural resources, talent and a great heritage of religious and political literature. Our politicians tell us that there is lack of national unity and integrity. I ask them a few questions. What do they mean and understand by national unity? Let any politician or even a religious Guru answer the following questions:

(1) When was India 'one and a big united country in the political sense?' Was India one country during the period of King Ashoka 300. BC or King Vikramaditya 56 BC or Prithviraj Chauhan in 1200. AD?

If one thinks of the 'British map of India' as united and one India then Burma, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Shri Lanka are the parts of 'our' India (!). Muslim invaders defeated the king of Delhi, Prithviraj in the 12th century AD He did not rule over the entire sub-continent of India. Islamic rule had started in the 12th century with the capital in Delhi.

(2). Does it mean that Delhi should always remain the capital of India?

Britishers defeated the Islamic King Shah-Alam in a battle near Delhi in 1757. In the course of two hundred years the Britishers became the care-takers of many princely states by enacting different treaties and thus became the absolute rulers of the Indian sub-continent and Burma. When the Britishers left India in 1947, there were nearly 600 small and big princely Muslim and Hindu states. The kings had an option to join either India or Pakistan or even remain independent. Even in prehistoric periods of Ramayana and Mahabharata there were more than fifteen independent kings and kingdoms. India was never a single country in the strict political

sense. But 'Sanatana Dharma' was one culture or religion in all these territories.

The people and politicians of India forget that it is a federation of different states like the United States of America. Federations start with unions of some states. More states join at later dates. Every state has its independence on so many subjects in a federation. But they have to abide by some decisions of the Federal-Head. The decisions of the federal-head (*Ganapati*) effect the economics of all states. Right or wrong decisions of the head of a family affect the family. One Bush or one Saddam Hussain decides the fate of thousands of lives and economics of the country. One Nehru, one Indira and one Rajiv took many wrong decisions, Their wrong and selfish policies have turned India into a poor nation today. It is time that Indians think with a cool mind and throw away all the wrong laws and policies started by the Nehru Dynasty. If a family cannot remain united, it is better to part, on good terms. It is time that we start thinking in terms of de-centralization of federal powers in political, industrial, business and financial matters, international relations, trade treaties and also subjects like defense policy too.

When a family grows big, brothers part and live separately. "A small family is a happy family" was a slogan of the Indian government to propagate the idea of birth control and family planning. The same slogan should work in political administration also. Is it not better to have fifteen independent countries than have a poor and chaotic federation?

We have seen Charansings and V.P.Singhs, Rajivs and Devilals fighting for the post of Prime Ministership. They do not care

what happens to the common man. We have watched many such battles during the last 40 years. Let the Nehru Dynasty end with Rajiv Gandhi's end. Let there also be an end of Nehru and Indira ideologies and their wrong policies and dirty politics. Let there be an end to single family rule and an end to idolatry in politics, sociology and religious fields.

Economic and political alliances between neighboring states will serve the needs of India better. After the experience of 40 years we have learnt that our joint family is not running smoothly. India has become poor because wealth of politicians and the rich has accumulated in the Swiss banks.

According to Gandhi, the important points which unite a country are its spoken language, cultural traditions and religion of the people. The issue of national language has always remained a debated issue before and after freedom. It is still the main cause of so many problems of India after 40 years. A few humble suggestions about improving India's constitution are presented here.

1. Issue of National Language:

Hindi became national language "Rashtra-Bhasha" in 1950, though it was not the spoken language of the majority of the people. Population of Bengal was more than that of Hindi speaking areas. Hindi was accepted as a national language because it was more wide spread in land area and also the adjacent languages of Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar etc., had many common words with Hindi. Gandhi wanted Hindustani (written in parallel scripts of Urdu and Devnagari) to become the national language. He was over-ruled by

the Nehru lobby which wanted to dominate over the southern people of Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh. After study of Gita and the events of the last four decades I say in retrospect that even Gandhi was wrong on this point. Looking to history of America it would have been a wise step to accept English as national language. The problems and unrest in the states of Punjab, Madras, Assam etc. are linguistic in nature.

In suggesting Hindustani as a national language and re-organization of administrative states on linguistic a basis, Gandhi's vision was to provide justice and administration in the spoken language of the people. There are 14 major languages in India. The step of re-organization of states on a linguistic basis was proper, but that of Hindi as a federal language by Nehru was wrong. If English was adopted as Federal language in 1950, after 40 years today the whole country would have been speaking one language. English would have been a great educating, and uniting force.

“Spoken language (Vani) roots from - OM - the holy symbol of Hindus”. Our Rishies knew this. “Vani eka samlankaroti purusham ya Sanskruta dharyate”. Good spoken language is the highest decoration of a cultured person.

Spoken language is the most important uniting force for a nation, more important than any political system or religion. When the language of the ruler and people ruled is different, people feel a sense of inferiority and slavery. They feel that a foreigner is ruling and bossing over them. People understand, think and communicate with words and language only. The benefits of science would have

reached remotest villages today, if English was accepted as the national language.

In spite of having one religion Islam, the newly formed Pakistan (originally Indian territory) got divided within 20 years after a bloody revolution. The cause was different languages spoken by its two wings. This event should be an eye opener for the politicians, particularly the politicians of the Hindi states. **History will repeat itself in India, if de-centralization of power is not done and English is not introduced as a federal language at the earliest.** Hindi may remain a state language as other states have their own languages. To impose Hindi, 'the language of so called majority' upon other states was a wrong decision and a step without foresight by the first Prime-Minister Nehru.

This is how injustice has occurred. Ninety nine percent of the posts in the Federal Government naturally get filled up by the Hindi speaking people. Many examples of Hindi dominance over non-Hindi could be given. I give only one recent example which I read in a Gujarat newspaper. **"All the 32 posts of federal high court clerks in the state of Gujarat, were filled up by Hindi speaking people only"**. Was there not a single Gujarati, knowing good Hindi fit for these posts? How long can such practices go on?. If the official language in all high courts and supreme courts was English, some Gujarat is in Gujarat high courts would have been appointed. The same situation had occurred in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The official language of United Pakistan was Urdu - the spoken language of West Pakistan. Ninety five percent of important civil and military positions were in the hands of Urdu speaking West Pakistanis. It lead to unrest and revolt in the course of time.

If the cut out map of India is placed over the map of Europe, it will cover up Europe completely. Observe how many independent countries are there in Europe. All speak different languages. America fought against Britain just like India. Yet America accepted English as national language. In 1774 free America was made up of people speaking many European languages like Spanish, German, French, Italian etc. Freedom of speech and expression of thoughts leads to development of a patriotic spirit. It does not develop without a common language. Divided Germany got re-united due to bond of common language. The military federation of Russia is showing signs of linguistic divisions. The era of a majority ruling over minority, or big states ruling over small states by military power alone is over. Without the bond of a common language, no federal union will survive or exist after 2000 AD. I foresee this in view of world events. **India will get divided into different countries in the near future if the issue of language is not tackled and handled adroitly by the politicians.**

Sometimes I feel that Gujarat is my country, and not Bharat or India. I am proud to be a Bhartiya or a Hindu because it is my culture and heritage. Only culture and religion do not make a nation. A country may be large or small but it is the spoken language of the people that unites them and gives them a sense of patriotism. Religions or even a good political system, by themselves alone cannot create a national spirit. The invasion of Islamic Kuwait by Islamic Iraq and the divisions of Islamic Pakistan within 20 years after independence, proves beyond doubt the importance of language in unifying states as compared to religion, political system and even great cultures.

2. Abolish all wrong steps and ideologies of Nehru and Indira:

All political parties must forget completely the so called socialist ideas started by Nehru and Indira Gandhi. The days of socialism and communist parties in the world are over. Communism has totally failed in Europe. If self centered Indira congress does not want to change its ideology, a new all-India party totally devoted to Gandhiji's views of Gram Swarajya and Hindi Swarajya should be formed at all levels- villages, cities and states. The main slogan of this party should be "decentralization of powers at all levels" -from center to states, from state to districts and from districts to villages. This can be achieved by starting one 'Gandhi Ashrama' in every village of India. It will take care of social justice, education and many other local socio-economic problems.

3. Fundamental human rights means Freedom of speech and press.

"Freedom of speech" is an important human right. "***Karmani ave Adhikaraste***" is a famous Gita verse. Freedom of action (speaking is action or Karma) is God given human right and the foundation stone of a democratic system. A government of the people, by the people and for the people is called Democracy. Newer ideas come through freedom of speech, press and exchange of thoughts. As an immediate step. I suggest "the department of Broadcasting and Information and TV must be liberated from government control. Private channels, like ABC and CBS as working in America can be started here and run as private enterprises".

4. Fundamental Economic Laws. Policies and Reforms.

1. De-nationalization of banks, Insurance companies and government owned big Industries like ONGC., telephone company, public broadcast, railways and state run buses. All government industries and corporations, must be changed to public and employee shared corporations.

The duty of a government (Rajya Dharma) is protection of property, supervision of honesty in business, industry and agriculture, and safeguard the interests of labor and employees. "Government should not trade or till the soil, except in an emergency". This is a time tested doctrine of Hindu scriptures. Other duties (Dharmas) of government are to provide clean water, construct wells, dams and roads, impart free education, and administer speedy and cheap justice.

5. Re-write a new constitution on French and American pattern.

A complete revision of the constitution is over due. I suggest to form an adhoc constitution assembly, made up of retired and wise people from the cross sections of business, professionals and different classes of the nation. They must be free from any political motives and interests. Only such people should re-write a sample copy of a new constitution within a fixed time frame.

Make the following important changes in the constitution of India.

1. Declare English as a federal Language.
2. Abandon the system of appointments of state governors and chief high court judges from the center. These posts should be filled

by elections from the state residents alone, and the person appointed must be a resident of that state and must be able to speak the language of that state.

3. All states should have the freedom of entering into direct business deals with foreign countries. Land acts, land acquisition laws, rent and property ceiling laws, labor laws, education system, broadcast and T.V.stations, airlines and international airports etc., etc. must always remain as state subjects.

4. Rajya Sabha, equivalent to Senate in America must be reformed having only two members per state like the USA, and having similar powers.

5. An indirect system of elections can be implemented for next ten or twenty years. This would save lot of national funds used in frequent and premature elections that we see today.

6. The system of sons of priests inheriting temple properties should be banned by the laws of States. Construction of palatial temples and Ashramas in congested places like Haridwara should be also restricted and decentralized by laws.

These are just a few suggestions I humbly offer after my study of scriptures, study of India's and America's tax laws, views of Gandhi, false policies of Nehru Dynasty, and the recent events occurring in Gulf, Europe and Russia. I can suggest many points, but I will stop here.

May God give us courage and inspiration to do something for a better life for the people of India and the whole world in 21st century. Readers who like my views, should join hands in my efforts

and activity of International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha (IGDS) movement. We can start Gandhi Halls and Ashramas at all places. Retired but active and able devotees of God and Gandhi can unite under this banner. An out line of IGDS is given in later chapters.

May God bless all ignorant people of the world, and inspire the learned, rich and able to educate them, and teach them the true meaning of religion.

OM Shantihi, OM Shantihi, OM Shantihi.

Let peace prevail, Let true knowledge prevail,

Let love for life prevail.

10. EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD

Since the dawn of civilization, mankind is trying to find an ideal political system, so that all people can live in peace and there is heaven on the earth. But it has not found a single satisfactory system so far. This ideal was reached to some extent during the time of king Dasharath and Ram in India. It was called Ram-Rajya or 'Kingdom of God'. Might is right was the rule in the past, which has not changed even today. The kingdom of 'might is right' is called a 'Ravana Rajya' or devil's rule. Wars have been going on since centuries between good rulers like Rams and egoistic rulers like Ranas.

After trials and errors and experiments of various systems, ideologies and theories, today we know a few well define political systems. The unit of human family, society or a nation is one individual (self or Atma). Individuals living under one roof make a family. Families living near by make a community or a village. Bigger villages are called cities and towns. Villages and cities in a geographic area make a country. In uniting all these people the spoken language of the people (Vani), political system, history and geographic considerations play an important role. Natural calamities like droughts and floods, teach us to share the gifts of mother nature like water, food and fertile land.

The basic need of any human being anywhere is food, water and fresh air. Primitive man was no different from an animal. He lived naked, hunted small animals and birds and ate the raw meat. Gradually he learned to cook meat with fire, eat fruits and grow food grains. He learned to tame domestic animals like cows, horses, cats and dogs. He learned the use of stones and sticks to kill the prey. He also learned to live in family groups and communities and mastered different skills. Living in community was better than living alone. This led to development of family rules. He came down from caves and mountains and built huts and villages.

Man developed agriculture by making use of animals like bulls and horses. Some discipline and laws became necessary for community and family life. It led to the development of political laws which dictated duties and punishments for criminals or sinners. It became the earliest form of tribal political system which combined religion. This political system was the earlier structure of our religions. As time passed the needs of food and water were satisfied. Mankind developed skills of weaving cloths, making utensils and bricks. Exchange of such primitive goods led to trade and business. Protection of developed goods from thieves and robbers from nearby areas became necessary. Institution of kings and warriors developed as a special class within these early civilized communities. The heads of the warriors became Kings. They dictated laws and levied taxes. This led to some discipline, noble attitudes of sharing and giving and getting mutual comforts and happiness. The higher morals of religions like forgiveness and non-violence etc., have developed much later.

Religion teaches us to sacrifice, which we call love. It teaches mutual co-operation and a sense of obligatory duties. There cannot be an ideal political system without religion, meaning in the sense of moral duties by all people. The ancient political systems developed in this manner. It led to development of the royal dynasties of local kings. Men of great knowledge and wisdom guided the kings. The sons and daughters (princes and princesses) of neighboring land areas married within their own class. In this way wars were avoided and friendly family relationships were established in larger areas of the land.

A well defined four class, job oriented kingdom had started in India. The Aryan king Manu, defined the obligatory duties (Dharmas) of the four classes of people and the men and the women. It became the first religio-political system of an ancient culture in India. Some people call this "Sanatana Dharma". But it was only a fraction of true and real Sanatana Dharma. The constitution of Manu became known as scripture of Manu-Smriti or Varna-ashrama Dharmas. With the above background we will try to have a bird's eye view of a few well defined political system in the world.

1. Varna-Ashrama Dharmas of Manu. The four class system of Manu (about 2300 BC) is one of the ancient socio-politico-economic system in the world. To call it Hindu religion is incorrect. It was a political system and social laws and not any religion. In course of time it turned into rigid hereditary rights of the four classes. The highest class of the Brahmins prevented other classes from learning the laws of Manu and gather other knowledge (the Vedas). The eldest sons of Kshatriya kings inherited the throne, and

the Brahmin son inherited the high posts of royal priests. Hereditary dynasties of other two classes, the Vaishyas and the Shrudas started in the same manner. This system became a well defined political system during the period of king Ram in the 15th cent. BC

2. The dynasties of Kings. Good warriors were required to protect the crops, homes, chastity of women and the ownership of the land areas. Tax rules were made by the kings. People paid taxes in the form of services, crops and cattle. The system of money and currency has developed during the later periods. Men of great learning played the role of king's guides, advisors and teachers of the princes. Such learned people became the institution of priests in the course of time. They advised kings in matters of health, social and economic laws and wars, and gave political guidelines.

3. The kingdoms of priests. When kings became demoralized and tortured the people, able priests (Brahmins) killed the kings and started their rules. This is observed in the story of Parshurama in pre-historic times in India. The Vatican Church's rule over Europe after the 5th cent. AD and Khomeini's rule in Iran are recent examples of priestly rulers. To fight for a just cause is religion (Dharma) and not a sin. "Slay your immoral Gurus and your sinning relatives" is the message of the Gita.

4. Military rules of ambitious military heads and dictators. When kings became weak, the top military generals take over power and establish dictatorships. History is full of such events and descriptions of large armies and barbarian chiefs and military dictators. Alexander of Greece is an example of the pre-Christian period. Napoleon is an example of the 18th century. Hitler is an

example of second world war and Saddam Hussain is an example of the last big Gulf war of the 20th century. Such examples prove that a country is not mature for a peaceful and evolved political system like democracy. There are some dangers when military dictators take over political power in an established democratic system. Military dictators rule in Pakistan and Islamic countries, like Iraq are examples of military rules in the middle east.

5. Communism of the Russian or the Mao type.

Sometimes the dynasties of evil rulers end by bloody revolutions lead by spirited thinkers from the people. Masses arise and fight against the army and the kings. The French revolution, the Russian revolution and the red revolution in China are such examples. The able leaders think that the land belongs to the people and the state. But such sudden changes fail to establish a sober rule of fair justice and equality. The history of Russia and the failure of communism as a political system, indicates a need for the search of an ideal political system.

6. Democracy. There were democratic states (Gana-tantras) in India in times of Buddha, the 6th century BC. In Greece there were democratic city states. Each city was an independent country. Thus democracy is not new to India. It is for this reason that democracy has survived in India but failed in both Islamic states of Pakistan and Bangla-Desh.

7. Democracy and Dynasty combined. A political head is looked upon as a living God in any country. Today's England and Japan are good examples of this combined systems. The Nehru dynasty in India teaches us a new lesson. Lovers of democratic

values should not try to give their chairs to their sons and daughters. A good king's son is not necessarily good, if he is not properly trained and educated by noble teachers. Nehru and Indira made mistakes of bringing to power their children in a democratic country. Their children were not able to understand the mistakes of their parents. Instead of rectifying them, they perpetuated them.

Out of all the above systems, democracy has proved to be a better if not the best political system. It started in France when writers like Rousseau and Voltaire published their revolutionary ideas. Fraternity, liberty and equality were three important words, which caught the peoples' minds. (Shrimad Bhagvat Gita also preaches Bandhutavam (friendship), Moksha (freedom) and Samatavam (equality of all beings). Krishna and Arjuna were friends. A short definition of democracy developed. Democracy means a Government of the people, for the people and by the people. Democracy does not function in strongly religious countries like the Islamic nations and in countries where the masses are illiterate. Education of people is very vital for survival of democracy.

The drawback of democracy is that selfish and money minded people try to acquire and grab political power with power of money and it turns into a capitalist rule. Money is necessary for daily living. It should be earned by fair and honest means. Money is symbolized as Goddess Laxmi or wife of Lord Vishnu, who maintains living style of human beings. Money is necessary to run family affairs. Coins and currency are man-made metal tokens. They come from a good or bad political system. But money should not rule people. In democracy priests remain indifferent towards politics and some become business and money minded also. They create great

empires as we see in America, (Jim Baker's) and Vatican Church of Rome and temples around Haridwara in India.

In a mature democracy like England or America, a policeman (Kshatriya) can hand-cuff any fraudulent priest. Priests like Jim Baker are imprisoned. In the Gita, Krishna asks Arjuna to slay his Guru Drona and his grand-sire Bhishma, who were men of great wisdom, knowledge and celibacy but they had failed to protect the respect of women and be on side of justice.

The spirit of nationality is called Rashtra-Dharma. A good religion inspires people to obey the laws of the land, helps to preserve its integrity and independence, make sacrifices for the political freedom and give services in times of wars. When an invader attacks a country, people must take part in the war and fight. At such times doctrines like non-violence do not work. In peace time truth, non-violence and forgiveness is preached by nearly all religions.

There are many political systems. A political system is sure to fail if it does not respect the equality of humans, basic human rights like the freedom of speech, choice of sex partners and different religious faiths. The people in high positions should care for the basic needs of people like food and water, education and medical help etc. State must give protection to private industries and business, agriculture and labor. Research and development of scientific methods should also be encouraged by the government. Literature, sports and arts should also be encouraged. Different religions should be permitted to worship God in any manner they like in a free country. Newer ideas in economics, religious and

political fields must be welcomed. Government should not enter into trade or agriculture. If such simple guidelines of Sanatan Dharma, as indicated in the Gita are implemented, then any political system will work and people in that land region or even a village will live in peace and prosper.

The movement of International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha (IGDS) is for propagation of such eternal principles in political and religious fields. All able thinkers must come forward, join and propagate this movement in all the countries of the world.

Om Shantihi

Om Shantihi

Om Shantihi

11. HISTORY, SCRIPTURES AND MESSAGE OF HINDUISM.

Yavanartha Udapane Sarvataha Samplutodake,

Tavan Saesvehu Vedeshu, Brahmanasya vijanataha..

Gita II-46

Books of knowledge (the Vedas) are like an endless ocean which surround us on all sides, A Brahmin (a man knowing Brahman, soul or spirit) is one who knows what to know and what not to know (who has a discriminative ability).

Hinduism is an ancient culture (Sanskrit) and not any organized religion. This 10,000 years old culture is an ocean of literature on religious socio-economic, philosophical, political, spiritual and self- uplifting topics. But it has one unique scripture, the Gita in this great ocean, which has made Hinduism stand like a rock in the dark ages during the 800 years of rule of Islam and Christianity. The scripture of Bhagavat Gita is about 2500 years old. Its seven hundred verses are found in the epic of Mahabharata. It is in form of a dialogue between Arjuna, a man of great intellect and ability, and Krishna, the Lord of Universe. Arjuna is in dilemma about the moral obligations on one side and his family ties on the other. Gita has inspired many scholars and Acharyas during last 2000 years. Gita had inspired a great soul Mahatma Gandhi. He fought against the

powerful British Empire and brought true liberty (Moksha) to the 700 million people of India.

Speech is an unique gift of God given to human being only. It is an organ of action (Karma Indriya) according to Vedanta. Words arise from OM - the holy symbol of Hindus. OM is related to Prana, the vital system of respiration. We are alive as long as we breath. All spoken languages (Vani) arise from OM. Language is the root of all worldly (material) knowledge, the Vedas or Shruties (Audio Knowledge). Speaking, listening and discussing is an age old way of learning and removal of wrong ideas and beliefs. Only by speaking we can pass over the acquired knowledge to the next generation. Books are in fact the spoken words of great people who lived in the past. Thus the symbol OM represents arts, different branches of knowledge (Vedas) and sciences. Knowledge is stored in the brain as words heard or read as dots of OM OM.

The number 3 in symbol OM indicates many trios like three Vedas, three Hindu Gods; Brahama, Vishnu and Shiva; three qualities in mother nature, the creation maintenance and destruction; three dimensions of space and three dimensions of time; three qualities of material objects Sat, Rajas and Tamas etc. The three important doctrines for a Hindu are (1) Truth - Satyam (2) Non-violence (Ahimsa) and (3) Brahmacharyam or Chaste (pure) sex life. If one adopts only these three morals in life then God is on his/her side. Such an individual can live a long life of great achievements and successes.

Yoga meditation teaches to search unity in diversity and diversity in the unity, Patanjali Yoga (Yoga of eight steps - Astanga

Yoga) is a perfect science of body and mind. It promises good health, wealth, will power, success and happiness for men and women of any faith. God is infinite, beyond imagination, beyond all holy books, beyond all religions and beyond description of any human language (even beyond OM). Hindus believe that there is one formless God of this ever changing universe. Gita gives a short definition of God in three words. "OM TAT SAT". God is the ultimate reality or final truth.

The word Dharma is used in the sense of 'moral duties' in Hindu scriptures. Religion is linked with an individual (Self). It is called "Swadharma" or "my duty" in the Gita. All individuals (Atmas) are free to worship God in any manner or in form they like. But an individual gets bound to his good or bad Karmas or actions. Good actions bring happiness and bad ones bring unhappiness in life. The study of scriptures teach us what are good and bad Karmas.

Speaking is also Karma or an action. The sex act is also Karma. Sense of duty (Dharma) guides an individual to do the right Karmas. He commits less mistakes (sins) by knowing the "Dharma". Mahatma Gandhi once said," There can be as many religions as the number of human beings in this world" All Indians religions preach tolerance and respect for other faiths. Hindus do not believe in forced religious conversions. The land of all Hindus India (Bharat) has remained the mother-land for learning Yoga - the art of searching God, spiritual study and great religious thoughts.

Different groups of important Hindu Scriptures and their short messages are listed here in brief. The groups are arranged in order of their evolution.

(Two charts at the end of this chapter summarize this evolution of scriptures in a time frame, important events of history, and the years of origin of world religions.)

1. Vedas (Shruties) and Upavedas (like Aurveda-medicine)

Vedas are the scriptures of the early Aryans. Knowledge is God was their belief. Natural elements like Rain, Sun, Fire, Water, Air, Land etc. were worshipped as Devas or manifestations of God (Assistants of God). Three Vedas developed during the first 5000 years of human civilization. The three Vedas were Rig, Yajur and Sam Vedas. Many Side-Vedas, the Upa-Vedas also developed. Fire rituals (Agni-puja) to please the rain God (Indra) was a Vedic ritual of God worship which is still practiced by orthodox Hindus, Animals were slain and offered to fire God. After establishment of organized religions like Jainism and Buddhism, animal sacrifices to fire God stopped. Later on Hindus started burning food grains and butter in the Fire-Rituals!

2. The Smruties or Memories from Manu. The Varna-Dharmas.

[see 16 Square chart on page no. 85]

The Smruties were the second group of scriptures that developed after the Vedas. First Aryan King Manu (2500 BC) dictated duties (Varna-Dharmas), the privileges (Rights) and the punishments (Shikshas) for all sinning men and women in the four class structure of his kingdom. The Brahmins, the Kshatriyas, the Vaishyas and the Shudras were the four job oriented classes (Karma-Varnas) to start with. In course of time, these classes became God made, Birth-rights giving hereditary Varnas. The right

of learning Vedas, chanting Mantras and verses was denied to the Vaishyas (Business), Shudras (Servants) and women.

Along with achieving the goals in life, one should uplift into a higher class or Varna and achieve Liberty from family attachment (Moksha) in later years of life. Respect and obedience towards parents and teachers is the essence of Hindu Dharma and culture. Observance of celibacy is an important vow during student age in all classes. Hospitality to guests is a vow during Grahastha Asharama. Caring and serving all the classes is a vow during third VANPRASTHA AGE. Renunciation of gained wealth and positions and search of God by meditation "Should be the goals of life's journey during the fourth age quarter or Sanyasa Asharama.'

A brief description of the duties for a student during first 25 years is given below. Students used to study in Ashramas of Rishies located in jungles and river banks.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS OR BRAHAMACHARYA -ASHRAMA .

After completing studies in schools of teachers (Guru-kulas) when students went home, practical advises were given to students in few short sentences by the head teacher. They were called Dixanta Pravachana or 'Graduation Lectures'.

These are eternal guidelines (Sanatana Dharmas) for all students at any place at all the times.

**Satyam Vada; Dharmam Chara; Acharayaya priyam
dhanam aahrutya; Praja Tantum ma Vyavatchchatsee:
Satyat Ma Pramaditavyam: Dharmat ma Pramaditavyam;**

Kushalat ma Pramaditavyam; Bhootyai ma Pramaditavyam; Swadhyaya Pravachanabhyam ma Pramaditavyam; Dev Pitru Karyabhyam ma Pramaditavyam; Matru devo bhava ; Pitru devo bhava; acharya devo bhava; Atithi devo bhava. Yani avadyani karmani, tani sevityani; no itrani; Yani asmakam soocharitani, tani twyopasyani; no itrani.

These short sentences mean :-

“Speak the truth; Do thy duties; Earn wealth that is loved by the teachers: (Teachers love money earned by sincere and honest work and not by cheating or robbing or by doing trades like drugs and smuggling).

Don’t break thy family lineage (Marry and raise children): Don’t remain idle in finding Truth. Don’t remain idle towards duties; Don’t remain idle towards joys and happiness; Don’t remain idle towards material wealth; Don’t remain idle towards daily Self study; Don’t remain idle towards work of God and parents; Respect mother like Goddess, Respect father like God; Respect teachers like Gods; Respect unknown people and guests like Gods. (Try to be like Gods). Do only those actions which are free from blemishes and not others;

Teachers used to say, "We are also human beings. You have stayed with us for many years. You have observed our virtues and vices".

Follow only our virtuous actions and no others”

These were the advises of the Upanishad and the Vedic Rishies. The Vedic Rishies advised their students to marry and

propagate family lineage. They asked them to earn money by honest means, be rich and happy. Gurus accepted their own human limitations and faults and told students not to follow their vices but virtues.

Today's Bal-Brahamacharies and Jagat Gurus.

To propagate secular religions, heads of religions (Sampradayas) are in search of young disciples. Success (Siddhi) of a priest is judged by how many young disciples he brought them under his fold (made them bald headed) during his life. They hypnotize bright young graduates, detach them from family life and convert them into life long celibate Sanyasies or Bal-Brahamacharies. Aversion and hatred is created towards money, sex (Kanchana and Kamini); marriage and family life (Sansara) by telling stories of hardships and miseries of unhappy husbands and wives. Sanyasa was a way of family detachment during the fourth and not the first age quarter according to four Ashram Dharmas of Manu Smruti.

Today's Gurus preach like this. "The world is false (Jagat mithya) and is full of Moha and Maya. Run away from family responsibility, wear saffron clothes, be a naked fakir, beg for daily food, sit idle in caves of Himalayas, meditate and observe long fasts, starve to death, liberate Self from all bondages of Karmas to get Moksha". Our modern Gurus think that they are faultless, and perfect incarnate Gods. Their words must be trusted and accepted without questions and doubts. This is not the message and preaching in Gita, Question answer sessions between Gurus and pupils is an age old method of teaching Dharmas in Hinduism and

all the eastern religions. But our Gurus make us chant repeatedly in every lecture, verses like:-

Gurur Brahama Gurur Vishnu, Gurur devo Maheshvaraha

Guru Shakshat Param Bhahamah Tasmai shree Gurve namaha.

Like blinded followers we chant without understanding the meaning. Find a true Guru and liberate your minds from such meaningless chanting.

Once a teacher asked a tricky question to students,

“Tell me the name of highest wealth which thieves can’t steal, kings can’t tax, can’t be divided among brothers like money and property and which has no weight while carrying. But its unique and highest quality is that it increases with spending whereas other wealth decrease by spending.” No body could answer.

The answer is given in the following Sanskrit verse.

Na chor choryam, na ch raj haaryam

Na bhratru bhajayam na ch bharkari

Vyaye krute vardhat ave nityam

Vidyaya dhanam sarva dhanam pradhanam

Vidya, education or knowledge is the greatest wealth of an individual. Give its benefits to others, it will increase and not decrease. Try to learn new thoughts and remove wrong beliefs by self-knowledge.

This socio-political system of Manu had created a heaven on earth, 'Devabhumi' in the North Western parts of India, the present land of Pakistan and Punjab (land of five rivers). It is known as the Indus valley culture in history. Names like India, Sindh, Hind, Hindus etc. root from the name of a big river Sindhu, or Indus. It is one out of the five rivers flowing in this region. Sindhu means an ocean.

3. The Upanishads (Spiritual Scriptures) and six major Darshans (Philosophies).

The word Upanishad means "staying near by". After King Manu, between the 15th and 5th centuries BC, great scholars called the 'Rishies', developed nearly 240 Upanishads. **Mother, father, teachers and unknown guests were to be respected like living Devas or "Gods assistants staying near us."** This is the practical message of Upanishad Rishies and the essence of Hindu culture. This is delivered in a wonderful manner in partly historic but mostly mystic stories of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata epics written about 1000 BC They are not historic stories as most Hindus believe.

Philosophical subjects like life before birth, life after death, the soul, the self (ATMA), the divinity within (Brahman), unity and love in family, equality of all creations (*Samatvam*), sharing joys and sorrows, inter-dependence and the indebtedness to parents, awareness of duty (*Dharma*) and age related goals (*Ashrama Dharmas = Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha*) are discussed in the Upanishads.

Upanishads have remained popular Hindu scriptures among all intellectual students of world religions and philosophies. From Upanishads developed in course of time six major Hindu Darshans

or Philosophies. Sankhya, Yoga and Vedanta are the three popular Darshans. The study of Upanishads and Darshans leads to a cosmic experience (Darshana) of God. Sankhya means numbers, Yoga means union and Vedanta means the end of knowledge. Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata narrate stories of Ram and Krishna - the 7th and the 8th incarnations of Lord Vishnu. They preach morals, ideals and duties in family relations between friends, brothers, husband and wife, and children.

Living Devas like the Mother, the Father and the Teachers (Gurus) help us daily but they have limitations of knowledge and a bondage of place-time (Goonas, Shakti, Desh and Kal). In the 18 chapters of Bhagvat Gita Lord Krishna evaluates all the above mentioned scriptures and explains the mono-theistic as well as multi-theistic views regarding God, the laws of Karmas, devotion to duty, Self-knowledge (*Adhiatma vidya*) and relationship of Self (*Atma*) with one God of Universe.

Gita in its first six chapters discusses 'Laws of actions or philosophy of Karmas and self-duty (Swa-Dharma). The theory of Karmas explains how invisible laws of mother nature work equally for all and how one can succeed and become rich in material world by proper actions. The laws of nature (Prakruti) work equally on all classes and creations. A devoted student of the Gita gets convinced about God and may see and experience the divine light of God.

All the above mentioned scriptures were composed between 8000 and 500 BC and passed over to the next generations by oral recitation of verses. It was the period before the birth of Mahavira, Buddha, Moses, Jesus or Mohammed.

4. The Puranas - Mythological Scriptures of

Imaginary Gods

Puranas are the mythological scriptures for the common men. By telling humorous stories of three imaginary Gods namely, Brahma - the God of creation, Vishnu, the God of preservation and Shiva, the God of destruction (TIME), and their three wives Brahmami, Laxmi and Parvati or Uma. The Puranas preach moral duties (Dharmas) to husbands, wives parents and children. Among the eighteen Puranas, Shrimad Bhagvatum is the most popular Purana. It describes ten major incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Only Lord Vishnu takes birth in human form when morality is at its lowest level immorality is rampant and when the priests and the kings have forgotten their duties (Dharmas). Nine Avataras of Vishnu have occurred so far. The predicted 10th incarnation is that of Mahatma Gandhi. The beauty of Hindu scriptures is that they are written in poetry form and hence easy to remember, sing and chant. Secondly they are in a question-answer form. A curious student asks questions and the learned teacher gives the answer.

The Gita is a scripture of great literary heritage, not only for the Hindus but for all seeker of God and religions and the entire mankind. An unbiased student would find answers to all his moral questions particularly in the Gita. Study of Gita and practices of Yoga leads to a cosmic experience of formless God and a state of Nirvana - the ultimate goal of human life. Gita has quenched the thirst of all intellectual seekers for almost last two thousand years.

5. Buddha and Jain Darshans and commentaries of Acharyas on Gita.

Two great personalities were born in the sixth century BC They opposed the fire rituals and animal sacrifices performed by the Vedic Brahmins in the name of God and religion. They re-affirmed the Upanishad preaching, that the same soul pervades in all living beings. They established two great religions, the Buddhism and the Jainism and tried to remove the discriminatory class system of Manu in the religious field. A golden era of nearly 1500 years came to India after great king Ashoka accepted Buddhism as a state religion (3rd cent. BC) and sent missionaries of peace in the East and the West.

A great Son of God was born in Bethlehem. He preached the message of love and forgiveness. But he was crucified by his own people. Roman empire came down and the Vatican Church of Rome came into existence in the 5th century AD In the 7th century AD the first Shankracharya re-affirmed the Vedas and the Upanishad truths forgotten by leading priests of his times. He wrote commentary on the Gita. In the same century a great messenger of God, Mohammed united the Arab tribes, quarreling and fighting in the name of different idols of God. He declared that there is only one God, and called Him, Allah. He gave doctrines of the Koran and founded a religion, the Islam. Islamic invaders came to India in the 10th century and robbed the gold accumulated in Hindu temples. They established an Islamic rule during the 12th century AD in Delhi. Three great Acharyas lived during 12th and 15th centuries AD and wrote commentaries on the Gita. Krishna worship became popular. Vaishanava path was started by Vallabhacharya in the 15th cent. AD

After the 12th century there was Islamic rule for the next six centuries in most parts of India. But Hinduism survived because it had the Gita. After Vallabhacharya, came Chaitanaya Mahaprabhu who started a variation of Vaishnava path, the Gauda Sampradaya, recently popularized as Isckon by Swami Prabhupada. Many Swamis and saints have studied the Gita and started their own separate paths of worship of Krishna and Ram. Islamic rulers were defeated and British rule started in the 17th century AD Swami Sahajananda started Swaminarayan path in Gujarat in the 18th cent. AD Great Guru Nanak established the Sikh path. Many sects and paths have developed during last three centuries. Swami Vivekananda carried the message of Hindu culture and Gita to America and Europe in the 19th century. But no Swami ever thought of the political slavery in India. Only Mahatma Gandhi understood the real message of truth, equality and human rights preached in the Gita. He fought with weapon of non-violence and brought independence to India in 1947. But he was assassinated before the constitution of India was written.

(Study the two charts in next four pages of BC and AD periods of evolution of Hindu scriptures. Note the centuries of origin of Jainism and Buddhism in the East and Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the West and the after-effect of religions on history and world events. The importance of the Gita will become evident. The four Acharyas have only written commentaries after some centuries. Hence it is chosen for study in International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha)

CHART NO. I.

**BC ERA FROM OM (VEDA) TO CROSS (VEDANTA)
(Order: OM Vedas - Smruties - Upanishads -
Darshans-Gita-Jainism & Buddhism)**

Start of Civilization : Animal man becomes a civilized man :

OM OM OM OM OM OM OM OM —> Words —>

Speech, Man starts speaking

Man learns to Speak and name objects and relations. *Speech roots from OM. All world languages arise from OM. *Life depends on breathing (Prana). OM is related to breathing and is symbol of audio-knowledge (shruti = Vedas). Confirm this by chanting OM and its relationship with expiration phase, Close eyes, Chant OM; observe that thoughts disappear while chanting OM. Vedas are as old as the time, when man started speaking on earth.

Period before 10,000 years. To Indus valley culture 2500 BC

Aryans developed —>Rig, Yajur and Sama Vedas. In Vedas there is worship of natural elemental like sun, water, air, land, fire etc. as Gods and Goddesses. Indus Valley culture was an early civilization started during 25th cent. BC King Manu declared in Manu Smruti the four classes and their duties (Dharmas). The classes were Brahmins, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudras. Inter class marriages were tabooed. All donations were for Brahmins only. It became rigid hereditary system in course of time.

2500 BC 1500 BC

Learned Brahmins move towards plains of Ganges and develop 240 Upanishads. The Upanishads are scriptures of Self-knowledge * Ishavasya 1st Upanishad is nearly 2000 years prior to Christ. Upanishads preach respect of fathers, mothers, teachers and guests. These are near by Devas in human relations. Hebrew religion started in West by Abraham, Moses liberates his people from the slavery of Egyptian kings and gave his ten commandments.

1500 BC to 700 BC

Upanishads develop. Katha, Mandukya, Mundako, Prashna, Chandogya, Brahad-Aranyaka, Samhitas develop, Darshanas like Purva mimansa by Jaimini in 10th cent., Vaishashik by Kanad 8th cen. Nyaya by Gautama and the Sankhya by Kapil (7th cent.) develop.* Yoga Vashista was a popular Yoga * Probable period of Rama as kind of Ayodhya 15th cent BC He is the 58th son of Manu. Bahrain, Dushyanta, Santanu are moon worshipping kings. *Krishna may have lived in 12th & 13th cent. BC * Valmiki wrote Ramayana (10th or 8th cent. BC) Vyasa wrote Mahabharata and Gita, Experts believe that Gita was added later. A great war might have occurred in India between 13th to 10th cent. BC. Greek culture starts and Homer (7th cent. BC.) writes Iliad & Odessy in West. This pre Buddha period of 7500 years is poorly documented ERA in history of India.

The 6th Century is important Century of world history

Mahavira is born in India. He Re-organizes Jainism. Budha is 40 years younger than Mahavira, He starts new religion Buddhism. Atho-Jarathust starts Zoroastrian religion in Persia (Iran) Laotse in Laos (East) starts his TAO religion and philosophy. Cong fut'se preaches his noble practical principles in China, Gita is written during this period. (Mostly during post Buddha Era). Gita is extract of all Upanishads. It evaluates Vedas Manusmriti and the six Darshans* Sanskrit grammar perfected by Panini. *Ink invented in India, The art of paper making from wood was invented in China. Orally preserved literature became written documents. King Ashoka accepted Buddhism (in 3rd Cent.) as state religion. He sent monks in east & west * Charaka & Sushruta develop medicine (Aurveda). 18 Puranas of mythological stories of Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma get added during 4th (BC) to 1st cent. (AD). It led to Idol worship seen today. Patanjali perfected his Ashtanga (Raj) Yoga in this period. Charvak wrote his materialistic Darshana and denounced notion of next births. Chanakya wrote his great political and economic doctrines, (4th cent. BC) Era of highest Greek culture and Philosophy. Scholars like Democrats, Aristotle, Pluto, Socrates Pythagoras, Hypocrites, etc. develop science, medicine and philosophy. Some wrong quotations of Aristotle remain eternal truths for 2000 years. Archiemedes in Italy states his laws of flotation and

invents pulleys. Alexander invades India (2nd cent.) but returns when he sees trained elephants in battles against his army and cavalry. He dies before reaching his land. It was an era of start of science, astrology, maths and geometry etc..

CHART. II

A.D. ERA OF NEXT 2000 YEARS AFTER CHRIST.

A.D. ERA OF PURANAS, ACRAYAS, COMMENTARIES & DIVISIONS.

1st cent. AD. to 5th cent. AD

(Order :- Mythology, Commentaries, Saints, Devotees Avataras, Prophets etc...

Jesus Christ is born who preaches love and forgiveness. Revises old Sermons. Jesus is Crucified * Maharshi Vatsayan writes Kama-Sutras (Joy of Sex). Great temples of Jains, Buddha and Hindus are built in Eastern countries, Invention of Zero by Arya Bhatta * Fall of Roman Empire in 4th Cent. Vatican Church established in the 5th cent.* Jain Scholars start Dwianki Math with (0, 1, 2) and calculate square and cube roots, India at peak of peace and prosperity

6th cent. AD to 10th Cent. AD

Shankara re-affirms vedas and starts his Adwaita Philosophy in 7th cent. Mohammed starts Islam in West. Arabs get united and Islam spreads in Egypt, North Africa, Spain, Turkey, Iran. It arrives in India during 10 and 12th cent. Mohammed of Gazani destroys Somnath temple in Gujarat and robs great gold. King Bhartuhari writes famous 300 verses of Niti, Vairagya, and Shrungara. Indian lady Lilavati perfects Arithmetic tables which Arabs take to Europe.

11th cent. AD to 15th Cent. AD

Prithvi Raj defeated by Mohammed Ghori. Islamic Rule starts in Delhi. Ramanuja and Madhava-Acharyas preach Dwaita and Vishitha Adwaita with Gita. Kabir-12th, Surdasa-13th, Mira & Tulsi 15th, wrote devotional songs & Ramayana. Vallabhacharya preaches shudh Adwaita with Bhagavatam and starts Vaishnava temples.

15th cent. AD to 19th cent. AD

Protestant path started in Europe and the dark ages of Europe ended. Mogul king Akbar rules in Delhi. * Mira, Tuldidas Surdas keep alive Bhakti. Spanish and Portuguese explorers find sea routes, Columbus invent America calls India. Chaitanya Gauda Path, Guru Nanak - Sikh Path. Poet Narsinh Mehta in Gujarat, Vascodegama finds sea route to India, French, Britishers and Portuguese arrive for business in India. Fall of Islamic rule and start of British rule 1757. Guru sects increase in India. Sahajananda started Swaminaraya Path. Inventions of Science - Newton and Galilio * Political turmoil Europe * Hegan, Marks, Napolion. Vivekananda goes to USA Gandhi in S. Africa starts Freedom movement (1892).

1900 to 1991 The century of Great Events (20th Century)

Einestine - theory of special and general relativity (1905-15).

Rabindranath Tagore wins noble prize 1912 * 1st world war.* India and Pakistan Independent 1947. * Gandhiji assassinated 1948 * Isckon movement in USA by Prabhupada - 1966* Islamic Pakistan and Bangaladesh fight and separate 1972 * Nehru's socialism and dynasty rules India up to 1990 * Two Atom bombs destroy Japan in 1944 - Yet it is a rich nation. India is poor country TODAY.* Indian Swamis built 2500 temples in Haridwara while millions of students study under trees in villages.* 2nd world war in Europe. Human HEART transplanted & MAN landed on moon in '69, Space conquered but real peace is yet to come. Gulf war between Islamic nations 90-91. Germany reunited (91). Communism fails, but Gorbachov wins the peace noble prize, Great turmoil in Europe. Indira & Rajiv Gandhi assassinated in '84 & 90.

Golden Dawn of the 21st century awaits.

Only Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha will save India and World

May God awaken genuine curiosity towards HIS search and liberate everyone from his or her wrong religious beliefs and attitudes.

12. RELIGIO-POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA

India is a sub-continent having a population three times that of USA but the land area is only one third. Today Hindus are divided in nearly 20,000 religious sub-sections and 1000 Guru cults. Gurus do not know about the political systems of the world or their evolution. The four class system of an Aryan king Manu (Varna Ashrama Dharma) were moral, political, social and economic doctrines of the past ages and not any religion. But this is understood and preached as Hindu religion by the hereditary rights minded, selfish and orthodox Brahmins and Gurus. This has led to many religious issues and political problems in India today. The burning problems of untouchability in religious as well as in political field is just one of the examples.

The Rishies of great wisdom used to give guidelines to the politicians. The kings respected them and their views. There is not a single religious leader, visible in the horizon who understands the true religion of India, Sanatan Dharma or the Eternal principles of cultural heritage preached in the Gita and the epic of Mahabharat. Most Hindu priests do not study other religions or the political and economic trends in the world. Science is considered as material knowledge by them. Religious unity of Hindus is an impossible dream. The best course is to bring harmony and tolerance towards all religions. India has to find a political system that is best for the people of Indian sub-continent. This can be achieved to some extent by studying Gandhi's views on rural justice, the attitude of

trusteeship of wealth and his thoughts about world religions and the Gita.

Hindus believe in incarnations or Avataras (God sending his messengers and some times Him-self assuming human form). Shrimad Bhagvatum (Not Gita) is a popular mythological scripture (Purana) which describes 24 Avataras of God. Jainism also describes similar 24 Tirthankars (Prophets) or men of divine vision and realization. Out of the 24 Avataras in Hinduism, ten incarnations are well described in the Bhagavatum. Some are prehistoric, a few are mystic, imaginary or fictional, and others are symbolic. Only four Avataras are human and logical. Avatara of Parashu-Rama looks logical which is the sixth Avatara. The seventh popular Avatara is of King Ram. Krishna is the eighth and most perfect Avatara. All these personalities are prehistoric (prior to 6th cent. BC.) and not well documented. Lord Buddha is a well documented historic personality, looked upon as the ninth Avatara by most Hindus. There are predictions in scriptures that one more Avatara of God would take place in Kali-Yuga (an era of great immorality and ignorance) in India. This Avatara will destroy mysticism and ignorance, and bring a new era of Sat-Yuga (Golden period of truth and fair justice) in the whole world. This predicted Avatara is called Kalki or Kalanki Avatara.

I believe that this Avatara has already taken place. He has given us His divine message of truth, equal justice, non-violence and divine love for the entire mankind. There is no ambiguity or mysticism about his birth, death, life mission and the message given for entire mankind. This super human man (Vibhooti or Avatara) was Mahatma Gandhi. He was instrumental in bringing true liberty

(Moksha) to the 700 million people of India from the political and religious slavery of eight dark centuries. India was ruled by the Muslims and the Christians during this period. It was Gandhi who united all political leaders and brought freedom to India by a non-violent movement, befitting the culture, heritage and traditions of the land.

Any political system or a political party of India which does not take into account the diverse religious beliefs and the religious divisions is going to fail. The incidents of assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and recently Rajiv Gandhi should open our eyes and awaken us. We have to revise our religious and political beliefs and systems completely. India was at the peak of culture, peace, prosperity and highest spiritual evolution after the Avatara of Lord Buddha and Mahavira. They lived in the 6th century BC and founded two great religions Buddhism and Jainism, based upon the most important doctrines of any religion namely non-violence, equality and universal love for all beings.

We have to search the roots of the present poverty in the country, which are responsible for the unrest and ignorance of the people and the leaders too. There are perfect answers for all the political and religious problems of today's India in the Gita, Mahabharata and thoughts of Gandhi. We have to search our scriptures and understand them in relation with Gandhi's views about religion and God. We cannot ignore the modern achievements of science. Escaping from responsibility by able people is an anti-religious act, according to the Gita. The Gita proclaims that there is no retirement for a man of ability and intellect until death. We must perform our duties. We must take leadership

and fight against the evil rulers and priests and Gurus who have gone astray. Men of high morals must come forward to guide the common man and should be prepared to die a martyr's death on the battle field.

Religious debates were arranged by noble kings in the past. Socio-political problems were discussed and ways (Dharmas) indicated. Practical guidelines were given by the men of wisdom (Rishies) who lived in simple huts on remote river banks. Such debates should be encouraged and welcomed in modern times. But our cult minded Gurus of present times dislike such debates, neither they know much about the political trends of the past, nor have knowledge about recent history. We can achieve this goal to some extent by publications of religio-political literature and by the help of media like TVs and the radio broad-casts. Gandhi's political thoughts and preaching about the Gita could be propagated by forming an International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangh (IGDS). A brief out line of this proposed movement is given in later chapter.

The Rishies lived a simple family life. They were not indifferent towards political and social trends, and the conditions of people in the land. They did not build ornate temples as we see today, nor did they make trips to foreign lands in search of rich disciples. A high standard of simple living is well defined for the Hindu, the Jain and the Buddhist priests. The Rishies lived in Ashramas with their wives and were not life long bachelors (Bal-Brahmcharies). They were men of great achievements in life. They guided the kings and people in political matters after retirement from very high positions.

We have also forgotten our heritage of veda worship. Veda worship means respect for knowledge and men of intellect, science and wisdom. Today we worship many idols of mythological Gods of Puranic Devas in our temple. We also worship thousands of saffron dress wearing mortal, idle, hypocrite 'Sadhu Bavas' or Gurus in a hope that they will show us the path of Moksha.

In Hindu prayers there is a popular verse on Guru worship. "*Gurur Sakshat Param Brahmah, Tasmai Shree Gurve Namah*" It is loved by Gurus and they ask us to recite it daily. It means "Guru is incarnate living God on earth, I surrender to him". But this is a wrong statement according to the Vedas and the Gita. It should be "*Guru Shakshat Aham Brahmah*". "I am the highest (Param = highest) creation of God". '*Aham Brahmasmi*' was the Vedic declaration which means "I am a divine soul, a part of supreme Reality". The Vedic vision of the Rishies was distorted by the selfish Brahmins. They created the Puranas, and the three imaginary Gods-the Brahmas, the Vishnus and the Shivas. The above verse states that a living Guru is higher than Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

Gita proclaims that any Guru is a mortal human being and never an image of God. When a man becomes attached to family he becomes selfish and loses his true path. Krishna advises Arjuna to slay such a Guru Drona, who had accepted the paid job (Slavery) of a king to feed his son, Ashvashtama. So he had failed to raise his voice when the Pandava queen Draupadi was insulted in the court of king Dhritarashtra by his arrogant prince Duryodhana.

Many palatial temples are built today at one place like Haridwara from people's funds and donations. Such activities need

to be decentralized. All the temples should be owned and managed by donors and devoted trustees. The control of money should not remain in the hands of priests or their disciples. A priest should be appointed for his good qualities, scriptural knowledge and achievements in life. He should be a man of wisdom and vision and be fearless. His past life must be consistent with the codes of scriptural teachings like honestly, chaste married life, good conduct and manners, education, help to the infirm, orphans and respect for the women. Well read and erudite retired people can easily play the role of modern Rishies at all places. A true priest teaches tolerance towards other religions. Today we find aristocratic dynasties in secular religions like the Vaishnavas and the Swami-Narayanans.

An ordinary lawyer became a Mahatma by studying the Gita. He fought with the weapon of non-violence against the powerful British Empire and brought freedom to India on the August 15, 1947. Indian priests and patriotic politicians who know the facts of recent history should come forward and unite under one banner of International Gandhi-Gita Dharm, Sangh (IGDS). It will be a beacon for the coming century. The unity in religious field comes by accepting one prophet (Avtara) and one scripture. We are seeing some good indicators in this last decade of the 20th century. Let us look towards the hopeful rising sun of the 21st century with full faith in one God and great messages of all prophets in all holy books.

OM Shantihi, Shantihi, Shantihi.

Let peace prevail, Let peace Prevail, Let peace prevail.

13. MAHATMA GANDHI

THE LATEST MESSIAH OF MANKIND.

yada yada hi dharmasya glanirbhavati Bharata

abhuthanamdharmasya tadatmanam srujami aham

paritranaya sadhunam vinashaya ch duskrutam

dharma samsthapanarthaya sambhavami yuge yuge,

Bhagavat Gita- IV-7 & 8

Lord says ;

“Oh, Bharata (Arjuna) Whenever whenever, morality (religion) degrades to the lowest level and immorality is rampant, I create divine souls (Atmas) to uplift the religion. In every era and century I, myself may assume human forms (as per the need of time and place) to protect the saints and punish the wrong doers.”

Does God ever assume a human form ?

Hindu belief of incarnations or God taking human form (Avatarvad), and sending His messengers and prophets, arise from above verses of Gita. Human race is the highest species in evolution in the animal world., Only in human form some souls make a contact with God or see God's divine Light. The supreme God is beyond description, formless (Nirakara) and invisible to eyes (Niranjana) and senses. But a few individuals do make a contact with God by a path of self realization, study of holy scriptures and renunciations. Then they become God like. Gandhiji was an

Avatara, a Prophet, an incarnation of God. All religions believe that human form is the highest gift of God.

guhyam Brahma tad idam vo bravimi

na manusyat shrestha-taram hi kinchit

“There is nothing higher than mankind in this world. God transcendent is beyond human imagination. But God manifest is within us. Every human being must be regarded as sustaining the possibility of rising to a divine state.”

PROPHETS, PIONEERS AND SAINTS

People who rise and achieve divinity are known as Avatars or messengers of God. All pioneers and prophets of the world religions, and great saints belong to this super human class. They give guidelines to the people about moral and ethical codes of conduct and re-establish morality in the lands where they are born and live. They reestablish religions (do Dharma Sansthapana). But this leads to divisions in the original religion. It is the story to some extent of all prophet-established religions.

Prophets and pioneers are born in different lands at different times. They speak different languages, yet their message of morality, love and noble manners is identical at all places. ***Akam sad Vipra bahudha vadanti.*** Hindus believe it is possible for any human being to SEE (Darshana) God. By the path of yoga one can identify “Self with Supreme”. Hindu scriptures like Upanishads, Darshans, Yoga, Sankhya, Vadanta and the Gita belong to this group. By study of these scriptures any person can establish a direct relationship with the Supreme God, called ‘Bhagavan’ in Gita.

In other Hindu scriptures, God is referred to as Ishvara, Bhraman, 'tat' or names that 'Bhagavan' means 'maker of the destiny of all creations', living and non-living objects (Jad and Chetan).

Hindus believe there is only one God. Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu are only different names of the same reality. The word 'THAT' is used sometimes for the nameless, merciful, formless, omnipresent and infinite God. Hinduism believes, "God is maker, maintainer and destroyer of all visible objects in this perfect universe". The supreme God cannot be described in words, nor God ever speaks any human language. But a glimpse of HIS light is perceived by a true devotee in the conscious mind by surrendering all false egos. Such a devotee feels the presence of invisible God at all places.

Such devotees become spokesmen of God. They declare themselves as 'Son of God' like Jesus Christ, or 'messengers of God' like Mohammed. Hindu devotees call themselves as men of God (I am Brahman). They live their life as devotees of God and servants of mankind. Thus one observes that even God has to take the help of HIS devotees or seers to deliver HIS message of love, mercy, compassion and equality. The number of such individuals is very small, one in a million, in the course of some centuries.

To see God with the mind's eye is called Darshan or Sakshatkar of God. This divine experience of God is possible for any man or woman. People spend their whole life to get such an experience (Anoobhuti) via path of transcendental meditation in India. To see God is the life goal given to a Hindu. After seeing God the soul gets

liberated from darkness (ignorance) and achieves Moksha from a birth-death cycle, which all eastern religions believe in.

Because of such strong religious heritage, it is easy for a Hindu mind to accept prophets of other religions like Mahavira, Moses, Christ or Mohammed as enlightened souls or God incarnate in human form. But for a Jain, a Jew, a Christian or an Islamic mind - strongly believing in doctrinal preaching of holy scriptures like the Bible or the Koran it is difficult to accept prophets and preaching of other religions. Some religions like Islam don't believe in human prophets or incarnations of God. Because of beliefs of Avataravad, Hinduism gets revised periodically by Saints, Devotees (Bhaktas), and Acharyas. They give fresh commandments, write commentaries on the scriptures. But this leads to formation of newer Sampradayas, (sub-religions), and innumerable Guru paths, Religious unity of people is lost which many times leads to religious confrontations.

If Hindus and India wants to be united, they need one prophet and only one scripture. A new prophet is not recognized by the people during his life time. This is the story of all great prophets. Gandhi was an Avatari Purusha, a man of God. Many foreigners have equated him with Jesus Christ and Buddha. Gandhi was a life long seeker of truth and God. He never claimed that he saw God or he was prophet or an Avatari Purush.

Who was Mahatma Gandhi?

Years ago Gandhiji wrote these words in the preface of his autobiography. "For it is an unbroken torture to me that I am still so far from Him, who as I fully know governs every breath of my life,

and whose off-spring I am. (Like Jesus he knew he was 'son of God' and not God himself as many Swamis of India think).

I know that it is the evil passions within me (Vasanas) that keep me so far from Him, and yet I cannot get away from those passions”.

Eric Erikson has written a book called **Gandhi's Truth**. He compares Gandhi's personality with Jesus Christ, Romain Rolland, the great French writer called Gandhi 'St. Paul of our age'. Charles Andrews had said, “ If humble persons have faith in their humility and throw away all the fear of Hitler and Stalin, and if they look with hope to this greatest Guru of our age, then they can still inherit this world”. Albert Einstein had described Gandhiji as “A human being who can be a light-house to future generations”. The movie 'Gandhi' won eight academy awards in 1988. Lord Mountbatten had said these words to the producer Attenburrough in an interview. “Remember that you are making a movie of a personality of the caliber of Jesus Christ and Lord Buddha.” Our religious leaders will need some more time to receive the message from these statements.

On August 15, 1947 India and Pakistan became independent countries. There was an atmosphere of religious and political hatred and communal riots in both countries. Millions and millions of families in the sub-continent were uprooted from their place of ancestral residence. Moved by the sufferings of the people Mahatma Gandhi undertook a journey by foot of the Noakhali district in East Pakistan (presently Bangladesh). He brought peace in this land. He was about to start a similar mission for West Pakistan.

Gandhi was aloof from the politics of India after independence. He wanted to dissolve the Congress and bring Hindu-Muslim harmony after the partition of British India into India and Pakistan. Gandhi had said these words to his family doctor who came to treat him for cough on his last birth day on Oct., 2nd 1947. "Today I am sitting in a kiln. All around me, there is fire. Now I wish that either I may not live to see this fire on my next birthday or India be changed. Either India becomes pure or I will not be living. Just as you doctors are searching for science, the same way I am searching for Ram-nam (God's name). If I find it, well and good. Otherwise I shall die looking for it ".

In those days a bomb had exploded and Gandhi was miraculously saved. In reply to Lady Mountbatten's congratulations after this event, 'Gandhi uttered these words. 'I can only be considered fit for your congratulations, if 'Ram-nam' is on my lips when a bullet hits me in the chest and I have love for one who has killed me'. Only after a few days Gandhi was hit, in the chest, by three bullets from the revolver of a fanatic Hindu, Nathuram Godse. Before falling to the ground he uttered "Oh Rama" (Oh God) and became one with Him.

Dr. Gunvant B. Shah, Professor and Head of Department of Education, South Gujarat University, Surat, India, compares Gandhiji with Krishna in these words.

"Years ago, one Mohan (Krishna's another name) born and brought up near the river Yamuna, went to Kathiawar (a province of Gujarat) and breathed his last. After centuries, another Mohan (Mahatma Gandhi) went from Kathiawar to the bank of Yamuna and

went asleep eternally. One Mohan is known for looting butter, whilst the other for looting salt. One Mohan was clad in yellow garment, whilst the other in white Khaddar. One Mohan used the weapon called Sudarshana Chakra whilst the other used Yaravada Chakra (Spinning Wheel). One Mohan gave us Bhagavad Gita, whilst the other showed us how to live the Gita way. Both died as a result of infighting”.

Mohandas. K. Gandhi (1869-1947), world famous as Mahatma Gandhi of Gujarat, India, was an incarnation of God comparable to any great religious personality of the past or present times. In his autobiography he writes. “Gita at all times provided inspirations and guidance during all my difficult moments. I opened any page and there was an answer to my problems”. Today we need new light in political, religious, economic and social fields. Gandhi’s views in all these subjects and fields are available and worth propagating.

‘If the thoughts of Gandhiji are presented daily in different languages of the world, only for ten minutes from all the radio stations of the world’ as Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the ex-president of India and a scholar of Indian scriptures had suggested, “a new world order and better understanding between people will come in the 21st century”.

Gita declares (10th chapter) that great people poets, scholars and religious prophets are incarnations of God (Vibhooties). They come at different places to guide the ignorant people. Secular religions start, by the preaching of such prophets. But all prophet started religions need some revision after a passage of time, though the eternal truths expressed by all great prophets are same.

If one believes that God assumes human forms (Avatar-Vad) then Gandhiji was a man of mental caliber equal to Jesus, Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Mahavira, Moses and Mohammed or founder of any world religion. Vibhooties have made contact with God. Mahatma Gandhi was such a Vibhooti or messiah.

Today people know Gandhi only as a political freedom fighter of India but his religious thoughts are less known to the world. It is time that lovers of Gandhi and independent religious thinkers should unite under one banner. Religion is a science and it needs to be presented in a scientific manner. Religion, politics, economics, and sociology are not separate subjects or different compartments. They are inter-related subjects. Average people and sometimes even able politicians need some guidelines. Views of Gandhi would prove useful to all unbiased politicians, leaders, scientists, and religious people of our age and coming century.

To realize God is the aim of life for a Hindu. Gandhi believed in one God and called it 'Truth'. He believed in need of religion, but by religion he meant morality and sense of duty in life. Gita helps to realize God and teaches what is true religion. Gandhi believed that all major religions are equal. The message of truth, love, non-violence, celibacy, honesty and equality of all human beings is the eternal core of all religions.

In Gita Lord says :

“Sarva dharman paritajya mam akam sharanam vraja”

“Renounce all religions and surrender to me, one alone “

God is higher than any religion. God is higher than any mortal politician, a king, a military man or a head of a religion. No human can ever 'be' God, but a true seeker can 'see' God (Darshana) and become a messenger of God. By devoted study of Gita it is possible to see God and evolve to the level of prophets by any one at any place, speaking any language.

Prophets fight for truth. Gandhi was a fighter in the political field, but a fighter with a weapon of non-violence. Non-cooperation was his way of protest and combat. He was against the British rule in India, but not anti-British. He searched the root of Hindu disunity and its fall. It was untouchability. To remove untouchability was more important to Gandhi than independence of India. He had staked his life by undertaking a fast unto death on this issue in 1932. Gandhi used to say that he would revise his false beliefs at any later date if he realized he was wrong. This is self-realization in simple words, "Know and accept your own mistakes". Gandhi had given deep thought to future political system for India after independence. They were more suitable for India which took into account people's religious and cultural heritage. But the Indian leaders like Nehru and others ignored Gandhi's views. Before the constitution of India was written and adopted in 1950 he was killed.

Nehru became prime minister of India in 1947 and ruled for next 15 years. Then came, his politically ambitious daughter Indira Gandhi. Her only aim was to stick to the chair of Prime-Ministership by fair means or foul. She brought her son Rajiv Gandhi in politics with a view to give him the post of Prime Ministership. Rajiv Gandhi was a pilot and not interested in politics at all. In a democratic

country India, three generations of Nehru dynasty ruled for nearly forty years!

Only Mahatma Gandhi had a vision of future India, her diverse problems and people's religious attitudes. Indian community world over will need some time to place this super human personality (Param-Atama), among prophets or incarnations of Gods. Today the narrow minded politicians have forgotten his thoughts and vision for free India. Hindu Swamis are engaged in dividing the Hindus in smaller Guru worshipping cults. Fanatic Hindu leaders are fanning the fire of religious hatred for selfish political motives.

Do we really need certificates from foreigners to understand that Gandhi was an incarnation of God in religious as well as political and social fields? I believe that Hindu unity in India and abroad can be achieved by accepting Gandhi as a prophet, and Gita, as the only scripture. We have to develop a totally new cadre of devotees of Gandhi, newer Rishes, friends and supporters of Sanatan Dharma will establish a new federation of world religions like the political organization UNO. This movement will bring true peace in all the countries of world in the 21st century.

Om Shantihi, Shantihi, Shantihi.

Let Peace prevail, Let Peace prevail, Let Peace Prevail.

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I thank its chief editor, Mr. Mukundbhai Mehta.)

14. SEVEN SINS, ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS **AND THE REAL MESSAGE OF GITA.**

THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS OF GANDHI

1. **SATYA.** Truth. Try to know the truth in all events. Truth is God. Don't express an opinion or be a judge without knowing facts. Do not give false promises.

2. **AHIMSA.** Non-violence. Avoid violence as far as possible. Family conflicts and blood sheds could be avoided by quick financial compromises. Vegetarian diet is good for health and long life. Avoid meat, alcohol, drugs and smoking. Live a purposeful, active and benevolent life. But violence is necessary under special situations like attack on land, insult of women and against gangsters damaging public property by arson.

3. **ASTEYA.** No thefts is the meaning of Asteya. No cheating is the general meaning. Honesty in business and work. Promises by priest of attaining the heaven after death is cheating. Slogans of removal of poverty and promises of prosperity by the politicians is also a form of deceit. Hard work is worship of God. Don't cheat in the name of God, religion and next birth.

4. **NO GREED (APARIGRAHA).** Renounce greed (Lobha). Don't accumulate wealth and property, more than is necessary for needs of family. Avoid exhibition of material wealth by not wearing ornaments, jewelry and fancy dresses.

5. BRAHMACHARYA. Celibacy or sex control. No pre or extra marital sex. Gandhiji advocates sex control of some degree even in married life. Social doctrines for marriage, divorce, re-marriage need periodic revisions, according to local conditions and an individual's family needs.

6. SELF-HELP. Active life till death is Karma Yoga. No job is small, low or inferior. There is no retirement for men of intellect and ability.

7. ABOLITION OF UNTOUCHABILITY MEANS EQUALITY.

There should be no untouchability (discrimination) in any field. This applies particularly to Hindu temples and secular religions and the issue of lower classes and creeds in India.

8. ABHAYA. Many wrong practices and beliefs are prevalent in name of Yoga. Yoga teaches how to maintain good health, control mind (emotions), win sensual desires arising in mind and stop worries. The 8th step Samadhi in Yoga teaches how to win fear of death and develop ABHAYA (fearlessness).

9. SWADESHI. This is an important political commandment of Gandhi. Use goods produced in your own country. It develops a patriotic spirit. A nation's peace, prosperity and economics depend on development of this attitude.

10. SWARTHA-TYAGA. Indian saints preach renunciations of money and family life for self realization and spiritual upliftment (*Atma-Kalyana*). Gandhi says "Spiritual evolution means mental change from selfish (*Rajasik*) to selfless (*Satwik*) attitudes and

behavior (*Acharana*).” The person starts thinking in terms of humanity at large and not for self (*Atma-Kalyan*) and family.

11. SARVA DHARMA SAMANVAYA. All prophets have preached equality of all human being, males and females. But Gandhiji preaches equality and respect for all prophets, temples and prophet started secular religions. Religion means love, no hate, no violence. Likes and dislikes lead to quarrels and wars.

Gandhi advocated the above ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS after his life long study of world religions and the Gita. These commandments are nicely expressed in four lines of a Gujarati poem.

Satya, ahimsa chori na karvi, van jotu nav sangarvu

Brahamacharya ne jate mahenat koi ade na abhadavu

Abhaya, swadeshi, swartha tyaga ne sarva dharma sarkha ganava

aa agiyar maha vrata samaji dhradha pane nitya acharva”.

The same theme is elaborated in a famous Gujarati Bhajan (Prayer) of Narsinh Mehta. ‘*Vaishnava Jana to tene re kahia*’. Gandhi loved this prayer very much and recited it daily. The Gita and Gandhi asks us to understand these commandments and take firm vows to translate these principles in day-to-day life. These are in brief the morals of International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha. Like a religious prophet Gandhi declared that following were the seven sins.

Seven Great Sins and Sinners According to Gandhi.

1. Wealth without work. (This applies to everyone. Rich sons of Kings, Bank employees in India, business-men, priests and laborers who want wages without working).
2. Pleasure (Sex-Joy) without consciousness of duty. (for family men)
3. Knowledge without character. (For religious Gurus and teachers).
4. Business without morality. (For all in business)
5. Science without humanity. (For men of science)
6. Worship without sacrifices. (For so called religious people and priests)
7. Politics without principles. (For politicians every where).

Memorize and keep these great sentences in your pocket at all times.

What is the real message of Gita ?

Indian saints, Swamis and Gurus quote many verses from Gita. But the real message of Gita about morals (Swa-Dharma) and one God is not delivered. First important message of Gita is to fight for the basic rights if an injustice is done to you. Second message is that of one God worship, not Guru worship or human worship. Krishna asks Arjuna to slay his Gurus like Drona who became employee of evil rulers like Dhritarashtra. To slay such Gurus is not a sin but an obligatory duty (Dharma). Gita denounces the four class system, preached by Manu, and discusses the benefits gained by

worship of Vedic deities. The Gita declares that all humans are equal. Thus Gita is an universal scripture and an ocean of religious wisdom and general knowledge. In brief we can say that :-

A. Gita declares equality of all humans and all religions. (Chapter. 9)

B. Gita analyses all previous scriptures of Hinduism like the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Darshans like Yoga, Sankhya and Vedanta and Manu Smruti (The four class system). The Gita indicates their merits and limitations.

C. Gita advises to engage in holy wars and take the side of good people to establish a rule of equal justice (Rama-Rajya). A king, a politician, a religious head and their sons cannot be above the 'Laws of God and Land.

D. Gita advises to fight against evil and selfish political rulers, egoistic selfish kings, slavery, dictatorship, and hereditary rights of king's and priest's sons, noble and able people cannot run away from the battle field of life under any circumstances at any age.

E. Gita preaches One God Philosophy. One God could be realized by self study and developing an attitude of equality towards all living beings. The laws of mother nature work in equal manner for all human beings and all animals.

F. Gita asks to fight for truth against any injustice, Gandhi called it Satyagraha (Clinging to truth). Dharma Yuddha- a holy war must be fought for God given Human Rights, which according to Gita are:-

(1). Freedom of speech.

- (2). Freedom of job and work.
- (3). Freedom of movement from one place to another.
- (4). Actions for preservation of good health, self, family and race.
- (5). Freedom of choice of sex partners.
- (6). Free education to children of all classes without discrimination. Drona had refused to teach Akalavya, a boy from the lower class.
- (7). Clean air, water and food, and sharing the natural resources like rivers, wells and land by all people.

G. Gita is a great text book of human mind and intellect (psychology). “Young generation and common people imitate what the elite and elderly do. Teenagers mimic what stars (like Magic Johnson) do”.

These are new ten commandments for mankind in 21st century.

OM Shantihi

Shantihi

Shantihi

Let Peace Prevail Let Justice Prevail Let Truth Prevail

15. INTERNATIONAL GANDHI - GITA DHARMA SANGH (IGDS - I).

Aims and objects.

The main aim of IGDS is to propagate Gandhi's political and religious views and the true message of the Bhagavat Gita. Members of IGDS must be lovers of Gandhi and his views about the Eternal religion preached in the Gita. They will study Gita, Gandhi's life, literature, other world religions and their own religion in a systematic manner. They will actively propagate One God theory, the message of Gita, Gandhi's views about world religions, love, sociology, economics, politics, non-violence and Satya-graha (Pursuit of Truth).

The Organization (Sangh).

This movement will be called "International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangh" (IGDS). This is not any sectarian religion (Sampradaya), philosophy, political body, community, business organization or a group of social reformers. Yet IGDS wants all these ideas under one umbrella. Activities of IGDS will be guided by the eternal (Sanatana) moral and ethical codes found in the world religions, cultures and noble heritage of all places and countries.

Who can become members ?

People believing in (1) Gandhi was a prophet, (2) the eleven commandments and the seven sins indicated by Gandhi (listed in

Ch. 14), (3) One God of Universe (or even a non believer of God) and (4) Gita as a scripture to be studied for moral codes in life, and divine messages of all prophets can join this movement. It has no religious or political taboos or borders. Men and women of any religion, any country, either sex, color, caste, creed and political views can join this international, inter-faith movement without renouncing their religious and political beliefs, methods of worship of God prayers, rituals or their churches, temples and mosques. First you watch the activities of a local IGDS and then join it in any category you like.

The categories in which any person can join are, (1) Full time devoted men, women and families who will take a vow of donating 10% of their yearly income for starting and stabilizing one local IGDS. (2) Part time supporters who wish to preserve their own faiths but wish to join this movement, (3) Talented people for printing the literature of IGDS, (4) Volunteers who cannot give money or talent, (5) Well wishers who want to help in educational and humanitarian activities, (6) People who wish to study Gita or participate in only prayers without any commitment etc. etc..

HOW CAN YOU START ONE IGDS UNIT.

Step. No. I.

Find five devoted families and form an adhoc committee.

To start a local IGDS, only five or more Gita and Gandhi loving families staying nearby are needed. When five families agree to start and join in this movement with fullest devotion, donations and service mindedness, an adhoc committee may be formed. These families shall devote 3 to 4 hours of time every week for prayers,

publication of literature, money and food (Prasada). They will become 'Patron Families', trustees and pillars of IGDS in course of time.

Step No. II.

Arrange weekly prayer meetings and invite known friends.

By rotation, families will arrange weekly prayer meetings followed by vegetarian lunches and dinners (no beverages) at members homes. Every family will try to invite a new friend or a neighbor of different faith to appraise him about the movement. Free literature and books be given to invited guests. Weekly prayer session of three hours will include the Gita study, events from Gandhi's life, his inspiring thoughts, prayers, 'Aarti' and stories by children and good points about other religions. Prayers and views of other religions should be welcomed from the invited guests. Gandhi's political meetings were always preceded by prayers from all religions. Question answer sessions for 1/2 hour for the guests and members should be encouraged. Hindu mythology may be explained by telling the symbolic meanings of the Gods and Goddesses. Continue this activity till 20 devoted families join whole heartedly, and funds are available for a hall.

Step. No. III.

Register the IGDS and elect a working committee

When more than 20 families join, a legal body may be formed and registered as a non profit religious organization. Name it IGDS of — (name of place). Legal constitution may be adopted and appointments of office bearers done. Then the question of more fund raising for a 'Gandhi Hall' may be considered.

Step. No. IV.

Publish a weekly or monthly magazine of Gandhian

Philosophy and thoughts.

Before reaching the step of registration, every IGDS shall publish some literature (even a page or two) giving Gandhi's life events, inspiring quotes and views in the local languages of people. This literature must be distributed freely to local people, institutions like the libraries, churches and schools. This should be an important activity of any IGDS from its inception. Try to invite other Indian religious communities like Jains, Swami-narayanas, Kabir lovers, Shikhs, Vaishnavas, Shivaites and other groups in foreign countries. They must be treated as welcome guests at all times. Do not expect any contributions. They can worship their Gods in the half hour time limit. They can help the literary activity. In disputes and expansion of activities, the local IGDS will obey the orders of seniors and the head of IGDS.

Step. No. V.

Plan for a Gandhi Hall and/or a Gandhi Ashrama.

When sufficient devoted members join, fund raising for a hall or an Ashrama may be considered. Declare firm norms and guidelines before getting donations. Gandhi's photo will be placed at a central place. One photo of Krishna Arjuna chariot will be placed (or painted) on the back wall of the main dias. Only pictures (and not the idols) of Avatars like Krishna, Ram, Buddha, Mahavira, Jesus Christ, Buddha etc.. and saints like Kabira, Mira, Tulsi and other Hindu deity Gods and Goddesses can be kept on the side walls of the hall. Idols of mythological Gods should not be permitted. IGDS will not encourage idol worship. There is only one formless

(Nirakara Brahman and OM). IGDS will respect all messengers of God. Be very strict and clear about this particular point before starting any fund raising activity and receiving donations, particularly from the Indian friends believing in idol worship of Gods. Otherwise there will be many legal problems in future as we see today in many towns in USA and India.

Important events of different Indian religious groups can be celebrated in these Halls. Members of all faiths should participate in such activities. The aim should be to unite and accommodate all secular Indian group. The hall should be available to any religious groups for prayers and other religious functions with minimum charges or free.

Step. No. VI.

Appointment of the head-priest.

Appointment of a head-priest (Maha-Acharya) may be done on basis of knowledge and devotion to the cause. Full or part time paid local priests may be appointed as per need of the local community. They will perform rituals of marriages, death events and other ceremonies. Full time head-priest may receive honorarium, shelter, clothes, transport, and token gifts. A central publication of IGDS news will keep informed all local IGDS units in a town or state, about the activities of different units and such other matters.

Come forward, learn Gita and Join IGDS movement..

Open minded devoted people of all faiths are invited to join IGDS movement. The activities of all IGDS units will be coordinated by a central IGDS organization. Nearby smaller units of IGDS can join hands and build a common Mahatma Gandhi Hall or Ashrama. Ashramas will provide residential facilities to seniors, IGDS priests,

visiting guests, temporary accommodation for students, accommodation at low cost to visiting guests of local families, etc..etc.. Every month, units in the vicinity can meet in Ashramas or Halls. Asrama residents will work as honorary teachers, volunteers, and priests, etc..etc..

Libraries of the world religions, philosophical and Gandhian literature will be maintained in Gandhi Halls and Ashramas. Any curious student can learn world religions at such centers and participate in the activities of IGDS. Yoga classes and other educational courses, can be arranged to teach different skills for earning livelihood. This was the dream of Gandhi of true education. He called it 'Basic education' or '**Buniadi Talim**'.

IGDS will prepare a new cadre of Gita-Gandhi Rishies.

A new cadre of science minded teachers knowing Gita will be prepared from middle-aged seniors at all centers in different countries. The Gita-Gandhi priests will be men of achievements (Siddhas) in life and not simple escapists or idle retired persons. They will live a simple but active life having good knowledge of history, geography, science, other world religions and local laws and economics. They will be fearless service minded men and women of high morals, broad vision, non-violence and chaste life. These priests will guide the general policies of IGDS, teach Gita to others, carry out simple rituals and prepare newer codes for marriage, death events etc. They will learn and teach subjects like music, paintings and fine arts and try to give medical aid , guide people in tax matters, and act as family friends. They will preach good manners by their own examples. **Priesthood at young age is a wrong practice. It is not a correct way of life according to Hindu scriptures. Ideal age for priesthood is 45 and above.** Younger

people must remain volunteers and students. Family men should not become full time priests before the age of 40 or 50.

Goals of IGDS: Initial and Ultimate.

The ultimate goal of this movement is one Gandhi Asrama and/or one Gandhi Hall in every big township, city and village of all the countries of world. In course of time a head quarter in a district or country may be established which will supervise and co-ordinate local IGDS units according to need of people (in manner of service organizations like Lions International and the Rotaries). Children of teachers shall not inherit the post of head-priest or become owners of the community property. The property shall always remain with "Board of Trustees" elected from the groups of families who regularly donate 10% or more of their income. The board of trustees will see that every IGDS becomes a self sufficient unit in course of time.

If we desire Hindu unity abroad and in India, we need one prophet and one scripture. Gandhi Gita Dharma Sangh or IGDS movement is a scientific revision (Dharma Sansthapana) of Vedic and Upanishad heritage of all the Bharatiyas, and not an addition (Sthapana) of one more Idol. All unbiased, educated Gita-Gandhi lovers of Indian origin and Indians of other faiths like Islam, Christianity, Zoroastrians etc., can join this movement as "Friends of Gandhi-Gita Sangh and supporters of the holy scriptures of the world".

More points in next chapter for.

16. INTER-NATIONAL GANDHI - GITA DHARMA SANGH. (IGDS - II).

Why we should start or join IGDS ?

The progress of science in the 20th century and during last 30 years is so great that all religious and political leaders are stupefied and stunned. They do not know correct and sound principles of politics and morals that can bring peace for all people at all places. The socio-economic moral doctrines of secular religions always need periodic revision, though the higher morals given by great prophets are fairly true. Average men and women are not interested in God or religion but want material comforts brought by science, and peace in family. IGDS will become instrumental to satisfy these needs. People will understand God and need of religion in life. By correct understanding of religion, the minds of people running after sensual pleasures and money will change to spiritual consciousness and noble behaviors. They will lead other people from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from unhappiness to happiness and finally to a state of eternal divine bliss and joy.

Mahatma Gandhi was a man, one in a million, born in India after thousands of centuries. He started study of Gita at the age of 21, when he was a student of law in England. He understood the correct meaning of only two verses from an English translation of Gita by Sir Arnold Edwin. It changed his life, thoughts, attitudes, goals and his vision of life. The verses were :-

Dhayato vishayan punsaha sangah teshu upajayate,

Sangat sanjayate kamah kamat krodhobi jayate;

Krodhat bhavati sam-mohaha

sam-mohat smruti vibramaha,

Smruti branshat buddhi-nasho

Buddhi-nashat pranashayati.

Gita Ch. II-verses 62-63

"A person runs to get pleasure from many sensual objects and gets attached to them. Desire to get more pleasure from same objects arise in the mind . When he is not satisfied he becomes angry. Anger leads to profound illusion (sammoha). Illusion leads to memory loss (amnesia). When memory is lost, intellect (buddhi) vanishes. (It is the discriminative or judgment ability with in us.) When the intellect (reason, logic) is lost the person degrades in morals and perishes".

The causes of happiness and sufferings are explained in these two verses. Keep your mind and intellect free from sensual desires and emotions (like anger, greed, illusions, attachments and passions). Then only you can think with reason in a logical manner and excel in life.

IGDS is a not a religion, but a movement to propagate Mahatma Gandhiji's noble thoughts, philosophy, true message of Gita and all world religions. Men and women of any faith, who know and love Gandhiji can join this movement. IGDS will teach social, economic,

political and moral guidelines to people speaking many different languages. This will bring better understanding of religions, family peace, self-joy (Atma-anand) and prosperity to its followers and a better religio-political world order in the 21st century.

Unity of world religions by IGDS

The main object of IGDS is to bring religious and political harmony in the world. Hinduism has many time tested principles and guidelines in political and economic matters. There are thousands of scriptures, many Gods and Goddess, countless number of saints, Gurus and Swamis in Hinduism. Hindus are divided into 20,000 Sampradayas (Secular religions) and GURU-attached groups today. There is no central organization to question immoral activities of debauchers priests or wrong preaching delivered by Hippocratic Gurus. Ritual minded Hindu priests do not study the Gita. Temples have turned into giant enterprises of God business by immoral aristocratic Gurus, their sons and grand-sons. IGDS will become an organization of open minded and devoted people. It will preserve all good points of ancient heritage and culture and add some noble traditions from other religions also. IGDS will preach and propagate Eternal Doctrines, the true message of the Gita and views of Gandhi in different fields.

Proposed activities of IGDS

IGDS will carry out the following Humanitarian activities according to needs and resources of local members, IGDS will work in harmony with local political and religious leaders, observe strict vows of non-violence and avoid all kinds of conflicts as far as possible. Local units will become important pillars of political help

and awareness, but will always remain devoted to Gandhian philosophy. The important activities of IGDS will be as follows. These are just a few initial guide lines :-

1. Moral, ethical and cultural education of young generation by involving them in different educational and humanitarian activities.

2. Loans, scholarships and education aids to deserving bright students.

3. Free subsidized legal and medical help to the needy and poor children of members.

4. Adoption of orphans and shelter to senior males, widows or separated young and old females.

5. Encourage inter-caste, inter-religious and inter-national marriages.

6. No forced religious conversions will be practiced in IGDS, but it will remain active in propaganda of Gita-Gandhi thoughts. Members can preserve and practice the old religion of their birth.

7. A code of marriage vows and ethics will be prepared later on. Right of choice of husband by the girl, Swayamvar Pratha. But once married divorce will not be an easy matter.

Consent of parents on both sides will remain a welcome step in marriage.

8. IGDS will form panels of judges to settle minor or major disputes between husbands and wives, parents and children,

brothers and friends, and all members by arbitration and compromises.

This was the role of priests in past.

9. Free knowledge of economics, laws and medical subjects will be given to members by arranging talks on state laws, tax laws and health issues.

10. Help and education to infirm, illiterates, seniors and handicapped in the locality.

11. Residential facility for a few days to IGDS guests or at moderate rates for a few months to students and short times visitors, in the Ashrams.

12. Ready-made food items and kitchens for low income families and local residents.

13. More and more humanitarian services and projects for developing love and brotherhood in neighborhood.

For carrying out the above mentioned activities IGDS will build Gandhi Halls and Ashrams in different parts of cities and villages of all countries. The Halls and Ashrams will become important centers of spiritual activities for active seniors.

Why study only the Gita ?

Gita shows a path of conviction about God to any man of reason and science. It is a time-tested path of self-realization (*ATMA GYAN*), and self-study (*SWADYAYA*) but it needs genuine curiosity and devoted efforts. **Other religions talk about God, but the Gita provides a proof of God. Moreover Gita provides**

answers to many spiritual questions and practical problems arising in day-to-day life. Hence it is chosen as a single scripture for study for all members of IGDS. Lovers of humanity at large, and seekers of God and believers of need of morality or religion in life, are requested to join this movement and propagate this idea of International Gita Gandhi Dharma Sangh (IGDS) to their friends.

Scientific proof of One God

It is not possible to show or prove presence of God to a man of logic and scientific attitude. Scientists ask proof of God. Questions regarding presence of God may be satisfied to some extent if one reads the next chapter.

HARI OM TAT SAT (God is Truth)

17. IS GOD A FACT OR A FICTION (TRUTH OR MYTH)?

“It was a cold winter night. I was fast asleep on the second floor of my clinic at Naroda, a suburb of Ahmedabad, India. I woke up perspiring like a moist sponge. My clothes were soaked with sweat. Body hairs were raised in surprise. I wiped my face and eyes. I saw a shining ball of dazzling light outside the window. The brightness of light was greater than thousands of suns in the sky. From the east window a ball of light entered the room. It pervaded in all objects like tables, chairs, books etc. and entered my body. For a few seconds I experienced that I was weightless and floating in a soft cloud of light. My total existence and all things in the room were in tune and oneness with this light. I realized that everything was made of that light. There was no sun in the sky at midnight. I realized it was something else.

I saw at my wrist-watch. The TIME was 12.00 MIDNIGHT, the zero hour between Christ’s year 1979 and 80. It was DEC 31,79. I still remember that I saw a SHINING CROSS along with that bright light in the background”.

Only at a later date I understood that it was the ‘Cosmic Light’ of God and the holy spirit of Jesus Christ. I did not understand any significance of that event at that time. Even today after twelve years I do not know its meaning. But I am sure about this. Whatever I experienced and saw on that night was not a dream or imagination. I am very positive about this. It was a real experience in the fullest

conscious state of my mind. Three months prior to that date, I had started the study of Bhagavat Gita, a divine song of the Lord of Universe.

After attending a week's discourse on 'Karma Yoga' (Ch-3 of Gita, The Yoga of correct action) by Swami Chinmayanandji in Ahmedabad during October-1979, I got interested in the study of Gita for the first time in my life. I had no background of Christianity, nor I had any great attachments to Hinduism, religion or even God. I never believed in myths or rituals. My knowledge of Hinduism was hear-say, I did not meditate, nor practiced Yoga. But I had started writing notes of my scattered thoughts on religious subjects after Oct., 1979. I recorded this event and experience the next morning in my note book.

Devoted Christians believe that the resurrected HOLY SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST is pervading everywhere. Later I read Swami Vivekanand had experienced same spirit of Jesus Christ during his meditation practices under the guidance of his Guru Swami Ram Krishna Parmhans.

But why I was chosen in India by Almighty God to SEE (Darshana) this light of HOLY CROSS exactly at a particular time of the Christian calendar? This is still a question for me and I have no answer. Is this called '*Shakshatkara*' or DIVINE EXPERIENCE OF GOD that the Hindu scriptures describe? Today I understand its little meaning. God had chosen me to become His instrument in finding parallels in Eastern and Western religious thoughts.

During the last twelve years I have published a few books on Gita, Vedanta and Indian philosophy. An atheist doctor practicing in

a remote village of India could not have written these books. I get inspiring thoughts when I start writing on such subjects. I have witnessed mercy and care of God in all events that occurred in my life after 1979. I am more than convinced that GOD is one, Omnipresent and Almighty. He was, is and will ever be with me during all events that will happen in my future life also.

After this experience I lost interest in my well established medical practice of 30 years. I withdrew from practice and social commitments. By the end of 1982 I closed my clinic and immigrated to USA I was a crazy reader from the childhood. Now I turned to subjects like world history, history of religions, history of science, life stories of scientists and philosophers etc. I never read these subjects before.

In 1981 I came across a book, THE TAO OF PHYSICS by Fritjof Capra, Prof. of high energy physics at Berkly University, California. Mr. Capra also describes a similar experience of SEEING the cosmic light and the figure of Lord Shiva (Nataraj), a deity God worshipped by Hindus. He saw SHIVA in the open sky during daytime. This inspired him to write his book. This book discusses nicely the eastern religions, science, and philosophies. With the help of the famous equation of Albert Einstein, $E=MC^2$, Prof. Capra beautifully co-relates science and the verses of the Gita and Upanishads, Space and Time. In the preface of his book Mr. Capra writes :-

“I saw cascades of energy coming from the outer space, in which particles were created and destroyed in rhythmic pulses; I ‘saw’ the atoms of these elements and those of my body,

participating in this cosmic dance of energy ; I felt its rhythm and I 'heard' its sound and at that moment I KNEW that this was the Dance of Shiva, The lord of dancers worshipped by the Hindus”

Is God a fiction or fact, a myth or truth, or beliefs and blind faith of illiterate, uneducated and ignorant masses? Is there something like a maker of this wonderful and perfect universe? When such questions arise in mind of a reasoning individual of great achievements (Siddhas), a true seeker of God is born. Then such a person starts real search of God in the true sense. Most people do not care for God or religion. They simply believe in rituals and traditions. Others are not interested in God or religion. They simply believe in idols as God.

All scriptures of major world religions proclaim that 'God is One', But no scripture has a method by which one can SEE God and get 100% conviction about God. Why there are so many Gods and Goddesses in Hinduism? Is God of Muslims, Jews, Christians and Hindus different or one?

A man of reason and science wants proof of God, direct or indirect. The theory of Karmas preached in Gita provides a proof of the Laws of Mother Nature, which govern all individuals in an equal manner. Happiness and sorrows come to a person according to right and wrong Karmas done by him or even not done by him (*Akramas*) at proper times. (Theory of Karma, Akarma, and Vikarma). It is time that people of reason and spiritual quest should study all world religions as Gandhiji has recommended. The

Upanishads, Patanjali Yoga and the Gita provide a time tested path of SEEING the formless God (Nirakara but not Nirguna God).

Anybody can see God face to face by devoted study of Gita and search of God with the inquisitiveness of a scientist. You will SEE HIM. The search starts with study of SELF (ATMA). It ends in Self (Atma). Gita says that the divinity dwells within your HEART. God cannot be seen with our normal eyes or senses. But omnipresence of God can be felt by the waking or conscious MIND, when all egocentric desires (Vasanas) and false beliefs regarding God, come to an end, Then love compassion and an attitude of equality for all humans develops. This is spiritual evolution.

In Capra's book there are many quotations from the Gita and Upanishads Prof. Capra has nicely presented parallels in science and religions. He has explained the bondage of "Time-Space" and the interplay of the opposites. Gita and Upanishads describe these as duality (Dwandvas) of mind.

Hindus strongly believes in a cycle of births and deaths of soul (Atma). You are born at a particular place and time according to desires and actions (Vasanas and Sanchit Karmas) of previous lives. It is difficult to explain such mystic or illogical religious beliefs to men of intellect and reason.

Sometimes I ask myself. Was I an American or a Christian in previous life who was inspired by Swami Vivekanand who came to USA in 1892. He gave spiritual talks in America and Europe. Is possible that a desire to get birth in India would have remained in my mind at the time of my death when I died as an American? Is this possible? If this is not logical, than the beliefs of previous births

are misguiding and one should not waste time to prove or disprove such notions and beliefs. It is easy to understand that Karmas of this life operate in this life mostly. This can be proved to a fair extent.

The spirit in me and all creations is one. The same spirit was present in all great souls of past who inspired people in different lands. In this sense I can say that I have lived many previous lives. I was Veda Vyasa the writer of Mahabharata and Gita about 2500 years ago. I was Shankaracharya in 7th century and Arya Bhatta in 4th century AD I had lived as many scientists who gave knowledge in different countries of the world. In same way I can say that I was Jesus, Moses, Buddha, Ram and Krishna many centuries ago! By reading thoughts of all these great personalities we get tuned to their minds, feelings, and devotion to God. In a verse of Gita, Lord Krishna says:-

Bahuni me vyatitani janmani tava ch Arjuna ;

Tan Aham vettha sarvani natvam vettha Paramtpaha.

Gita Ch IV-5.

“ I have lived many lives in past and I know them all. But Oh man of great penances (Paramtapa), you do not remember any life, though you have also lived many lives in past’. Only a seeker like Arjuna can see a glimpse of God. A scientist like Mr., Capra can hear ‘HIS’ sound, and get divine inspirations. This is a subjective self experience, which occurs at individual level only. ‘Only one successful soul, one in a million knows Me perfectly’. (Gita. VII-4).

A scientist, an artist, a lover of truth and non-violence is very near to God compared to rich people giving big donations or narrow

minded priests of secular religions. A verse of Shiva prayer describes invisible Shiva, the God of cosmic energy and time, as follows :-

“Asit giri samam syat, kajjalam sindhu patre,

Sur taruvara shakha, lakhini patra bhurvihi,

Likhati yadi grahitva sharada sarva kalam,

Tadpi tava gunanam param isham ne yati”.

Shiva Mahimna Stotrum - (32)

“The description of Lord always remains incomplete, even if Goddess SHARDA (Goddess of music, speech and knowledge) turns oceans into ink, land into paper, trees into a pen and describes the qualities, kindness and mercy of God till the end of time” (Dooms Day).

God is beyond words and beyond OM but religion is within the range of OM. Morality (Dharma-religion) could be explained by words. Religion is like a map which indicates the goals in life and shows directions and ways of achieving those goals. Achievement of goals, bring joy and happiness in life. Speech or spoken language (Vani) roots from OM. If there is One God, then there should be only one religion, Open minded and able people must come forward to find common factors in all religions and re-establish a new religion, A religion must provide guidelines to priests and political leaders also.

Lord in the Gita (Ch, IV-7 & 8) declares that He sends divine messengers in every era (Yuga), Whenever ethical values decline, God assumes human forms or sends messengers to help the poor,

uplift morals, and punish the sinners, Divine souls and prophets of religions at different places were the human forms, incarnations (Avatars or Vibhooties) of God according to this verse. Their life stories and message is same. Mohammed fought against idol worship of many Gods by different Arabs tribes. Christ fought against the priests and the rulers. He was crucified by his own people. God's search needs the fearlessness of a martyr. Only after centuries people understand the message of love and equality of humans, preached by all prophets. Then people worship such martyrs as God. Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed and Gandhi belong to this class of super-human beings.

Lord Mountbatton in a interview said these words to Attenborough, the producer of the movie 'Gandhi,' "Mr. Attenborough you are making a movie of a man of caliber of Jesus Christ and Buddha. Please see that you do not do any injustice to this great soul (Mahatma)."

After my twelve years of study of the Gita I say that Mahatma Gandhi was an incarnation of God (Vibhooti). Lovers of Gandhi should come forward, unite and start a new world community (Religious Union -Sangh). International Gandhi Gita-Dharma Sangh (IGDS) is based on this theme. Men and women of any religion can join this movement without renouncing their old religious labels or beliefs, or practices of worship.

With modern tools of communication like press, transport and T.Vs., we can propagate Gandhiji's thoughts on subjects like education, ideal political system, sociology, economics, sex, marriage, diet, health, religion and God. These are worth studying

by people of all countries. He has given us great literature, which will help everyone and bring world peace in the 21st century.

Mahatma Gandhi was a fighter of political freedom, but he fought with a gun of non-violence and bullets of love. He believed in democracy, yet he said, "Only I am the only true communist in this world". He was a lawyer, but an advocate of poor and the untouchables. He preached village autonomy as an ideal system for any government. He strongly believed that the borders of a country must be decided on the basis of spoken languages of the people. His thoughts on 'Swadeshi' are based on sound economic principles. Swadeshi means "Use the products made in your own country." He was a selfless saint who has showed us a path of truth, non-cooperation, non-violence and struggle for human rights. We must not have hatred towards enemies in our minds. Mahatma Gandhi was a true Karma-Yogi.

Rabindranath Tagore, the winner of the peace Nobel Prize (1912) writes:-

***"Go ahead, Go ahead , even if Nobody listens thy voice,
God ahead, Oh man.***

***If nobody joins, keep on Going all alone, all alone, but go
ahead Oh man,***

***If your path is true and love is your weapon, you shall
reach your goal, Go ahead, Oh man,***

Go ahead, Go ahead, Go ahead, all alone,

Oh man go ahead,".

Sir Sarvapalli Radha-Krishnan, ex-president and a renowned scholar of Hindu scriptures wrote, “ Thoughts of Gandhi should be broadcast in all the world languages daily for fifteen minutes. It will bring true world peace “

My sincere Namaskaras and salutations to all true Gurus, Saints and Prophets. Hari Om Tat Sat. (God is absolute truth)

Om Shantihi, Om Shantihi. Om Shantihi

Let peace prevail Let peace prevail Let peace prevail.

S U M M A R Y O F T H E B O O K .

1. IGDS is a new idea and a new movement. It will have no leaders or a founder Guru. Only Gandhi is to be respected as our Guru. Life and message of Gandhi has sufficient wealth of knowledge for all classes of people, and for entire mankind in 21st century.

2. Religion and politics are not separate subjects. Sound principles of economics play important role in bringing prosperity or poverty to a country.

3. Wrong economic policies of Nehru and selfish power holding dirty tactics of Indira Gandhi, have made India a poor country in the world today. A comparison of the economic progress of Japan and India proves this fact. There is a good hope of recovery by following Gandhian views and implementing the theme of Swadeshi.

4. In order to uplift individual's moral courage, re-establish ethical values, bring health and happiness, and multi pointed progress in the nation, we need to start an International Gandhi-Gita Dharma Sangha.

5. An out line of aims and objects, and how to start an IGDS, Gandhi Halls and Gandhi Ashrams is presented. Important messages of Gita and its value in modern times is indicated.

6. Try to preach and propagate the eleven commandments as revised extract of all religions and remember the seven sins indicated by Gandhi,

7. The important activities of all IGDS units at all places will be as follows.

a. General and Moral education of children, teenagers and adults, IGDS will teach moral, ethics and humanitarian values of friendship and love.

b. Publication of books and magazines and its world wide distribution. To remain active in preparing and distributing inspiring Gandhian literature in different world languages will be an important vow for all members.

c. Propagate Gandhiji's political and religious thoughts by TV film shows, cultural programs, radio talks, dramas and movies etc.. etc..

d. Educative tours, youth camps, monthly and annual fares and seminars.

e. Benevolent humanitarian activities like scholarships to bright students, medical and legal aids, help and respect for women, aged and infirm. Adoption of orphans and moral support to the windows.

f. Development of national spirit and the sense of duties and sacrifices.

g. Development of attitudes of human equality, universal brotherhood and respect for all faiths and religions.

May God inspire every able and intellectual soul to join IGDS and contribute his share for suffering fellow human beings.

OM Shantihi

Shantihi

Shantihi

Let Peace Prevail, Let humanity live in harmony, dignity and equality.

Books of DR. H. K. Gandhi.

Gujatari Books.

1. **Ahamkar and Vasana (False Egos & Selfish Desires).**
Gaurav and Purusharth. (1983)
2. **Mana, Chitta and Buddhi. (Mind, Subconscious Mind-Memories, and Intellect).**
3. **Karma Yoga Gita Ch-3. Art of Perfect Actions or Karma.** (1984)
4. **Bhkti Yoga Gita Ch-12. Who is a real devotee of God?** (1984)
5. **Raj Yoga Gita Ch-9. Art of Uniting with the King of Universe.** (1985)
6. **Purushottam Yoga Gita Ch-15. Union with the Supreme Lord.** (1985)
7. **Shri Krishna Sharanam Mama.**
Three Different Krishnas in Bhagavat, Mahabharat and the Gita. (1994)
8. **Prarabdh and Purushartha.**
16 Inspiring Stories in Gujarati - (2001). + Two Essays on
(a) Practical Meaning of Devi Laxmiji & (b) Diagnosing Early Cancer.
9. **Vignan-na Rushio (Part-1)**
Sapexvad, Adiatma-Vidya and Evoltuion of Science and Dharm (2003)
10. **Tamare America Javu Chhe? Do You want to go to America?** (1981).

English Books.

- (10). **ABC OF HINDUISM.** (1988)
Basics of Hinduism for Growing Youth Staying Abroad.
- (11). **MAHATMA GANDHI - Ambassador of God-
For Entire Mankind in the 21st Century.** (1992).
Gandhiji, Religious and Political Problems, & Suggested for
changes in constitution of India. **Proof of One God.**
- (12). **WILL POWER OF POSITIVE MIND.** (2003)
Goldin, Gita and God. - Paul Goldin's book '*Wind Mill of Mind*'
- compared with Yoga Meditation and Gita.
- (13). **ASHTANG YOGA.** (2008).
Art And Science Of Good Health, Wealth, Long Life,
All Material Success With Peaceful Positive Mind
- (14). **PRANAYAMA CURES BLOOD PRESSURE** (2008)
Short Buklet of 2 Essays on Pranayama.

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