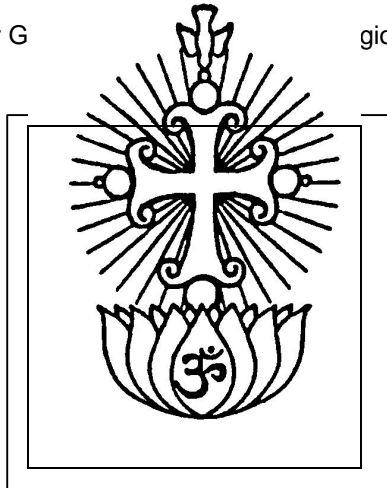


SERMONS ON MOUNT AND MAHTMA GANDHI

Booklet of Comparative Religions.

(For G _____ gions).



By Swami Dwiroopanand
(Dr. H. K. Gandhi in Past life)

What is Religion?

Why we need Religion?

Why there are so many religions in the world?

Can we see God face to face?

Where is God?

Does assumes Human Form?

Is God of Islam, Christians, Jews, Hindus and countless sectarian religions, One or Different?

If God is one, than why people fight in the name of God and religion?

When all religions teach noble values like truth, forgiveness, non-violence, equality of all people and celibacy, than why women and children of different ethnic groups and nationality are raped, punished, killed and tortured in name of God and religious beliefs?

Why there are so many Gods and Goddesses in Hinduism? The correct name of the ancient 5000 years old Heritage of India is Sanatan Dharm meaning Eternal Moral religion.

Scientific answers of above questions need perfect understanding in present times of religious terrorism.

One God of Universe and True Humanitarian religion are logically given in India's most popular Scripture- The Gita - written in such a way, as if Supreme God, King of all Kings in Universe is Speaking by using the first person singular "Pronoun I", which every living human being is using for him or herself.

Lord of Universe- "Bhagvan" in the Gita promises:-

*Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya, Glanir Bhavati Bharat,
Abhyuthamadharmasys, Tadaatmanam Srujamyaham
Paritranaya Sadhunam, Vinashaya Cha Dushkrutm
Dharma Sansthapanarthaya, SambhavaaMe Yuge Yuge*

(Gita Ch. IV-V- 7 & 8).

"When Religion (moral values) degrades and un-religious activities become rampant, I create divine souls (Atmas) to help the noble and destroy the evil doers. I (Me) myself take human forms at intervals of centuries to re-establish forgotten truths and moral values of Dharma".

This answers the Hindu belief of God sending his enlightened souls or HIM-self assuming human forms to revise religious beliefs.

This verse says that Revision (RENAISSANCE) of religions (***Dharm-Sanstapan***) is necessary at intervals of passage of some centuries. God assumes human form when moral values fall and immorality becomes rampant.

Truth and nonviolence are preached in all world religions.

Most People in the world today know Mahatma Gandhi as a political freedom fighter. But his religious and spiritual side is less known. I believe that all Indians can take pride for such a noble divine soul of India, particularly the Gujaraties - for Gandhiji was a son of Gujarat.

Mahatma Gandhi was an incarnation (*Avatara, Vibhooti*) of God, equivalent to Jesus Christ and Lord Buddha.

Lord Mountbatten had said these words to the film producer Attenborough - producer of award winning film, GANDHI - in an interview.

“Remember that you are making a movie of a personality of the caliber of Jesus Christ and Lord Buddha.”

This movie “Gandhi” of Richard Attenborough has played very important role in bringing to light the life of Mahatma Gandhi. It had won eight academy awards in 1988.

I firmly believe that Mahatma Gandhiji and Jesus Christ, and all great founders of Today’s major world religions like Islam, Hebrew, Buddhism, Tao, etc.,. Were such a divine souls called *Vibhooties* in the Gita. Mahatma Gandhi is the most recent personality.

Gandhiji has shown the world, a unique path of ‘Nonviolent Fight’ of gaining freedom (Mukti, Moksha) from selfish and Ego griped political rulers.

Gandhiji has described God in very few words. “God is truth and truth is God. Non-violence preached in all religions,

is the only true way of solving all disputes, personal in family, Society, Village or Cities, or state and international levels”.

Views of Mahatma Gandhi about Jesus are worth noting.

“The New Testaments gave me comfort and boundless joy, as it came after the repulsion those parts of the Old had given me. Today, supposing I was deprived of the Gita and forget all its contents but had a copy of the Sermons on Mount, I should derive the same joy from it as I do from the Gita”. (*Young India, 22-12-1927.p.426*).

“Jesus expressed , as no other could, the spirit and will of God. It is in this sense that I see Him and recognize Him as the Son of God. And because the life of Jesus has the significance and the transcendence to which I have alluded. **I believe that Jesus belongs not solely to Christianity, but to the entire world, to all races and people** - it matters little under what flag, name or doctrine they may work, profess a faith, or worship a God inherited from their ancestors”. (*The Modern Review, October 1941, p.406*).

“My approach to other religions, therefore, is never as a fault-finding critic but as a devotee hoping to find the like beauties in other religions and wishing to incorporate in my own the good I may find in them and miss in mine. {*Harijan, 12-8-1933*).

Views of Gandhiji from a book

"My Religion by M. K. Gandhi".

Mahatma Gandhi about Religions.

" I hold that it is the duty of every cultured man or woman to read sympathetically the scriptures of the world. If we are to respect others' religions as we would have them to respect our own, a friendly study of world's religions is a sacred duty of all. My respectful study of other religions has not abated my reverence for or my own faith in the Hindu scriptures. They have indeed left their deep mark upon my understanding of the Hindu Scriptures. They have broadened my view of life. They have enabled me to understand more clearly many obscure passages in Hindu scriptures. I respect all religions". (Young India - 2-9-1926):

- By religion I do not mean a formal religion or customary religion, but that religion which underlies all religions, which bring us face to face with our maker or GOD.
- Every activity of a man of religion must be derived from his religion because religion means bound to GOD, that is to say God rules your every breath.
- Religion should pervade our every action. It does not mean sectarianism (Sampradaya). It believes in ordered moral government of universe (Kingdom of God or Rama Rajya). It is not less real because it is unseen. This religion transients Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, etc., etc.. It does not supersede them. It harmonizes them and gives them reality.
- **No man can live without religion.** There are some who in Egotism of their reason, declare that they have nothing to do with religion or God. But it is like a man saying that he breaths but has no nose. Whether by reason, or by instinct, or by superstition a man acknowledges some sort of relationship with the Divine.
- The rankest agnostic or atheist does acknowledge the need of a moral principle and associates some thing good with its observance and some thing bad with its non-observance.
- Religion which takes no account of practical affairs of daily life and does not help to solve them is no religion.
- Religion is the permanent element in human nature which counts no cost too great in order to find its full expression, and which leaves the soul utterly restless until it has found itself, known THE MAKER, and appreciated the true correspondence between THE MAKER AND ITSELF.

JESUS & MAHATMA GANDHI ARE IMMORTAL SOULS.

(Based on a Famous Upanishad Hymn
Mrutor mam Amrutam Gamaya)
Lead me to Immortality by my death.

Someone is Coming and someone is Going,
Someone is Awaking and someone is Sleeping,
Someone is Sitting 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.
Millions are Blue and Millions are Red,
Only a few are Green but Millions are Pale,
Only a few are Strong but Millions are Weak,
Millions are Bitter, but only a few are Sweet!
I search Thee Oh Lord, and the Mystery of JOY,
My Death is near, Shall I SEE THEE Oh GOD?
THY LIGHT if seen, and (my) ignorance if gone,
Then Fear of Death is gone, and courage is born.
Millions don't know what things they Need,
Only Wise really know, what one should Seek.
No human can give, all things you (people) want,
Only a few are conscious of the Gifts they've got.
Why people 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 all are in Cheers,
No Worries, no Hunger, no Guns, no Fears.
No one is Crying and the youth is Dancing,
And all are singing Divine songs for Living.
**Who Gives with Faith and holy Vows,
With Love Divine, no Hate for Foes.
When Forgiveness of Jesus pervades all souls,
A girl can sing, She has divine goals.
From Hell who came, and to Heaven who went,
Every born has to Die, the Gita has said,
Only Prophets like Jesus and men like Gandhi,
True Scientists and Seers (of God) are IMMORTAL SOULS.**

Mrutor mam Amrutam Gamaya, is a famous *mantra* and prayer to God from Brahad-Aranyak Upanishad.

In full verse one prays to Lord, Lead me from untruth to Truth, Lead me from darkness (ignorance) to Light (Knowledge) and Lead me to immortality from (by) my death”.

The spiritually evolved soul asks God to give him/her the death of a martyr, which will make him/her immortal.

People want to go to heaven after death, but they do not want to die for going to heaven !

“Every born has to die”, is Eternal law of God. The above poem shows a path for living with noble goals and dying like a martyr in religious field. One should not be afraid of dying for any good and noble cause. Such a death leads to immortality. People remember such souls for centuries.

Jesus and Gandhiji died as martyrs having firm faith in God and God’s work.

The laws of mother-nature or **Maker of the Universe (GOD)** work in an equal manner upon all human beings, animals, plants, stars, suns, moons and all Galaxies. Everything- perceptible with five senses is in a non-stop motion or TIME-SPACE continuum. The possession of money, property, political power and desires to get more **Greed (Lobh)** and family attachments create ‘**False Egos and Illusions**’ in **minds (Ahamkara and Moha)**. These lead to commit great religious and political wars by persons in high religious or political positions.

IS GOD A FACT OR A FICTION, TRUTH OR MYTH?

Is God a fiction or fact, a myth or truth?

Are these beliefs of people of blind faith of illiterate, uneducated and ignorant masses true or false?

Is there something like a maker of this wonderful and perfect universe?

When such questions arise in mind of any reasoning individual of great achievements in material world (a *Siddha*), 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 the Gita provides a proof. The Laws of Mother Nature govern all individuals in an equal manner. Happiness and sorrows come to a person according to right and wrong Karma done by him/her or even not done by him (*Akramas*) at proper time. (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 (ASHTANG YOGA) and the Gita provide a time tested path of SEEING the formless God (Formless - *Nirakara* but not quality-less -*Nirguna* God). This science is called Bhram-Vidya or Self Realization (*Adhiatma-Vidya*).

Anybody can see God face to face by devoted study of Gita and search of God with genuine inquisitiveness of a scientist. You can SEE HIM. The search starts with study of SELF (ATMA). It ends in Self (Atma). Yoga and the Gita teach that divinity dwells within your HEART. God cannot be seen with physical eyes or other senses. But omnipresence of God can be felt by the awakened or

conscious MIND, when all egocentric desires (Vasana) 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.

I SEE THE HOLY CROSS OF JESUS IN 1979.

"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 wristwatch. 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. This is this called 'Shakshatkara' or DIVINE EXPERIENCE OF GOD as 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 last twelve years I wrote and 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 used to get inspiring thoughts when I started writing on such subjects. I have always witnessed mercy and help of God in all events, which have 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 Fritj of Capra, Prof. of high-energy physics at

Berkley University, California. Mr. Capra also describes his 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, $E=MC^2$,¹³² 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”

I record one more experience of a young student of North Florida University. In April (1995), I was invited to give a talk on Hinduism to the students of comparative religions class in NFU (FL). They were mostly Christian students. When I described my above experience of **SEEING the Holy Cross in 1979**, and then after my life's turn towards the study of world religions, all students were spell bound. At end of talk after the question answer session, we were dispersing.

A young girl approached and placed the following note in my hand. She had never studied religious scriptures in depth. But her experience of **"Seeing Divine Light"** is worth reading.

She wrote. "Thank you for your wonderful seminar. Almost 2 years ago, I had similar experience, though there was no one religion which struck me, rather what (after studying) is most similar to BRAHMAN reaching ATMAN. As you say seeming crazy; for this reason I have stopped trying to tell people. But this seed was planted and I too came to the same conclusion that all religions should be respected and merged in a way that the world community can love one another. Any how if you have any type of mailings please include me. - "Amenda Mehrstens."

* * * *

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 previous births, deaths and rebirths of soul (Atma). You are born at a particular place and time according to desires and actions (Vasanas and Sanchit Karma) 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 my previous life, who was inspired by Swami Vivekanand who came to USA in 1892. He gave many 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 Karma done in this life operate in this very life generally speaking. This is possible to prove to a fair extent.

The Holy Spirit in me and all living creations is one and same. This spirit was present in bodies of all great souls of the 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 sense and manner I can say that I was Jesus, Moses, Buddha, Ram and Krishna many centuries ago! By reading thoughts of all these great personalities any one can get tuned to their noble minds, feelings, intellect 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 past life, although 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 purely subjective self experience, which occurs at individual level only. ‘Only one successful soul, one in a million knows Me (God) 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 in Universe and God of Universal Time, - as follows :-

*“Asit giri samam syat, kajalam sindhu patre,
Sur taruvara shakha, lakhini patra bhurvihi,
Likhati yadi grahitva sharada sarva kalam,
Tadpi tava gunanam param isham ne yati”.*

Shiva Mahimna Strotrum - (V-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 to gain knowledge of religion is within range of OM, or symbol of any spoken language. Morality (Dharma-religion) could be taught and explained by words. Religion is like a map, which indicates the goals in life and shows directions and ways of achieving those goals. Achievements of life goals bring joy and happiness.

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 try to find common factors in all religions and try to establish a new Global Religion. This religion will provide correct guidelines to all 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 his Sons

like Jesus and messengers like Mohammad to uplift morals of the poor and help them and also to punish the evil doers and sinners.

All Divine souls and prophets of world’s religions at different places were the human forms or incarnations (Avatars or Vibhooties) of God according to this verse. Their life stories and message is same.

Mohammed raised his voice and fought against idol worship of many different Gods by Arabs tribes. Christ fought against the priests and the political rulers of Rome. But he was crucified by his own Jewish priests.

God's search and path needs fearlessness (*Abhaya*) of a martyr. Only after passage of some centuries people understand the message of love and equality of humans, preached by all past prophets. Then people start worshipping such martyrs as Gods in human forms. Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed and Mahatma Gandhi belong to this rare class of super-human souls.

Lord Mountbatten 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 firmly believe and 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).

My idea of International Gandhi Gita-Dharma Sangh (IGDS) is based on this theme. Men and women of any sect, country or religion can join this movement without renouncing their old religious beliefs, or practices of worship.

With modern tools of communication like press, transport and TVs., Computers and internet, IGDS 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 left for us great literature which will help everyone and bring real 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 any country must be decided on the basis of spoken languages of the people. His thoughts on 'Swadeshi' are based on sound economic principles. Spirit of Swadeshi teaches "Use the products made in your own country."

He was a selfless saint who has showed to all a path of truth, non-cooperation, non-violence and how to struggle for true human rights. We must not have any 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 says, "If thoughts of Gandhi are broadcasted in all world languages daily for fifteen minutes, It will bring true world peace "

My sincere Namaskar and salutations to all true Gurus, Noble Saints and Prophets of all religions.

Hari Om Tat Sat. (God is absolute truth)

Om Shantihi, Om Shantihi. Om Shantihi

Let peace prevail Let peace prevail

Let peace prevail.

THE UNIQUE HEBREW PEOPLE.

Five day war took place in the middle east on June 5th, 1967. It shocked the world. It was over on the sixth day. It was between 12 powerful Arab kingdoms on one side and one tiny Israel on the other side!. There were eleven hundred million (Crores) Arabs, who had prepared for a war to crush this new country, born in 1948, having a population which equal half the city of Bombay. But the Israelis in three days demolished completely the powerful Air-force of Egypt and captured great areas of surrounding lands of Arabs. The war was over. Who are these people!

Palestine liberation organization (P.L.O) had terrorized world air lines by hijacking many planes. On June 1976 a group of 104 fellow men were captured as hostages on the air port of Antoby, in Uganda Africa, nearly 2500 miles away from their land. They did an unimaginable adventure and liberated all their fellow brothers with the fastest counter action lasting for only 52 minutes. Who are these people!

For nearly 2000 years, these people have lived without a country of their own and a national flag. They have wandered in more than 40 different countries as a hated and ill-treated community. Yet they did not get extinguished as the people nor they changed their religious beliefs. Who are these people!

There are no great rivers nor there is regular rain fall in their land. There are no underground wells of sweet drinking water. Yet within a period of only 20 years these people have converted a desert into a beautiful garden of roses, oranges and grapes. Who are these people!

These are the unique Hebrew people. They are people of today's Israel and all over world.

Their Jewish religion is one of the oldest mono theistic religions in the west, and perhaps the world. A student who wishes to study comparative world religions must study the history of ups and downs of the Hebrew people. The student should also study and understand the meaning of words like religion, culture, heritage, tradition, morality, ethics, civilization, religious and political empires,

sociology, economic principles and prosperity etc, etc. But above all he must understand the meaning of the world PEOPLE. The Hebrews are a unique PEOPLE.

In order to understand the above words, the story of Hebrew People (the Jews) is fascinating and interesting. Their story is very well documented in scholarly volumes in all libraries of the world. In this small chapter of comparison of religions we will study only a few important words and mention a few historic events.

The word for 'civilization' in Indian language is 'Sanskriti'. The ancient language of the Aryans is called Sanskrit, meaning the language of civilized people. Religion in former days meant observance of tribal traditions and unwritten social laws. Prosperity was counted in terms of cattle and sheep and ownership of land by a tribe over a particular land area. The early days of evolving human religions, civilized and uncivilized people were fighting for ownership of rivers and fertile land.

In ancient Hindu scriptures the civilized people were called Devas (deities) and uncivilized people Asuras or Demons. Fights between these two classes of people were going on since pre-historic times. They are not yet over after four thousand years of evolution of countless world religions, publications of many holy scriptures, and mankind witnessing the highest progress of science in the 20th century after fructification of Jesus Christ. Man has placed his footsteps on the moon, and replaced heart of one person into chest of another man. But the real transplantation of hearts has not occurred in the last decade of this 20th Century. Let us hope this real spiritual evolution occurs in the 21st century.

The word Dharma (religion) of Sanskrit language indicates moral, social and obligatory duties. The codes of social behaviors and customs were called religious guidelines (Commandments). Communities of people staying in limited geographic areas and following such codes were 'the religious people' of ancient times. A person or a family, not agreeing with such codes was driven out from that area or punished by the ruling heads. In this manner political, economic and social laws were taking shape. Wise and learned men would move to different areas in search of better living conditions. We see this trend even today. Many individuals and families immigrate to rich and free countries, like America today.

The history of Hebrews provides an interesting story of how religion, culture, education, family ties, and faith in words of prophets and God can unite and preserve good traditions, and how such values lead to suffering for some time. But the same moral and ethical principles and faith (True religion) brings in the end real prosperity and happiness for its followers.

All religions believe that God is One.

The basic natural instinct or desire of every living being is to be happy and live long. In former times few intelligent people studied the effects of natural elements on life. They thought well and suggested ways how people can become happy.

They observed that the basic needs of all beings were air, water and food. When these were satisfied people were happy. Then in later times, their attention was drawn to different diseases which made people unhappy. Almost every born died due to some disease or fatal injuries. Knowledge of seasons and rainfall developed and people learned to live together in co-operation and harmony, with exchange of knowledge and material wealth. Jungle-man and cave-man learnt cultivation of land, art of agriculture, herbal medicine, cattle and sheep raising and started to build houses and live in planes and become more civilized.

(See the chart of Evolution of World Religions in End).

There are three major religions in West. Judaism or the Hebrew religion had started about 2000 years before the birth of Christ. Christianity is linked with birth of Jesus Christ. Islam has started in the 7th century A.D.. These dates of origin or start should be remembered by the students. Christ was born about 1990 years ago. People link calendars with birth dates of great prophets, pioneers of religions or great kings. Today, the people of these three religions follow their own calendars. But the calendar of Jesus Christ is followed by the entire world. In former days there were no well organized religions. The general pattern of religion was of social customs of marriages, food habits and hygiene, methods of disposal

of dead and tribal family traditions. Even today we see the same pattern in all parts of world and prophet started secular religions.

A curious student of world religions should understand the difference between Christianity and the Hebrew religion, and the New Testaments and Old Testaments. I suggest him to study only one particular section of the Holy Bible, known as 'Sermons on the Mount'. Compare the preaching of Jesus with the preaching of earlier Hebrew prophets. Then try to compare them with similar doctrines of other religions. In this way an unbiased student of comparative religions will understand the noble and deeper messages of all world religions.

In order to understand the difference between Judaism and Christianity, we shall first study the geography of the land known as Israel today. Then we will try to learn the origin of Judaism and preaching of their earlier prophets like Abraham, Moses and others. This background would help us to appreciate the message of 'sermons on mount' in a better perspective.

Jesus was born nearly 2000 years after the origin of Hebrew religion. The land called Israel today was known as Palestine in those days. This holy land of all Hebrews, Christians and Arabs too was a small hilly and sandy area of only 1100 sq. miles. It was a region of 140 miles north-south and 80 miles east-west. Its north end touched the present area of Lebanon. The east limits merged with a desert leading to Syria. In south there was the Sinai peninsula leading to Egypt. In the west there was the Mediterranean ocean. The river Jordan ran from north to south in the middle of this land. This river ends in a big lake known as the Dead Sea. Because of inflow of water for years and no outlet, this river and sea have become very salty. No fish can survive or vegetations can grow in this water. To imagine this area one can think of one quarter area of the southern peninsula of Michigan, extending from Toledo to Port Huron.

There were five districts in this area. Two districts on the east side of river were called Decapolis (district of ten towns) and Pieria. Three districts on the west side of the river were called Galilee, Samaria and Judah. The city of Jerusalem was in the south west district of Judah. This strip of land and

the sides of river Jordon were the trading land-routes between Europe, Egypt and Arab countries in those days.

Nearly all ancient religions have a common character of tribal discipline and local sociology. 2000 years prior to the birth of Jesus, the present Hebrew traditions were started by a man called Abraham. He was a wise businessman who had moved to the city of Jerusalem with his family members from a near by small village called Ura (presently in Iraq). He was a man of high morals and honesty. He had realized the importance and need of family unity and love, and friendship among nearby neighbors. He thought these noble values to his children and grand children. To remain united with family ties by marriages within known circles, chaste sex relations, sharing joys and sorrows, and helping the poor members of nearby families was his simple advice. These advices became codes of good conduct (Religion) for the great grand children of Abraham family and their following generations till present times. Moses, a great prophet in lineage of Abrams, liberated his fellowmen from the slavery of Egyptian kings and declared Ten Commandments for all the people. They were revised short sentences of ancient preaching of Abram. These are known today as Old testaments.

The members of the family of Abrams were called Judas, the residents of Judah district. Their traditions became Judaism or the Hebrew religion in course of centuries. They evolved into an isolated but a strongly united and scholarly community compared to their other Semitic brothers - the uneducated and tribal Arab families, who were children of Abraham's two brothers. Hebrews, the children and grand children of Abraham, mostly resided in big towns and became a business community. They had good knowledge of mathematics, medicine and astrology. They tried to remain an isolated, non-political business community faithful to the rulers of the land. But in those days rulers changed often. Their isolation from other people and politics of the land turned them into a hated community by the following rulers. They were looked upon as unfaithful citizens because they were faithful to the former rulers.

History records only a few centuries of peace and prosperity for these Hebrews. History of Hebrews is full of long periods of sufferings, mass massacres (as seen in Germany recently), destruction of their temples and properties and slavery. Religion in those days meant strict observance of tribal traditions, discipline and obedience to elderly and grandfathers. The fighting barbarian tribes off and on destroyed their settlements, robbed away sheep, and destroyed the property of this God fearing Hebrews staying in the ancient land known as Palestine.

Hebrews had developed alphabets and a system of writing and keeping good records. They have well preserved records of births of their families since 4000 years like our modern birth registers. In the first chapter of Genesis in Bible one finds a long lineage and dynasty from Abraham to Jesus. After some centuries the Hebrews learned that change of a ruling king meant loss of independence and wealth. They thought of establishing a kingdom of their own. Peace loving business minded community learned that use of weapons was necessary to preserve wealth and independence, because 'Might is Right' was the law in those times. It has not changed even today.

Hebrews established a kingdom of their own. The temple of Jerusalem was built during the rule of a Hebrew King David. Hebrews were at the peak of their prosperity in the times of king David and his son Solomon. Jerusalem became a place of attraction and pilgrimage for the entire Hebrew community living in nearby and adjoining areas. In the course of centuries this holy temple has been destroyed and rebuilt several times. The land of Hebrews was conquered off and on by the mighty Egyptians, the empire minded Romans and other Semitic barbarian tribes of nearby regions. These scattered Arab tribes were later on united by Mohammad in the 7th century A.D. when he founded a new religion Islam. This short history of Hebrews indicates one important thing. Except for their religious beliefs the Arabs and the Hebrews are the children of same Semitic forefathers.

Since last 3500 years endless wars and blood baths are going on in this part of world in the name of God and religion and nationalism. This holy land has remained a battle ground for Arabs, Hebrews and Christians. There are no gold

mines, nor any great rivers or fertile land in this region. There are some missing gaps in all these three religions, which could be filled with acceptance of some eternal truths and spiritual philosophies of eastern preaching.

Before 2000 years, in period prior to birth of Jesus Christ, the Hebrews were enslaved and ruled by Romans. Romans had appointed Harold as governor (Sultan) for collecting state taxes. At the time of birth of Jesus, Harold-II, the son of first Harold was local ruler. He had married a Hebrew girl. Due to this arrangement there was some harmony between the king and Hebrew community. The religious freedom of Hebrews was preserved. The social laws for Hebrew community were made by a central council of 71 priests, who were representatives from different towns of that area. This council had powers to decide punishments for sinning and anti-religious Hebrews.

Herod was a tyrant king. To please his Hebrew wife he had executed a reformist Hebrew saint, John the Baptist. John had refused to obey the authority of the religious council of priests. This independent saint John had baptized young Jesus. The rich Hebrews and orthodox Hebrew priests had accepted slavery of Herod and the Romans. They had no vision or courage to fight or look at the sufferings of many poor Hebrew families. Orthodox Hebrew priests, known as Pharisees and business minded rich Hebrews had joined hands with king Herod. The average God fearing and law abiding Hebrews were silent. Mysticism and astrological beliefs were rampant. About 2000 years ago, Jesus was born in this land when such circumstances were prevailing.

A bright star was visible in dark sky. Many predictions and legends are associated with the birth of Jesus. But the historic fact is that there was no shelter for delivery of Mary. Jesus was born on a bed of grass in a stable of a poor potter in the company of sheep and mules.

The story of birth of Jesus gives us one important message. It is not important in which family and where you are born, but what you think, what you do, how you live, and what message you give to the people is

important. But above all how you die is an important thing in life.

This is very well said by an important character 'Karna', in Mahabharat story. Many a times the Brahmin son Ashvathama (son of a priestly teacher) and other Kshatriya princes used to insult Karna by addressing him as son of a maid-servant, Soot-putra or Radhaye. He replies on one occasion like this:-

***Sooto va soot-putro va, yova kova bhavami aham
Daivayattam kule janmah, madayattam tu
paurusham.***

"To get birth in a rich or a well known family might depend upon the wish of God. I may be a servant or a son of servant. But might, actions and efforts to uplift myself are in my hands. 'Purushartha' is in my hands".

Joseph, the father of Jesus was a poor carpenter. He had come to work in a village Bethlehem. Here he came to know a local girl Mary. They wanted to be married. But according to Hebrew customs their marriage could only be registered in Joseph's village Nazareth, a town in the northern district of Galilee. Before this was done, Jesus was born. Because of this position regarding the marriage of Joseph and Mary, Jesus is sometimes called "Son of a virgin mother". The childhood of Jesus is not well documented. In course of time he was baptized by a revolutionary saint John the Baptist, referred to earlier.

In next chapters we will learn about 'Sermons on Mount'.

SERMONS ON MOUNT. Part-1.

In the previous chapter we learned few points about the history of Hebrews and the birth of Jesus. In course of some years Jesus found his twelve disciples, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Nathanael, Jacob, Matthew, Thomas, Mark, Luke and Judah. After baptizing them Jesus took them to a mountain. On the top of this mountain, Jesus gave this most important speech. This particular lecture became the heart of Christian faith in course of time. It is famous as "Sermons on the Mount".

All world religions believe that there is one God, a perfect maker of this wonderful Universe. Sometimes a question arises in our minds.

Does God ever assume a human form? This question is very well answered in the Bhagavat Gita.

***"Yada yada hi dharmasya, glanir bhavati Bharata,
Abhuthanam adharmasya tada atmanam srujami aham,
Paritranam sadhunam, vinashaya ch dush-krutam,
Dharma samstapanarthaya sambhavami yuge yuge.***

(V 7 & 8 CH. IV).

Lord says: "Whenever whenever, there is degradation of religion (morality), I create divine souls to destroy immorality and uplift the spiritual and moral values. In every era I create myself and assume a human form to protect the good people, to destroy the evil doers; and reestablish the true values of religion".

Thus Hindu belief of God taking human forms (incarnations) or 'Avatarvad' roots from the above verses of the Gita. The Sanskrit word 'Dharma' is usually translated as religion. But it means morality, duty consciousness and spiritual awareness according to The Gita, most Hindu scriptures and other Indian religions.

Hinduism is not a tribal tradition, a blind faith in God, fixed scriptural doctrines or some secular organization. Religion is linked with an individual (Atma) or self in The Gita. It is called Swa-Dharma. To perform one's obligatory duties is religion. Scriptural stories indicate such duties. The duties indicated for priests and the rulers demands higher sacrifices compared to those for average people.

I have great respect and faith in the words and message of Jesus Christ. I believe in the noble message of sermons on the mount, though I do not agree with all chapters of the holy Bible. Ten years before, on 31 Dec 1979 I had seen the Cosmic Light of Jesus and the Holy Cross in India. I believe that the holy spirit of Jesus is imperishable and an eternal force. After that day of experience, the 31st day of December has become a day of prayers for me.

I believe that God had created the divine soul of Jesus Christ for the aims and objects mentioned in above verses. He came as voice of God to re-establish the forgotten spiritual consciousness. The moral of the people was at its lowest level in the land called Palestine in those times.

The true message of Christianity and Jesus is found in sermons on the mount. This chapter has inspired me most during last ten years of my religious studentship. Mahatma Gandhi, whom I consider a prophet of 20th century, writes in his autobiography that the 'Sermons on the Mount' from the holy bible had touched his heart most, when he was a student of law in England.

Most Hindus believe that there is only One God who is formless. God is neither born nor God ever dies. Words of any language can't describe the glory of God. But a true seeker of God can feel HIS presence everywhere. He or she can see HIM at some point in life's journey. Such seers become prophets in course of time. Thus according to Hinduism, all prophets or messiahs of world religions were divine souls or human incarnations of God (Vibhooties).

The message of formless and invisible God reaches people via words and sermons of such self-realized souls. All religious scriptures are recorded messages of such great souls. True Hindus respect all prophets and all scriptures. Gandhiji has said this nicely. "All religions and all humans are equal. Any person having such an attitude is very near to God". People call him a saint or a true devotee (Bhakta) of God.

A saint is at little lower level than a prophet. He preaches the message of prophets and scriptures. He is a friend of the poor, the ignorant, the sick and suffering humanity. His heart is filled with compassion and love. His vision and mind is broad. He is a man of high moral character, renunciation and forgiveness. He thinks beyond national limits, family, time and space. When a

king having such broad vision (Rajarshi) becomes a political head, kingdom of God comes to that land. This is the Hindu concept of 'Ram-Rajya' or kingdom of God on earth, which Jesus refers to many a times.

A prophet is a man of simple living but noble and high thinking. He establishes contact with God at some point in his life. Then he becomes a religious reformist. He uplifts the spirits of ignorant people and liberates them from false religious beliefs and fear of death. He fights against business minded priests and evil rulers who have enslaved the people at gun point. Generally the message of a prophet is not grasped by the people of his land during his life. His own people are against him. He has to struggle against the priests and the rulers to remove wrong beliefs propagated in name of state and religion. Any person who makes contact with supreme God, can become a liberated man (Jivan-Mukta). He dies the death of a religious martyr. He speaks a language which is higher than that is written in scriptures, doctrines or man made political or social laws.

Formless God (Nirakar Ishver) or idols of God cannot speak. The message of God comes to human beings via preaching of prophets and saints. All prophets have preached love and equality of all humans. All holy books also preach the same message. There is always need for revision of doctrines with the passage of time. To revise scriptures and comment upon the deeper meaning of verses, to abandon wrong rituals and suggest newer traditions is not an anti-religious activity in Hinduism. Because of such attitudes, Hinduism today possesses a voluminous literature on religious, philosophical and spiritual subjects.

The above verses of The Gita were written 500 years prior to birth of Jesus. Similar predictions of God coming in human form, were written in the Hebrew bible also. A savior of Hebrews would be born who would establish a kingdom of God (a rule of justice, peace and human rights for every body). He would liberate Hebrews from the slavery of tyrant Roman kings. The life of Jesus Christ proved such predictions but his message was not grasped by his own people. Jesus was hated, torch red and

crucified by the same Hebrew people who were waiting for God's arrival and HIS divine birth.

The preaching of sermons on mount is specially meant for those who accept priesthood as a way of life. They stress the role of priests and saints in any society. We can call them as "Brahamin Dharmas" or the duties of priests. The message is similar to the advice given in The Gita's last 18 verses of 2nd chapter, and last 8 verses of the 12th chapter. When one compares the text of the sermons on the mount and above verses of The Gita written 5 centuries earlier, in a different land and different language, one is amazed at the similarity of message and identical divine vision of all prophets of all religions.

The average people run after money, which is understandable. But when the religious priests run after money, deteriorate in character, become enslaved by devilish political rulers and do not live according to the higher values of life indicated in the holy scriptures, the religion (Morality) falls in that land. There is no difference between an average man and a priest. At such times some average person gets divine inspirations. He comes forward to lead the people.

The oral speech of sermons on mount was recorded by some disciples. These documents later became known as Gospels of Matthew, Gospels of Peter, and Gospels of John and so on. The present Bible is a mixture of Hebrew heritage, prophesy of Moses and scholarship of other Hebrew prophets and their wisdom. But the heart of Bible lies in the chapter of Sermons on Mount. Many a times a student of comparative religions is lost regarding the true message of Jesus. He must devote more time to this particular chapter.

Jesus declared himself as "Son of God, and Son of man". How he reached this state of freedom (Nirvana) is not well documented. He doesn't call him a prophet or a messiah. He does not accept the authority of the religious council of 71 priests or the word meaning of the laws of Moses. This is the correct state of mind of a truly liberated soul and who has attained self-realization.

This section of sermons on mount explains the difference between the old preaching of Moses and their true interpretations by Jesus. Jesus throws fresh light on the old commandments and the wrong practices done by Hebrews. His

style appears like that of Adi Shankaraacharya (7th century A.D.), commenting upon the meanings of Vedas and Upanishads.

But such comments were not tolerated by people and priests in the land where Jesus lived. Jesus was crucified by his own people because they could not grasp his divine message of universal love and forgiveness. Gandhiji was killed by bullets of a fanatic Hindu while he was trying to bring Hindu-Mosleem unity. This is the fate of all religious prophets and social reformers.

Christianity became an organized religion in Rome after the fall of Roman Empire in 4th century A.D. when king Augustine accepted Christianity as a state religion, nearly after 5 centuries after fructification of Jesus. Then only his message was understood in the western countries. Compare this with Buddhism and Jainism. These religions got established as off-shoots of Hindu traditions and the right thoughts were welcomed by people during life time of Lord Buddha, and Lord Mahavira (6th century B.C.). India is mother land of spirituality, research of divinity and religious tolerance. Indian people generally welcome any religious thoughts. In chapter (II) we shall study 'Sermons on the Mount'.

SERMONS ON THE MOUNT Part 2.

Only few selected Sermons are presented here from the holy Bible's famous chapter of Sermons on mount. An attempt to compare them with similar preaching of Bhagavat Gita and thoughts of other Hindu saints of India is done. Jesus himself points the difference between commandments of Moses and his own views.

Addressing his twelve disciples Jesus says:-

1. "Oh my dear saints, they are the children of God who live with peace of mind, who are poor, humble, honest and compassionate. Only such people are saved and liberated by My Lord. Only those, who observe self-control (sanyama) and discipline are eligible to enter the kingdom of God". Swami Vivekanand calls such persons as "Daridra-Narayanans" meaning 'who see God in the poor'.

2. "My dear Saints, consider yourself lucky and blessed when people insult you, punish you, and criticize you. Only then you would find the path of God. All past saints have entered the kingdom of God after suffering at the hands of ignorant people and tyrannical kings". The case of Dalai Lama is an example of such a saint. Saint Kabir also gives same message in a beautiful style:-***Nindak nihare rakhia, aangan kutir bichaya,***

Bin sabun bin aapse dhovat nishdin pap.

"Keep your critics near you. Make a small hut for them in front of your home. They will wash your sins daily without soap and water. "Welcome criticism" is the simple meaning of this sermon and Kabir's verse (13th century A.D.) Generally We feel insulted when some one criticizes us or our religious beliefs.

Jesus about Wealth and Money:-

3. Talking about money, Jesus says "Money could never give you permanent happiness. Never believe that money is strength or power because when you loose money, the peace of your mind is gone. You become unhappy. You are not able to make compromises in life.

4. "If by chance you are rich and happy at present, don't think that this is a permanent state. If people are praising you now, don't get elated. A day will come when the same people will criticize you and hate you. Then you will become unhappy".

Money is called Dolat (Do=two, lat=kick, meaning two kicks) in Hindi. When money comes it gives the first kick from

behind. You walk with upright neck and forward chest filled with ego due to riches. When money (Laxmi) goes, you get a second kick from front. You walk like a bent down old man walking with a stick. You're very unhappy and a depressed person. Money is necessary in life, but money should never become the only and ultimate goal of life.

Also compare this sermon with a famous verse of an Islamic Saint Raheem. Raheem was a military general of famous king Akbar, a contemporary of Mira and Tulsidas. Akabar ruled in India during the 16th century A.D. Rahim was a great scholar of Hindu scriptures. He has written many verses in Hindi which give great practical guidelines in few short sentences:-

Raheem says :-

*Raheem sab sampati sage, banat bahut bahu reet,
Vipadi kasouti jo kase, so hi sache meet.*

(Meet=Mitra, friend).

"When you are rich, people come to you and say I am your friend or such and such a relative, in this way and that way. But your real friends and well wishers are only few who stand by you in the times of your difficulty".

In another verses Raheem says:-

***Mitra aisa kijiye, jo dhaal sarika hoy,
Sukkhame to pichhe rahe, aur Dukhame agai***

hoy.

Rahim compares true friend with a shield on the back. It remains on the back in ordinary times but comes forewords to receive blows of enemy's sword. Keep only such friends who come to your help in days of difficulty. True friends usually remain little away from you during times of your riches and happy days.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed".

Compare this sermon also with the following verses of The Gita Ch-II-38.

***Sukkhe dukkhe samei krutva labha-alabhau
jaya-ajayau***

***Tato yuddhaya yujjasva naivum papam
avapsyasee.***

The Lord says:- "He who is equipoise in happiness or unhappiness, in gain or loss and in victory or defeat is not

a sinner. There is no sin in fighting for your rights and uplifting your self".

***Yo na hrashyati na dweshti na shochati na kankshati
Shubhashubha parityagi yo mad bhaktaha sa me
priyaha.***

Ch XII-16. The Gita.

The Lord says; "One who is not elated, not jealous, not anxious, does not expect rewards or help from others (desire less) and does not think this is good and that is bad is my devotee. I love him". Now we return to Sermons on mount.

**"Priests must teach morals by their own practices".
Jesus says;**

5. My dear saints, you are the 'salt' of the land. When the salt loses its taste, it turns into mud. Never lose your taste. If you lose your taste the land would also lose its nobility and spirit. You are like candles that give light in darkness. A candle is not placed under a bed. It is placed in a balcony so that everyone in the town gets its light. You are like the houses of a city on a mountain. Such a city is visible to travelers from a distance".

There was a charge against Jesus that he didn't respect the scriptures of Hebrew prophets like Moses. In the following sermon Jesus gives a definite answer to this allegation in the style of an Indian Rishi.

"Don't think that I am destroying the ancient scriptures. In fact I am trying to elaborate their eternal message and request you to translate it in your daily life.

6. Saints, always remember that you must excel in noble character compared to the Pharisees and the rich Hebrews. The door of the kingdom of God won't open for you until you prove that you are superior to them by your deeds and conduct. As long as the Heaven and the Earth exists, not a word or letter, not even a straw will escape from the laws of God until all that must happen has happened". Matthew 5:18.

A student should note that in this sermon Jesus affirms that the laws of mother nature (Prakruti) work in living beings and also in non-living things in an equal manner. Compare this statement with the following verse of The Gita:

***Mayadhykshana prakrutihi, sooyate sachara-
achalam;***

Hetuna-anena Kaunteya jagat viprivartate.

The Gita Ch. IX- verse 9.

The Lord says: "Oh son of Kunti, Under my authority and supervision the laws of mother nature (Prakruti) transcend in living and non-living things in equal manner. Physical objects undergo definite and fixed changes with the passage of time. This is an ever changing world. Newer things and people come and older ones vanish".

Jesus about Non-violence.

Look at the views of Jesus on the issue of 'Non-violence' (Ahimsa).

7. "You are familiar with an old doctrine "Do not kill". You also know that a killer will go to hell. But now I tell you this. If you become angry with your brother you have done violence. If you speak bad words for your fellow brothers you have done violence and you will go to hell. If you call someone a fool you will go to hell and suffer.

While making sacrifices if you have hate in your mind for your brothers, I ask you to halt. Go to your brother, make compromises and purify your minds first and then make sacrifices. Don't waste a moment in making compromises with your opponents".

Hebrews performed sacrifices by killing sheep and chicken and offering them to God. Similar practices in India were carried out by Brahmins in times of Lord Buddha and Mahavira. Jesus asks to purify our minds first, by removal of hatred (Dwesa) towards fellow brothers and then performing sacrifices.

**A great sermon of Jesus regarding
'forgiveness' (Kshama).**

Jesus says :-"Saints, You have learnt and are advised - eye for eye and tooth for tooth (old preaching). But what I tell you is this:

Do not set your hand against the man who wrongs you. If someone slaps you on your right cheek turn and offer him your left. If a man wants to sue you for your shirt let him have your coat as well. If

a man in authority makes you go one mile go two miles with him.

You may ask why turn the other cheek? Because hate multiplies like a wild fire. Average person loves his friends and hates his enemies. I tell you to love even your enemies". Matthew. 5:38 -41.

Mahatma Gandhi was highly influenced by this particular sermon. He had translated this message in his fight against the Britishers in South Africa and later in his entire life. This scene is nicely shown in the award winning movie 'Gandhi'. There are many verses of similar kind in The Gita.

Samah Shatrau cha mitre cha, tatha manaapmanyoho". The Gita:- CH XII-17.

"He who treats friends and enemies in an equal manner and is equipoise during insults and praises is a true devotee of God".

Nirvairaha sarve bhuteshu yaha, sa mameti Pandavaha. CH. XI - 55.

"Only he can reach me and see me who has no animosity towards any living creature". A true saint doesn't look upon lions and snakes as enemies.

8. Jesus says **"Never be jealous of anybody, never hate anyone. Always have good thoughts about others even if they give you abuses and curses. You always try to help those who have made you suffer. This is the path towards kingdom of God"**.

We Hindus must also learn something from Bible and Christianity regarding an attitude of helping others. True Christians display maximum helping spirit during Christmas days. Jesus, giving examples from mother nature says:-

"The sun doesn't discriminate between a good man and a bad man in giving his light. The rain doesn't discriminate between a saint's temple and a sinner's home in giving its pure water. In the same manner, Oh my saints, you also always remain merciful, compassionate and behave in an equal manner towards everybody.

It is natural that you love those who love you. But to become super-humans you have to learn to love those who hate you and harass you.

Even the uncivilized people possess a sense of obligation and try to return them. People live in a world of

expectations and rewards, indebtedness and obligations. This sense of obligations is seen even among the drug dealers, criminals, sinners and tyrants. But I tell you to give where there is no chance of return". In this sermon we find a very important theme of The Gita known as 'Nish-kam karma-bhava'. Helping unknown people without expectation of rewards.

9. Jesus teaches to give with grace and dignity. There should not be any ego while giving donations. He teaches to forgive who have offended in the past. Only then you are eligible for asking for forgiveness of your sins before the Lord. Jesus says :- **My Lord is perfect, merciful and full of all good qualities.** In Sanskrit God is called 'Karuna-sagar' meaning an ocean of mercy and 'Sad-goona Bhandara', having a treasure full of good qualities. **Oh saints, you also try to be perfect, merciful and a treasure full of good qualities".**

Jesus on celibacy and sex. (Brahama-charya).

10. The old testaments declare "Thou shalt not commit adultery". The codes of Moses prescribed heavy punishments for those who committed this sin but they were mostly applied to women. A virgin girl or a widow becoming pregnant is looked upon as 'sin' even to day in any civilized community.

Jesus pleads for women and explains, **"But I tell you that he who casts his eye on a woman so as to lust after her has already committed adultery within his own heart"**. We see here that Jesus enters into people's minds and hearts and calls a person sinner if a desire or a thought of passion exists in the mind. He does not wait for the evil tree to bear the evil fruits.

Jesus advises his disciples, **"Saints, in case your right eye commits a sin of adultery, tear it out and fling it away; if your right hand does such a sin, cut it away. It is better you loose an organ or a limb before you loose your character and go to hell"**.

Matthew: 5: 29-30.

We find this advice literally translated in the life of a great Indian saint Suradasa who lived in 13th century A.D. Suradasa pierced both his eyes with hot sharp iron rods and invited life long blindness, when he was grieved

with lust even in case of his own wife. Sex control in married life is very important. The vow of celibacy brings great success in marital relations.

"Never try to read intentions of others. You try to harbors good and noble thoughts for everybody. A blind man cannot lead another blind man. Too much attachment to relatives makes a person blind like Dhruatarashtra.

Giving false witness.

11. "Scriptures advise you to speak the truth and not to give false testimony. But I advise you never to take oaths in the name of God, scriptures, land, temple or even your own self. In case you have to be a witness, speak less and think well, and then give very short answers by saying yes or no".

Jesus about Guru - pupil relations.

12. "A disciple cannot be greater than his teacher. At the most he can be equal to his teacher. He can never excel his teacher. As long as there is a grain of sand in your eye, don't try to clear the sand from other's eyes. First remove your own faults and then try to improve others.

A sweet apple tree bears sweet apples. A sweet apple cannot grow on a bitter berry tree. In the same way your actions and behavior with others shall speak whether you are a sweet apple or a bitter berry tree".

Who is a true disciple?

"Many times you refer to me as master, Guru and savior etc. But if you don't behave according to the rules of Lord preached by me, then you are speaking one thing and doing other. On doom's day, if you say before the Lord, that you were chanting his name and my name, I will not accept your word. I will say to Lord that I never knew you and preached you. Keep the foundation of your building sound and firm so that it can withstand heavy storms. If the foundation is weak, the house will fall even under mild winds and light rains.

Pray to the Lord and ask that you never become a victim of sensual joys. You ask Lord, "Give us day by day our daily bread". You ask for the courage to forgive the sins of criminals. You pray like this. Let thy kingdom of love and mercy spread everywhere. Amen".

Difference between God and Satan.

13. "My dear saints, You cannot serve Satan and God at the same time. If you wish to be rich and famous, if you

worry for your life and food, you cannot walk on the path of God. Your worries cannot feed your body. Sublime all your fears and worries and have faith. HE who nourishes all the animals, birds and plants is sure to look after you. Only those people worry who have no faith in HIM. They worry for food, water and clothes. If you remain pure and honest you shall get everything".

Jesus about Time.

14. Look at 'time sense' of Jesus and all great prophets of the world.

"Don't worry today for tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself. Even to take care of one day- today, one needs efforts and consciousness. It is the question of faith and asking with faith". We find many verses of similar kind in Kabir's verses. In one verse Kabir says we live only three days, yesterday, to day and tomorrow.

Where is God? Jesus shows us the residence of God.

15. "The door of God is not far. It is near. Knock it and it shall open".

Hindu Upanishads also declare the same theme in this manner.

"Taddure, tadvantike" Ishavasya Upanishad Verse No. 5.

"HE is near and hear, HE is far and there". God is every where.

Ishavasya Upanishad is the first Upanishad written about 2000.B.C.

In the end assuring us about the mercy of God Jesus Says:- "Is there any one among you who will give stones to his son when he asks for bread? Then how come Lord would give you harmful things when you demand good and useful things?

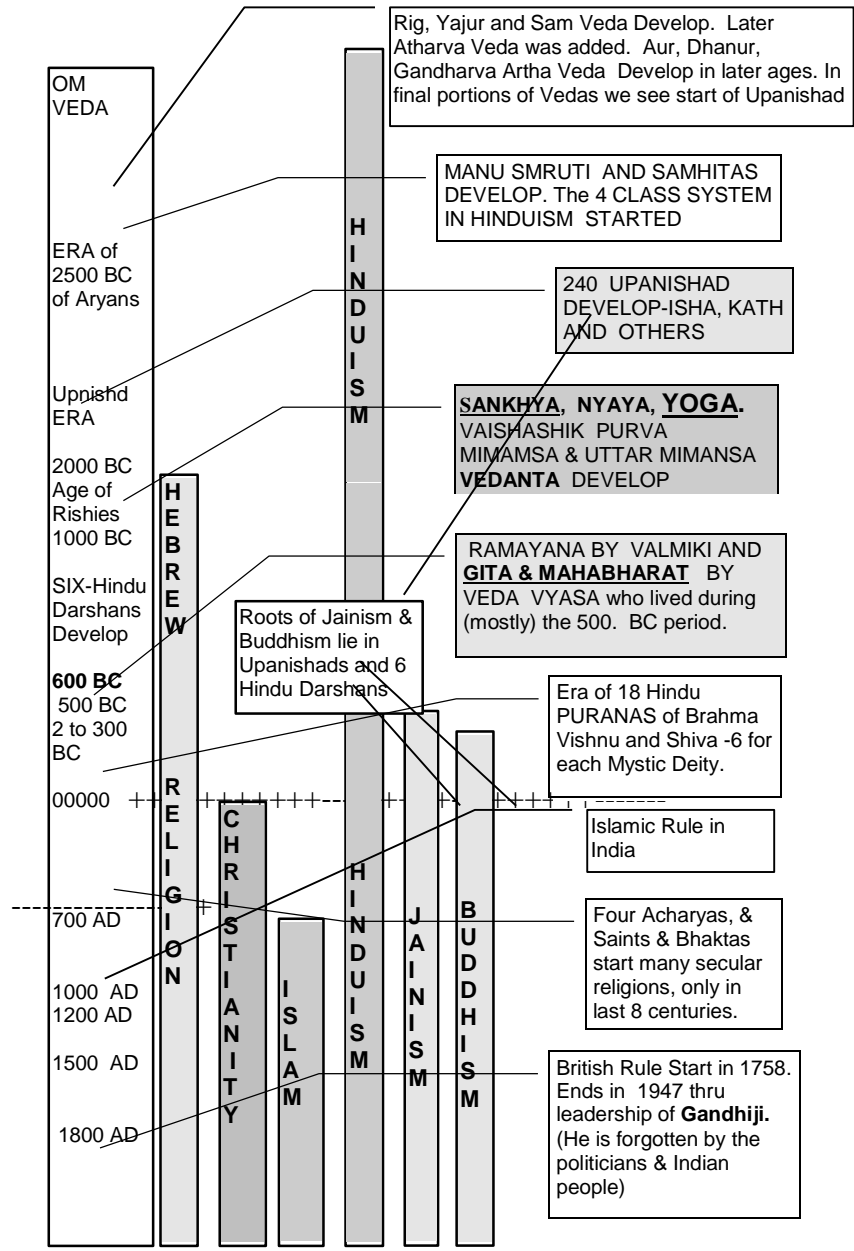
The path leading to kingdom of God and heaven is narrow. The roads leading to hell are broad and open from all sides. The path to God demands great sacrifices, (Tapas) efforts (Purusharthas) and awareness (Jagruti). Amen".

May God Bless you. May God inspire you with love and mercy, forgiveness and helping nature.

Amen. Hari Om tat sat.

Ages of Major three Western and Eastern religions.

Age periods of evolution of world religions & thought streams in Hinduism.



CHRONOLOGY OF HINDU SCRIPTURES.

OM IS SYMBOL OF KNOWLEDGE & ROOT OF ALL SPOKEN LANGUAGES.

7000 BC

- **EARLY HINDUISM OF THE VEDIC ARYANS. SEARCH OF KNOWLEDGE.** Vedas were also called SHRUTIES or AUDIO-knowledge. Rig, Yajur and Sam Vedas develop. In early 3 Vedas there is worship of Natural Elements like sun, Fire, Rain, Air, Water, Land etc.. These were referred to as Devas and Devies. First 3 Vedas took nearly 3 to 4 thousand years to develop.

VEDIC PERIOD. 5000 BC.

- The Aryans were the earliest tribe to develop Vedas. Fire (Agni) and Rain Gods (Indra) were worshipped as Gods. After settling in N-W Parts of Indian sub-continent, their King Manu dictated the doctrines of a four class socio-political system, the Varna Dharmas (Dharma= Duties).

SMRUTI PERIOD. 4500. BC.

- After the Vedas one observes development of Smruties, which dictate the class laws of King Manu called Manu Smruti. Development of early Upanishads like Ishavasya and Kathopanishad.

- **3000. BC. Special privileges are given to higher classes of Brahmins and Kshatriyas.**

UPANISHAD PERIOD: 2000 BC.

- **Search of self (soul) and its relationship with the Vedic Gods is studied in the Upanishads.** Aryans and original residents of India fight. Stories of Devas (deities) and Asuras (demons) are seen in scriptures. They suggest conflicts or wars between more civilized and less civilized people.

DARSHAN PERIOD. 1200. BC.

- **WONDERFUL SPIRITUAL HINDU SCRIPTURES DEVELOP.**

These include the famous Six Hindu Darshans. By this time in the Ganges regions, Sun worshipping and moon worshipping royal dynasties were established. (1). POORVA MIMAMSA, by Jaimini, (2) NYAYA, by Gautama, (3). YOGA BY PATANJALI, (4). SANKHYA by Kapil, (5) VAISHASHIK by Kanad, AND (6) VEDANT by Ved Vyasa, DEVELOP.

(7) Charvak's Darshan denies the theory of rebirths of souls propagated by selfish ritual minded Brahmins.

? VALMIKI RAMAYANA written in this age. Rama was the 58th son in the dynasty of Manu. ? Krishna, in human form after Rama, who perhaps lived in the 12th cent. BC.

600. BC. IMPORTANT DATE (CENTURY) OF WORLD RELIGIONS.

- **MAHAVIRA AND BUDDHA START TWO GREAT RELIGIONS IN INDIA. BUDDHISM AND JAINISM, LAYING STRESS on NON-VIOLENCE IN RELIGION.**

500. BC. GITA AND MAHABHARAT.

BY VED VYASA WRITTEN IN THIS PERIOD, MOSTLY AFTER BUDDHA AND MAHAVIRA. VEDANTA DARSHANA WRITTEN IN THIS AGE ALSO. PURANIC PERIOD.- 300. BC. Mythology enters Hinduism.

- 18 Puranas(Mythology)scriptures develop during 2nd BC. To 3rd AD. **IMAGINARY GODS LIKE SHIVA, VISHNU, AND BRAHAMA ARE DESCRIBED IN THESE PURANAS.** Their mystic stories symbolize divine love between husbands and wives. .Bhagavatum became a popular Vishnu PURANA after 15th century A. D. It describes 10 major incarnations of VISHNU. RAMA & KRISHNA are the 7th & 8th.

0000- + Christ is born. + + + + + + + + + + +

He preaches LOVE and forgiveness in the West.

500 AD. Roman Church in West. Arya Bhatta invents Zero in Math.

700 AD. **SHANKARACHARYA (preaches Adwaita theory) IN EAST MOHAMMAD IN WEST.**

1000 AD. PERIOD

- Era of Islamic invasions in Europe and India start.

1200 AD. Islamic rule in India

- For next 600 years.: Ghori, Lodi, and Mogal dynasties rule India. Era of SAMPRADAYAS OF ACHARYAS. **MADHAVA, RAMANUJA, KABIR, SURDAS** preach **BHAKTI PATH.**(All preach Dwaita Philosophy)

1492 AD. COLUMBUS DISCOVERS AMERICA AND VASCODE GAMA A SEA ROUTE TO INDIA.

1500 AD. Rule of King Akbar

- Mira & Tulsidas. Vallabhacharya starts Vaishnavism. Chaitanya, Narsinha Mehta (in Gujarat); Guru Nanak starts Shikh Religion

1757 AD. **END OF ISLAMIC EMPIRE AND START OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.**

1800 AD. Swami Sahajananda Swaminarayana Religion in Gujarat.

1900 AD. Vivekananda in America. Gandhi leads INDIA to freedom.

1947 AD. India Independent. 40 Years Rule of Nehru Dynasty in Democratic India. GURUS build palacious temples, only at one place, Haridwara. They have forgotten their duty of educating the poor people in villages of India. THE 21st CENTURY NEEDS NEW LIGHT IN THE RELIGIOUS FIELD.

VIEWES OF MAHATMA GANDHI WILL GIVE IT.

SUMMARY.

- Hinduism is a non-prophet philosophy of attaining wisdom by search of self (Atma). This subject is discussed in great details in Upanishads, Darshans, and the Gita. Innumerable Prophets in Hinduism are seen only in recent centuries. They have started many secular Guru worshipping cults (sampradayas). They are also called religions.

Search of God Starts with SELF, and Ends in SELF by understanding the fixed laws of Mother nature.