

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT 'IFTAR' (A SOLEMN OCCASION OF THE BREAKING
OF THE FAST), CHENNAI ON 11.06.2018**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Nawab, Mohammed Abdul Ali,
Prince of Arcot

DR. A. Md Ferozkhan

Sengai Sharpudeen

S.M.K. Md Haameem

Anand

Distinguished Invitees
Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be here today to extend my greetings at the Iftar function being held in the month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, improvement and increased devotion and worship. The Fasting undertaken during Ramadan is believed to redirect the heart away from worldly activities. It also brings about self-discipline and self-control and encourages acts of generosity and charity.

Islam means submission to the will of God and obedience to His Law. It underlines peace, purity, submission and obedience. It stresses on values such as compassion, benevolence, wisdom and justice.

The verses of the Quran lay emphasis on the importance of being kind and developing the quality of forgiveness.

The Bible says, "Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love".

Saint Guru Gobind Singh said that we should try to see the creator in every human being.

Gautama Buddha said,

“The thought manifests as the word; the word manifests as the deed; the deed develops into habit; and habit hardens into character. So watch the thought and its ways with care and let it spring from love born out of concern for all beings”.

Hinduism pronounces as follows through a Sanskrit sloka.

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः
सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु
मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत् ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Translated into English, this means,

“May we all be prosperous and happy
May we all be free from illness
May we all see what is spiritually uplifting
May no one suffer
Om peace, peace, peace”.

We need to understand this universal approach of religions.

All religions preach the goodness of truth and moral living, love and compassion. Their rituals may be different but the goal is one. We should respect all religions, in the same manner, as we respect our own religion, since the underlying message of all religions is the same.

Love is the greatest force that unites us all...If we have it, the entire world looks up to us! It is in this vein that a famous poet once said, “Mujh mein thodi see jagah bhi nahin hain nafrat ke liye Mai tho har waqt mohabbat se bharā rahtā hoon!”

India is united by bonds of culture and thought that are thousands of years old. Just as all the rivers flow into the ocean, the prayers of all religions reach God. Religion should not be used to build walls between people.

The notion of our nation should be guided by the following verses of Rabindranath Tagore.

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high

Where knowledge is free

Where the world has not been broken into fragments by narrow domestic walls

Where words come out from the depth of truth

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit

Where the mind is led forward into ever-widening thought and action.

Into that heaven of Freedom, my father, let my country awake.

I wish to conclude by saying that “What is needed is a fellow feeling between the different types of religion. This should be a fellow feeling which springs from mutual esteem and mutual respect, and not the condescending, patronizing, niggardly expression of goodwill.”

India is a land of unity in diversity. Let us celebrate the multi-faith democracy we live in. On this joyous occasion, I wish that good health and well-being and prosperity be showered on all those assembled here. May Ramadan bring joy and serenity to your homes. Ramadan Mubarak.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Hind.