

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE EID MILAN PARTY ORGANSIED BY THE COMMITTEE
OF HOSTS AT HOTEL RADISSON BLU, EGMORE, CHENNAI
ON 07.06.2019 AT 5.30 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Prince of Arcot

Justice N. Kirubakaran,

Mr. Pong Kok Tian,
Consul General of Singapore

Mrs. Susangrace,
Consul General of Australia

Mr. Kent May
Chief of the Consular Section,
U.S.Consulate

Dr. G.S.M.P. Khadri,
Convenor,
Committee of Hosts

Mr. U. Mohammed Khalilullah,

Mr. T. Rafeeq Ahmed,
Hony Secretary, The New College

Mr. A. Abdul Rahim,
Senior Advocate,
High Court

Mr. T. P. Imbichammad,
Secretary General,
All India Muslim Educational Society,

Qazi Mehdi Khan,

Mr. Abdul Qadir Rahman Buhari,

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be here at the celebrations being organized by the Committee of Hosts on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The festival of Eid is a day of rejoicing and festivity, brotherhood and tolerance, charity and compassion, and marks the conclusion of dawn-to-sunset fasting during the month of Ramadan.

As you are all aware, fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Beyond the fact of abstaining from consuming food and water, fasting involves the discipline of avoiding ill-speech, arguments, loss of temper and any malicious behavior. The whole purpose is to keep the mind focused on the spiritual plane.

Jalaluddin Rumi, the mystic who was born in Afghanistan in the year 1207 gave out these beautiful lines on fasting and I quote:

“There's hidden sweetness in the stomach's emptiness. We are lutes, no more, no less.

If the sound boxes are stuffed full of anything, there's no music.

If the brain and belly are burning clean with fasting,

Every moment a new song comes out of the fire.

The fog clears, and new energy makes you run up the steps in front of you.

Like fasting, Zakat, the giving of alms to the poor and needy is another of the pillars of Islam that is prescribed on this occasion. Islam gives detailed guidelines about who is eligible for Zakat and as to how much is to be contributed as Zakat. The concepts of Daridra Narayana as expounded by Swami Vivekananda and the principle of Zakat have a strong commonness based on concern for the poor, the well and the destitute.

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

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

Similarly, the Bible also 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”.

Jainism says, “Live and let live... Love all and serve all”.

Hinduism pronounces through a Sanskrit sloka which translated into English, 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”.

Thus, be it Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism or any other religion, all of them preach love and compassion.

The message I wish to emphasise based on all this is that we should resolve to practise love and compassion and promote unity and peace so as to build a harmonious world and nurture in the young the spirit of oneness.

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 bhara rahta hoon!”

When I see the nationalistic spirit manifesting itself in today’s function I am reminded of the legends of Indian history who stood shoulder to shoulder with fellow Indians wearing the badge of freedom fighters without allowing any barriers of caste, creed, language or religion to divide them. They fought against British rule under the common banner that united them all and that banner was Indian nationalism.

I was at the Graduation day function of the Jamal Mohamed College in December 2018 where I was informed that the college was founded by the reputed freedom fighters Hajee M. Jamal Mohamed sahib and Janab N.M. Khajamian Rowther. Founder Haji. M.Jamal Mohamed after whom the College is named, was a strong supporter of Gandhiji in our Nation’s Freedom Movement. As President of the

Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he attended the Round Table Conference held at London in 1931. Janab. N. M. Khajamian Rowther the other Founder participated in the freedom movement by producing Khadi cloth and distributing it free of cost to the public of Tiruchirappalli. It is indeed a privilege for me to be able to talk about Mother India to an audience that takes pride in being her sons and daughters.

I convey my warm felicitations and commend the efforts made by Dr. G.S.M.P. Khadri and the members of the Committee of Hosts for their initiatives for organizing this Eid Milan Party.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to all our Muslim brothers and sisters on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. On this joyous occasion, may we all resolve to practise the qualities of kindness, compassion, benevolence, generosity and tolerance towards our fellow citizens by recalling the tenets of Islam which lay emphasis on peace, purity and submission and obedience to the will of God.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind....