

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE CONFERENCE "ONE GOD!
ONE WORLD FAMILY!!" BEING ORGANISED BY BRAHMA KUMARIS,
TAMIL NADU AT BRAHMA KUMARIS RETREAT CENTRE, HAPPY VILLAGE,
PODAVUR, SUNGUVARCHATRAM ON 15.09.2019 AT 11.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

**Swamy Gururetnam Jnana Thapaswi,
Santhagiri Ashram**

Rajyogini B.K. Usha,

**Moulavi K.M.Ilyas Riyaji,
Chief Imam, Eid Kha Masjid**

**Rev.Fr.S.Thomas Elango,
Rector and Parish Priest**

**Rajyogi B.K.Ramnath,
Head Qtrs, Co-ordinator, Religious Wing**

**B.K.Kalavati,
Senior Rajyoga Teacher**

**B.K.Beena,
Service Co-ordinator, Tamil Nadu Zone**

**B.K.Nilima,
Senior Rajyoga Teacher**

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the inauguration of the conference “One God! One World Family!!” being organised by Brahma Kumaris, Tamil Nadu. This Happy Village Brahma Kumaris Retreat Centre where the conference is being organised has indeed a Spiritual atmosphere and is definitely, an Oasis of Serenity and Shanti.

Since 1936, the Brahma Kumaris have been working to introduce reflection and calm into everyday life – helping individuals feel more contented with the simple things in life, accessing inner wisdom to resolve conflicts, and using personal skills and talents to serve the community.

The institution has been trying to fulfill the dream of the Father of the Nation - Gandhiji and the founding Father Prajapita Brahma to re-establish the “Swarnim Bharat” (Ramrajya) by abiding by the principles of the Bhagwad Gita.

The Brahma Kumaris movement has emerged as a global leader in promoting core human values at all levels of society and is recognised as a global ambassador of value education, based on spirituality and meditation.

By recognizing the core human values the members of Brahma Kumaris have been nurturing them, through practice of Rajyoga Meditation and by observing principles such as purity, peace, love and happiness. Programmes for youth

empowerment, children camps, de-addiction camps, women empowerment, management courses are also being organised.

Today the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris is a, Universal Educational and socio-spiritual organization with a network of 5400 branches spread across 147 countries. They have been bestowed general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UNICEF and affiliated to the Department of Public Information (DPI). They are also accredited as an organization observer at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The teachings of Brahma Kumaris are inspired by the vision of one world in which everyone has an opportunity to develop their full potential and live in harmony with each other and with nature and the spiritual environment. Keeping the essence of all religions on one platform the institution has been working for world peace and equilibrium around the globe.

‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ is the fundamental principle behind today’s conference also.

The ancient Indian Texts talk of a single family for the whole world of humanity.

The following English translation of a Sanskrit sloka expounds it fully and forcefully.

“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”.

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.

Islam means submission to the will of God and obedience to His Law. The religion underlines peace, purity, submission and obedience and

stresses on values such as compassion, benevolence, wisdom and justice.

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

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”.

The importance of tolerance and mutual respect towards fellow beings has been very emphatically spoken by our Seers and Saints.

Swami Vivekananda where addressing the Parliament of Religions in Chicago more than 125 years ago said and I quote, “We believe not only in universal toleration but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth. I am proud to tell you that we have gathered in our bosom the purest remnant of the Israelites, who came to Southern India and took refuge with us in the very year in which their holy temple was shattered to pieces by Roman tyranny. I am proud to belong to the religion which has sheltered and is still fostering the remnants of the grand Zoroastrian nation.

As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea, so, O Lord, the different paths which people take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee.

In fact, Gnana and Bakthi are two different paths which lead a person towards the common goal namely God, the Creator. Gnana appeals to the mind and Bakthi appeals to the heart.

When one practices Bakthi, one surrenders to God and there is no ego. The bhajan songs and hymns impact each and every cell of the body making it unite with Nature. Similarly Gnana enables enlightenment through self realisation.

This was practiced by Adi Sankara and Gautam Buddha.

I am happy to see that both the concepts of Gnana and Bakthi, which have been the pillar stones of our culture are the underlying principles behind the message of Brahma Kumaris.

When a society thinks of its people in general and their wellbeing that is when a civilisation flourishes. Tolerance, mutual respect, acceptance and assimilation of all that is good have dictated our spiritual orientation. No wonder the Indian civilisation has flourished for thousands and thousands of years.

The rise of such institutions such as Brahma Kumaris is necessary to maintain intact the

spiritual foundations of India. Every part of the world has its own special characteristics and greatness. Punctuality for the Germans, teamwork for the Japanese, etiquette for the British, salesmanship for the Americans are special qualities that are attributed to people of these regions. Similarly, spirituality is a special virtue for India. Spirituality is based on tolerance. Spirituality is based on acceptance of other people's ideas. Spirituality is based on moving society towards a goal that goes beyond the self.

I congratulate the Brahma Kumaris for keeping their banner flying high with grandeur and majesty not only in India but also all over the world. I am sure that the efforts being taken by them will

continue to grow to illuminate the path for several succeeding generations.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to them. May success visit them all in bountiful measure in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind.....