

Speech from Sesto Giovanni Castagnoli

President WSF World Spirit Forum, Arosa, Switzerland at the

4th Global Symposium: Awakening Planetary Consciousness

Lucknow, India, December 7 - 10, 2007

Spirituality – the Connecting Link between Religions and Nations

I like to start my speech to you with a statement from a very good friend, the founder of the HVP School in Nepal:

Dr. Chintamani Yogi*.

Yogi Ji once told an audience a story about a student who went to his spiritual teacher, saying, "I want to do something for humanity". The teacher said, "Become a good human."

And Yogi Ji noted that it's easy to follow a particular religion, to become Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, etc.

But first of all it is more difficult to become spiritual, to become a good human.

With that I agree and at the same time I do not.

Why is that?

Spirituality is not a matter of being religious or belonging to a religion. We are born as human without any knowing about different religions or even about being different at all but already spiritual.

Today's scientists say that one month old babies can differentiate all vowels of which a language consists of. And they can do this for any language in the world. Even for languages they have never heard. Whether Russian, Chinese or an African language, they have no difficulties in differentiating the vowels.

So babies know at their birth much more about languages than we adults do!

An infant scientist mentioned some years ago: Babies as far as language is concerned are cosmopolitans.

But why are we not?

Between the 6th and the 12th month of life the children lose this extraordinary ability and develop the prototypical vowel categories of their own mother language.

My very belief is, that these are not the only human abilities that fade away while growing up.

Being asked by a young Brazilian reporter about the meaning of spirituality I answered with a mental picture,

"Every child is born spiritual. Coming to mother earth, a child has no limitations yet, from other people. Only with his growing up, there starts a sorrowful process.

Humans surrounding the child, start to throw sand on him. It starts even with the parents and siblings, followed by relatives,

friends and neighbours, followed shortly after by teachers, classmates, priests, trainers, bosses and managers and work companions. The clear view we had being born becomes more and more cloudy, how we become covered with the sand, and how the load of the sand becomes heavier and heavier.

When a person is around 40 years old – some may be 50 or not yet 30 – he is completely overloaded.

Most people cannot feel their soul anymore, although missing their quietness from within. They start to have burnouts or even worse boreouts and sooner or later they ask themselves, "What am I doing here? Why am I doing this?"

That's the point when some of them start to sweep away the sand and try to find their way back to where they have come from."

In this sense we can look at spirituality as something inherent within us, which by listening carefully to it, guides us throughout our whole lives, even back to where we all have come from.

Whatever spiritual path we have, whatever religion we belong to, we are all human and spiritual beings and although we accept everyone with his or her beliefs, we should have a focus on what connects us.

When we look at Spirituality in this sense, there is no need to argue over something which other people believe in.

Everybody may have his own religion, whatever it may be. He may be Buddhist or Hindu, she may be Jain or Christian, and someone else might believe in nature and mother earth. Why should we argue over something which everyone has anyway within himself?

Therefore there is a large opportunity and challenge before us, and for all religious leaders, priests, rabbis, imams, gurus and others.

These leaders can explain this notion to their followers. If there is this level of acceptance, among religions and spiritualities, with each accepting others views, whether religious or non-religious, there is freedom for all involved, thus, bringing people again to listening to the words of God/Allah/Mohammed/Jave/Joshua and others.

The challenge is to reach them with simplicity. With their own, easy understandable words, which most of the time are the words from the heart, is love, compassion, awareness. And believing in a conscious live.

Seeing every person as a brother and sister and not as a Muslim, Jew, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, or other believer or non-believer.

As title for my speech I choose:

“Spirituality – the Connecting Link between Religions and Nations.”

So let ´s have a look at the aspect of the nations.

We have this same possibility in terms of political and economical points of view. If we start to see each other not as members of different nationalities, but as one human being like all of us, then we have reached the point where the human being is important, not a person's race or culture, but the person is valued in and of herself or himself.

And again, the spirituality, the voice within us, is crucial and important for this open minded approach, with an inner, internal stability we can start to share our knowledge, accept others beliefs, listen to them, exchange and learn, and not at least become a holistic person.

Globalization has become a fashionable word, with big fights in favour of it, and against it.

Can we, here today, look at it positively?

Can the global economy, used in a proper, meaningful sense for every human on earth, have a wonderful impact to all citizens from all continents and nations?

It doesn't matter if somebody is getting his balance by praying, meditating or just by being in nature or out participating in sport, for his soul it is fine if he applies the practices he feels within himself.

Here I would like to give you a pray for the unity of the Church from Saint Seraphim of Sarov*,

"Acquire inner peace and thousands around you will find salvation."

or from an other quotation,

"Acquire a peaceful spirit, and around you thousands will be saved."

It seems to me, that we really have received all what we need to live on our mother earth.

We as humans have the most amazing bodies, souls and minds, with no comparison on earth. Our planet is a paradise, with all the resources for a harmonious co-existence.

We can decide today to change our attitude towards a joint, peaceful co-existence on our planet and start to collectively work on this big, interesting and amazing challenges.

This starts with each person.

Only if we are balanced, and stable within, quiet, full of love and happiness, can we have the resources to spread this wonderful feeling and use our collective resources in a meaningful way.

Let´s enjoy together our mother earth and be careful with this wonderful gift we have received!

MAY I WISH YOU AND ALL HUMANS ON THIS PLANET A
WONDERFUL, PEACEFUL FUTURE.

THANK YOU.

***Dr. Chintamani Yogi**

Dr. Yogi has been serving humanity for the past two decades. Dr. Yogi's contribution is substantial towards culture, education and social service, particularly in Nepal.

Dr. Yogi was born in Dang in 2020 B. S. (1963 A.D). He is an internationally renowned philosopher and orator, leading with vision and firm commitment to humanitarian goals.

*Dr. Yogi is helping several institutions worldwide. He is coordinator and founder principal of HVP Schools, founder of SSA and SVE, patron of YSP, and chairperson of NICMN. He has also been closely associated with several national and international organizations such as HVP-UK, HVPSG-USA, FPS-USA, COE-USA. With the philosophy of "**The world: just one family**", he has been traveling throughout the world to promote values and peace.*

Website: www.cmyogi.org

****Saint Seraphim of Sarov** (Russian: Серафим Саровский)

(July 19, 1759 - January 2, 1833), born Prokhor Moshnin (Прохор Мошнин), is one of the most renowned Russian monks and mystics in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seraphim_of_Sarov