

# World Religion Day

## The Oneness of Humanity



A place where many paths meet.

A place to share inspiration, thoughts, prayers and love.

Join fellow brothers and sisters and celebrate

Bahá'í Centre of Learning

January 2020

## ***World Religion Day***

World Religion Day promotes inter-faith understanding and harmony by encouraging believers from different faiths to acknowledge, understand and accept the differences and similarities between the world's many religions. The day also serves to celebrate religious oneness and the idea that the world is connected by all religions' common, shared beliefs.

World Religion Day was first proclaimed by the Baha'i Faith in the U.S. in 1950. It has since been celebrated annually on the third Sunday of January with events, concerts, celebrations and inter-faith dialogue aimed at peace and understanding.

### ***Program:***



***Deo Bosco***

***Prayer***

***The Golden Rule***

***Hindu Reading***

***Jewish Reading***

***Zoroastrian Reading***

***Buddhist Reading***



***Young Living Buddhas***

***Christian Reading***

***Muslim reading***

***Bahá'í Reading***

***Prayer***



***Ishvari Devi***

***Ye are all the leaves of one tree and the drops of one ocean.***

## *Bahá'u'lláh*



### *'Bachiatas' - Deo Bosco Deo Bosco*

O Thou kind Lord! O Thou Who art generous and merciful! We are servants of Thy threshold and are gathered beneath the sheltering shadow of Thy divine unity. The sun of Thy mercy is shining upon all, and the clouds of Thy bounty shower upon all. Thy gifts encompass all, Thy loving providence sustains all, Thy protection overshadows all, and the glances of Thy favor are cast upon all. O Lord! Grant Thine infinite bestowals, and let the light of Thy guidance shine. Illumine the eyes, gladden the hearts with abiding joy. Confer a new spirit upon all people and bestow upon them eternal life. Unlock the gates of true understanding and let the light of faith shine resplendent. Gather all people beneath the shadow of Thy bounty and cause them to unite in harmony, so that they may become as the rays of one sun, as the waves of one ocean, and as the fruit of one tree. May they drink from the same fountain. May they be refreshed by the same breeze. May they receive illumination from the same source of light. Thou art the Giver, the Merciful, the Omnipotent.

~'Abdu'l-Bahá

## **THE GOLDEN RULE**

*Teaching that we should treat others as we ourselves would wish to be treated, is an ethic variously repeated in all the great religions:*

**Hinduism:** "This is the sum of all true righteousness: deal with others as thou wouldst thyself be dealt by. Do nothing to thy neighbour which thou wouldst not have him do to thee after."  
~The Mahabharata

**Judaism:** "What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow men. That is the entire Law, all the rest is commentary."  
~The Talmud, Shabbat, 31a.

**Zoroastrianism:** "That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self."  
~ Dadistan-i Dinik, 94:5.

**Buddhism:** "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."  
~Udana-Varqa, 5:18.

**Christianity:** "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."  
~ Luke 6:31.

**Islam:** "No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself."  
~ Sunnah.

**Baha'i Faith:** "He should not wish for others that which he doth not wish for himself, nor promise that which he doth not fulfill."  
~Gleanings

## Hinduism

*There is 'true' Knowledge'. Learn thou it is this:*

*to see one changeless Life in all the Lives, and in the Separate,  
One Inseparable.  
The Song Celestial 18:20*

Let us have concord with our own people,  
and concord with people who are strangers to us;  
The Divine Twins create between us and the strangers  
a unity of hearts.

May we unite in our minds, unite in our purposes,  
and not fight against the divine spirit within us.  
Let not the battle-cry arise amidst many slain,  
nor the arrows of the War-god fall with the break of day.  
~Hinduism. Atharva Veda 7.52.1-2



Meet together, speak together,  
let your minds be of one accord,  
as the Gods of old, being of one mind,  
accepted their share of the sacrifice.

May your counsel be common, your assembly common,  
common the mind, and the thoughts of these united.  
A common purpose do I lay before you,  
and worship with your common oblation.

Let your aims be common,  
and your hearts of one accord,  
and all of you be of one mind,  
so you may live well together.  
~Hinduism. Rig Veda 10.191.2-4

## **Judaism**

***The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them."***

***Genesis 11:6***

Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!  
It is like the precious oil upon the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,  
life for evermore.

~Bible, Psalm 133



Do we not have just a single Father?  
Did not just one God create us all?  
Why then does humankind deal treacherously  
with one another?  
This betrays the teachings of our ancestors.

~Malachi 2:10

**Zoroastrianism**

***Help me Ahura Mazda, Lord of Light, to discern the signs of  
the Age we live in and be in harmony with it, for the world  
is surging with new life...  
Zoroastrian Prayer***

Inspire us, O Wise Lord, to live in mutual understanding and trust and peace. We are brothers and sisters, all belonging to one great human family and we are children of one Father- Thou, O Wise Lord teach us to live as comrades, all in willing fellowship and loving fraternity, in brotherly and sisterly helpfulness and co-operation.  
~Zoroastrian, Peace Prayers from the World's Faiths, R. Grainger, p.2



Whatever words and deeds are noblest, best,  
Teach me. O Mazda, and make my life express them;  
Through love of fellow beings, through search for Truth,  
And the yearnings and prayers of my heart;  
Renew, Ahura, through the strength to serve,  
My life, and make it as you wish.  
~Zoroastrian prayer: Yasna 34.15

**Buddhism**

***Because it is suffering just like my own  
and I should benefit others  
because they are living things, just like myself.  
Buddhist Prayer***

Having pointed out to the five Bikkhus the truth, the Buddha said: 'A man that stands alone, having decided to obey the truth, may be weak and slip back into his old ways. Therefore, stand ye together, assist one another, and strengthen one another's efforts. Be like unto brothers; one in love, one in holiness, and one in your zeal for the truth. Spread the truth and preach the doctrine in all quarters of the world, so that in the end all living creatures will be citizens of the kingdom of righteousness. This is the holy brotherhood; this is the church, the congregation of the saints of Buddha; this is the Sangha that establishes a communion among all those who have taken their refuge in the Buddha.'

~The Gospel of Buddha, The sangha or community, para.1



Blessed is the place in which the Buddha walks,  
And blessed the ears which hear his talks;  
And blessed his disciples, for they are  
The tellers of his truth both near and far.  
If all could hear this truth so good  
Then all men's minds would eat rich food,  
And strong would grow men's brotherhood.

~The Gospel of Buddha, the King's Gift, para.3, para. 38



***Meditation  
Young Living Buddhas***

**Christianity**

***Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.***

***1 Peter 3:8***

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honourable we invest with the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which are more presentable parts do not require. But God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

~ 1 Corinthians 12.12-27

## **Islam**

***All of God's creatures are His family.***

***He is most beloved of God  
who does real good to members of God's family.  
Words of Muhammad***

Hold fast, all together, to God's rope, and be not divided among yourselves. Remember with gratitude God's favour on you, for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became brethren. You were on the brink of the fiery Pit, and He saved you from it. Thus does God make His signs clear to you, that you may be guided.

Let there arise out of you one community, inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: those will be prosperous. Be not be like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputations after receiving clear signs: for them is a dreadful penalty.

~ Qur'an 3.103-5



Mankind was one single nation, and God sent Messengers with glad tidings;

And with them He sent the Book in Truth, to judge between people in matters wherein they differed; But the people of the Book, after the clear signs, came to them. God by His grace, guided the believers to the truth, concerning wherein they differed. For God guides whom He will to a path that is straight.

~ Qurán, 11:213

**Bahá'í**

***We have created you all from one tree and have caused you to be as the leaves and fruit of the same tree, that haply ye may become a source of comfort to one another.***

***The Báb***

The unity which is productive of unlimited results is first a unity of mankind which recognizes that all are sheltered beneath the overshadowing glory of the All-Glorious; that all are servants of one God; for all breathe the same atmosphere, live upon the same earth, move beneath the same heavens, receive effulgence from the same sun and are under the protection of one God. This is the most great unity, and its results are lasting if humanity adheres to it; but mankind has hitherto violated it, adhering to sectarian or other limited unities such as racial, patriotic or unity of self-interests; therefore no great results have been forthcoming. Nevertheless it is certain that the radiance and favours of God are encompassing, minds have developed, perceptions have become acute, sciences and arts are widespread and capacity exists for the proclamation and promulgation of the real and ultimate unity of mankind which will bring forth marvelous results.

~ Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 191



It is my hope ... that these many rivers, each flowing along in diverse and separated beds, will find their way back to the circumambient sea, and merge together and rise up in a single wave of surging oneness; that the unity of truth, through the power of God, will make these illusory differences to vanish away. This is the one essential: for if unity be gained, all other problems will disappear of themselves.

~ 'Abd'ul-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 29.

## Prayer

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the one stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy.

O Thou kind Lord. Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. may they all live together in perfect harmony.

O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.  
~Abdu'l-Bahá



*'Siva Dance – meditation dance  
Ishvari Devi*

*Please join us for refreshments.*

We extend our warmest appreciation to the performers who have so generously contributed to our program.

## Our Musicians this month:

Ishvari Devi

The young Living Buddhas

And

Deo Bosco

Deo is a composer and Classical guitarist that has dedicated 30 years to producing and recording original music. Studied music in Rome - and in Australia composed and recorded most of his original music. His inspiration is Italian 'Baroque' music, that is arguably the source of all classical music. He has developed an original theory of guitar playing based on the 432 Hertz tuning, that makes the guitar A string vibrate at exactly 108 Hertz and the main D string at 144 Hertz. Today's composition is his original, titled: **'Bachiatas'**

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Bharata Natyam is the ancient Indian classical dance from Vedic Scriptures, whose geometry and poetry of movements connects with geometry and harmony of the Cosmos.

Ishvari Devi (Monica Rizzardi) received this title from her Masters Pandit Ram Gopal and Smt. Leela Ramanathan. She graduated in Bharata Natyam with Arangetram- Rangapravesha in Bangalore, India, and maintains to date the lineage Parampara of the Tanjore Temple.

Today's performance is: **'Siva Dance'**.

# Join us

for the next program:

“Fostering True Fellowship”

2<sup>nd</sup> February

## Upcoming Dates and Titles for Soul Food

March 1 <sup>st</sup> ,	The Luminous Hearts of Women
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Tree of Divine Guidance
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> ,	Family - the Foundational Bond
June 7 <sup>th</sup> ,	The Sacred Earth
July 5 <sup>th</sup> ,	A Kindly and Radiant Heart
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Power of Words
September 6 <sup>th</sup> ,	Unfurling the Banners of Peace
October 4 <sup>th</sup> ,	The Ornament of Justice and Fairness
November 1 <sup>st</sup> ,	Polishing the Gems – the education of children
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	The Joy of Giving

**“God leaves not His children comfortless, but, when the darkness of winter overshadows them, then again He sends His Messengers, the Prophets, with a renewal of the blessed spring. The Sun of Truth appears again on the horizon of the world shining into the eyes of those who sleep, awaking them to behold the glory of a new dawn. Then again will the tree of humanity blossom and bring forth the fruit of righteousness for the healing of the nations.”**

**Man must be a lover of the rose, no matter in what soil it may be growing.  
He must be a seeker of the truth, no matter from what source it comes.  
Attachment to the lantern is not loving the light.**

