

Hindu Scholarship Essay

Sanathan Dharma stresses many principles of Hinduism which can be incorporated into human life. Human life has its conflicts as shown by many worldwide conflicts and these issues can be resolved using the ideals from Sanathan Dharma. A notable world conflict for the last many decades has been between Israel and the surrounding Islamic countries. The problem in that area is that the Islamic countries have shown aggression to Israel since they claim their land in Jerusalem was taken from them. This is obviously a religious conflict which had led to violence in that area and agitation between Muslims and Jews around the world. Following the principles of Sanathan Dharma and the Dharma Granth can help resolve such a volatile conflict.

Several steps must be taken in order to resolve this conflict. The first step would be for both parties to maintain their patience. Sanathan Dharma says that patience must be shown as they both let go of their need for instant gratification or learn that the conflict will not resolve itself quickly through violence. The Bhagavad Gita quotes how showing patience can lead to a calm mind and well-organized thoughts and decisions, "Little by little, through patience and repeated effort, the mind will become stilled in the Self". Therefore, both Israel and the Islamic nations must show patience and think through their decisions in order for favorable results to show.

One of the most important ideals of Sanathan Dharma is to show forgiveness to all. Forgiveness begins by expressing non-aggression and compassion. Both sides most likely refuse to show forgiveness because it would represent them as weak or as though they are giving up. On the contrary, the Mahabharat states that showing forgiveness represents the opposite connotation. This occurs when Vidura tells Dhritarashtra that a person who forgives should not

be considered weak, but strong because forgiving is a great power since it can help lead to peace for all. Similarly, in the Bhagavad Gita Krishna says that forgiveness is a characteristic which can lead to peace and a divine state. He believes that without forgiveness pride, self-conceit, and anger continue to build among foes. At this point in the war, these negative traits have continued to be demonstrated. Once Israel or the Islamic nations start to show forgiveness for their mistakes, step towards peace will be made.

Both sides must demonstrate apt intellect before making their moves. Showing intellect is a key concept of Sanathan Dharma as the Bhagavad Gita says to practice Jnana yoga to obtain this knowledge, “Jnana yoga is the path of wisdom, knowledge, and direct experience of Brahman”. Jnana yoga also helps people renounce their desires and faulty actions by increasing one’s understanding of their body and soul. This means that instead of making decisions that will satisfy their desires, they make decisions which will improve their state of living. Israel and the Islamic countries need to use their intellect and follow the principles of Jnana yoga to make decisions that will help end the war peacefully and successfully for both sides instead of fighting to simply take back land and cause misery to the other.

Two other important concepts in the Bhagavad Gita are Karma yoga and Bhakti yoga. Karma yoga means that service is done without a desire for results or something in return. Both sides fight this war because they are doing service for their Gods by protecting their religion. However, in return they expect to obtain land and make the other suffer which is not a part of Karma yoga. Practicing Karma yoga would help relieve the tension in that area as they learn to simply practice their religion instead of asking for credit in return. They do however follow the principles of Bhakti yoga which is showing a loving devotion to their Gods. They clearly devote

themselves to God because they are willing to stake their lives in warfare to protect their land and religion.

Ultimately, in order to maintain peace in that world region, the two parties must learn to have religious tolerance for one another. Hinduism is based on having harmony of all religions because Hindus believe that all religions lead to a unified message or the same eternal truth. Therefore, Israel and the Islamic countries must respect each other's religions instead of provoking violence to convince the other that their religion is superior. Once peace negotiations begin in that area, Muslim and Jews across the world will also be able to respect one another and console as they learn the principles of Sanathan Dharma.