

The book cover features a dark blue background with a starry space theme. A central graphic shows a globe of Earth with green and yellow continents, set within a white circular frame. This frame is surrounded by several concentric, glowing blue circles that resemble orbits or data paths. The overall aesthetic is scientific and global.

GLOBAL

FAITH
IN THE
AGE OF
SCIENCE

—Naranjan Singh, IAS (Retd.)

NIRANKARI MISSION

GLOBAL FAITH
IN THE AGE OF SCIENCE

Naranjan Singh
IAS (Retd)

Sant Nirankari Mandal
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Author's Note

Physics has come a long way since its inception. It has analysed the cosmos in a totally different manner. Its research is quite helpful in understanding not only the essence of Matter but is also relevant in knowing the relation of mind and consciousness with the material phenomena as such. The Quantum theory of the new physics reads like spirituality of the prophets. The theory has demystified cosmic forces. An analytical reading would reveal that in modern physics the bridge between spirituality and science is as good as complete. If we put the theory of Ultimate Reality as given by the prophets and wise-men of the mankind side by side with the world-view of New Physics, a new synthesis shall emerge which can be instrumental in creating an ideal basis for future world faith.

So an analysis of latest physics is absolutely necessary. Not only the research of physics cannot be ignored but also the philosophy emerging out of it is to be considered seriously. No one can deny that a correct world-view for living life in the right perspective must include the nature of the Ultimate Reality as indicated by Science. This is the reason why this approach in the present exercise has been undertaken by the author.

In this context the Nirankari Mission presently flourishing as global spiritual movement under the benign guidance of His Holiness Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj gets most qualified as **“Global Faith in the Age of Science”**. The omnipresent and all-pervading Formless Nirankar here takes the place of the cosmic void-substance of New Physics wherein Matter dissolves itself into Energy and vanishes. The Mission believes that Nirankar is a self-operating conscious energy that is capable of creating and every object of the cosmos. Besides, the Mission's art of living based on its five principles seeks to create the Formless Man (Nirankari) in consonance with the scientific world-view.

It is hoped that the readers of science as well as Nirankari literature will read this book with interest and render this humble attempt useful. I am grateful to the Publications Department of the Sant Nirankari Mandal, particularly its Member Incharge, Rev. Kirpa Sagar for having made it possible for me to give this book its present form.

Chandigarh
September 1, 2006

Naranjan Singh
IAS (Retd.)

Preface

The esteemed readers of Nirankari literature and other God-loving students of spirituality are already familiar with the name of Rev. Naranjan Singh, IAS (Retd.), the author of this book “Global Faith in the Age of Science”. After his 'Mainstream of Spirituality', 'Matter and Non-matter' and 'Need for God-knowledge', this is yet another great gift from his powerful pen to the Nirankari Mission and those who wish to know and follow it.

As the title suggests, the book seeks to look at the Mission as 'Global Faith in the Age of Science'. In fact Science and Spirituality have never contradicted each other; both have been marching ahead in their respective domains without coming into conflict or clash. Here also the author is of the view that where science leaves the cosmos, spirituality takes it over. He explains that New Physics has already dismantled the old concept of absolute Space considered void – independent of physical phenomena and always immovable. Similarly, it no longer subscribes to the concept of absolute Time. New Physics has also given up the old concept of Matter consisting of small, solid and indestructible particles. Matter, it declares, does not have basic building blocks of different sizes.

The new research in physics has established that cosmos instead of having building blocks is one integrated, unified whole whose so called parts are inter-connected and inter-dependent. Matter which seems to be solid, inert or passive, is active, vibrant and restless. There is nothing static or stable in Matter. The universe is one, indivisible and dynamic whole with all its objects inter-related and inter-dependent.

And this is what the Nirankari Mission seeks to tell the world. It declares that mankind is fundamentally one. All individuals and groups are inter-related and inter-dependent. This is what we call Universal Brotherhood of man based on oneness of the Supreme Father whose dynamic spirit is pervading all.

The book is certainly based on reason, the beauty of science, and links spirituality to it with utmost logic and skill. Our esteemed readers, we trust, will certainly receive it with the same love with which they welcomed the other titles by this scholar saint of the Mission.

May His Holiness Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj bless Rev. Naranjan Singh Ji so that he continues to serve the Mission and its literature with more and more spirit of devotion.

Delhi
September 27, 2006

Kirpa Sagar
Member Incharge Publications
Sant Nirankari Mandal

THE WORLD VIEW OF THE OLD PHYSICS

The scope of the book is to discuss the eligibility of Nirankari Mission for becoming the Global faith for entire mankind irrespective of caste, creed, colour or nationality. In this regard, the role of science is very crucial and relevant. Any Mission to become global must reckon with the world-view arising out of scientific doctrines that are being accepted by the people all over the world. So it has been considered relevant to discuss some of the scientific concepts especially pertaining to physics. A contrast between the old physics (i.e. upto Newton) and the new physics has been undertaken.

In the old physics, there were some generally accepted assumptions. First was the concept of Absolute Space. Space was considered an empty container that was independent of the physical phenomena and always remaining similar and immovable. Then the Time was also Absolute having nothing to do with the motion in the material world. It always flowed uniformly without regard to anything external. Apart from space and time, matter consisted of material particles that were small, solid and indestructible. Matter had basic building blocks of different sizes but with homogeneous stuff. The world was a perfect machine presided over by a creator from outside. It was called mechanistic world-view.

THE WORLD VIEW OF THE NEW PHYSICS

At the end of the nineteenth century, the basic concepts of old classical physics got changed. The theories of electrodynamics and evolution shattered the mechanistic conceptions. The theories of Relativity and the Quantum theory changed the world of physics in the most fundamental way. Science bade farewell to the notions of the Time and Space as cosmic absolutes. It also refuted the traditional concept of Matter with its elementary solid particles, the fundamental material substance, the causal nature of physical phenomena and the objective description of Nature, etc., etc.

In view of this the cosmos is not a machine made of different building blocs or parts. The cosmos is one, integrated, unified whole, whose so-called parts are inter-related and inter-dependent. In the new physics, Matter is no longer solid or fundamental as was considered in the old classical physics. Matter came to have a dual nature. Sometimes it is a particle limited to a very small volume and sometimes it is a wave covering large regions of space. The transformation of an electron from particle to wave and vice-versa looked strange yet it was true. In any case, this paradox questioned the very basis of mechanistic world-view. Matter was no longer real and solid as it was thought to be. At the sub-atomic level, Matter does not exist with certainty at definite places and instead shows only a tendency to exist.

According to Niels Bohr:

“Isolated material particles are abstractions, their properties being definable and observable only through their inter-action with other systems.”

All this implies that particles at the sub-atomic level are not 'things' but mere inter-connections between things and these things, in turn, are inter-connections between other 'things' and so on and so forth. In the quantum view, there are no things but only inter-connections.

In view of this, the entire cosmos has no independent parts or constituents. The cosmos is an organic whole with interrelated parts. As Heisenberg says:

“The world thus appears as a complicated tissue of events, in which connections of different kinds alternate or over-lap or combine and thereby determine the texture of the whole”.

All this means that all the parts of the cosmos at the sub-atomic level can be understood and defined not in isolation from each other but through their interrelations. According to another scientist, an elementary particle is **“in essence a set of relationships that reach outward to other things.”**

This shift from mere objects or parts to interrelations is of crucial significance and because of this a scientist namely Gregory Bates avers that not only this should be part of school curricula but every object should be defined not as what it is in itself but by its relations to other things. From another angle as per the quantum view, the whole determines the behaviour of the parts whereas earlier it used to be the reverse i.e., the behaviour of the parts was determining the same of the whole. What a volte-face and a total reversal of scientific world view that existed upto Newton!

Another important aspect of the new physics is the role of human consciousness. The observer and the observed are integrally connected and correlated. Now the observer not only observes but also brings about these properties he studies and observes. Earlier he was not there in the picture at all.

To reiterate, the cosmos is conceived as an interconnected web of relations. This cosmic web is also intrinsically dynamic. Matter, its motion, inter-action and transformation are all parts of a dynamic process. Macroscopically, Matter seems to be solid, inert or passive but microscopically it is all full of activity, vibrant and restless. There is nothing stable or static in matter. In the new physics, mass is not understood in terms of material substance. The particles are nothing but bundles of energy having dynamic patterns of activity with both spatial and temporal aspects. To quote Fritjof Capra in the “Turning Point”:

● **In modern physics, the image of the universe as a machine has been transcended by a view of it as one indivisible, dynamic whole whose parts are essentially interrelated and can be understood only as patterns of a cosmic process.**

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As a consequence of the new physics, a scientist Geoffrey Chew proposed the '**bootstrap approach**'. According to this approach, Nature has no fundamental entities and all its components are consistent with one another and also with themselves. Moreover, in the cosmos, there is nothing that is fundamentally constant. Again to quote Capra in the “Turning Point”:-

● **The Universe is seen as a dynamic web of inter-related events. None of the properties of any part of this web is fundamental; they all follow from the properties of the other parts; and the overall consistency of their inter-relations determines the structure of the entire web.**

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With all this background we can see that the Quantum theory projects the organic oneness of the cosmos and rejects the classical notion of independently existing small units. There are no basic building blocs. There is also no 'Empty Space' existing absolutely and as a mere container of material phenomena. This is a revolutionary stage in the research in physics. **The notion of absolute space was given a good-bye once for all.**

The researches in sub-atomic physics have also revealed that all particles can be changed into other particles. The particles are created from energy and can vanish into energy. Concepts like 'elementary particle', 'material substance' or 'isolated object' are irrelevant in the context of modern physics. **The whole cosmos is only a dynamic web of inseparable energy patterns. All Matter is unified and dynamic at the basic level.**

Physics, however, is truly and consistently doing its job. From ancient times to the age of Newton and then to Einstein it has gone a long way in understanding and analyzing the nature of matter and cosmos. The progress in this regard reflects the sincerity of the scientists to be true to their duty. 'Physics', the very term derived from Greek word 'Physic' means the effort to understand.

In the light of all this understanding revealed by the new physics, the old assumptions regarding Matter, Consciousness, Mind have undergone drastic changes. Now we know that Energy and Information compose our bodies and not merely solid Matter as it seems to be. Further, this Energy and Information in the organism is part of the energy and information pervading the cosmos. Mind and body are integrally one. At both mental and physical levels we are connected to the cosmos as a whole.

According to the assumptions developed by Quantum-Relativistic research, the traditional way of viewing the material world has been rendered false. As already mentioned the observer is the integral part of observing the reality. Every observer has his own world-view different from others. Normally we declare anything real because we touch, feel or see it. In other words reality of the world outside is attested by our five senses. Whatever senses report to us we believe it to be real and final. As new physics refuted the old space-time model and replaced it with a time-less and space-less flowing field of constant transformation, the world of five senses turned out to be an illusion and totally false. So when we read the modern scientific stuff we are revealed that the outward world has no reality, as it seems to be and that the invisible world that lies below the surface of life is a hard reality. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

As already mentioned the role of the observer is very relevant and that the objective world and the observer are not independent of each other. Every observer perceives the world as per the level of his perception. No two observers will have the same world-view. And then each specie has its own world-view. All this means that there are no absolute traits in the objective material phenomena. It also implies that there is no fixed objective world outside our perception. The sensory system of the observer, be it of humans or of animals and birds interprets and perceives the phenomena in its own way. A British neurologist Sir John Eccles made a very interesting assertion, saying that:-

“I want you to realize that there is no colour in the natural world and no sound, nothing of this kind; no textures, no patterns, no beauty, no scent.”

All this makes our day-to-day perceptions so unreal. It seems that we are living in a world of make-believe and gigantic hallucinations. The way we are conceiving things and making prestige issues out of them is nothing but living in a fool's paradise. If we could peruse our physics and imbibe its lessons, lot many problems of the modern world would vanish.

As per quantum physics, if we start analyzing the physical structure down to the basic elements, we will see that molecules lead to atoms; atoms to sub-atomic particles and these particles end up as ghosts of energy dissolving and disappearing into the empty void. This void is full of energy and information. When the universe had not manifested in the present form, it existed in formless and un-manifested form. All matter including our bodies, our mind, intelligence, consciousness, are made out **of the primordial formless non-stuff**. As this stuff has manifested a cosmos with order and intelligence, it presupposes that this formless stuff was full of all possibilities and potentialities.

Another offshoot of modern physics is that we are not separate from cosmos. We are connected to it at all tangents. Each physical organism is an extension and expression of the cosmos. Because of conventional learning and the mask of five senses, we feel that we are different entities. It is all our ignorance of the essential nature of Matter and Cosmos. Now the new physics teaches us that nothing is separate or cut off from each other and that every thing and every particle is unified at the basic level and all material configurations are nothing but bundles of energy and information swimming in the ocean of cosmic void. The cosmos is one at the core level.

As already said neither Time nor Space is absolute. When the material phenomena were not there in the present form, Time and Space did not exist. The source of the cosmos is timeless and space-less. Time is created by human awareness which has in-built perception of change. If there were no awareness, there would be no time. Space is created when matter comes in manifestation. Matter, Space and Time are contemporaneous to each other. They are inter-related and presuppose each other. In fact, all the three imply each other. One cannot exist without the other two. The Ultimate Reality of cosmos is beyond Matter, Space and Time.

COSMOS AS OBJECTIVE EXISTENT

The cosmos exists as an objective fact. It has two aspects. One is the manifested, the other is the un-manifested aspect. One is the creation, the other is the creator or the creative principle. One is subject to Time and Space, the other is not. This indisputably is the dual aspect of the cosmos.

How to differentiate the two? This should not be difficult. By using our scientific knowledge we can accomplish the differentiation. All matter and energy is subject to Time and Space which are always in a state of change and vibration. When we were tracking down matter from molecules to atoms and further, we entered the realm of the sub-atomic phenomena and we reached the level where sub-atomic particles turn into ghosts of energy dissolving into the empty void. This empty void is the underlying and fundamental layer of the cosmos.

Vacuum or Emptiness are the other words for cosmic void. The existence of Void or Vacuum has its own history. Some people believed it to be Existent whereas others denied it. The new physics recognizes the existence of void (or Vacuum) and endows it with dynamic properties.

There is considered view that all energy was concentrated in the so-called Void or Vacuum. There is no creation of energy but a simple transfer from vacuum to manifested matter. Approximately 20 thousand million years ago, all the matter was in a state of singularity and had infinite density. So the vacuum (or Void) was never truly empty. It was always full of that substance which later on manifested as Matter. Call it with whatever name yet it was some substance all the same and in full measure. It was and is 'Something'. If we ponder for a while, we will agree that this void is not a simple receptacle or a container to have Matter inside. In fact, it is a void-substance with power to manifest matter. It is the formless stuff which has manifested as matter.

The research in vacuum is in the process of evolving a theory of vacuum (void). Lot of interest is being shown by scientists in explaining vacuum as a key to all the locks in the cosmos. It is no longer a simple carrier bag or a simple container as it used to be called in the old physics.

Just consider from another angle. It is because of this void-substance that the cosmos is one, eternal and a fixed continuum. What constitutes this substance is the mystery yet to be solved by science. How to identify this void-substance in the cosmos and to understand its utility is another aspect of the mystery.

The so-called void in the cosmos is full of that basic potential substance which manifests sometimes as consciousness (or intelligence), and sometime as Energy (or Matter). **It is this Formless Substance, one-piece, omnipresent, having unlimited possibilities that is the ultimate and basic level of cosmic existence. The whole universe is born in it, lives in it, evolves in it and finally gets dissolved in it.**

This Formless Substance is all pervasive. It is Timeless and Space-less. All material phenomena or whatever we think or experience or imagine are all its projections.

It is because of this void-substance, that there is unity and inter-relation of each and every object. Everything is interdependent and inseparable. The fundamental oneness of the formless substance projects itself as different aspects as we see all around. Ordinarily we don't see the unity or the basic oneness. Even when modern physics has traveled to this level yet in day-to-day life we have not imbibed this concept. This concept of one-ness is limited to the four corners of the Laboratory. We will discuss this aspect later on. **Presently we are co-relating the concepts of modern physics with the philosophic view point of some spiritual adepts (called prophets or Satgurus) who have figured in history as revealers of this Void-Substance, called the unmanifested, Non-Matter Nir-akar or Nirankar – the Formless Being of Cosmos.**

THE NATURE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE

In human organism first we have physical and material aspect. The operation of five senses makes this aspect very concrete and real. In this sphere, the operation of time has its visible effect as things are born and then die. The laws of cause and effect seem to be governing the physical sphere.

Then there is another sphere beyond the physical. It is the invisible beyond the visible. Some

call it the quantum domain of Energy and Information. The five senses don't touch this domain. The core of the self with its thought-structure and belief system making up the ego is essential part of the quantum domain. The physical or the material aspect is not separate but is a manifestation of the Energy and Information pervading the quantum domain.

As per the Theory of Relativity, Matter and Energy are the same. Mass equals Energy, although it may have different forms. On deeper analysis, the solid objects made up of molecules and atoms turn out to be particles having no solidity at all. These particles are waves of energy and information. So starting from the solid world of Matter, we reach the domain of pure Energy and Information. Here the world of five senses and solid molecules and atoms turns out to be non-existent. This is what theories of Relativity and Quantum science reveal to us. With all this research, everything looks so different especially when for thousands of years we were believing and dealing with the world of solid and separate objects.

This world of Energy (with information encoded into it) vibrates at different frequencies. As the vibration is too fast, our normal vision cannot catch it and the result is that we see only objects and matter as such. Our senses are too slow in moving as compared to the fastness of energy-vibrations. If our senses could match the fastness of the energy vibrations, we could perceive very distinctly that all material objects including our organism are a cluster of energy floating in the universal energy soup. Each object and each self is an expression of the self same Energy Soup. We are so much addicted and used to the world of five senses that we don't have any realization of the energy and information spanning the cosmos. Our ignorance also keeps us tied to the world of forms. That way this world has been rightly called 'Maya' or 'illusion' by the Eastern sages.

We don't experience the one-ness of cosmos in normal sense because it is in laboratory alone that we have experimented and analyzed that all Matter is energy. This has not percolated in our minds. The philosophy or lesson to be learnt from the Quantum theory and the theory of Relativity has not been mentalised. Everything is only at intellectual level. It is so clear that there are no unbreakable boundaries between objects of Nature which are nothing but different vibrations of the same communal Energy Soup. At the Quantum level there is no solidity, no boundary, no distinction whatsoever. Atom interacting with atom creates solidity but energy interacting with energy creates nothing solid. It is all energy, remains energy and is only an exchange and information. At the energy level, we are one, running into each other, exchanging energy and information with each other.

Now the question arises: Why don't we see this deeper drama and invisible interaction?

Because we have not the quantum eyes and senses to see or conceptualise the collective cosmic energy. Had we this faculty or cosmic vision, we could easily see that all solid objects are rushing in and out of the cosmic void at the speed of light. As senses are connected at the mental level, it is here in the mind that we imagine the physical organism and the material phenomena. Both mind and thought are aspects of the same field of energy and information. It is mind and mind alone that misinterprets one collective energy soup as different physical entities. Don't we say that mind in its own place can create hell out of heaven and heaven out of hell? The structure of senses, mind, power of imagination and thinking process is so made by Nature that every self has his own separate world-view. In other words, every self has his own world absolutely different from the world of others.

Traveling from the physical, to the world of energy and information, we come to another

aspect. This is the field of Consciousness. As information is encoded in energy, intelligence is encoded in consciousness. As energy implies information, consciousness implies intelligence. Consciousness and Energy (Matter) are two different entities although they correlate and cooperate with each other. Their interaction is so wonderful and natural that they don't look like different. This is the precise reason why the materialists called Consciousness a product of Matter. It is only recently that consciousness is being recognized in its own right but still it is not being given proper or due place in the scheme of cosmos.

It is consciousness (or intelligence) that coordinates, organizes the energy soup into different objects which comprise the cosmos and make it an ordered whole. Consciousness is the threading element of the cosmic phenomena.

In human organism the thinking process and the element of Consciousness are different. What is that element that thinks, rationalizes and formulates concepts? Who is the one that builds the ego structure and confers continuity in the organism. It is Consciousness. Thoughts which constitute mind are always evolving and changing but consciousness is one, same and static since the birth of the organism. It is conscious being (called Jiva or the living being) that runs the body, thinks thoughts, and feels feelings and yet is detached from physical organs of the organism.

The existence of consciousness is all pervasive, being inherent in all living cells and in material configurations. In fact it connects living organisms and material objects.

It is an accepted fact that the living species and the cosmos are one and organically linked. No species is separate or independent at any tangent. Now when physics says that all the objects are interdependent, interpenetrating, and inseparable, then each organism is in fact the microcosm and the cosmos is its cosmic extension. All the spiritual luminaries and wise men of the world have also declared this truism in the following words:-

**“As is the cosmos, so is the organism;
As is the macrocosm, so is the microcosm;
As is the atom, so is the universe;
As is the human mind, so is the cosmic mind.”**

With daily experience and knowledge we can certify the truth of all the above said assertions. Take material constituents of human organism one by one. We see that each one is not only a part of the cosmic whole but is connected with it in organic manner. The air, the water and all other material constituents are in constant inter-action with their corresponding correlates in the cosmos. In fact, it is in species that the cosmos manifests its total might. **But for species, the cosmos would be a pure potential.** It is species that interact and utilize the cosmos. The cosmos is of the species, for the species and by the species. If there were no species, cosmos would have been pure potential without any purpose. It seems to be that this cosmos is made for the species alone.

Of all the species, human species is the most evolved at mental level. The level of awareness in humans is to the extent where they can experience the whole cosmos not only in parts but also as one integrated whole. It is with this faculty that the cosmic connections of human organism are discovered and established. But for this man would have been like other species, no more no less.

So the human self is the conscious being and has the power to be aware of the Formless Being of cosmos. The history of spirituality is in fact the history of the conscious self (Jiva)

becoming aware of the Formless Ultimate Substance of the cosmos. This is Nirvana, Liberation, Mukti, Sartori of Zen masters.

In this state the self by becoming aware of the Formless constant substance of the cosmos, realizes the reality of non-change, timeless-ness and space less-ness. It is the self who not only experiences, but also interprets all that he experiences. He invests all experiences with purpose and meaning. This is the art of living which is special and peculiar to every self in the cosmos. The real knowledge is to understand the changeless 'me' as spirit and as kindred to the Formless Being of the cosmos. The realized self is conscious of consciousness and aware of awareness and knowing that all the experiences or changes are outside him and peripheral in existence.

THE NEW PHYSICS AND THE PERCEPTION OF TRUE MASTERS (SATGURUS)

With this scientific background, let us discuss the ideology of True Masters who have appeared from time to time and shaped the course of civilization and taught mankind the true art of living.

The prophets, or True Masters have experienced and conceived the cosmos in the same manner as we have read heretofore. For the prophets (Satgurus) the cosmos has been one ordered whole. They analyzed the cosmos with the weapon of Ultimate Reality whose knowledge they were possessed with. For them the cosmos (seemingly looking variegated) is manifestation of the One Formless Substance. The dual appearance of cosmos as material and non-material is only to the physical eye or in other words to the vision constituted of five senses. At a deeper level, all is Non-Matter formless substance. Matter turned out to be a shadow, or a myth being only a quality of the Formless Substance of the cosmos. Let us see some references in the scriptures where this aspect is so clearly referred to.

First we take the **Vedas and Upanishads** where the cosmos is taken as one living organism. The unmanifested formless aspect is the basic reality and the entire phenomenon is His manifestation.

- That one Supreme reality has been styled by various names by the learned seers.
They call One by many names;
they speak of 'Him' as Indra, the Lord Resplendent;
Mitra, the Surveyor; Varuna, the Virtuous; and Agni, the Adorable.

Rigveda 1.164.46

- He is void of form, dwelleth in and out
of everything with form and shape.
He is free from lapses, faults and impurities
He transcendeth all the body's faculties, being the Divine Poet.

- He is genius maintaining peace and harmony;
He manifesteth;
He sustaineth creation in perfect order.

Yajur Veda 40.2(1966)

- The whole of the universe
is stationed in the Omnipresent
and the Omnipotent God
We see Him in various forms.

Atharva Veda 19:53:3

- **Behold one divine form appearing in multiform.**
See the unity in diversity.

Rigveda 8.58.2

- O Man, ye knoweth not God
Who has manifested this perfect universe.
That subtle Self is present in the entire creation
Although totally different from everything else.

Yajur Veda 17.6.31

- Brahman, verily, is this immortal.
In front is Brahman, behind is Brahman, to the right and
To the left. It spreads forth below and above.
Brahman, indeed, is this universe. It is the greatest.

Mudaka Upanishad 2:2:11

Just see the following reference in Brihadaranyaka Upanishad 4.5.15 which reads like a para taken out of a book on modern physics:

“Where there is duality, as it were, there one sees another; there one smells another; there one tastes another...But whereas everything has become just one's own self then whereby and whom would one see? Then whereby and whom would one smell? Then whereby and whom would one taste?”

This unity consciousness is reached in a knower of the Ultimate Reality when his separate self dissolves into an undifferentiated one-ness of Reality where the world of senses is transcended.

If we see the history of those sages or seers called Satgurus, the truth about the organic oneness of the cosmos is fully demonstrated. We have seen specific references in the Upanishads. Now let us see some references in the Gita and the Adi Granth in this regard which are equally relevant. First take Gita. In Chapter IX Lord Krishna describes His manifestations. To quote:-

- (a) I am the self, seated in the hearts of all beings.

Ch. 10-20

- (b) Of the luminaries, the radiant Sun, of the asterisms, the moon am I.

Ch. 10-21

- (c) Of the senses I am the mind and among living beings I am Consciousness. Ch. 10-22
- (d) Of created things I am the beginning and the end and also the middle. Ch. 10-32
- (e) And I am the all-devouring death. I am the prosperity of those who are to be prosperous, and female qualities I am Fame, Fortune, Speech, Memory, Intelligence, Constancy and Forbearance. Ch. 10-34
- (f) I am the splendour of the splendid; I am victory, I am effort, I am the goodness of the good. Ch. 10-36
- (g) Of secrets, I am also silence; And I am wisdom of the wise. Ch. 10-38

These are some of the representative references regarding manifestations. In fact, everything that exists is His manifestation. These manifestations are a small portion of the cosmic magnitude of the Lord. All this is referred only to demonstrate that one Formless Being is without form and whatever exists is nothing but He alone. The One appears as many.

These quotations reveal that the cosmos is one integrated whole. All the various forms, qualities and colours are manifestation of the same one original power. Being so they are one and the same. As different waves look different, yet being projections of the one ocean are one and the same. The cosmos is one and unified at the basic level despite looking like different here and there. In the same manner, the basic organic unity of cosmos is equally mentioned in the Adi Granth. To quote:

- ਆਪ ਸਤਿ ਕੀਆ ਸਭੁ ਸਤਿ
ਤਿਸ ਪ੍ਰਭੁ ਤੇ ਸਗਲੀ ਉਤਪਤਿ
ਤਿਸ ਭਾਵੈ ਤਾ ਕਰੇ ਬਿਸਥਾਰ
ਤਿਸ ਭਾਵੈ ਤਾ ਏਕੰਕਾਰੁ

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True is the Lord,
True is His creation
He is the only Lord who creates all,
If he wills, He becomes the Many
And If He so wills, He remains the One alone.

- ਸਗਲ ਪਰੋਈ ਆਪੁਨੇ ਸੁਤਿ

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The whole of creation
Is threaded by the lord.

- ਸਗਲੀ ਬਣਤ ਬਣਾਈ ਆਪੇ
ਆਪੇ ਕਰੇ ਕਰਾਏ ਆਪੇ
ਇਕਸੁ ਤੇ ਹੋਇ ਅਨੰਤਾ ਨਾਨਕ ਏਕਸ ਮਾਹਿ ਸਮਾਏ ਜੀਉ

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He Himself made the whole cosmos;
He Himself does and establishes all
And gets His work accomplished;
From the One proceed the many
And the many then merge in the One alone.

- ਅਨਿਕ ਰੂਪ ਖਿਨ ਮਾਹਿ ਕੁਦਰਤਿ ਧਾਰਦਾ

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Through His Power
He assumes many many forms.
In the twinkling of an eye.

- ਕਈ ਕੋਟਿ ਕੀਨੇ ਬਹੁ ਭਾਤਿ
ਪ੍ਰਭ ਤੇ ਹੋਇ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਮਾਹਿ ਸਮਾਤਿ

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Millions are created by Him,
In variety of ways;
Manifested by Him
All merge back in Him

- ਜਲਿ ਬਲਿ ਮਹੀਅਲਿ ਪੂਰਿਆ ਸੁਆਮੀ ਸਿਰਜਨ ਹਾਰੁ
ਅਨਿਕ ਭਾਂਤ ਹੋਇ ਪਸਰਿਆ ਨਾਨਕ ਏਕੰਕਾਰੁ

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The Creator-Lord pervades the Earth,
The water and the inter-space;
He manifests in myriad of ways
Yet, says Nanak He is one and one alone.

- ਸੁਖਮ ਅਸਬੂਲ ਸਗਲ ਭਗਵਾਨ

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He is the subtle,
He is the outer form,
All is He, the Lord God.

These are some of the illustrative references which project the doctrine that cosmos is one organism. The appearance of cosmic diversity is an optical illusion. It is all one Formless Being. All the above verses amply corroborate it.

The implication of cosmos as one organism is that the basic stuff of the cosmos is one and the same. The prophets agree with modern science that all the forms and different qualities of material configurations are not absolute or essentially different. Each quality and form of one particle or element is because of the quality and form of other elements. In other words, the forms and qualities are ultimately the same and only at superficial level the phenomenon of separateness seems to be there.

The Nirankari Mission in the present time has projected the same philosophy. The concept of cosmos is perceived with organic oneness where every thing is a manifestation of the basic reality of the cosmos, and everything is inter- connected. See verse No.2 of Avtar Bani:-

- ਹਰ ਜ਼ੋਰੇ ਵਿਚ ਸੂਰਤ ਤੇਰੀ ਹਰ ਪੱਤੇ ਤੇ ਤੇਰਾ ਨਾਂ
ਐਧਰ ਓਧਰ ਚਾਰ ਚੁਫੇਰੇ ਤੇਰੀ ਸੂਰਤ ਤਕਦਾ ਹਾਂ
ਚੰਦਨ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਖੁਸ਼ਬੂ ਤੂੰ ਏਂ ਗੰਗਾ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਨਿਰਮਲਤਾ
ਤੂੰ ਹੀ ਤੇਜ਼ ਹੈਂ ਸੂਰਜ ਅੰਦਰ ਚੰਦਾ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ੀਤਲਤਾ
ਫੁੱਲਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਸੁਹੱਪਣ ਤੂੰ ਏਂ ਕਲੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਕੌਮਲਤਾ
ਸੂਝਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਸੋਝੀ ਤੂੰ ਏ ਤੂੰ ਕਲਾ ਤੂੰ ਕੌਸ਼ਲਤਾ
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਸੱਚਾ ਬੂਟਾ ਤੂੰਹੀਓ ਦਸਵਾਂ ਦੁਵਾਰਾ ਤੇਰਾ ਦੇਸ
ਕਹੇ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਨੇ ਬਖਸ਼ੀ ਅਪਣੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਅਪਣਾ ਵੇਸ ।

Avtar Bani-2

Thou art manifest in every particle,
Every leaf bears Thy name;
I see Thy form everywhere all around;
Thou art fragrance in sandalwood;
And purity in the river Ganges;
Thou art heat in the sun,
And coolness in the moon;
Thou art beauty in flowers;
And delicacy in the flower-buds;
Thou art Wisdom in the Wise,
Thou art the skill and the art;
Thou art the True Master in Buta Singh
Thy abode is in God, the tenth 'Dwar'
Says Avtar, the True Master has blessed
His own expression and his own system.

This verse clearly says that the smell of sandalwood and the 'purity' of the river Ganges are manifestation of the same One Reality. Being so, both are one and the same. Again it says, the heat of the Sun and coolness of the Moon are manifestations of the one Basic Reality. Further it says that beauty in flowers, delicacy in buds, wisdom in the wise are all the manifestations of the same Reality. The whole art and skill are also the manifestation of the same basic substance. In this verse the implied thought is that whatever is there is the manifestation of the one Formless Being. This clearly explains that different manifestations are one and the same although looking different outwardly and separately.

In verse No.3 also, the integral one-ness of the cosmos is described. It says that all is Truth and is manifesting as different forms. To quote:-

- ਸੱਚ ਸਮੁੰਦਰ ਸੱਚ ਨੇ ਲਹਿਰਾਂ ਸੱਚ ਹੈ ਬੇੜੀ ਸੱਚ ਪਤਵਾਰ

Truth is the ocean;
True are the waves,
Truth is the boat and the oars.

In verse No.13 of the Avtar Bani the one Ultimate Truth manifesting in different forms is referred to. To quote:

- ਇਕੋ ਇਕ ਏ ਬਾਗੀਂ ਬੂਟੀਂ ਫੁਲ ਕਲੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਹੱਸ ਰਿਹੈ
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਏ ਜਲ ਥਲ ਮਹੀਅਲ ਕਣ ਕਣ ਅੰਦਰ ਵਸ ਰਿਹੈ

ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਇਹ ਜੰਗਲ ਬੋਲੇ ਆਪ ਨਜ਼ਾਰੇ ਦਸ ਰਿਹੈ
ਸੀਤਲ ਚਾਨਣ ਠੰਡਕ ਬਣ ਕੇ ਹਰ ਰਸ ਅੰਦਰ ਰਸ ਰਿਹੈ

The One Formless manifests in forests and plants,
He is smiling through the flowers and the buds;
The One Formless is pervading the ocean,
The Earth and the inter-space;
The Formless inheres in each cell of Existence,
The Formless manifests in forests and pastures;
Himself is He expressing Himself in beautiful sights,
By manifesting as coolness, brightness and pleasant,
He dwells in all delicacies.

Here also the One manifesting as many is clearly stated. The one Formless Substance (Ultimate Reality) is manifest as trees, plants, flowers, buds, the ocean, and the space in between the sky and the earth. He is in forests, pastures and is Himself the sight, Himself coolness, Himself brightness; He is inherent in all the delicacies.

How clear is the Doctrine of organic One-ness of the cosmos! When the Ultimate Reality, the Formless Substance is manifesting Himself as different forms of Nature, organic oneness is natural and is a fact of cosmic existence. Nothing is separate. Everything looks different only in outward appearance otherwise all is one and one alone. It is in this way that the modern physics and the cosmology projected by the Nirankari Mission and the earlier prophets is common. Phenomena in the cosmos have no substantive or absolute existence. It is only One Formless Substance who is existing in reality and is manifesting as many different forms.

NIRANKARI MISSION AND TRANSCENDING THE WORLD OF DUALITY

Duality, as the word connotes, is the existence of opposites side by side. In the phenomenal world, we daily come across opposing entities such as darkness-light, ugly-beautiful, soft-hard, and then our mind experiences pleasure-pain, honour-dishonour, etc., etc.

As the cosmos is one and its stuff is basically formless so the existence of opposites or duality is nothing but a delusion.

It is the specially constituted nervous system of different species that envisions the outside universe in different ways. Different species have different sensory systems and through their sensory prism, the view of the universe is reflected. For humans, it is universe made of length, breadth, colour, form and subject to Time and Space. For birds and animals, it is different. For example to a bat, it is a universe of ultrasound, and to a snake it is world of infrared light. Human senses don't see either of them. So this is how the perceiver interprets the data. Sir John Eccles, a scientist, opines in this regard:-

“I want you to realize that there is no colour in the natural world and no sound,

nothing of this kind; no textures, no patterns, no beauty, no scent....”

It is our sensory system that interprets the raw data and makes it a solid world.

So the cosmos has existence with different traits only because of the observer. But for the observer the Cosmos would be a pure potential. It is with the observer (conscious being or Jiva) that the universe is observed and utilized. All observation is subjective, differing from person to person and species to species. It is rightly said.

* जैसी दृष्टि, वैसी सृष्टि

As is the view,
Same is the Universe.

This phenomenon of duality or of opposing pairs as mentioned above is at the level of five senses. It all belongs to the domain of mind and intellect. Beyond mind, all this is non-existent.

Before discussing further, let us see how physics has tackled or resolved the problem of reconciling the opposites. We have seen that during exploration of the world of sub-atomic phenomena, we came to the world of energy and pure consciousness. In this world the existence of opposites has no meaning. At the level of sub-atomic physics, the opposites become irrelevant, as particles in this domain are both destructible and indestructible. Moreover energy and matter are the same. The sub-atomic level is a subtler dimension where the concepts of ordinary experience don't hold good. The world of solid matter is a world of relativity. In the world of the new physics, force and matter are unified, where matter can appear as discontinuous particles and also as a continuous field. The problem of opposites is transcended in the sub-atomic reality. Just read the following words of Robert Oppenheimer which make the position quite clear:-

“If we ask, for instance, whether the position of the electron remains the same, we must say 'no', if we ask whether the electron's position changes with time, we must say 'no', if we ask whether the electron is at rest, we must say 'no', if we ask whether it is in motion, we must say 'no'.”

In the light of this, all opposites and contradictory concepts are transcended and reconciled in the new physics.

In much the same way, all the prophets talk of transcending the opposites and also keeping the balance between polarized concepts. Duality is at the world level or in the domain of matter. Prophets have reconciled the concepts of duality. Just read the words of Isa Upanishad which bear a direct reference to the existence of one basic substance of cosmos:-

It moves; It moves not;
It is far, and it is near;
It is within all this;
And it is outside of all this.

A reference to reconciling the opposites is given in a very interesting manner by a Taoist thinker as under:-

“Such-ness is neither that which is existence; nor that which is non-existence, nor that which is at once existence and non-existence nor that which is not at once existence and non-existence.”

This such-ness is the basic Reality that transcends all duality.

Both the Gita and the Adi Granth describe this state of the mind where there is no duality.
To quote the Gita:-

- Free from pride and delusion,
with evil of attachment conquered,
ever dwelling in the self,
their desires being completely stilled,
**liberated from the pairs of opposites
known as pleasure and pain,
the un-deluded reach that goal eternal.**

Ch. 15-5

- The same in honour and dishonour,
the same to friend and foe;
abandoning all undertakings,
he is said to have risen above the Gunas.

Ch. 14-25

Gunas are the attributes of Nature. These are three in number, Sattva, Rajas and Tamas. In Sattva state, knowledge and consequent happiness of the objects is dominant. In Rajas, greed for sense objects and attachment to action is dominant. In Tamas, one is listless and wastes money and energy.

As per the Adi Granth, the world of Matter as we see with five senses is illusion (Maya). It is a world of duality of opposites. By crossing this plane one reaches the world of Reality where all duality and illusion vanish. It is the world of Truth beyond Time and Space and the fourth stage beyond three Gunas:-

- ਰਜ ਗੁਣ ਤਮ ਗੁਣ ਸਤ ਗੁਣ ਕਹੀਐ ਇਹ ਤੇਰੀ ਸਭ ਮਾਇਆ,
ਚਉਥੇ ਪਦ ਕਉ ਜੋ ਨਰੁ ਚੀਨੇ ਤਿਨ ਹੀ ਪਰਮ ਪਦ ਪਾਇਆ।

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Oh God! The three modes are but the creation of thy power Maya;
But he alone rises to the Supreme State
Who knows the fourth state (of Ultimate Reality).

- ਤੈ ਗੁਣ ਸਭ ਧਾਤ ਹੈ, ਦੂਜਾ ਭਾਉ ਵਿਕਾਰੁ

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Action in three modes
Is the world of illusion (Maya)
Those engaged are wallowing in duality.

It is only in crossing the world of senses and the concepts of the opposites that one enters the region of the Formless Being where there is no matter, no illusion, no opposites, no duality and no contradiction whatsoever. Continuing with the doctrine of spirituality as propounded in the early scriptures, the Nirankari Mission is basing all its spirituo-social programs on the foundation of one Formless God which is the Ultimate Reality of the cosmos.

The Doctrine of the Nirankari Mission is fully expressive of the state of Cosmos where all

contradictions are resolved. It is a state of non-duality transcending the worldly or material notion of opposites. See the following verse where what we call 'nothing' is 'everything', when all material phenomena are not there; what remains is non-matter and it is everything.

- ਇਹ ਨੌ ਚੀਜ਼ਾਂ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟਮਾਨ ਨੇ ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਮਾਇਆ ਏ
ਦਸਵਾਂ ਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਨਿਆਰਾ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਾਇਆ ਏ
ਇਹ ਸੱਭੋ ਕੁਝ ਮਿਟ ਜਾਣਾ ਏ ਬਾਕੀ ਕੁਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਹਿਣਾ ਯਾਰ
ਕਹੋ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਹੈ ਏਹੋ ਸਭ ਕੁਝ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ

Avtar Bani-10

The nine elements constitute Matter called Maya, can
be seen,
The Tenth is Supreme, distinct from nine,
Yet pervading them all,
All that is visible shall go
Only 'Nothing' shall remain.
This 'Nothing' which remains is 'Everything'
This is called the Formless Being (Nirankar).

- ਕਿਸ ਘੜੀ ਏ ਘਾੜਤ ਇਹਦੀ ਕੌਣ ਬਨਾਵਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਏ
ਆਪੇ ਆਪ ਹੈ ਸਭ ਕੁਝ ਆਪੇ ਹਰ ਇਕ ਸੈ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਲਾ ਏ

Avtar Bani-19

Who designed the Formless Being;
Who is His Maker?
He is everything Himself,
But still distinct from all.

The basic state of the cosmos is formless yet full of all qualities and forms. It is both actual and potential. It is a state where no Matter can affect it. It is called the state of Transcendental Equipose. Here all opposites, characterizing the world of creation are resolved. To quote:-

- ਭਰਪੂਰ ਖਲਾਵਾਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਵੇਖੋ ਪਸਰੀ ਬੈਠੇ ਜੋ ਦਾਤਾਰ
ਵਕਤ ਦੇ ਹਾਕਮ ਨੇ ਹੈ ਰਖਿਆ ਨਾ ਏਸੇ ਦਾ ਹੀ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ
ਜੋ ਕੁਝ ਦਿਸਦੈ ਨਜ਼ਰੀ ਆਉਂਦੈ ਏਸੇ ਦਾ ਹੈ ਸਗਲ ਪਸਾਰ
ਦੀਨ ਦੁਖੀ ਭਗਤਾਂ ਦਾ ਰਖਸ਼ਕ ਇਹੋ ਸ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਹਾਰ
ਏਹੋ ਬੇੜੀ ਚੱਪੂ ਏਹੋ ਆਪ ਸਮੁੰਦਰ ਖੇਵਣਹਾਰ

Avtar Bani-11

Lo! that Formless Being who pervades the Cosmic Void
With His fullness;
The True Master of the present times;
Has named Him as the Formless One;
Whatever is seen and visible,
Is all the manifestation of this Being;
He is the savior of the suffering humanity;
He protects the devotees,
And is the creator of the Universe.

- ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਹੈ ਗੁਣਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਉੱਚਾ ਆਪੇ ਹਰ ਗੁਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਏ।

ਹਰ ਇਕ ਸ਼ੈ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਰਹਿ ਕੇ ਹਰ ਇਕ ਸ਼ੈ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਲਾ ਏ।

Avtar Bani-111

The Formless Being transcends all material traits,
Yet all traits belong to him;
Remaining inherent in all objects,
Yet He is detached from all.

NIRANKARI MISSION AND THE CONCEPT OF SPACE AND TIME

Theories of modern physics regarding Space and Time are very relevant in understanding the Ultimate Reality of Cosmos. We have seen that classical physics had the notion of absolute Space, containing the material phenomena but separate from it. Similarly Time was also absolute, flowing at an even rate, yet independent of the material set-up. The new physics has rejected the concept of independent Space and Time and also their existing as cosmic absolutes. Both Space and Time are relative, limited, illusory and nothing but mere names and projections of human thought.

As per Theory of Relativity, all spatial and temporal specifications are relative. In view of this, it is not possible to describe Cosmos at a given instant in an absolute way. No Space or Time is absolute being independent of the observer.

As per the Nirankari doctrine, in the highest state of experience where the self rises above Matter and enters the ultimate and basic frequency of the Cosmos, the sense of Space and Time is finished. Time and Space are co-terminus with Matter and beyond this they don't operate. The basic substance of the Cosmos is infinite, timeless and space-less. **It is in fact the Eternal Present where there is no past or future.** The concept of linear Time that flows and is divided into different classifications is part of the material world.

Same way the Nirankari Mission has put before the world the concept of Ultimate Reality where Space and Time do not exist as cosmic absolutes.

- ਭਰਪੂਰ ਖਲਾਵਾਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਵੇਖੋ ਪਸਰੀ ਬੈਠੇ ਜੋ ਦਾਤਾਰ

Avtar Bani-11

Behold, the great creator
Pervading the whole of Cosmic Void.

The Formless Being of the Nirankari Mission beyond Time and Space is not something without any dynamic qualities. It may not have particular form yet it is capable of creating all forms. The very fact of manifestation is a proof of Its dynamic and creative qualities. The basic stuff of the cosmos is the formless stuff. This formless has the potential of creating energy, information, consciousness, intelligence and what not. Looking like void and 'Nothing-ness', it is replete with invisible intelligence and un-limited creativity. When we analyze Matter and start

traveling from molecules to atoms, from atoms to sub-atomic particles and then further, we enter the region where these particles turn into ghosts of energy which dissolve or disappear into the empty void. This void is not void in the negative sense of the term; it is full of that substance which keeps the entire universe in un-manifest form and manifests it at the time it wishes. When the present creation was not there, the whole of matter was compressed and existed in un-manifested form in the cosmic void. **If we trace back the history of creation from manifest Matter down to the basic layer we will come to the Ultimate dead end of cosmic void which is full of dynamic and formless substance. This substance referred to by the new physics is the Formless Being (Nirankar) of the Nirankari Mission.**

The new physics and the prophets both reach the dead-end where matter turns into energy and disappears in the cosmic void. Where it goes and what is the substance in the void in which matter dissolves or disappears is not known to physics. But credit goes to the prophets that they had direct perception of the Substance filling the void which manifests as matter, energy, consciousness and intelligence and in fact everything that is part of the creation.

As already discussed there is no such thing as Absolute Space or Void. These are mental constructs. Space is nothing but a distance between two bodies or events. 'Void' is so called when it looks to our five senses as something empty which in reality is not. **There is no such thing as void or emptiness in the cosmos.**

In the cosmos, either there is Matter (or energy) or the basic creative stuff out of which Matter got manifested. In other words, the cosmos has only two aspects, matter and non-matter. There is no other aspect. The non-matter is the creative raw material of the cosmic phenomena. Its form is formless. It can also be called the first stage or original state of Matter. It may look like 'Void' or 'Nothing' but in any case it is a positive Entity that exists. Physics may not understand or specify the nature of this basic stuff yet it does refer to this substance when it conceives material phenomena as transient manifestation of an underlying fundamental entity. In any case this underlying entity is the Ultimate and basic Substance. All the scientists have been searching for the one unified field which could explain and incorporate all physical phenomena. **The Formless Substance filling the cosmic Void logically qualifies to be the sought-after unified field of physics. This is the Nirankar of the Nirankari Mission.**

As forms belong to manifestations, this basic field or the creative substance has to be formless. It must be beyond all material or linguistic description or specifications. Call it 'Formless', 'empty' or 'Nothing-ness' it does contain the essence and seed of all forms and life. It is non-matter ultimate substance and is the womb of all creation. It is the Ultimate Reality of Cosmos.

'Nothing-ness' and 'Everything' are not contradictory concepts but are related to each other as beginning and the end. As in a circle, the beginning is the end, and we accept it as having no contradiction. Similarly zero and infinity are related to each other and mean the same thing. So 'emptiness' or 'nothing-ness' are obviously not negative terms. The 'form' and the 'formless' don't exclude each other. They are not opposites but two ends of the same reality. A Buddhist thinker mentions:-

“That form is emptiness and emptiness is indeed form. Emptiness is not different from form. Form is not different from emptiness. What is form that is emptiness; what is emptiness that is form.”

The field theories of modern physics find no distinction between the cosmic void and cosmic material particles. They cannot be separated. All material particles are created in the void

and disappear in the void. So the 'Void' or the physical vacuum is not a state of mere nothingness but contains the potentiality for all material forms. The relation of Matter with the cosmic void-Substance is dynamic and living. The material particles are created, sustained and destroyed in the void-Substance of the cosmos.

The discovery of the dynamic quality of the 'Vacuum' and its void-Substance is most important finding of the latest physics. In fact the cosmos is one organism. Matter and its formless creative substance are not separate but constitute one cosmic whole. The formless void-Substance and the cosmic Matter interact, cooperate and participate in the cosmic drama, creating and destroying energy patterns without end. The Formless substance as put forth by the Nirankari Mission is the same basic foundation that remains ever the same.

- ਆਪੇ ਆਪ ਹੈ ਸਭ ਕੁਝ ਆਪੇ
ਹਰ ਇਕ ਸ਼ੈ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਲਾ ਏ

Avtar Bani-19

He Himself is the entire phenomena;
Yet is distinct from everything.

NIRANKARI MISSION AND DIRECT PERCEPTION OF ULTIMATE REALITY

It is the observer who is the kingpin in all experiments whether it is the lab or the use of mind in direct experience. When the whole of cosmos is characterized by principle of one-ness, human consciousness if properly guided and focused can capture this one-ness with direct perception. The human consciousness has the capacity to locate this principle which is the non-Matter, Formless Element filling the Cosmic Void. We have seen that the analysis or division of matter can go up-to the void where it turns into energy and disappears. This is the stage of the Formless substance wherein energy disappears. Energy is absorbed by the Formless Being who pervades the cosmic void. The conscious mind (observer) can grasp and catch this void-substance and get identified with it. This experience is most crucial and significant. Those who have experimented with it, know that in such a state of identification consciousness expands and becomes cosmic in extent. Many a time, ecstasy and bliss accompany this state. In this all-inclusive vision one contemplates things in their universal relationships and integral oneness. This raises the human consciousness to that level where there is no contradiction or conflict and total certitude prevails and possesses the mind.

Let us discuss the state of the cosmos by imagining the situation a few seconds before the so-called Big-Bang. When the present material manifestation was not there it was all Formless Non-stuff spanning the cosmos. There was neither day nor night nor anything whatsoever we see now in the universe. **It was undifferentiated stillness, a state of nothingness or cosmic void.** This state of cosmos is neither an illusion nor a mere figment of imagination. Even now, this state is there all the same whether the material phenomena exist or not. Matter, energy or consciousness can be in one form or the other but this state of cosmic void has perennial existence irrespective of the change in the existence or non-existence of the phenomenal world.

The drama of creation and dissolution of matter has been going on in this Formless substance without affecting its independent and absolute entity.

Science cannot understand this Non-matter Existent pervading the cosmic void through any experiment in the lab. It is only the faculty of conscious mind that alone can capture it at both intellectual and perceptual level. The direct perception of material phenomena moving in the cosmic void-substance is a marvel of the power of human imagination.

We have already discussed that the power of transcension is inbuilt into the human mind. With this power, all lower entities or elements are transcended. We would see how this void-substance interpenetrates all the material particles and is also detached from them. Being detached, it has the power of transcension. Human observer with faculty of consciousness has the power to understand the immanence and transcension of the non-matter void-substance. During this process of understanding, the human mind, in normal state gets identified with this element and acquires the power to transcend all material phenomena. There is no mysticism nor metaphysics involved in this mental exercise. The cosmic void-substance is one, continued whole, all pervasive and beyond the Space-Time continuum.

This doctrine of Non-matter Formless Substance of the Nirankari Mission integrates science and spirituality. Science and spirituality are in fact not antithetical. Where science stops spirituality takes over. The tool of science is material and in case of spirituality it is pure consciousness. With pure consciousness we can transcend the realm of matter, thought and words and reach the realm of Non-matter formless substance which is the basic layer of the cosmos. That is the end of human knowledge and the farthest limit of human vision. This is the Ultimate Reality of cosmos and the dead-end of science. In fact, the dead-end of consciousness and matter is the same common void-substance mentioned above. Matter, energy and consciousness lose their identity and disappear in this realm. This Substance has the capacity of absorbing both energy and consciousness and then manifesting them as and when it is desired. This is how the direct perception works in the Nirankari Doctrine.

Mere reading as written above cannot make things clear. It looks like mysticism or piece of meta-physics. Unless we meet the True Master of the Nirankari Mission, the perception of the Formless Substance of the cosmos shall not be clear. Let the scientists and philosophers come and have this perception and then they themselves shall testify the scientific base of the Formless Substance as mentioned in this book.

THE ROLE AND CONCEPT OF TRUE MASTER IN NIRANKARI MISSION

We have discussed that Void-Substance is the basic reservoir of all that exists, visible and invisible. All of us know the cosmic void or the vacuum but we don't know as yet the substance filling the void. Physics stops at the gate of void and informs us that the energy disappears in the void. It has no power to go further and to identify the secret Substance or element that has absorbed energy.

What is the nature of the substance filling the cosmic void? How do we capture or catch this element? In case it is possible to get in touch with this pure potential, it will be the end of human quest for Ultimate Truth. To know the pure potential or the void-substance of the cosmos shall become the greatest achievement of man. In the previous chapter, we touched this issue of using consciousness for effecting conscious connection with this substance. This is where some wise men, called prophets or True Masters (Satgurus) have crucial role to play. It is through their grace that people sought and achieved this conscious connection. The real problem is how do we discover the real archetypal person? How do we identify the one among countless persons who might have known and caught the Ultimate substance pervading the cosmic void? There are a lot of teachers and masters who claim to be the enlightened ones. But unless they share their knowledge of the Reality they cannot prove their credentials.

In this tradition, the True Master of Nirankari Mission has this rare knowledge and shares it with anyone who asks for it. He is the role model, the archetypal personality who guides his followers in this regard.

To authenticate this point, let us see some of the references in scriptures wherein these masters gave the knowledge of the Formless Ultimate Reality to their followers. They blessed the seekers with their level of thinking and the power of envisioning the cosmos with their mind. In other words they raised the level of the followers to their own mental level. It is recorded that the seekers were blessed with the cosmic vision by Lord Krishna, Lord Jesus, Guru Nanak and Prophet Mohammed in their times. Even the oldest scriptures like the Vedas or the Upanishads refer to the knowledge of this cosmic substance having been granted. All the scriptures have consensus on this point. Let us see some of the references in this regard.

First quote the Vedas:-

- See Unity in Diversity
Behold one divine form
appearing in multi forms
Rig Veda-8.58.2
- Oh Man!
Ye knoweth not God
Who has manifested this perfect universe
The subtle self
Present in the entire creation
Although totally different from every thing else.
Yajur Veda-17:6:31

Next the Upanishads:-

- That which is invisible,
Ungraspable, un-originated, and attribute-less
Ungraspable, all pervading
Subtlest of the subtle,
That imperishable Being
Which the wise **perceived** as the source of creation.
Mundka Upanishad-1:1:6

Again the Gita: Lord Krishna shows his disciple Arjuna the all-pervading cosmic substance (Reality):-

- Arjuna!
Behold in this body of mine,
Comprised in one limb,
The entire creation, both animate and inanimate,
And whatever else you desire to see.
Ch. 11-7

- There in the body of the God of gods;
Pandava then **saw** the whole universe
With its many divisions
Drawn together into one.
Ch. 11-13

Arjuna further dilates upon this experience:-

- O Form Universal!
I **see** neither your beginning
Nor middle nor end.
Ch. 11-16
- Yonder Space between heaven and earth
And all the quarters
Are filled by you alone.
Ch. 11-20

In Bible, there is recurring reference to Spirit which naturally is one and Formless Substance. Referring to the Spirit (the Formless Substance). Bible further says:-

- Ye **know** not what ye worship
We know what we worship
God is a Spirit:
And they that worship Him,
Must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.
St. John 4-24

The Adi Granth is full of references to this cosmic formless substance pervading the cosmic void whose knowledge was granted by the True Masters.

- Thou art without any sect or lineament;
Thou art manifestly visible,
And ever-present.
Page-74
- Neither hath He form,
Nor colour, nor sign;
Detached is He from all the attributes,

Says Nanak:

He reveals Himself to him,
With whom He is pleased.
Page-283

All these references from various scriptures conceptualize the creative principle for the

cosmos. There is total agreement. All these teachers revered by people in the world taught the doctrine of One Formless Being who has always existed as a pure potential. All these teachers just don't speak about this cosmic Formless substance on hearsay. They also don't enforce blind worship. **All of them declare as a policy that first this Formless Substance must be known, seen and experienced and then alone He is to be praised, worshiped and utilized in day-to-day life.**

Let us examine this aspect also:-

A substance can be known, seen or experienced only if the following conditions are fulfilled.

One- The substance must exist in the absolute sense. It should be an Existent and not the figment of imagination or an intellectual abstraction.

Two- Its experience must be possible to a normal man in normal circumstances.

Three- Its knowledge should be sharable with anyone without any pre-condition or psycho-somatic exertion.

As per scriptural record teachers like Jesus, Krishna, Mohammed or Guru Nanak had experienced such a cosmic substance and then they revealed the same to whosoever asked for Its knowledge and experience. No pre-condition was prescribed except the craving to know It.

But the basic problem still remains. All these teachers have physically gone and we in the present times cannot establish any conscious contact with any of them. We are unable to have direct perception from them as they are temporally spaced. Knowledge is shared only in a psycho-somatic encounter face to face. There is no other method. In such a situation, how do we get the knowledge in the present times? How to validate the contention of these prophets? Naturally we have to identify some present day archetypal teacher possessing the knowledge of the Ultimate Reality and willing to share the same with us. The Nirankari Master is precisely doing this and as such is corroborating the Truth of the bygone Masters.

One redeeming feature is that as per the scriptures, the knowledge of the cosmic Formless Substance always remains with someone. It is a continuing mainstream of knowledge. From Vedas, Upanishads, Gita, down to old and New Testament, Koran and Adi Granth the knowledge of the Ultimate Substance (Reality) has remained with one teacher or the other at a time. The Adi Granth refers to this continuing mainstream of knowledge:-

- The lineage of True Master
Continues in succession
Through the ages always,
Age to age succession of the True Master continues,
Who envisioned the True knowledge From the teacher.

Page-79

- God shall remain
The saint shall remain
The True Master shall remain.

Page-1429

The Gita is equally emphatic on this point of continuing the tradition of knowledge:

- Thus transmitted in regular succession
The royal sages knew it.

Ch. IV-2

So it is always the living teacher who represents the archetypal succession and reveals the knowledge of the Ultimate Formless Substance in his time. In view of this, all our efforts should be geared round to search for the True Master, the human archetypal who must be embodied somewhere on earth. Once he is identified, located and revealed, the problem is solved. The Ultimate Reality (the supreme secret) shall stand revealed through his kindness. Whosoever learns of him shall know the Truth, imbibe the truth, live the Truth and his life will be one of Truth. In short, such an archetypal teacher is to be worshipped and adopted as a guide, philosopher and friend. He is ideal and the idol for all mankind.

The archetypal Teacher does not belong to any particular religion, region or sect. He represents the Supreme Imagination of the cosmos and is totally identified with the basic frequency of the cosmic field of the Formless substance filling the cosmic void. Cosmos is one organism and as a vital, living and dynamic entity the cosmos knows all its constituents. So if any mind can enter the cosmos and operate through its basic frequency it is supposed to evolve and possess the cosmic imagination. Such were the spiritual archetypes like Christ, Krishna, Mohammed, Guru Nanak and their like. A verse in Adi Granth describes the spiritual archetypal like this:-

- The knower of Ultimate Reality,
Is the whole of Cosmos;
The knower of Ultimate Reality,
Is himself the Formless Being.

Page-274

We have seen how science analyses Matter and reaches the dead-end of void. At this stage the True Master comes to the aid of science. He is at the gate of the cosmic void to welcome the scientist and take him to its ultimate depth. The True Master is the king of the cosmic void who has imbibed its Formless Substance. The True Master controls and rules the world of Matter from there. The True Master resides at the frequency of the Formless Being where neither time nor any material cataclysm can affect him. A verse of St. Kabir (an archetypal in his time) describes this frequency where the True Master operates in the cosmic void.

- Where there is no sea
Nor any rains;
Where there is neither sun nor shade;
Neither is there creation nor dissolution;
Neither life nor death;
Neither pain nor pleasure;
Where there is absolute Trance;
Neither is there any duality;
Such wondrous is the State of Equipoise;
It cannot be weighed;
Nor can it be exhausted;
It is neither light nor heavy;

Where there are neither ups nor downs;
Neither night nor day is there;
And is neither water, nor air, nor fire;

At that plane, the True Master abides.

Page-333

It is not mysticism or a piece of meta-physics. It is pure physics. This place or plane or frequency can be known and caught if we meet the True Master of the day and seek knowledge from Him. The above verse reveals that the Formless Substance pervading the cosmic void is untouched and un-affected by material phenomena. How can we understand it or prove it? Only by knowing the cosmic Formless substance can we experiment to authenticate or to reject the assertion as given in the above hymn. A close perusal of modern physics and the philosophy arising out of it indicates the existence of such a plane in the cosmos. This Void-Substance is the basic substance containing the entire phenomena in unexpressed form or in formless form. This substance contains intelligence and information that manifested the present cosmos and gave it order, symmetry and laws that are governing the cosmos. What science indicates the prophets reveal, authenticate and put before mankind as an ideal to live accordingly.

The Nirankari Master is proving all this with the method of direct perception of the Formless Substance. To quote:

- God-knowledge imparted by the True Master,
Shows the seekers the Abode where God dwells.
- The one who gives the direct perception of the Formless God,
Is called the True Master.

Avtar Bani-42

Avtar Bani-101

NIRANKARI MISSION AS GLOBAL FAITH

With all the background mentioned in earlier pages, we are introducing the Nirankari Mission as the modern Archetypal System which is eligible to become the Global Faith in the Age of Science. We have seen the abundance of knowledge in all branches of science. This is going to increase day by day. However, there are no corresponding concepts in the field of social relations, ethics and psychology which should not only synthesize the growing knowledge but also be capable of projecting a world philosophy and a global faith for the whole of mankind. There is dire need to fulfill this need.

Science has explained that cosmos is one with self-consistent parts all of which are also inseparable, inter-dependent, and inter-penetrating. With such a scenario we are bewildered to see patent contradictions in the life of man. All human concepts, in whatever spheres we see, are in clash, conflict and confrontation. Whereas cosmos is structured and run on the principle of

one-ness, cooperation and unity, on the other hand all human institutions are organized and characterized by egoism, competitiveness and crude selfishness. Science beckons us to unite and survive but organized religion and other socio-political doctrines are pushing mankind into the dark abyss of competition and destruction. No synthesis or meeting ground is in sight. The mind of man is afflicted with schizophrenia, ambivalence and lack of direction.

It is at this critical juncture that the Nirankari Mission has stepped on the world scene with knowledge of the Ultimate Reality and corresponding social technology to save man from extinction and also to help him live a life of total peace, comfort and compassion.

The Mission has answers to all the problems currently being faced by man. Some of the problems are listed below:-

- (1) What is human organism and its connection with Cosmos?**
- (2) What is the purpose of cosmos and by implication purpose of man?**
- (3) What is the Ultimate Reality or basic substance of cosmos?**
- (4) Can man evolve into a cosmic being?**
- (5) After solving the above said issues what type of ideal society man should create?**

The Global Faith which is required is not a mere sum total of the best of existing doctrines. It shall be based on the concept and knowledge of the Ultimate Reality of the Cosmos. Only this knowledge can work as integrating principle and evolve into global wisdom. Such a wisdom alone can answer all the questions mentioned above. It shall have both vision and guidance for all mankind.

Now let us discuss the ideology of Nirankari Mission which is being considered and projected as a Global Faith in the Age of Science.

To begin with we will take up the concept of Nirankari Humanism based on the knowledge of the Ultimate Reality of cosmos. A detailed discussion of five tenets will be taken. These tenets constitute the foundations of a Nirankari, the new man being evolved by the Nirankari Mission who will be a messenger of unity, love and cosmic humanism.

NIRANKARI MISSION

(First Tenet)

The first tenet is that each one belonging to any race, nationality or religion has three aspects; one is physical body, the second is mind and the third is all the possessions including wealth, movable and immovable. We all agree that all these three belongings are not one's own creation. All these things are gifts from cosmos. Cosmos includes the Ultimate Reality, material phenomena and the world at large. So it is clear from an objective analysis that nothing belongs to us in the sense that we are not originators of all that which belongs to us.

In the ultimate analysis it is the cosmos which endows man with all these things. Our individual self is microcosm of the macro-cosmos. So why man should feel or entertain a sense of egoism? When everything belongs to cosmos, comes out of it and finally dissolves in it, how can the sense of 'I' have any basis to sustain itself? 'I' may be used as a reference point but has no locus-standi to turn into 'mine-ness' as this leads to Egoism, with all its adverse implications.

'Egoism' as such is an illusion and ignorance afflicting the mind of man. Egoism of self or of one's capabilities has many implications. In fact Ego is the basic malady which separates people both vertically and horizontally. All major civilizations and cultures crumbled into oblivion owing to tendencies of egoism and vainglory. As mentioned, Egoism has forms both manifest as well as subtle. Even to feel that one has no egoism is itself a very subtle type of egoism. Then Egoism even of good qualities has implications which can be counter-productive in society. The main point in Egoism is sense of alienation from others, from society and from cosmos as such. This alienation creates a psychology of selfishness and infringes the organic unity of universe. It is against the scheme and structure of cosmos.

It might be that some philosophers and psychologists may not recognize Egoism as a basic malady. But a close analysis can convince them about the adverse role of Egoism in day-to-day affairs. All conflicts and wars were because of Egoism. Hitler had ego of racial superiority. His hatred for Jews and other races was well known. It is in mind that Ego is born and it is in action that ego is translated. If one tries to delve deep into any conflict, societal, communal or international the cause would turn out to be Egoism of one type or the other.

In fact all prophets down the ages blamed Egoism as the source of all-evil. The Nirankari Mission reiterates the same view and singles out pride or Ego as the cause of all sufferings and problems. It is the mother of all ills. Nirankari Mission says:-

- Some are proud of their own self;
Some are proud of their wealth;
Some are proud of their royal status;
Some are proud of their physique;
Some are proud of their clan;
Some are proud of their riches;
Some are proud of their speaking factual truth;
Some are proud of their asceticism;
Some are proud of some art;
Some are proud of good deeds;
Says Avtar, a devotee of the Formless Being is proud of his Master.

Avtar Bani-337

Pride, egoism or vainglory creates a strange evolution in man. The first casualty is love, brotherhood, unity, cooperation and humility. Egoism is the first major step towards de-humanization of man and he loses all good qualities of head and heart. A man who loses his humanity comes into confrontation and competition with others. All this results in hatred and violence. When egoism is dominant the society gets diseased from within and finally disintegrates.

In view of this, the Nirankari Mission begins to strike at Egoism in the mind itself. The seeker is explained with logic the fallacy behind it. When Egoism is exposed, it evaporates, for it was nothing but ignorance and illusion. When wisdom dawns, ignorance is dispelled. The micro-

self becomes the macro cosmic. The sense of separateness withers away and the self becomes cosmic.

We saw in an earlier chapter how the new physics is projecting the picture of cosmos as one, organic whole whose parts are interdependent, inseparable and penetrating into each other. In such a cosmos, is there any logic for Egoism to exist, much less to evolve and run the affairs of men?

Egoism and all its forms are a direct insult of cosmos, and the Ultimate Reality. Egoism is the biggest fraud which man willingly or unwillingly conceives and perpetrates on himself.

Once Egoism vanishes, man becomes submissive, humble, and an instrument of altruism. Aggressiveness gives way to service, and hatred to love. There is a total change. A reverse gear takes place. This is the beginning of Humanism in the life of man.

In Nirankari Mission, the first tenet is described as follows:

- Oh Man! The greatest gift to you;
Is the beautiful body;
But consider it as trust of this God;
Nothing belongs to you;
It is mind after following whom;
You always suffer humiliation,
You treat the entire world as your own;
And indulge in false pride;
The palaces, mansions, clan and family;
And all the wealth you possess;
All that is visible is false, and fleeting shadows;
While utilizing all these, you realize the divine;
The disease of Ego shall not afflict you,
Oh Man! you will enjoy happiness;
Treat everything as belonging to God;
There should not be any hesitation in this;
**Avtar says : This is the first pledge,
That body, mind and material assets belong to God.**

Avtar Bani-9A

With this the true perspective of living life is bestowed on man. The first tenet symbolizes the assertion of the cosmic might of the Ultimate Reality. The self of man realizes its true place in the cosmos as a cog in the cosmic wheel.

Again, it is clarified:

- Oh Man!
You should know the divine light
Whose part you are
Recognize the Great Giver;
Who gifted things you are enjoying;
Whatever you do by keeping the Lord away,
Remember all this is illegitimate,
And you shall have to pay for it.

Avtar Bani-231

From another angle the first tenet generates a sense of thanks-giving in the mind of man. When a man feels and realizes that whatever he has, is all a trust of the cosmos, his conduct is just the reverse than when he is in ignorance and feels himself as the creator. The feeling of gratitude and thanksgiving has its own implications and such a person reflects selflessness, contentment and submission to the will of God. The aspect of submission to the Divine Will is very important. In daily life, man has desires and aspirations. If those are not fulfilled as per his expectations, he is bound to be restless and prone to fault-finding with everyone including God and Nature. Such a state of mind surely leads to stress and tension which is the hall mark of society these days. So when one knows that everything belongs to God and he is a mere trustee, the situation changes drastically. He submits to the will of God. He knows that he has the duty to do action but has no control on the fruit of that action. Even otherwise we know that the success of an action does not depend solely on the input of one's actions. There are other actors also that contribute to that success. In a way the whole of cosmos is involved in every action or event. So it is not an individual or a lone self who is extra-privileged in the universe. Why should one feel that all his desires must be fulfilled and that too in the time span he fixes. The so-called prayers are more or less directions couched in a humble language. In any case, the cosmos being one and organic whole the only logical attitude worthy of an enlightened person is to put in reasonable action and then leave the fruit to cosmos. Whatever accrues should be accepted with calm resignation. This attitude is atonce correct and scientific.

The first tenet of the Nirankari Mission thus teaches and enjoins upon man to become a trustee of the cosmos. This makes him rise above pain and pleasure, honour and dishonour and all duality of life. This is not mysticism but a totally scientific way of life. All great teachers of mankind lived life as per this tenet. Modern man too requires this attitude. Otherwise we are seeing the dismal situation where people are groaning upon stress of ego related problems. It is high time, the first tenet of the Nirankari Mission is adopted as a rule in all walks of life and throughout the world. There shall be a miraculous change. Peace, tranquility, contentment shall prevail. A giant step shall be taken towards building a global faith for mankind.

NIRANKARI MISSION

(Second Tenet)

Second tenet of the Nirankari Mission prescribes that one shall not believe or feel proud of any caste, creed, colour, race or religion. See the direction in this regard:-

- The same divine spirit is in every human being,
Male or Female;
Whether he be Brahmin, Vaishya, Kshatriya or Sudra
All are creation of the One Alone;
All have a similar body;
Adorned by the One God Himself;
Why are there caste conflicts,
And undue concern for the customs?

Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians,
All are creatures of One God;
Love them all as human beings,
Whether they may be good or bad,
If one God dwells in all,
Who can be considered as good;
And others as bad?
Just as filthy water becomes Ganges itself;
By merging in it,
Treat all human beings as one;
Shed all egocentrism and pride,
Avtar says : The second pledge is
That one is not to believe in caste and creed.

Avtar Bani-9B

A close perusal of this tenet reveals a great scientific truth. The truth is that cosmos is one organic whole. Nothing in the universe is independent, separate or isolated. There are no two opinions in this regard.

Ask any scientist or educated person whether any one is specially made with separate material stuff. None can say if some one has different quality of blood than the other. The same air, fire, Akash (sound principle), water and earth constitute all human organisms. Cosmos is one, Humanity is one. What is there to justify caste, creed or colour which create qualitative differences among people? How absurd and unscientific to talk of superiority based on race and colour! In fact all this is man-made and spread to perpetuate vested interests by socio-political self-seekers. And see how much hatred, ill will and violence has been unleashed and committed on this count. No amount of education and even scientific knowledge has been able to cleanse the mind of people in this regard.

If we look at history, it is full of wars and bloodshed in the name of religion, caste and creed. The latest social diseases called communalism and fundamentalism are there because some people consider their religion, caste and creed as superior to those of others. **Religious terrorism is the latest problem faced by governments all over the world. It is becoming a world-wide phenomenon.**

We have seen the scientific rationale behind one-ness of humanity. If we analyse communalism and fundamentalism based on religious or cultural superiority, we will discover that the prophets, Gurus and wise men never started any new religion with an exclusive message. Their message was never different from their preceding prophets or messengers. Take all the prophets one by one and peruse their scriptures which are the only source evidence as to what exactly the prophets or true masters taught. In previous pages we have seen that all the prophets taught the doctrine of One, cosmic Formless God. No teacher has ever differed on this. What prophets called religion was rooted in the knowledge and experience of one Formless Being (God). If God is considered one and common in all the religions, their very separate existence is unwarranted and baseless. When God is one, religions should also merge and become one. In fact no teacher or prophet started any new religion. It is all a post-prophetic development. It is the priestly class which has been exploiting the name of a particular prophet for creating a new religion supposedly sanctified and blessed by him. The priestly class fixes elaborate ritual system and procedure which is made mandatory for the people to follow. None can infringe it and doing so would be to invite ostracism and religious punishment. History is replete with examples when

even the prophets and Gurus (revered later on) were declared religious rebels and persecuted. No prophet has ever accepted the religion of his birth. All have rebelled against it. The history of the prophets bears witness to this fact.

In view of this, the prophets and true masters, have nothing to do with different organized religions which are existing today and are sanctified by invoking the names of these very prophets.

Prophets are synonymous with spirituality and not with so-called existing organized religions. Prophets were never religious reformers. All prophets rejected the existing religious systems in toto and replaced them with the knowledge of the Ultimate Reality. How relevant is Lord Krishna's advice to Arjuna in the eighteenth chapter of the Gita that if he wants to imbibe the Ultimate Reality revealed to him, he must renounce all existing religious faiths or systems. To quote:

- Renounce all Dharmas and
Take refuge in Me alone

Ch. 18-66

This aspect of renunciation of all existing faiths, beliefs, etc. has not been understood and appreciated by the present day followers of the prophets. There is clear cut demarcation between traditional blind beliefs and the belief in the Ultimate Reality. The two cannot co-exist. Traditional beliefs divide people, shrink their mind and make them too narrow to love and embrace others. The Ultimate Reality expands human consciousness to cosmic dimensions. So the True Master always enjoins upon his followers to abandon all those doctrines and faiths which create walls between man and man. **The only doctrine, the only faith, the only belief and only religion is the knowledge of the Ultimate Reality.**

Just see the cosmos. It has no caste, creed or colour. Modern science finds no such thing. Matter or energy are without any denomination. How unscientific it is that man labels himself as belonging to so and so caste or creed ! So this second tenet of the Mission is scientific to the core and its pursuit makes a man out and out pure, humane and natural. **This way, the tenet is a step further on the road to humanization and globalisation of mankind.**

NIRANKARI MISSION

(Third Tenet)

The third tenet is not to hate or discriminate any one owing to different style of diet and dress. Nirankari Mission in this regard categorically mentions as follows:-

- Each season on earth has its own warp and woof;
All have different types of dress;
And different is the style of eating and drinking;
God has neither prescribed any particular food to eat,
And nothing is forbidden by Him;

All eating and drinking is for the physique;
And it has no relation to the soul;
Oh Man, sit sometimes and ponder this with relaxed mind;
What harm to you is caused by a loin-cloth,
long cloth or ladies wear
Eat, drink and wear whatever suits your taste;
Don't spread the disputes further
by becoming a preacher of the world;
Says Avtar : God is attained by removing all traces of egoism;
The third tenet is not to hate with regard to eating, dressing and drinking.

Avtar Bani-9C

This tenet operates in the region of culture practised in day-to-day life. If we study the social and cultural activities of man, we will find that some type of dress, food or cultural pattern is considered belonging exclusively to some religion or community. It has become an identity-mark for some communal or religious denominations. In many countries this type of discrimination is inbuilt into the religious set-up itself.

Take dress for instance. Some religions declare a particular type of dress as sacred and in keeping with their religious traditions. Other types of dress are not considered as sacred or religious in connotation. Then the colour of dress also means a lot in many religious sects. Patterns of food are also fixed as per their religious beliefs. Some types of food are not considered conducive to religious pursuits. All such beliefs have neither any logical basis nor any scientific explanation. Food and dress are all for physical use and have no relevance for spiritual activities. Spirit is beyond the physical body and the senses.

Despite all this, the way one dresses and the type of food one takes has become an integral part of many religious and social systems. Sometimes this aspect so dominates a man or a group of people that it leads to avoidable hatred towards others. This hatred is some-times so subtle and deep that it badly strains inter-se relations. It has been seen that in many situations persons with different dress have been the victims of violence. The recent example is attack on those in America who dressed like Muslims. Even Sikhs who wear turban were made the target as they were mistaken to be Muslims.

Apart from dress and food comes the aspect of language. Many a time people so identify with the respective language that they don't appreciate the language of others. Linguistic differences often create human differences. Language which is only for communication has become a source of clash in various countries.

In fine, culture which reflects certain manners, habits, material and mental achievements has become an engine of inter-human clash. Lot of problems facing human unity are a result of cultural misgivings and confrontations.

As culture is not fixed one, it should not be taken as the sole beacon for any community. Being in evolution it is bound to change in due course of time. Moreover, the inter-cultural influence is so pervasive that no culture can flourish in isolation for all time to come. In the present age of urbanization and globalization no culture can claim immunity and remain a monolith in itself.

No one can say that his culture is hundred per cent unalloyed, exclusive and absolutely different from others. If it is so it shall only be a culture of those people who live in such a region where the rays of modern civilization have not reached so far. So to fight and create human walls

on the basis of cultural differences is absolutely uncalled for. To divide and differentiate people on an elusive entity such as culture is to live more in the antediluvian age. We all know and see that multi-cultural society, global in sweep and universal in concept is developing so fast that to keep aloof from this change is to live in the world of make believe.

The Nirankari Mission has analyzed the global trends and enjoined upon its followers not to get upset on cultural differences. They may eat the way they like, dress as per their fancy but in no way they are to find fault with others. **Nirankari Mission is both trans-cultural and multi-cultural.** The Mission does not belong to one particular culture. All cultures belong to it.

So the third tenet is another step on the road to humanization and globalization of mankind.

NIRANKARI MISSION (Fourth Tenet)

The fourth tenet is to lead the normal life of a householder, to live in society and be its constructive members. There has been a tradition of renouncing the society in many countries. Then there is a feeling of non-participation by some persons in certain issues of social set-up. Take for example, the functioning of democratic set-up. It can succeed and bring the desired results if people participate as conscious and responsible citizens. Lot of illegalities occur simply because people don't know the law of the land. Freedom stands jeopardized because people are not educated and don't know their rights. The Nirankari Mission awakens and enjoins upon its members to actively participate in the social set-up they belong to. Every individual is expected to live the life of an ideal householder who discharges his social obligations and never thinks of renouncing the society.

Serving others is an integral part of humanism. To participate in the weal and woe of others is what distinguishes human beings from other species. **Man realizes his humanity only when he is in the thick of society and interacts with fellow beings.** A sense of cooperation, interdependence and brotherhood is the hall mark of a social being that man is supposed to be.

The fourth tenet is thus another step further on achieving total humanism. A man submits to the cosmos, rises above religion, creed, colour and material identities. He is above cultural differences and deals with others as human beings pure and simple. Such human beings alone can create an ideal society.

NIRANKARI MISSION (Fifth Tenet)

All these four tenets remain only good intentions unless a man knows the Ultimate Reality

and Truth of Cosmos. So the **fifth tenet** completes the circle of humanization and globalisation by bestowing this knowledge. With this knowledge, the Self is fully connected to the cosmos and functions as a cosmic being.

Any change in the Self of man comes from without. Basic and lasting change can come only when there is a macrocosmic analysis and the little self realizes its cosmic connections and place in the universe. With the knowledge of the Ultimate Reality, man realizes the secret of life and death and attains right attitude towards matter and the world at large.

In order to save the person from vanity as also from embarrassment, the Mission enjoins upon its followers not to divulge the knowledge of Ultimate Truth without permission from the True Master, who is the sole custodian of this divine gift. This is a very important administrative measure to ensure that only those followers of the Mission can divulge and share the God-knowledge with new seekers who are considered competent by the Master of the day. This also ensures standardisation of Nirankari Doctrine throughout the globe.

CONCLUSION

These five tenets create a base for total and lasting HUMANISM. This is what we call COSMIC Humanism, which is the basis for globalisation. In the ensuing chapter, we shall dilate upon this concept with the concept of enlightened man (a Nirankari) who shall be the ideal citizen of the future world as a follower of the Global Faith which the Nirankari Mission is building on earth in the age of science.

We have seen the cosmology as per the latest research in physics. We have also seen the doctrine of the Nirankari Mission, its Ultimate Reality, its five tenets and the commitment of humanism on a global scale. Now, let us see the broad features of the concept of Humanism being evolved by the Nirankari Mission. Just to differentiate it from other humanisms, it is called formless (Nirankari) Humanism.

FORMLESS (NIRANKARI) HUMANISM

Formless Humanism is a system of values based on the knowledge and perception of the Ultimate Substance (Reality) of the Cosmos which is one, Formless and perceivable to human consciousness. It explains Man in terms of cosmic connections and is instrumental for ideal and fullest development of personality, re-arranging human relations in accordance with the Ultimate

Reality of the Cosmos.

COSMIC PERSPECTIVE

With knowledge of Ultimate Reality, man acquires Cosmic Perspective. This is a state of mind when an individual rises above his momentary self, spatially, temporally, environmentally and also circumstantially. In this unique capacity of self-transcendence, all spatio-temporal barriers are crossed and the consciousness becomes co-extensive with Cosmos. It is in this state that the human in man appears and with all-inclusive vision generates human values. It is here that he is free and unbound by the totality of Time and Matter. It is in this state that he is master of the forces which heretofore had stopped the expansion of his consciousness and shrunk his vision.

This cosmic perspective resulting from knowledge of the Ultimate Reality makes a person empowered to identify human in man. This is the beginning of Formless (Nirankari) Humanism. **The word “Formless” is very crucial and significant. It is used because the Ultimate Reality is Formless and without any traits which characterize Matter and its forms. By knowing and imbibing the Formless Being, the humanism that results is called Formless Humanism.**

THE FORMLESS (NIRANKARI) HUMANISM IS A-Religious

The Formless Humanism is quite distinct and has nothing to do with the organized religion as such. It is, in fact, against all the religious acts and rituals which sustain all the religions as we see these today. It also does not put any premium on religious symbols, idols and the paraphernalia of worship. **It stands purely for knowledge of the Ultimate Reality and is, therefore, both a-religious and non-religious.** The traditional organized religions communalise and divide. They are no longer instruments of social cohesion and moral guidance whereas Formless Humanism unites and humanizes. The two are poles apart and cannot co-exist.

Formless Humanism is neither atheistic nor theistic in the sense these terms are used and interpreted by the organized religions. It is atonce rational and based on reason not only in its conceiving the Ultimate Reality but also in utilizing it in human life. According to FORMLESS HUMANISM, man is part of cosmos. He evolves out of cosmos and goes back into it. Man and Cosmos are micro and macro to each other and a part of the whole. Both act and react upon each other. It is in human organism that cosmos becomes conscious of and feels itself. The living organisms are the veritable symbols of cosmic might and vitality.

As per Formless Humanism, the main objective of human existence is to know and realize the nature of human existence and to identify corresponding links between the human organism and the cosmos. After accomplishing this, the only purpose remains to re-orientate human mind according to these cosmic links. The purpose of the cosmos becomes the purpose of Man. Man becomes cosmic and cosmos gets reflected through him. The alienation of Man and Cosmos from each other disappears. The human and cosmic forces become harmonized, reflecting the glories and stability to the cosmos. Such were the Formless Teachers (human archetypes) like Lord Jesus, Lord Krishna, Lord Mohammed, Guru Nanak Dev Ji whose practical lives prove **that to be cosmic is to be human and to be human is to be cosmic.**

In Formless Humanism, the individual is not isolated but fully adjusted in the social context. The values of altruism, love, humility and brotherhood characterize a votary of Formless Humanism and have direct social relevance. To live and feel for others is the main focus of attention in Formless Humanism. The history of Formless Teachers is a saga of service and sacrifice for humanity.

In Formless Humanism, all types of knowledge which are relevant for the total development of human personality and its fulfillment are welcome. **No knowledge is forbidden unless it is sentimental, unreal, illogical and based on wishful thinking without any practical value to human organism.**

As Formless Humanism is based on the Ultimate Reality, scientific temper, practical relevance, it does not compromise with any philosophy, ism, or institution which is based on blind faith and tradition. Anything which does not contribute to human welfare and divides mankind is alien to the spirit of Formless Humanism. It rejects and rebels against all attempts to separate man from man and it fights all attempts to dehumanize him. In this way it is revolutionary and action-oriented. The votaries of Formless Humanism are persons of iron-will and determined to raise the level of Man and make him truly universal, compassionate and full of human kindness. No sacrifice is too great for them in pursuing these ideals.

VALUE-SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF FORMLESS (NIRANKARI) HUMANISM

As a result of the knowledge and connection of organism with cosmic Formless substance, the human psyche undergoes a basic transformation. **It imbibes the sense of universality and organic oneness with consequential values of brotherhood, love, compassion, humility and integral oneness.** The little self has little loyalties. Formless Humanism is thus a philosophy of cosmic humanism and organic oneness of the entire globe. The Ultimate Substance of cosmos is the source of all the eternal values which have universal and timeless validity.

In Formless Humanism, Man is the measure of everything. It works for the full development of human personality. The question may be asked as to what is the 'full development' or the ideally developed personality. On the analogy of the concept of Formless Humanism put forth in the beginning, the ideally developed personality is one which after understanding the ultimate and basic substance of the cosmos submits to it and lives life accordingly. The main features of such a personality are as follows:-

- 1) There is knowledge and perception of the Ultimate Reality of the Cosmos.
- 2) The individual (organic) consciousness is connected and integrated with such a Reality.
- 3) There is total submission to cosmos because of its superior wisdom and being source of everything – material and non-material.
- 4) To be cosmic in action, and thought and to transcend religion, caste, creed, colour and all those philosophies which cramp the spirit of Man and infringe his cosmic connections.

These are the parameters of ideal personality and Formless Humanism works its methodology to make a man live accordingly. To create a cosmic man is the end of Formless Humanism. Cosmology and Ethics go together. Here Ethics is one of science and not of the organized religion and speculative philosophy. Different organized religions have different

morals and don't fit in the global culture.

We can see that some of the assumptions of humanism based on mere science and naturalism don't pass the test in all respects. For example the assumption that all problems are soluble by people through technology, or other worldly methods is not tenable. All such methods have their implications. Egoism (Pollution of Mind) and ecological imbalance (Pollution of environment) are specific examples. The problem of world peace and security is getting murkier and murkier. The worship of machine has totally dehumanized man. Technology has created more problems than solutions.

Then increase in sex, violence, suicide-rate, epidemics, heart-related problems, divorce-rate, un-employment etc., etc. are the gifts of life-style based on exclusive naturalism and scientism. As mentioned above, technology is spoiling Nature and the future of coming generations is getting endangered. Developing counter-technology to reverse the trend set in by various innovations has not made any appreciable progress. A situation may develop very soon when we will be running helter skelter in creating devices for saving us from technological hazards and environmental dangers. Some of the ecological dangers are going to be beyond retrieval. There are going to be lot of problems and implications which are definitely beyond the scientific knowledge and intellectual power of human beings. Moreover, the resources are also getting exhausted and it will not be possible to create alternative resources. There is a trend towards ruined soils, more deserts, emaciated children, shattered homes, violent societies, horrible weapons, alienated human beings, sexual orgies and consumerism on a maddening scale. Man is losing his humanity gradually but consistently.

The optimism of the scientific humanist is misplaced. Nothing would proceed on the lines dotted by him. The progress has already been lop-sided and hijacked by large scale multinational concerns. **Compassion and sense of welfare are already the casualty in present day development scenario.** There is total discord between Emotion and Reason. Reason is ruling the roost. Neither Reason nor emotion alone can keep the life in proper perspective. True wisdom lies in proper and balanced integration of the two. Scientific humanism has tilted man whole hog towards reason and emotional side has dried up. We cannot expect compassion and sense of welfare in the present technological set-up.

Formless values are not merely emotional in nature. Reason must understand the rationale of these values and combine with emotion to take possession of the human psyche thereafter. Reason alone in many cases encourages selfishness and smothers altruism, especially when market forces have their unbridled dominance and a pure cost-benefit analysis informs our decisions. Unless reason and emotion are dovetailed, there cannot be any hope for humanity. Scientific humanism cannot do it. It cannot manipulate technology, or human affairs for a desirable human end. The scientific knowledge has not evolved a corresponding world view wherein oneness, unity, compassion and love shall inform all human institutions. Economic globalisation and privatization are feeding the ego at every level and we are having societies run by competition and profit motive. Ego and competition are the only values in such a state of affairs.

There is no direction. It is all speed and nothing but speed. There is no consensus as to where we are going. The primacy of national and organizational goals is overtaking the individual needs and no wonder that man as a sacred unit of the cosmos has become a cog in the social wheel and losing his humanity with every passing day. The over-dependence on machine and the cult of efficiency has made man forget his real nature. Whatever the system of humanism – communist, socialist or capitalist, democratic or otherwise, the promised manifestoes dangled

before mankind continue to remain unimplemented. All humanistic systems rooted in pure scientism and sheer reason are humanist only in name. Everything depends on organizations. Present day organizations, with motto of efficiency are everything but humanistic.

How organization can destroy any good system can be seen in the context of communist experiment! It is organization that destroyed communism and result was a new class with Ego and Vainglory. It is again organization that has totally decimated the human feelings in the capitalist set-up. It is organization with its in-built vested interest that has always distorted religions and social systems. Egoism with its diverse forms creates contradictions in all systems and despite high idealism the results are just the contrary.

In view of this, we have to know the ultimate purpose of cosmos around us. Formless Humanism has the capacity to retrieve the situation created by technology. Firstly by taking man back to Cosmos, it re-creates cosmic connections by bringing out the natural and cosmic in each of us. Secondly, it instills the trait of humility by creating a sense of cooperation and organic one-ness. Ego and vainglory no longer influence and colour human relations.

Formless Humanism creates the rationale and capacity to love others. Egoism and competition have sidelined love. There is hatred and jealousy all around and the so-called scientific civilization is affecting human relations adversely. Only with Formless Humanism, the societies can stabilize and regain cohesive values with real and natural relations.

We know that all actions and thoughts of man are generated and coloured by the nature of the world-view which he evolves. In this view, man has a particular type of understanding about various aspects of life and the world he lives in. What matters are the concepts about matter, consciousness, life or death. Then comes as to what is the purpose of human existence. The answers to these questions and many more which are collateral to them will decide the mental attitude of man towards other men and the world at large. Human relations and the state of society are decided by the concepts evolved by mankind from time to time.

How one can have any attitude unless one knows the nature of the things that are in objective existence! Each one of us inter-acts with them in daily routine. Even if there is no specialized understanding, still some sort of view is there in human beings regarding various components of Cosmos based on the traditional knowledge one has inherited as a social being. The classical example is the practice persisting in the older times regarding worship of Elements of Nature. As there was no proper scientific knowledge, the Elements of Nature such as Sun, Moon, Fire, Water etc. were defined and worshipped as gods. Did not that belief colour the lives of the people? And when the nature of these elements was understood, then a great burden was removed and people were liberated from a baseless fear and awe. There is another example of Galileo who was burnt at the stake for saying that earth moved round the sun which ran counter to the existing official belief that sun moved around the earth. Such examples are galore in human history where beliefs held by the rulers decided the fate of ordinary men. Society was held to ransom by these beliefs.

Coming to the ideal life based on values of unity, brotherhood, love, humility, freedom etc., it is not possible to have these values unless the nature of cosmos is clarified. Why should man love others? Why should he not hate them? The answer lies in the nature of the structure of the cosmos. Science knows that all cosmos is one, organic-whole, and all human beings partake of the same elements. In view of this we cannot discriminate and hate others on the basis of caste, creed, colour, nationality and any other material difference. There is no essential difference in human beings and all the outward differences are attributable to change of place and season. So

hate has no rationale.

The values of humanism are not because of any super-natural belief. These values are rooted in the human connections with the cosmos. Ordinarily, howsoever we may appreciate universal unity and brotherhood, we cannot bring this in actual practice unless these facts percolate and become emotionally relevant to us. The difference between a scientist and a humanist is that the former has only intellectual understanding but the latter has mental and emotional commitment to such facts.

The Cosmic Perspective with power to transcend is the foundation of Formless Humanism. When Lord Krishna gave the knowledge of Ultimate Substance (Reality) to Arjuna, it is recorded that Arjuna saw in the person of that supreme substance (comprised in one limb) the whole universe with its manifold divisions. Arjuna further testified and said “O Form Universal, I see neither your beginning, nor middle, nor end.” After this knowledge and vision of the Ultimate Substance, the whole life of Arjuna changed and he became the instrument of righteousness irrespective of his little loyalties which he had prior to the knowledge of the Ultimate Substance. **Why cannot it be possible now?**

So the cosmic perspective of mind resulting from knowledge of the Ultimate Reality bestows the correct vision to live life in consonance with the Truth of the Cosmos. The values of love, compassion, unity, humility are thus transcendental values and cannot be there unless the vision of the Ultimate Substance that transcends all Matter dawns upon the consciousness of man. It is in Cosmic Perspective that concord and integral oneness of cosmos is experienced. The human self in itself is selfish, egoist, full of conflicts and contradictions but when it catches its cosmic counter-part, these values vanish and are replaced by values of love and compassion. Unity of Mankind and Cosmic Perspective go together and rather prove and fulfil each other. The organic oneness of elements pre-supposes the possibility and fact of Cosmic Perspective of human mind. The Ultimate Reality being immanent in every element makes the elements cooperate with each other and brings out their harmonious working. When human beings get stuck up at individual level and cannot transcend their little loyalties then Cosmic Perspective alone can lift them up, making them feel and act as part of the cosmic whole.

For science, the concept of organic oneness is of sheer intellectual nature. Man is interpreted and considered only biologically – no more, no less. Science does not recognize the transcendent or cosmic dimension of human mind. It recognizes only material facts and not the transcendental facts and values. **With this patent gap, how can true humanism evolve in the suffocating philosophy of sheer materialism, pure biologism and scientific determinism?** With survival of the fittest being the cardinal virtue in the world of science how can the value of humanism sprout and stay even for a second? Both cancel each other. If the theory of Evolution is scientifically correct then also the values of love and cooperation are definitely alien to the culture fostered by it. The global culture with values of love, and compassion cannot be generated with the theory of Evolution and crass materialism as the final interpretations of cosmos.

The cosmos is the only home of all mankind. A sense of belonging to the cosmos is, therefore, the real and correct perspective for any human being. This is the true base and rationale for all human values. Cosmos is the only true kingdom of Heaven and being its inmates, we have to form our value-system in accordance with this background. The state of alienation from cosmos is the state of ignorance, illusion and falsehood.

It is with the knowledge of and attunement to the Cosmic Formless Substance that the self

attains the capacity of transcendence and is able to realize its full potential as a cosmic being. The individual (with Nirankari values), mankind and the cosmos as a whole become inter-active and create a civilization that is the envy of a so-called paradise. In the absence of the knowledge of the Cosmic Formless Substance (the Ultimate Reality), the individual cannot transcend the biological and social self and is at the mercy of material and social forces. In such a situation, morality is mere pursuit of hollow social traditions, religions become bundle of dead rituals and society is devoid of Truth and Freedom. There is no real progress. Truth, beauty and goodness are conspicuous by their absence. Arrogance, greed, fear are rampant and the forces of opportunism and expediency inform the social order. The civilization starts deteriorating and finally vanishes into the oblivion of the past. It has happened with many civilizations which only exist in the history books as a mere academic syllabus.

Ordinarily the mental environment of man is limited and circumscribed physically, socially and philosophically. Human thinking has fallen into narrow grooves such as excessive attachment to self, family, community, country and even earth. A man with limited loyalties is totally misfit in a global context. If he continues to be so he shall be infringing the principles of cosmos which don't legitimize the narrow ideologies evolved by mankind. This is the scenario as we see all around. **This existential collusion with cosmos has far-reaching implications. It is high time that whatever is non-cosmic in religion and philosophy must be identified and removed from the practical life of man. Human thinking must become cosmos-centered, and not mere matter-centered. It is imperative to develop Cosmic Ethics which shall transcend races, nations, religions, local cultures and fleeting morals. The concept of global and super-national Ethics must become a passion in the modern man. The Nirankari values subserve this very purpose.**

The Cosmos is a system of complementary forces. It is a combination of Matter and Non-matter, the Formless and the forms, unity and diversity, permanence and flux. Despite this duality, the cosmos has order, harmony, cohesion and integrity. Man must mentalise this cosmic functioning. The real integrity in human personality comes with the adoption of cosmic order and behaviour. It will benefit man in the moral sphere also. Man is always torn between what is good and bad. However, as discussed above, the morality of cosmos shall dispel all doubts and confusion in this regard. True morality has been one and the same down the ages. Morality should not be considered merely as rules of conduct to keep the social set-up intact and to save it from internal and external danger. **In the ideal society the naturalistic ethics, the rationalistic ethics, and Transcendent (Cosmic) Ethics should be in tune with each other.** In the absence of this, man is sure to remain imperfect. No man-made rule should dilute the filial relation of man to his cosmic parent and play the satanic role of injecting disobedience in him. Society must be washed of all traditions, habitual patterns and values which condition the human mind and take away his real relation with the cosmos. **Man is man when he is human, he is human, when mankind is his family, mankind is family when the cosmos as a whole is its nest. Cosmos is a nest only when man understands it, merges into it and identifies with it. Identification and merging is possible only when the ultimate and core substance of cosmos is understood and its vision is captured and intuited by the human consciousness as its alter-self.**

In view of this, the Formless Humanism symbolizes and brings out this man-cosmos relation in man. As mentioned above, Nirankari humanism generates a feeling of sacredness for all human beings. **Man, being part of cosmos, is specially venerable and as part of society, he is simply respectable. A citizen calls for respect, but when he becomes a cosmic being he becomes sacred and divine. To be cosmic is to be divine.** This is not religion or mysticism but

a totally scientific approach. In other words, it is scientific spirituality or a spiritual science.

A sacred feeling comes only when one feels inner kinship with the element which is the Ultimate Reality. The same feeling becomes deeper and deeper and takes the form of true religious fervour. To quote Einstein:-

“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty which our dull faculties can comprehend only in their most primitive forms – this knowledge, this feeling is at the centre of true religiousness.”

Nirankari Humanism is not a new religion. It is a way of life based on the Truth of the Cosmos. It makes man realize his true self and cosmic connections. He also discovers his real state – the state fixed by the cosmos. This is the state of normalcy. This is also the state of naturalness. By submitting to the Ultimate Substance of the cosmos, man gets totally humanized. **To be human, to be natural, to be cosmic and to be normal are one and the same thing.** This is the ideal and fully developed personality. This is what is required in the modern day world. No other humanism based on any other discipline including science can do this. Only Nirankari Humanism can accomplish it.

To create and project Nirankari Humanism as a new philosophy in the age of science is the most difficult task yet to be undertaken by human beings on a universal scale. The Nirankari Mission has taken up this in an organized manner. The experiment is worth seeing.

THE CONCEPT OF FORMLESS MAN (A NIRANKARI)

After discussing the Formless Humanism and its values, we are now in a position to conceptualize the type of person who will be a product of this Humanism. Such a man is called the Formless one (Nirankari).

“Formless” because he has known and imbibed the Ultimate Reality which is without any form, colour or lineament.

The cosmos as a whole may not have a purpose of its own, but there is definitely a meaning and purpose in the cosmic process. Human organism is the micro-expression of the cosmic phenomena. The uniqueness of man lies in being conscious of the faculty of self-consciousness and the ability to discriminate one thing from the other. Man has also the capacity of integration with the cosmos. The Formless Man is the practical example of such an evolved person who is one with cosmos. **He is cosmic in thinking, cosmic in feeling and cosmic in acting.**

In Formless Man, there is total integration of self-consciousness and cosmic-consciousness. He is the perfect example of cosmic style of living. Being in the world he is actively engaged in its manifold duties. No duty is either great or too small for him. As he is always one with the Ultimate Reality of Cosmos, and attuned to it, he never entertains any sense of doership. He is submitted to the cosmos in conscious awareness and therefore whatever he does has the blessing of the cosmos.

If we analyse the teachings of Masters like Lord Krishna, Lord Christ, Lord Mohammed and Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji etc. we will see how they and their disciples lived as per the above approach. The Formless Man refers to that very concept which they represented and preached. **All these masters were Formless Teachers (True Masters) because they revealed the Ultimate Reality which is formless, colourless, shapeless and beyond all material traits.** They were Formless Archetypes and Role-models in their times. There was nothing abstract or impractical in the personality of these wise men. They were living examples and practical specimens embodied on earth only to prove that man can rise above material, social and psychological forces by raising his consciousness with the knowledge of the Ultimate Reality. The Formless Teachers (True Masters) mentioned above are mirrors through which can be seen the possibility of human perfection where the contradiction between the individual self and the cosmic phenomena has been fully resolved. In them, the conflict between thought, feeling and action is absolutely reconciled. If ever we encounter a Formless Teacher he will not overawe or frighten us but will create confidence in us with invisible cosmic influence and words of cosmic wisdom. We are immediately drawn into his all-embracing humanity where all our dross and animal instincts wither away. A Formless Teacher draws out the cosmic in us and makes us universal in outlook. The chaff is burnt and consciousness becomes un-alloyed by regaining its original nature.

The Formless Man goes through trials and tribulations only to prove that all is attained here in this very life through learning from a Formless Teacher. When a Formless Teacher in the person of a Christ is crucified, it in a way creates awareness that the path of righteousness cannot be tread with mere miraculous interventions but with the spirit of calm resignation and inner detachment. The greatness of a man lies not in grumbling or gnashing of teeth in the face of adversity but in hard work and simultaneous faith in the Ultimate Reality. The Formless Teachers in history have set this very example of combining the best of human with the best of cosmos. **They, in fact, humanized divinity and divinized human beings.** Such is the concept of Formless Man (a Nirankari) whose expression and evolution are the sole purpose of human existence. Although outwardly similar to other fellow-beings, yet a Nirankari is totally different from them in his daily conduct and approach towards life. Being symbol of Formless Humanism, he has certain traits which reflect his Humanism in daily life.

A Nirankari with the knowledge of the Formless Being (Nirankar) rises above parochial considerations. His mind gets universalized and humanized. He is such a cosmopolitan being as he finds himself reflected in the entire humanity. His weal is everybody's weal and everybody's woe gives him anguish and pain. Realization of cosmic dimensions bestows on him the oceanic sympathy and inner depths to identify himself with the aspirations of others. He feels himself to be at the centre of humanity whose sole mission is to serve and serve only. He is attuned to his fellow-beings in a manner that there is no jealousy in him. He feels others' prosperity and well-being as his own. When others smile, he enjoys and when others suffer he participates in their suffering and does everything to alleviate the same. A Nirankari is one who does not subscribe to any particular caste, race, religion, region, nationality, language and colour etc. He does not hate others or discriminate on account of differing convictions and beliefs.

People are entitled to love their religion, prophet or traditions with any amount of passion, but they have no right to develop simultaneous hatred towards the religious creed and prophets followed by others. But unfortunately, the sense of superiority of one's religion has gripped the human mind in such a manner that whenever there is a slight provocation, there is going to be a head-on clash. Dr. Radhakrishnan warned that a new type of mentality was developing which believed that the worst man in my religion is better than the good man in the other faith (and I must stand by him whatever his crimes and venality). Suddenly as it were, we are becoming 'momiphants' (a hybrid animal species). A momiphant combines the frailty and sensitiveness of the mimosa (which crumbles at the faintest touch) with the thick-skinned robustness of an elephant. We rush up when our feelings are hurt, even slightly; but we have no compunction while trampling over the feelings of others.

The sense of high and low caste is another cancer inflicting the human society. In certain societies, especially in the East, it has grown into monstrous proportions and has totally weakened the moral fiber of its social set-up. From times immemorial, this disease has been developing into the form of an epidemic and has sapped the culture of all spiritual essence. When science has proved that every human being is organically similar and composed of the same elements, there is no rationale behind the continuance or acknowledgement of caste-system at all. Even then well-educated persons believe and practise casteism.

Regarding differences based on colour, we have already come across the most abominable practice called the Apartheid. The hatred of the blacks by the whites and how the latter have been crushing the aspirations of the former in some countries is already well known to the world. Some of the white races have mistaken notion that their races are superior in quality and that there is inherent inferiority in black-coloured people. This concept demeaned the white people all the more when they turned imperialists and had colonized different countries. Can any other action be more inhuman, un-natural and scientifically absurd than this? Our memory is still fresh with regard to the concept of Aryan superiority propounded by Hitler and the destruction it wrought upon Germany and the world at large. The humans have no caste, creed or race except the one of being human and human alone. Yet racism and apartheid were practised by the educated white.

Another point which has always been misinterpreted and misused by power hungry politicians is that of Nationalism. We may love our country and as citizens must be concerned with its well-being, but in no way should it be made a basis for hating other nations on this count. One can be a true patriot but at the same time he need not be a perverted nationalist in whose eyes the glory and progress of other nations are an anathema. Humanity cannot be sectionalized into nations in a manner that the latter become centers of exclusive worship and engines of expansionism.

Science has proved the oneness of mankind and integrity of the cosmos. There is total consensus that humanity is one family and is totally inter-dependent. If the love for a nation is cultivated with implied hatred for others, it will infringe the organic unity of mankind. It will be a crime against humanity and an act against Nature and God. If a patriotic feeling leads to nationalistic chauvinism and violence against others, it is better to live without it. Originally, we are citizens of one world and not merely limited to a particular region. If this is not accepted in practice and becomes the only basis of our relations with other countries, the satanic forces are sure to embody forth as Hitlers and Mussolinis. The price shall be countless lives, orphans, widows and crippled children with all-round havoc, as witnessed in the two world wars. The love for a nation and a feeling for humanity should be dovetailed in such a manner that the best

of both the aspects is achieved leading to a lasting peace and universal welfare. **'Act locally or nationally, but think globally'** should be the maxim.

Another fad is excessive attachment to one's own language or script. How harmful can it be to the unity and integrity of a society can be seen practically in the Indian context, where there is an almost north-south confrontation on the language issue! The southern people interpret imposition of Hindi as another form of northern domination. In some other states also, the politicians have been successful in exploiting the sense of linguism to serve their political ends. Similarly, in other countries a language is hated if it happens to belong to an inimical country.

To sum up, differences based on above-said considerations have always threatened mankind with violence and disruption. Socio-economic development has largely suffered because of negative role played by these centrifugal forces. **A Nirankari with knowledge of the Ultimate Reality is above all these considerations. He is a citizen of the cosmos and not loyal to the artificial divisions, schisms, barriers or limitations created by man.**

The Formless man (Nirankari) is not to embroil himself in cultural clashes. He does not enter into avoidable controversy over difference of food, dress and other modes of living. He may have liking for any food or dress but he never develops an automatic hatred or ridicule for others' cultural patterns and differing life-styles. This particular problem in society is a necessary corollary of earlier two defects viz egoism and hatred for others' way of life. We are so much enchanted with our own life-pattern that we have developed sub-conscious aversion to other persons' manners. Differences in this regard automatically spell repulsion and human relations are affected.

The Formless Man is above these fleeting patterns of culture and modes of living. He eats whatever is useful for his physical health and dresses in a manner which is climatically desirable and physically convenient. In no way a pattern of dress or variety of food has any transcendental or spiritual meaning for him. His approach is neutral and equidistant to all pervading attitudes **and he is not supposed to sacrifice humanity at the altar of a piece of cloth or a unit of calorie.**

The Ultimate Reality is without name and form. No material symbol, language or object can adequately express it, much less reveal it. Dr. Radhakrishnan underlines this point:

“Those who adopt a particular form and have not reached the formless truth are inclined to regard their relative truth as absolute and confuse eternal truth with the historic facts.”

The Formless man who is a votary of the Ultimate Reality does not fall into the quagmire of fleeting cultural patterns and symbols.

Another characteristic of a Nirankari is his participation in the societal process whereby he earns his daily livelihood and does not depend upon alms or charitable gifts from others.

We have seen the four main characteristics with regard to the social conduct of a Nirankari. These aspects are inter-linked and at no tangent, they clash or cut across each other. For example a man shorn of ego can alone qualify to develop transcendence above caste, creed, colour or other parochial considerations and to become a true humanist. A man can develop all these traits when he is thrown in the crucible of community life. It is only as a man of action that he finds practical satisfaction of his inner convictions. It is here that he finds an objective test whether these Formless Values are mere theories or practical guides for viable social ethics.

The Formless Man(Nirankari) attains the knowledge of Formless Basic Substance from the living Formless Teacher who enlightens him about the relative existence of both Matter and Non-Matter aspects of the cosmos. With this knowledge, the Formless Man realizes the secret of life and death, and comes to possess right attitude towards Matter and other fellow-beings. He becomes totally humanized and identified with every soul on earth. He becomes the conscious agent of service, humility, brotherhood, non-violence and a life of altruism.

These features distinguish a Nirankari and make him a global person and a citizen of cosmos.

NIRANKARI MISSION (Organized effort to globalise mankind)

We have seen the cosmology as per the latest research in physics. We have also seen the doctrine of the Nirankari Mission, its Ultimate Reality, its tenets and the commitment to Humanism on a global scale. The theory of five tenets is translated in the practical form of a Formless Man who shall be the hub of future global society.

The doctrine of the Nirankari Mission is neither of the East nor of the West. It belongs to all. The main base is the Ultimate Reality of the Cosmos. It is common to all religions, faiths and also in total harmony with science. The Cosmic Formless Substance being common denominator of all cosmic elements is fully eligible for global allegiance. Nothing in world philosophy can belie or refute it. Being in objective existence, it is beyond concepts created by mere imagination of man. Apart from this, the Nirankari Doctrine is not a mere synthesis of different religions, faiths or philosophies.

We have seen the values created by Nirankari Humanism. These values are eternal and global. The worldly morality though desirable as members of some society or the other cannot serve as universal Ethics. Only eternal values and global faith can go together. And then cosmology and Ethics are inter connected. No aspect of ethics can afford to infringe the pattern and Truth of the Cosmos. Being trans-national, trans-cultural, trans-religious, it relates to the human in man. It is both cosmic and eternal. Only such a doctrine can create an ideal man suited and desirable in the age of science. A Nirankari is such a product. The five tenets of the Nirankari Mission create corresponding qualities in the Formless Man (Nirankari).

As already mentioned, the Nirankari doctrine with its cosmic base and global sweep integrates all types of knowledge and information generated by science and humanities into a viable form of unity which is the crux of wisdom. As is said mankind is being buried under mountains of facts, information and data. Without wisdom, the usage of all this is getting counterproductive. The Nirankari doctrine offers that wisdom with which man can evolve the right policy and correct perspective.

We all know that all the organized religions are shrinking the mind of man. Their outmoded forms and obsolete traditions are totally anti-global in content. It is said that Buddha has been buried in Buddhism, Mohammed in Islam, Krishna in Hinduism, Guru Nanak in Sikhism, Christ in Christianity and Moses in Judaism and so on. That way, great teachings of the prophets are lying buried in the graves of dead concepts and barren ritualism. All their followers are doing what was specifically forbidden by their prophets and Gurus. So the process of globalisation of man must start by retrieving the prophets and sages from their conceptual tombs created by organized Religion. Global faith calls for organized efforts to separate the physico-historical aspect of the prophets from their eternal and spiritual aspect. This separation will churn all the existing religions. The chaff shall be cast aside and burnt. Only the essential corn shall remain. A cosmic faith shall arise in this process which shall be helpful in humanizing and globalising the mind of man.

This is what the Nirankari Mission is doing, separating the historical from the eternal. By doing so, it is bringing different religions merge into each other. In this merger, the angularities and contradictions are evaporating resulting in one global Faith. All the prophets of Mankind are the shining stars in the pantheon of this new World Faith being created by Nirankari Mission. The present living teacher of the Mission has revived the eternal tradition of One God, One Humanity, One Faith and commonalty of prophets.

So by bringing all prophets of monotheistic tradition on one global platform, the Nirankari Mission is accomplishing the arduous but the most wanted task. When prophets are united, religions would automatically lose their divisive appeal. **This way the Nirankari Mission is the new archetypal Avtar of human unification and world brotherhood.**

The doctrine 'to be human is to be divine' is creating a new trend in human relations. With this doctrine the divine in each man shall come to the fore. The divine Christ, the divine Krishna, the divine Mohammed, the divine Moses, the divine Guru Nanak lying buried in each man under debris of ignorance shall get resurrected. This divine shall be demystified and get reflected in human beings. Man shall rise above hollow traditions, ethnic deities and demonstrate the efficacy of the Formless Being as a God of all Mankind and the whole of Cosmos.

Human beings are conscious beings called Jiva in Indian philosophy. When the True Master bestows the knowledge of the Cosmic Formless Substance and joins the conscious being with It, the self becomes aware of its macro-cosmic background. It becomes conscious of the basic cosmic field, which is infinite, eternal, uncreated and indestructible. Such a self rises above Time and Space and evolves cosmic imagination with which it operates in the global context. Nirankari Mission is precisely creating such mental orientation where a man becomes a veritable citizen of the cosmos. **It is a unique doctrine with which the True Master explains that behind the visible phenomena of Matter, Space and Time, there exists a basic and Ultimate supporting realm of the Formless and un-manifest Universe. This world is the undifferentiated plenum of the cosmic Formless Field which is the repository of archetypal forms and guiding influences.** As already discussed in this book the dead-end of physics is the beginning of the cosmic Formless Being (the Ultimate Reality). It matters little whether to call it 'Being' or 'Field'. In any case it is non-anthropomorphic and non-material. Moreover it is at once conscious, living and dynamic. The creative field out of which the entire creation has manifested is full of consciousness, intelligence, information and the power to invest the universe with harmony, order and laws.

The human archetypes reside in this basic field and embody forth from time to time as Christs, Krishnas, Nanaks and Mohammeds to give this supreme knowledge and bestow

supreme vision on Mankind. This is the age-less method of true globalisation and Humanisation repeated on earth by these supra-conscious beings.

Globalisation is a mental concept and it is in mind that this process starts. A state of consciousness always influences the mind. Man has faculty of imagination and this faculty is strong or weak depending on the world-view a particular self evolves. Without imagination, a human self has no value or merit. Let us not dismiss imagination as a mere psychological state or an illusion. Imagination reflects the state of consciousness, the quality and direction of mental evolution. Thoughts are the stuff of which imagination is made. No progress or an action is possible without using the thinking faculty. Take out imagination or vision, human beings would be reduced to simple animals.

Whatever is done or created by a human being is the result of individual imagination. When consciousness is aware of the cosmic phenomena, the individual imagination sheds its limitations and expands to cosmic dimensions. As already mentioned, mind and imagination are interlinked. If mind is identified with smaller entities then the level of creativity shall be diluted accordingly. The higher the imagination, the higher the creativity. Mind with cosmic imagination can be fully creative.

The present civilization is a result of input by imagination or vision from time to time. Mind does not create Matter, it only reshuffles it in accordance with its vision. The civilization in all its aspects symbolizes the evolution of mind. But for imagination there would not have been any civilization or culture worth the name.

The Formless Being has his own cosmic imagination which is the creative power of Cosmic phenomena. Cosmic imagination means the plan and purpose of cosmos. All forms of manifested phenomena exist in the cosmic imagination. As human imagination creates forms out of its own creative potential. Similarly, cosmic imagination of the cosmic Formless Substance manifests cosmic phenomena in all its variety out of its own potential. Matter is not manifested out of nothing but out of the basic Formless Field of Ultimate Reality. Individuals can imagine any system of forms in their minds and then wish it away by becoming thoughtless. Similarly, the cosmic Formless substance can wish and imagine phenomena into existence and then can wish it away. This is the act of creation and dissolution. The cosmic material phenomena are just a play of the cosmic imagination.

There is no purpose in the cosmos. How can there be any when all phenomena are a manifestation of one single Entity? There are no two Ultimate Realities vying with each other for supremacy and directing the course of evolution in their own ways. It is all one Formless Stuff manifesting time and again. **It is a purposeless dance of cosmic energy.** The individual self is confused in locating the purpose of cosmic existence simply because it is ignorant about the nature of Ultimate Reality. Now when physics is veering round to the view of one basic common substance of cosmos and the prophets have already identified the same, then to talk of any cosmic purpose is irrelevant. Religious confrontation is as if little children may be fighting over the superiority of their houses made of sand on the sea-shore. The waves come and sweep away the structures leaving the children shocked and silent.

Nirankari Mission with its knowledge of Ultimate Reality is well-aware of the destiny of Mankind. It is laying before the world the possibility to understand the Truth of cosmos and not to fight over concepts which have no correspondence in reality. Whatever short duration Man has, he should utilize or spend it in loving and loving alone. That is why the True Master of the Nirankari Mission is laying stress only on humanism. If Mankind is to survive then we have to

have ideological unification and social integration on a global scale. The Nirankari Mission is making serious endeavour in this regard. The well meaning people of earth must pool together and join hands with the Mission, to defeat the enemies of humanism and prophets of doom and save scientific gadgets from falling into the hands of satanic forces.

NIRANKARI MISSION AS GLOBAL FAITH (Creating Global Society)

We have seen how Nirankari Mission is a candidate for a global role. Linked with this is the concept of global society which the Mission is creating.

The Nirankari Mission has already started action in this regard at global level. It is called the Mission of Universal Brotherhood. Nirankari Society is the ideal society on a mini scale. Qualitatively it is representative of all the traits of the Nirankari Mission. Quantitatively it may be local with numerically few persons. In any case the Nirankari Society is the micro aspect of the Global ideal society. In other words, the global society is an extension of the Nirankari Society already established by the Nirankari Mission at various places in India and overseas.

The Nirankari Society is based on the doctrine of Ultimate Reality. All the votaries of this society know the Ultimate Truth and live their life accordingly. They don't recognize any other element or principle except the one of One God, One Humanity. Apart from this the five principles (tenets) already mentioned heretofore are the parameters within which the followers of Nirankari Mission live their life. The five tenets which mark the life of a Nirankari are the essential features of this society. The society is a veritable symbol of Humanism and global faith.

The ideal society of the Nirankari Mission is characterized by the principle of Trusteeship. The knowledge of the Ultimate Reality finishes the sense of egoism and acquisitiveness. The mental revolution works wonders. There is no bitterness or alienation of man from man on the basis of religion, caste, creed, colour or nationality. The only religion is religion of humanity. There is no cultural clash based on different life styles, food or other habits. All are one, belonging to one global family.

In this ideal society, all are constructive citizens. There is no monasticism, renunciation, or religious pretensions to exploit people.

A very important feature of this society is the principle of sincerity. Sincerity includes honesty and integrity. The present society is plagued by pretenders and charlatans. Even so called men of status, wealth and ruling class are all full of cleverness and manipulations. Everyone and every nation fears every one else. It is fear born out of insincerity that is at the root of all conflicts – individual, national or international. Fear is born out of the lurking feeling that the other person or nation may be out for some harm. Bring sincerity, all fear shall evaporate in no time. A great burden shall be lifted from the minds of people.

As the ideal society in the global world of the Nirankari concept is marked by sincerity, so

no member of this society speaks a lie or wishes ill of others. The reason is organic one-ness and sense of family generated by the Ultimate Reality and the teaching of the living True Master. Sincerity is not only the best policy, it is the only policy.

- ਕਹਿਣੀ ਬਹਿਣੀ ਰਹਿਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਜੋ ਵੱਖੋ ਵੱਖ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਨੇ
ਦਿਲ ਵਿਚ ਵੈਰ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਤੇ ਨਫ਼ਰਤ ਉਪਰੋਂ ਪਿਆਰ ਜਤਾਂਦੇ ਨੇ
ਜਾਨਣਹਾਰ ਪ੍ਰਭੂ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਜਾਣੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਗ਼ੈਬਾਂ ਨੂੰ
ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਲੁਕਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਏ ਬੰਦਾ ਅਪਣੇ ਐਬਾਂ ਨੂੰ
ਦੂਜੇ ਨੂੰ ਜੋ ਕਰੇ ਨਸੀਹਤ ਆਪ ਉਹ ਕਰਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਨਹੀਂ
ਆਪ ਖੁਦੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਦਾ ਛੁਡਦੇ ਖਹਿੜਾ ਜਮ ਨਹੀਂ
ਜਿਹੜੇ ਮਨ ਵਿਚ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ ਹਰ ਦਮ ਅੰਤਰਯਾਮੀ ਇਹ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ
ਉਸ ਦੇ ਸੁੱਚੇ ਬੋਲਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਤਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਏ ਕੁਲ ਸੰਸਾਰ
ਜੋ ਵੀ ਕੋਈ ਸੰਤ ਜਨਾ ਦੀ ਮੱਥੇ ਧੂੜੀ ਲਾਂਦਾ ਏ
ਕਹੇ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਉਹੀ ਨਰ ਜਗ ਤੇ ਸਗਲ ਪਦਾਰਥ ਪਾਂਦਾ ਏ

Avtar Bani-186

Those who differ in what they say and practise;
And their heart is filled with enmity, hatred and antipathy;
but show affection from without
The omniscient Lord knows all the secrets,
From Him how can a man conceal his vices?
He who advises others but practises not
Is not saved from egoism,
In whose mind the omniscient Lord dwells always;
With his pure words, the world can be saved;
Anyone who applies the dust of saints' feet
Says Avtar, such a person achieves everything in life.

Sincerity also includes thankfulness to God and Cosmos. The citizens of the global society firmly believe that whatever they have got is all a blessing of the Formless Being of cosmos. This quality instills a sense of humility and love for others.

Another very significant aspect is the issue of human relations. This aspect is very crucial in global society. Presently we see human relations are based on fear, greed, deceit and hypocrisy. This is why there is so much tension, stress and ill will in human beings. There is no transparency at all. There is iron curtain between individuals and nations. If transparency and sincerity is infused in the relations, it will revolutionalise the atmosphere at all levels. Fear and greed shall vanish. Because of transparency, people will not indulge in nefarious thinking and black deeds. It will remove stress and tension because of the absence of concealment and under cover activities. Society shall be a stable and comfortable place to live. How nice it will be when the quality of mutual dependability and trust will adorn human relations. The lost credibility among individuals and nations shall return, resulting in durable peace and brotherhood. It shall be great cultural advance when nations and communities regain mutual trust and lose all misgivings. How can there be any riot or conflict if all this occurs? Just imagine the art of diplomacy in a global society. No double talk, no discussion with implied meanings shall be the essence of diplomacy.

This is not a Utopia. All depends on the quality of people and the values which dominate their culture. The Formless Culture with living True Master is the surest guarantee that these

traits can come and remove all dross existing in the minds of people. Another very significant aspect of Nirankari society is unification of religions and non-communalisation of Prophets and Gurus. This is urgently required so as to tackle the problem of fundamentalism and consequent religious terrorism which have become a great bottleneck in the process of creating a global faith for Mankind. Religions are projected and propagated in a manner that it must result in division of Mankind. History bears witness to the fact that more bloodshed has been owing to religious confrontation than anything else. The present world-wide fear complex is spreading fast owing to religious beliefs.

Globalisation which is to bring man nearer to man is in extreme danger because of religious fundamentalism. Nirankari Mission is well equipped theoretically and practically to tackle this problem.

Every religion has many components. First is concept of Ultimate Reality, second is value-system, third is proceduralism for worship of the presiding deity. By and large, there is no clash in the first two. The clash starts at the third level which has taken the form of fundamentalism, fanaticism and communalism. All this is due to the priestly class which not only interprets the concepts but also fixes rules and regulations for conducting worship. None can infringe the third aspect which alone is ruling the roost. The interest in God and values is just formal and total stress is on the ritual aspect which has reduced religion to a mere system of worship where proceduralism is of paramount importance. No follower of one religion can enter the religious place of another religion and worship God (although said to be common) in his own way. Nirankari Mission has tackled this problem. It has congregated people of all faiths and religions at one place who can worship God in whatever manner they like.

To quote the relevant verse at 205 (Avtar Bani) :

- ਮੰਦਰ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸਲਮ ਜਾ ਕੇ ਕਲਮਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੁਣਾ ਸਕਦਾ।
ਹਿੰਦੂ ਜਾ ਕੇ ਗੁਰੁਦਵਾਰੇ ਰਾਮ ਨਾਮ ਨਹੀਂ ਗਾ ਸਕਦਾ।
ਮਸਜਿਦ ਅੰਦਰ ਸਿਖ ਜੇ ਜਾਵੇ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਨਹੀਂ ਬੁਲਾ ਸਕਦਾ।
ਮੰਦਰ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਬੈਠ ਈਸਾਈ ਗਾਡ ਗਾਡ ਨਹੀਂ ਗਾ ਸਕਦਾ।
ਪੂਰਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਜਾਤ ਪਾਤ ਦੇ ਝਗੜੇ ਸਭ ਮਿਟਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਕਹੇ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਇਹ ਚਹੁ ਵਰਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕੋ ਥਾਂ ਬਿਠਾਂਦਾ ਏ।

A Muslim cannot recite Kalma in a temple;
A Hindu cannot sing Ram Naam in a Gurdwara;
A Sikh if he enters a Mosque cannot recite Waheguru;
A Christian while sitting in a Mandir cannot sing the glory of God;
The Perfect Master ends all disputes of caste and community,
Says Avtar! He makes people of all the four castes
to sit together at one place.

This is how the Nirankari Mission has solved the religious problem. By granting knowledge of One common Formless God, the Mission has reversed the religious priorities. God knowledge and human values are given precedence over the ritual aspect which is only for creating an infrastructure where people can conveniently gather together and praise God in whatever way they like. **The ritual or procedural portion is only a facilitator and not pre-essential or fundamental.**

Regarding communalism, its basis is a separate and exclusive name of God, exclusive scripture, exclusive ritual structure, exclusive symbols, exclusive religious places, exclusive prophets etc., etc. Those who subscribe to these exclusive and special entities form a particular religious community and this creates communalism and consequent fundamentalism.

Religious fundamentalism is one of the main enemies of globalisation of man and cosmic humanism. Nirankari Mission is demolishing the very base of Fundamentalism by giving the knowledge of one common God. By recognizing all the prophets as common heritage of humanity, the Nirankari Mission is globalising all the religions and faiths. This is a signal contribution of the Nirankari Mission.

NIRANKARI MISSION AS GLOBAL FAITH (Institution of the Living True Master)

Those who know something about religious scriptures must be knowing about the concept of True Master i.e., Satguru or prophet. The institution of the Satguru is simultaneous with the advent of mankind in cosmos. This is a global institution as Satguru belongs to the entire globe irrespective of caste, colour or nationality. So far this institution has not been understood, much less utilized to unify Mankind and creating a global faith.

Perusal of scriptures reveals that the Truth as taught by teachers like Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Krishna, Nanak has been one and only one. So true and permanent globalisation can come only through that LIVING TRUE MASTER who transmits the continuing Truth of all these past teachers in the present times.

The tragedy is that Revelation of Truth cannot be reduced to any written word or material form. It is always with the living Master and only during his life time that it can be known and imbibed. It is for this reason that the revelation suffers eclipse when the Satguru leaves the mortal frame. Jesus says the same thing when he says:-

- While I am in the world,
I am the light of the world.

St. John 9-5

In view of this, the singular obstacle in the process of globalisation of Mankind is the eclipse of Revelation or Truth owing to the physical disappearance of the Master. The scriptural word or the religious vocabulary only refer to Truth but are not the Truth as such. In fact when the Satguru leaves the body, all his phraseology, words, names, symbols get hackneyed with the passage of time. The religion started in the name of the prophet decays and loses all vitality and relevance. That is why the dogmas in all the religions don't touch the heart. The human mind no longer responds vividly and actively, as was the intention of the prophets. So there is religious confrontation all around. The present scenario is such that human society is divided vertically and horizontally. It is an accepted fact that with the present organized religions there is no hope for globalisation. Even culture has been infected with the virus of religious fundamentalism.

As already mentioned, it is the institution of the Satguru which can retrieve the situation. **Nirankari Mission has such a living institution in the form of the living master who has the wherewithal to create a global faith. He is already in the process of doing it.**

Firstly he is giving knowledge of One common God. He is putting correct meaning into the words of the scriptures and decoding them as per the original **Revelation** of the earlier prophets. Moreover he is explaining the Truth of the cosmos in scientific language.

Being one with the creative principle of cosmos, he ignites the hearts of his followers with Truth. The eternal truth is woven into the daily life of his followers, thus creating a new culture, a new civilization tinged with spiritual, moral and emotional force. The intellect is geared to expound the truth and becomes sub-servient to the doctrine of Cosmic Formless Substance.

The Nirankari Teacher by bestowing the knowledge of One God is taking mind to its original state. This is the real purpose of life, cherished by the prophets to return to the original state and to reflect it in daily conduct. This is the state of Salvation, Mukti, Nirvana, where there is total extinction of sense of separateness and duality. The human mind shines in pristine glory.

In the present age when religion is limited to mere mode of worship and is bereft of whom to worship, when culture is sold as religion, when spirit has given way to flesh, the Nirankari Mission has appeared as a new influx of Cosmic Divine Spirit. Presided over by a living teacher, who is seriously engaged in re-constructing the society, re-arranging human relations, projecting a global Ethics to weld mankind in one organism. The civilizational foundations are being renovated and re-inforced with the pillars of five tenets (already explained). The Nirankari Master is reversing the perceptions of the modern man by washing his mind of all ignorance and religious dross. He is bestowing the vision to see things of world with the eyes of the Spirit, and not with the eyes of the flesh. To quote:

- ਗੁਰਸਿਖ ਗੁਰ ਦੀ ਅਖ ਨਾਲ ਵੇਖੇ ਗੁਰ ਦੇ ਕੰਨ ਨਾਲ ਸੁਣਦਾ ਏ
ਗੁਰਸਿਖ ਗਿਆਨ ਸਰੋਵਰ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਹੀਰੇ ਮੋਤੀ ਚੁਣਦਾ ਏ

Avtar Bani-105

A disciple sees with the eye of the Guru and listens with his ears,
A disciple picks up diamonds and pearls out of the pool of God-knowledge.

The Nirankari Master is bringing back the natural state of the self called 'Sehaj' (ਸਹਿਜ). It is the highest state of mind. Any other state achieved by learning religious exertions or other methods is the lowest. As is said:

- * The laboured contemplation
Of the One is next lower,
Still lower is fixing of the mind,
On some material image;
Ritualism, offerings and sacrifices,
Pilgrimage and moving up and down
Of hands and feet
Are self deception, mummary or pastime.

The state of naturalness and normalcy is taught and imbibed by the Nirankari Master. Only the state of equipoise is best conducive for globalisation. Whatever religious act or ritual is done without knowledge of God results in abnormality and egoism. Moreover, ritualism and fanatic adherence to proceduralism ultimately divides and creates a sense of separation.

The Nirankari Master is an Avtar of Love. Love is a word known and adored by all but absent in actual practice. 'LOVE' alone has been stressed and instilled by prophets and Satgurus down the ages. Through 'Love' they united people, educated people, and humanized people. To quote Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth True Master;

- ਜਿਨ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਕੀਓ ਤਿਨਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਭੁ ਪਾਇਓ

Whosoever has chosen to love;
The same has attained God.

Jesus is all for love:
Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matt. 19.19

'Love is God' is a universally accepted maxim but is the most neglected one at the same time.

The Nirankari Master is teaching the art of love by bringing out the love in all human beings. In love, there is forgiveness, there is compassion, there is a feel for others irrespective of caste, colour or nationality. As love is God and being godly, Love must be the chief quality in a man. The Nirankari Master is love and compassion in theory and in practice. Meet the Nirankari followers in actual life and see love and humility interwoven in the texture of their lives. So the Nirankari culture is a culture of love and love alone. Humility is love in action, love in speech, love in mind.

Where there is love, there is no tinge of sensuality, no arrogance, no hate or greed, no jealousy or fear. Total transparency and sincerity prevails in the atmosphere of love. Without love and compassion politics is pure self-seeking, economics is a ruthless competition and culture is heartless individualism.

The Nirankari Master is unlocking the gates of love lying buried in the mind of man by connecting him to the Ultimate Reality of the Cosmos. **He is creating a cosmic Human Grid by uniting all the human beings in one organic unity.** In such a union love sprouts up and possesses the whole being of man. Only with cosmic connection, cosmic love and cosmic compassion are possible. This was done by all the earlier prophets. The same is being done by the present Nirankari Master through the knowledge of the Ultimate Reality. As already discussed, when the Supreme Self broods over the family, love enters that home, when it leavens the administration, distributive justice prevails, when it pervades the society, law and order becomes a second habit and human relations become family relations. In such a situation the principle of trusteeship over-rides principle of greed and acquisitive tendencies. When Love dominates, the dirty party politics based on conflicting interests vanishes. Honesty and sincerity alone can change the atmosphere in shops, business establishments, hospitals, and in fact in all walks of life. With this atmosphere or ethos created by the reigning influence of the Supreme Self, purity and benevolence shall prevail. After all who will try to be harmful or unjust to his own kith and kin when all have become a part of global family created by the Master? The best

of people shall administer all the affairs.

Such a 'Kingdom of Heaven' on global scale is being evolved by the Nirankari Master. Paradise lost is being regained on earth itself. Satan is being tamed and all his forces are being divinised. The Nirankari Master is educating Satan possessing the mind of man to submit to the Son of Man which he had once rebuffed and refused to obey in the beginning of creation.

The message of the Nirankari Master to all those who are comrades-in-arms for the attainment of global faith is:

Dear brothers and sisters of the entire Globe!

- Let us unite and partake of Love born of
The sense of all pervasive unity of Formless Being,
The Sovereign Supreme Power of Cosmos.
- Let us adopt all the prophets, Gurus, wise men of the planet,
With their scriptures as our Common heritage
So as to bring out the basic common Truths,
To build the edifice of Global Faith.
- Let us live life with the perspective of One Cosmos,
One Cosmic Brotherhood;
One Formless Source, One Divine Law and
One purpose of Human existence to know self.
- Let all differences fade and vanish
Into the Formless ocean
Of undifferentiated stillness.

In the end, it is imperative to reiterate the Divine commandment which the Nirankari Master is implementing in letter and in spirit so as to bring the millennium on earth:-

- ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਅੱਖ ਤੋਂ ਪਰਦਾ ਲਾਹਣੇ ਦਾ।
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਭੁੱਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਾਣੇ ਦਾ।
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਗਟ ਮੈਂ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਕਰਾਂ।
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਸੌਖੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਦਾਰ ਕਰਾਂ।
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਏਕੇ ਦੇ ਪਰਚਾਰ ਲਈ।
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਏਕੇ ਦੇ ਵਾਪਾਰ ਲਈ।
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਕੁਲ ਹਨੇਰੇ ਚਾਕ ਕਰਾਂ।
ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਜੋ ਦਰ ਆਵੇ ਪਾਕ ਕਰਾਂ।
ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਲੱਖ ਡਰਾਵੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਕੰਮ ਸਕਦਾ ਛੋੜ ਨਹੀਂ।
ਜਾਨ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਰਹੇ ਜਾਂ ਜਾਵੇ ਮੂੰਹ ਨੂੰ ਸਕਦਾ ਮੋੜ ਨਹੀਂ।

Avtar Bani-6

I am ordained by the Formless True Master
To remove the veil of ignorance from the eye;
I am ordained by the Formless True Master
To guide the one gone astray;
I am ordained by the Formless True Master
That I should reveal the Formless Being;
I am ordained by the Formless True Master
To bring comfort to the worldly people;

I am ordained by the Formless True Master
To preach the Doctrine of Cosmic one-ness;
I am ordained by the Formless True Master
To preach the concept of One God;
I am ordained by the Formless True Master
To dispel all darkness and ignorance;
I am ordained by the Formless True Master
To purify each one who approaches;
The world may frighten me as much as it can
This task I cannot leave;
Avtar says my life remains or not;
I cannot turn back on my mission.

The Nirankari Mission has given clarion call to the entire world.

- ਆਓ ਰਬ ਦੇ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਪਾ ਲਓ
ਸੰਦੇਸ਼ਾ ਏ ਇਨਸਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ
ਮੁਰਸ਼ਦ ਬੰਦੇ ਪਿਆ ਬਣਾਵੇ
ਮੇਰੇ ਜਿਹੇ ਹੋਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ

Avtar Bani-346

Come and have sight of God,
This is the message for all Mankind;
The Master is changing brutes like me
Into human beings.

NIRANKARI MISSION AS GLOBAL FAITH (The Role of GRACE)

This is another aspect which marks the Nirankari Mission as absolutely distinct from other religions or organizations and also qualifies it as a candidate for global faith. This is the element of Grace, called “Bakhshish”.

Grace is the power to bless and to remit sins irrespective of one's acts of omission and commission. It is unmerited love and favour of God. It is undeserved kindness.

Grace is co-eternal with God and creation. It is not mystic word. It is atonce scientific and logical. It is a natural passion inbuilt in a human being. Compassion and love are its projections. The very evolution of human beings is dependent on compassion, love and feeling for others.

To err is human, but to forgive is divine. If there were no compassion or forgiveness, the human relations would turn out to be sour, dry and purely animal like. It is the element of Grace that marks human beings as the apex of creation.

If Grace were not there then justice shall prevail. In that case none will get deliverance. Moreover, egoism shall rule the roost if attainment of God or spiritual knowledge were possible

with self-exertion. Moreover such practitioners shall automatically evolve egoism. There shall be no oneness, love, humility, compassion. Competition and jealousies shall be the order of the day. We know how gods after attaining their status with exertion, became jealous and harmed anyone trying to reach their status. How god Indra sent Maneka and debunked the mental evolution of Vishwa Mittar is a living example in Indian mythology.

GRACE and True Master go together. The history of True Master is the history of Grace. It is with Grace that True Masters blessed Mankind. See how relevant is the Biblical reference to Grace required for the sinners:-

- It is not the healthy who need a doctor,
but the sick.
I desire mercy, not sacrifice.

Matthew 9-12-13

- I praise you father lord of heaven & earth because you
have hidden these
Things from the wise & learned and revealed them to
little children.
Yes father! For this was your good pleasure.

Matthew 11-25/26

Addressing workers in the vineyard Jesus says:-

Don't I have the right to do
what I want with my own money?
Or are you envious because I am generous?

Matthew 20-15

It was with Grace that the sages of the Vedas and Upanishads saved Mankind and instilled human values. It was with Grace that Lord Krishna blessed Arjuna and made him an enlightened human being. The Adi Granth talks of nothing but Grace.

- * ਲੇਖੈ ਕਤਹਿ ਨ ਛੁਟੀਐ ਖਿਨੁ ਖਿਨੁ ਭੂਲਨਹਾਰ
ਬਖਸਨਹਾਰ ਬਖਸਿ ਲੈ ਨਾਨਕ ਪਾਰਿ ਉਤਾਰ

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Ever in error;
If our accounts are considered,
We can never be saved.
Oh forgiver, forgive us and bless us with deliverance.

- ਨਾਨਕ ਨਦਰੀ ਨਦਰਿ ਨਿਹਾਲ

Page-8

Nanak: With sight of Grace;
There is total fulfillment.

So the eternal Satguru (the True Master) is the embodiment of Grace. It is with Grace that God acquires a human face. It is with Grace that all those values which humanize a man are

created. It is with Grace that humility becomes the chief quality of human beings. Nirankari Master is the present day embodiment of Grace.

World faith requires love, not competition, humility and not egoism and only the Grace of the True Master can ensure it. The Nirankari Mission with the living True Master has the capacity to bestow this Grace and make a durable base for global harmony and global faith. The Formless Teacher is for all and not limited to a particular section of society. His personality is cosmic and his concern is for all humans wherever they are.

As we have seen that the Formless God of Nirankari Mission is one and common God of all, similarly its Satguru (True Master) is also for all. His only Mission is to enlighten mankind and to uplift them for becoming global citizens. Humanisation and globalisation through knowledge of One God is the only passion the Nirankari Guru is possessed with.

So Nirankari Mission with the doctrine of One Formless God, God knowledge and the power to bless by the Formless living teacher is fully equipped to create a base for Global faith.

* ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਹੀ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਲਈ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਕੇਵਲ ਪਰਉਪਕਾਰ ਲਈ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਉੱਧਾਰ ਲਈ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਏਕੇ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ ਲਈ।
ਗੁਰ ਵਰਗਾ ਕੋਈ ਦਾਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਏ ਮਤ ਇਹਦੀ ਜਹੀ ਮਤ ਨਹੀਂ।
ਕਹੇ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦੇ ਬਾਝੋਂ ਦਰਗਹਿ ਰਹਿੰਦੀ ਪਤ ਨਹੀਂ।

Avtar Bani-67

The True Master manifests himself in this world for the entire humanity;
The True Master manifests himself in this world only for the benefaction of others.
The True Master manifests himself in this world for the emancipation of the world;
The True Master manifests himself in this world for preaching the concept of One-God.
None is as benevolent as the True Master and there is no comparison to his wisdom;
Avtar says, without the True Master one fails to save his honor in the divine court.

This is what the Nirankari Master is doing with the power of Grace that he is possessed with.

NIRANKARI MISSION AS GLOBAL FAITH (Technology)

In yet another way, the Nirankari Mission is capable in creating a technology for evolving human organism into an instrument for mental globalisation. We discussed cosmic humanism, cosmic values etc. but how these traits are imbibed and imbued in a human organism is equally important. It shows that the ideology of the Mission is not mere statement of good intentions, but atonce practicable and relevant.

We know that the human organism has different faculties. There is the physical self-

functioning through hands, feet and other portions of the body. Then we have the mental sphere where the mind and senses operate. The physical body is activated by the senses and the senses are controlled by the mind. We know that in the formation and evolution of mind the role of the intellect is basic. The intellect through neurocortex region of the brain gathers experience and then through the process of ratiocination evaluates the same and formulates concepts which are further adopted by the mind. The mind then creates the belief system and a world-view which guides a human being throughout life. The intellect is functional by the presence of the conscious being (the Self). The conscious being is also called 'Jiva' or 'soul' or 'Atma'. The cosmic form of the self is the Ultimate Reality of the cosmos which is called Nirankar (Formless Being) by Nirankari Mission. In simple words, physical body, senses, mind, intellect, the self (Atma) and then the cosmic self (Formless God) are in ascending order of superiority - the physical functions under the senses, the senses under the mind, mind under the intellect, the intellect under the self and the self under the cosmic self (the Formless God).

Gita sums it up very succinctly:-

- Senses superior to body;
Mind superior to sense;
Intellect superior to mind;
The self superior to intellect.

Ch. 3-42

In an enlightened self the process of functioning is as per the above system. The enlightened self is blessed with Grace of the perfect Master. With Grace, the individual self knows the cosmic self with the help of the intellect. Grace starts at the highest and enters the individual self. This changes the individual into the cosmic self. This cosmic transformation creates fermentation in the intellect leading to revolutionary changes in all the concepts traditionally held by the individual. The conceptual revolution is adopted and implemented by the mind. The mind does this through the senses and the physical organs. In an enlightened self, the directions percolate in descending order i.e. from the cosmic self to the individual self, then to intellect, then to mind, then to senses and then to the physical self. This way an organism becomes the instrument of the cosmic self. He thinks, feels and acts in the cosmic and global context. There is no confusion or ambivalence in such a self.

In case of ordinary human beings the system fixed by Nature is disturbed and there is total mal-functioning. Under stress of ignorance, blind faith, and materialism, the ordinary mortals inter-mix different levels. Moreover, there is no element of Grace and the individual self does not know its cosmic dimensions. Such a self considers itself a separate organism totally alienated from the cosmos. In an ignorant self all directions emanate from the intellect which is fed with experience from the realm of Matter and the world at large. Then starts the vicious circle and down the line, there is confusion at every level of organism. Without knowledge of the Ultimate Reality the intellect, the mind, the senses and the body operate in total illusion and at cross purposes without any global context. Thus globalisation suffers a severe setback at every level of human organism. Even if some well-meaning persons conceive some global ideas, their implementation is not possible as there is lack of mental commitment all around. Globalisation remains a dry concept, and a mere philosophic shibboleth. That is why despite globalisation in the field of communication and transportation, there is no corresponding progress at the mental level.

If we analyse the society, we shall see different types of practitioners stuck at different levels. For example materialists, atheists, medical practitioners are stuck up at the level of physical body and senses. Psychiatrists go a step further and operate at the mind level. Yogis and meditators still go further and operate at the level of embodied consciousness by trying to capture the state of 'no-mind'. Scholars and philosophers work only at the intellectual level conceiving theories which may look coherent but have no corresponding link with the actual reality. Finally there are the enlightened souls who operate at the level of cosmic Formless Reality which is beyond matter, mind, intellect and individual consciousness. The prophets had this approach. They started from the Ultimate Reality and adjusted all their levels in the organism accordingly. Their organisms were the instruments of the Ultimate Reality, no more, no less. Nirankari Mission has adopted this approach. Its followers know the Reality and guided by it, their intellect, mind, senses and the body work in unison and reflect the Truth of the cosmos.

To quote:

- ਰੂਪ ਰੰਗ ਤੇ ਰੇਖੇਂ ਨਿਆਰੇ ਤੈਨੂੰ ਲਖ ਪ੍ਰਨਾਮ ਕਰਾਂ
ਮਨ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਤੇ ਅਕਲੋਂ ਬਾਹਰੇ, ਤੈਨੂੰ ਲਖ ਪ੍ਰਨਾਮ ਕਰਾਂ

Avtar Bani-1

Millions of salutations to Thee;
Without colour, shape and lineament;
Millions of salutations to Thee;
Who is beyond mind, intellect and Wisdom.

- ਸੱਚ ਹੈ ਮੇਰੀ ਆਰਤੀ ਪੂਜਾ ਸੱਚੇ ਦੀ ਹੈ ਸੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰ
ਸੱਚ ਹੀ ਵਰਤਾਂ ਸੱਚ ਹੀ ਵੰਡਾਂ ਸੱਚ ਹੈ ਮੇਰਾ ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰ
ਸੱਚੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਸੱਚ ਵਿਖਾਇਐ ਬੱਧੀ ਸੱਚ ਨਾਲ ਜੀਵਨ ਤਾਰ
ਸੱਚੀ ਨੀਹ ਤੇ ਸੱਚ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਸੱਚ ਦਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ
ਲੂੰ ਲੂੰ ਅੰਦਰ ਸੱਚ ਸਮਾਇਐ ਸੱਚ ਹੈ ਸੱਚਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਣ ਅਧਾਰ
ਸੱਚ ਸਮੁੰਦਰ ਸੱਚ ਨੇ ਲਹਿਰਾਂ ਸੱਚ ਹੈ ਬੇੜੀ ਸੱਚ ਪਤਵਾਰ
ਸੱਚੇ ਰਾਹ ਤੇ ਪੂੰਜੀ ਸੱਚ ਦੀ ਸੱਚੀ ਹੱਟੀ ਸੱਚ ਵਾਪਾਰ
ਇਹ ਸੱਚਾ ਹੈ ਇੱਕੋ ਸੱਚਾ ਘਟ ਘਟ ਰਮਿਆ ਜੋ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ
ਬੂਟਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਸੱਚ ਇਹ ਦਸਿਆ ਕਰਕੇ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਮਿਹਰ ਅਪਾਰ
ਅਵਤਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦੇ ਚਰਨਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਵਾਰੇ ਵਾਰੇ ਜਾਂ ਬਲਿਹਾਰ

Avtar Bani-3

Truth is what I worship and adore;
True contemplation is of the True one;
Truth I offer and Truth I distribute;
Truth is my profession;
The True one showed me the Truth,
And connected the string of my life with Truth;
Truth is the foundation, Truth is the structure;
I preach the Truth;
Truth pervades each cell of my being;
Truth is the ocean and true are the waves;
Truth is the boat, and true are the oars;
Truth is the worship on the path of Truth;

Truth is the shop, Truth is the trade;
This True being is the only True one;
The Formless God which pervades all beings;
Buta Singh revealed this Truth
With boundless grace and kindness;
Avtar says! I am a sacrifice time and again
At the feet of the Master.

This is the lifestyle of the followers of the Nirankari Mission. By knowing the Cosmic Formless Being from the Master, a Nirankari reflects His cosmic dimensions. This is the technology of the Nirankari Mission for educating and aligning the human organism to be in line with the cosmos. This is how globalisation is being created and made sustainable in a most scientific and natural way.

NIRANKARI MISSION AS GLOBAL FAITH (Epistemological Aspect)

Another aspect where the Nirankari Mission is most eligible for becoming a global faith is the Theory of Knowledge.

Knowledge in the Nirankari Mission relates to direct perception of the 'Who is Who' of the cosmos. Knowledge is not a mere set of principles or a system of ethical rules to guide mankind. Knowledge relates to that Substance of the cosmos which is basic and Ultimate sub-stratum of the cosmos. The entire phenomenon is to be understood in the context of this Substance.

Presently no organized religion nor any system of philosophy has direct perception of this Basic Ultimate Substance. Whatever doctrine they teach or profess is only theoretic having no correspondence to the existence of Ultimate Reality. Primarily these theories are intellectual innovations and philosophical abstractions, not at all applicable in day-to-day life.

Any theory to be true, perfect, practicable and universally acceptable must cover the following aspects of man.

- 1) Man as part of cosmos.
- 2) The connections of human organism with the cosmos at various levels; such as at the level of Matter and at the level of consciousness.
- 3) After identifying the cosmic connections as mentioned above, what type of value system man should adopt to live life in the context of these cosmic connection?

This may look somewhat idealistic or difficult yet this is the only realistic course for mankind to adopt. Without this a global view cannot evolve and without this man can have neither mental nor social peace. The modern civilization is on the brink and there is violence, hatred and competition characterizing human relations. These problems are there despite plethora

of knowledge. The main reason is that there is no wisdom to guide human beings. How can man trained in the theory of 'Survival of the Fittest', have love and compassion for others? How can human beings believing in Matter as the only Ultimate Reality of cosmos have a total and cosmic view of life? Cosmos is both Matter and Non- Matter, the creation and the creative principle. Unless both these aspects are known separately and in relation to each other, the true and total view cannot emerge. True wisdom can only be a result of this view. **The cosmos is to be understood as one, unified whole with inter-related and inter-dependent parts.**

Perfect theory of knowledge helps in envisioning and understanding the cosmos where there is no duality, no contradiction. The entire mankind is to be taken as one extended family.

Nirankari Mission with its knowledge of Ultimate Reality and five tenets has projected a perfect theory of knowledge which is relevant for all human beings for all times and at all places. Man is totally changed and all the mental dross is washed with the knowledge blessed by the Master.

- ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਤੋਂ ਮਤਿ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਇਹ ਮਨ ਹੰਕਾਰ ਤੇ ਕਾਬੂ ਪਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਕਾਮ ਕ੍ਰੋਧ ਲੋਭ ਤੇ ਮੋਹ ਦੇ ਸੰਗਲ ਤੋੜੀ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਦੀ ਮਤਿ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਮਨੁਆ ਧੀਰਜ ਨੂੰ ਅਪਨਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਦੀ ਮਤਿ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਮਨੁਆ ਭਾਣੇ ਵਿਚ ਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਦੀ ਮਤਿ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਮਨੁਆ ਬੈਰਾਗੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਦੀ ਮਤਿ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਇਹ ਮਨ ਤਪੀ ਤਿਆਗੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਦੀ ਮਤਿ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਇਹ ਮਨ ਸਿਮਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਖੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਉਠਦੇ ਬਹਿੰਦੇ ਚਲਦੇ ਫਿਰਦੇ ਹਰ ਦਮ ਨਾਮ ਧਿਆਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਪੂਰਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਉਹ ਕਿਸਮਤ ਦਾ ਪੂਰਾ ਏ।
ਕਹੇ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਦੇ ਬਾਝੋਂ ਹਰ ਕੰਮ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ ਊਰਾ ਏ।

Avtar Bani-283

Taking Wisdom from the True Master;
The Mind over-comes ego;
It breaks the shackles of lust;
Greed, anger and attachments;
Taking wisdom from the True Master;
The mind imbibes patience,
Taking wisdom from the True Master,
Mind submits to the Will of God.
Taking wisdom from the True Master,
Mind develops sense of detachment.
Taking wisdom from the True Master,
Mind learns to face hardships;
And develops a sense of sacrifice,
Taking wisdom from the True Master,
Mind is merged in God-consciousness,
And always contemplates on God.
Even while standing, sitting and walking.
The one who meets the True Master,
Is perfect in fortune.
Says Avtar! Without the True Master
Every act remains incomplete.

- ਗਿਆਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਇਨਸਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰਬ ਦਾ ਘਰ ਦਿਖਲਾਂਦਾ ਏ।
ਗਿਆਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਇਨਸਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਮਾਰਗ ਪਾਂਦਾ ਏ।

Avtar Bani-42

The knowledge of Ultimate Reality imparted by the True Master,
Shows the abode of God to all men;
The knowledge of Ultimate Reality imparted by the True Master,
Leads them to the path of salvation.

In view of this, the knowledge based on the Truth of the cosmos will combine science of Matter with science of consciousness and mind. It shall integrate both the relative and absolute aspects of cosmos and man.

This process shall globalize the mind of man and will be fully instrumental for his all round welfare. This knowledge will help man in regaining his natural state where he becomes truly human, global and a citizen of the world. Nirankari Mission is doing this in practice. All can come and see the result of this approach.

NIRANKARI MISSION AS GLOBAL FAITH (Organisational Aspect)

The organizational aspect is equally significant in the globalisation process. Nirankari Mission has taken due care in this regard also. It has created an organization which is most conducive for globalisation.

Sometime it so happens that an idea despite being relevant and fully conducive for globalisation, suffers implementation owing to lack of organizational framework. It also happens that sometime the quality of organization does not measure up-to the standard required for giving practical shape to an ideal doctrine.

History bears witness to the fact that many laudable doctrines suffered either eclipse or were diluted in application because the organizational framework did not deliver the requisite results. The classic example is of Communism. Despite the fact that the Doctrine of Communism was extremely laudable and relevant for socio-economic development of the masses, it suffered total setback due to organizational failing and weakness. Within fifty years, the system collapsed. So a proper organization is very relevant for the success of a doctrine.

This principle equally applies in the field of spirituality. If the concept of God knowledge and its implied socio-individual transformation is not preached and implemented by an efficient Organisation, the Nirankari Mission cannot become a global faith.

The credit goes to the Nirankari Mission that it has an Organisation which is worthy of the Doctrine it stands for.

Not only it has a monolithic structure, yet its different levels are fully responsive and

discharge their duties with total sense of responsibility. Moreover, its cadres are fully enlightened regarding their sense of Mission in life. They are fully dedicated and submitted totally to the Mission.

There is nothing static in the organizational structure and its functioning. It has been evolving and changing as per the requirements of the times. The important point in this regard is that the organization (called Sant Nirankari Mandal) is fully submitted to the Nirankari Mission. Nothing in the Organisation nor in its functioning can come in clash with the doctrine of the Nirankari Mission. That is why there have been meetings of the Mandal to sort out any organizational problem or otherwise. The latest meeting of the global body of the Mandal was held on 28th and 29th March, 2002. After deliberations and full participation by all the cadres, a new system of preaching and administrative set-up was evolved.

This new set-up with detailed instructions and guidelines has been printed and circulated for all concerned. All cadres are to work for fulfillment of the aims and objects of the Mission as laid down by the living Master of the day.

In brief, the aims and objectives of the Mandal are given in the memorandum of Association. Para 3 and 4 state them as follows:-

3.(i) To preach and propagate the concept of one Formless God (Nirankar), peace, non-violence and universal brotherhood among the people everywhere by:-

- (a) Holding satsangs (congregations) daily and periodically at various places in India and abroad.
- (b) Publishing and distributing Mission's literature and propagating it through other media of publicity.
- (ii) To run and / or aid Educational, Social and Medical Institutions, and also to run Langar (free community kitchen) for the benefit of the public at large.
- (iii) To render services of charitable nature including monetary help to various sections of the people – widows, disabled, physically handicapped, down-trodden and weaker sections of people.
- (iv) To render financial help and other services to the deserving students and individuals.
- (v) Any other aim and object conforming to the ideology of the Sant Nirankari Mission.

4. Sant Nirankari Mission is a religious order, which preaches One Formless God (Nirankar) and believes that He can be realized only with the grace of the living Satguru. It shall not, therefore, associate itself with any political party.

All this reveals that the main aim of the organization is to preach the concept of One Formless God and Universal Brotherhood. There is total unity of thought, unity of action and nothing is allowed which directly or indirectly infringes the basic tenets of the Nirankari Mission.

The Nirankari Mandal has branches all over the world. The ideals of the Mission are preached in all the countries and all out efforts are being made to make the Nirankari Mission global and to create universal brotherhood and cosmic Humanism. The Mandal is fully equipped to be equal to the task of building the edifice of a global faith.

Some of the references in the manual published by the Nirankari Mandal are worth noting. This clarifies how the organization (Mandal) is to serve the Mission and cause of spirituality. Please see the reference in this regard. The True Master said:

'Regarding Administration'

- 1. This Mission is spiritual Mission. In the beginning it was not considered necessary to have an organizational set-up. But as the Mission expanded, it needed an organizational set-up also. We must remember that we are devotees (Gursikh) first. Our devotion, our spirituality is certainly more relevant, more important. With the vast expansion of the Mission, it is definitely necessary that its organizational set-up should be strong and effective. Spirituality, however, must remain in the forefront. If our spiritual aspect is strong, organizational functioning will also remain efficient.**
- 2. The organizers (Prabandhaks) should remember that they are devotees or Gursikhs first. So, the spirit of devotion must be reflected from their administrative work. They must function with the spirit of humility and non-doership. They should consider it as a blessing only, because it is a matter of good fortune.**

To quote the Nirankari Master further:

To preach the Truth has its own great importance. The gift of God-knowledge that we have received, must be shared with all. And this will happen only when the message of Truth reaches the masses. It is, therefore, necessary to preach this Truth; it is essential to motivate, to awaken the people and tell them that if we are born as human beings, this is a golden opportunity, we must make it fruitful, useful. We must unite with God and realize the Ultimate Truth. This is what we preach. Along with this, we give importance to humanism also.

The degeneration that has taken place in humanity is before us all. We find disturbances taking place in our own country. Every day we hope that people will show restraint and there will be peace, but the very next day we find all the more violence, intolerance, narrow-mindedness – all taking place in the name of religion, caste nationality and so on. So, saints have not only to motivate people to realize the Truth, but to promote humanism also. Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Hazart Mohammed – all great spiritual masters preached this humanism only. They all considered humanism as true religion. And this message of universal brotherhood, the spirit of humanism is being preached even today and people are taking advantage of this. They are coming close to the Mission and realizing the Truth. They are dismantling the walls of discrimination created in the name of religion, caste and community, and rising above all such considerations. The saints who are working as Pracharaks are also playing their role to take this message forward.

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EPILOGUE

We have seen the reasons why the Nirankari Mission is the most eligible candidate for becoming the global faith in the age of science. Now let us have a look regarding the concept of Messiah which almost all the existing religions have dangled before mankind down the ages. It is coming of the '**Promised one**' who shall deliver mankind from all shackles, ills, or problems and shall bring about the kingdom of Heaven on earth. This concept is an expression of the compelling urge of entire humanity to rise above all bonds that are plaguing the human race and to bring out unity and concord.

Read the Hindu religious literature. It is widely prayed that Lord Krishna is to come back as an Avtar who shall usher into the era of 'Sat Yug'. Even the Sikhs speak of the promised one who shall embody forth as a 'Kalki Avtar' and shall deliver the people from all problems. Buddhists also expect the promised Buddha who shall come and dispel ignorance. Zoroastrians are extremely expectant about the future deliverer whom they call Hooshidar and Shah Bahram.

Jews and Christians have a great yearning for the future Messiah. Jews have been waiting for the Christ but when Jesus appeared and told the Jews that he was the promised messiah, they denied him and he was nailed to death. Coming down to the Christians, they do claim that Jesus will manifest again and come for the second time. The New Testament talks of the second coming of Christ. In the Islamic world, there is persistent feeling that a new prophet in the form of 'Imam Mihdi' shall come and lead the devout.

The Indian scripture Bhagwad Gita talks of the conditions when the Lord appears and sets things right. It says:-

- Whenever there is decline of righteousness;
And unrighteousness is in the ascendant;
Then I body myself forth.

Ch. 4-7

The 'New Testament' also gives details of the conditions when the son of man shall manifest again.

Bible says:-

- Nation will rise against nation, And Kingdom against Kingdom, There will be great earthquakes,
famines and pestilences in
various places and
Fearful events and great signs from heaven.

St. Luke 21-10,11

- There will be signs in the sun, moons and stars.
On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity
At the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint
from terror,
Apprehensive of what is coming on the world,
For the heavenly bodies will be shaken;
At the time they will see the Son of Man;
Coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

St. Luke 21-25

In any case one thing is clear that the promised appearances or manifestations are to body forth for removing darkness, to dispense justice and bring about unity, universal brotherhood and peace in the world.

We know that science is projecting the doctrine of One cosmos, one family and any Messiah wherever he appears must create one global family which shall transcend caste, creed, colour, nationality and worldly identities.

Now consider the situation if the promised Messiah manifests in a particular religion. If he upholds the religion of his birth, he shall only be a religious fundamentalist and will no longer belong to the entire world. How can he bring about unity, peace and universal brotherhood if his doctrine is of a particular organized religion and sect? So the natural inference is that the promised Messiah, has to be above all religions, creeds or 'Isms' as these are existing in the present form. In the existing scenario, how can the people recognize him and accept his doctrine? History is a witness that all prophets have been rejected by the very people who craved for their coming. History proves the contention that no prophet has been recognized by the people, especially the religious leaders. How relevant is the Holy Koran when it says:-

- And verify we gave unto Moses the scripture
And we caused a train of messengers to follow after him,
And we gave Jesus, son of Mary clear proofs (of Allah's
Sovereignty)
And we supported him with holy Spirit. It is ever so,
that, when there
Cometh unto you a messenger (from Allah) with that
which
Ye yourselves desire not ye grow arrogant,
And some ye disbelieve and some ye slay?

Al-Bakra (The Cow) 2-87

In view of this it is very essential that there has to be an objective and universal criteria for recognizing the promised Messiah. Anyone can say that he is Krishna, or Shah Bahram, or Imam Mihdi or the Neh-Kalank Avtar. There is plethora of prophets or Gurus these days. So what is the test with universal validity?

The test shall be both scriptural as well as practical. Scriptures lay down the criteria of a perfect master. Whosoever can reveal God as Spirit without any precondition and that too in one sitting is entitled to be the true master or the messiah. Then his doctrine based on God-knowledge (Revelation) should be for all irrespective of caste, creed or denomination. Such a True Master alone can unify mankind.

All the present day Masters or Gurus should be put to such a test. Let a team of sincere and committed humanists with scientific background do the world-wide scanning and identify the teacher of the present times.

There is enough violence, hatred, conflicts and loss of human values and it is high time that the Promised one should come and bring about the era of unity and peace. He should manifest the Virat Swarup (Cosmic self) of Lord Krishna, the God of Abraham, Moses and Christ, the Allah of Mohammed and the Ultimate Substance of physics. Such a one shall be the redeemer and the promised Manifestation who shall create global faith and weld the diverse people into

one family called the '**Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam**' of spiritual dreamers.

The Nirankari Master fulfils the above criteria as mentioned in the scriptures. Already he is bringing about unity and brotherhood on global scale. Anyone can see the concept of One Global Family being implemented in letter and spirit.

THE PROMISED ONE HAS COME.

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