



Unity of Humankind

— *Sagrika Chhabra, PA, USA*

A man once said, "The love of one's country is a splendid thing, but why should this love stop at the border?"

A child loves his mother and father so much, but why should this love stop at one's immediate family members? The root cause may lie in the fact that many people find themselves superior to others. May be, one might find one's way of dressing, eating, or lifestyle, in general, better than others. I am better than you, is an invisible barrier that we carry around.

There is a story about five fingers arguing about which finger is the most valuable. The ring finger said, "I am the wealthiest finger because I have the most jewels on me, therefore I am the most valuable."

Arrogantly, the middle finger said, "I am the most valuable because I am the longest, therefore I am the wisest."

In denial, the pointer finger said, "No, I am the most valuable because I can tell people what

is right and wrong."

Then, all the fingers started laughing as they looked at the pinky finger thinking that pinky is useless. All this sparked a heated and loud argument amongst the fingers.

A man witnessed the argument and quickly approached the fingers, as he said, "What is going on?" What is this entire ruckus all about?" The fingers explained to the man that they were fighting over which finger was the most valuable. Then, the man started to explain. He said, "If I had only one finger on my hand, I would be able to do almost nothing. However, with all of my fingers on my hand, I am able to fulfill my daily needs. Did you know that 50% of a human hand's support is lost just without the Pinky finger alone? It is only when your all fingers are together that they become the most valuable. Similarly, in a garden, there are many different types of flowers and plants. Instead of fighting over which flower is the most beautiful, all the flowers complement each other in beauty.

However, the most vital question is how can we achieve this kind of unity in mankind? It is only possible with the most powerful human sentiment that can overpower all other emotions. This is love. For example, many siblings often get into disagreements, however after a little while, they are always back on the same track and forgive each other. This is only possible if the bond of love between them is strong - it is powerful enough to override all the shortcomings and imperfections of others.

However, it is easy said than done. It is hard to love everyone in this world to the extent that you even ignore their shortcomings. Baba Hardev Singh Ji once said, "Love all, hate none. Let's work for it."

If I can't love everyone, at least, I can make an effort not to hate anyone. I can make an effort to stop discriminating and try to treat all as equals, stop being judgemental and respect them who they are and not what they are. It is only then that we can make this world so much more beautiful and worthwhile to live.