

## **Have the Prophecies of Hinduism Been Fulfilled ?**

Compiled and researched by Moeen Kiani

Hinduism, the dominant religion of India, is one of the oldest religions in the world. It continues to maintain a vital influence today with about 700,000,000 followers (as of 1992). Some believe the originator is not known, and some refer to Lord Krishna.

The Vedas are considered among the oldest scriptures existing - they represent the religion of the Aryans. From earliest times, in the most ancient holy books of the world, the Gayatri-Mantra, the Ved-Mata, or Mother of Vedas, has called upon the devout and spiritual souls to pray for guidance to the Glory of God in these words: " O, Thou the Protector of all! The Giver of life to all! O, cause us to receive that most great All-subduing Glory of God Who, enlightening our intelligence and deeds, inspireth progress."

Amongst the scriptures of the Hindu religion, the most comprehensive is the Bhagavad-Gita of Sri Krishna. In all the sacred literature of India no book has exerted so profound and universal an influence on the religious thought and life of all branches of Hinduism as the Bhagavad-Gita. It is a rule of life, an intellectual search for truth, as well as an attempt to make the truth dynamic in the life of man. Krishna promoted faith in the Supreme Being expressed by practicing righteousness and worshipping Him with pure thoughts and heart.

There are Hindu prophecies which foretell that there will be a dark era for mankind, an era of decline of the values of human behavior;  
"When deceit, falsehood, lethargy, sleepiness, violence, despondency, grief, delusion, fear, and poverty prevail, that is the Kali Yuga..."  
"In that age (Kali Yuga) people will be greedy. They will take to wicked behavior. They will be merciless, indulge in hostilities without any cause..."  
"Countries will be laid waste by robbers and vagabonds; the Vedas will be condemned by heretics; kings will exploit their subjects..."  
(Bhagavad PuranaXII,3)

We are indeed in that age and time in which peoples' spirituality has diminished, righteousness is dead, crimes increase everywhere, the number of poor and hungry grows by millions, wars and devastation are in the news every day. Indeed life on our planet has become very fragile.

All the Hindu scriptures are agreed that when conditions have reached this point, when things have deteriorated and mankind has sunk to the lowest depth of degradation, then the Lord will again manifest Himself as the Kalki Avatar. A new age begins which is associated with the guidance of the Spirit of God.

In the Bhagavad-Gita, Lord Krishna expresses Himself ; " Know thou this, O Prince, that whenever the world declineth in virtue and righteousness, and vice and injustice mount the throne - then come I, the Lord, and revisit My world in visible form, and mingle as a man with men, and by My influence and teachings do I destroy the evil and injustice, and reestablish virtue and righteousness, many times have I thus appeared; many times hereafter shall I come again."  
(Bhagavad-Gita, 4;7,8)

We are in an era in which science and technology have helped us to travel rapidly by automobile and airplane, to talk by telephone with people in other countries, to

hear the news of the world through radio within minutes. In this age, it is not possible for a people or a nation to live in isolation. We need guidance to teach us how all the peoples of the world, of different nations, different religions, and different races, can live together in harmony and love.

At the Parliament of Religions in Chicago ( USA) in 1893, Swami Vivekananda, a great spiritual leader from India, expounded in clear and simple terms the Vedanta system of philosophy. He addressed the congress there:

"...if there is ever to be a universal religion, it must be one which will have no location in place or time; which will be infinite, like the God it will preach, and whose sun will shine upon the followers of Krishna and Christ, on saints and sinners alike; which will not be Brahmanical or Buddhist, Christian or Mohammadan, but the sum total of all these, and still have infinite space for development..."

A study of the teachings of the Baha'i Faith shows that coming of "Baha'u'llah", the founder of the Baha'i Faith, does fulfill prophecies of the Hindus.

Baha'u'llah brought the religion that is universal; it is for east and west, for north and south, for poor and rich alike, for the illiterate and the highly educated. It fulfills the prophecies of all the Holy Books. Baha'is believe He is the Tenth Avatar or reincarnation of Krishna, that is sometimes called the Avatar "Kalki". Baha'u'llah's name means "Glory of God" and is equivalent to "Vishnu Yasha" in Sanskrit.

The following few pages cover, briefly, the history and teachings of the Baha'i Faith. It is for us to study deeply and judge in our hearts whether these teachings are the remedy for us, personally, and for the world, to promote a better life and peace for everyone.

### **The Bab - History**

On May 23rd, 1844, in the city of Shiraz, located in the southern part of Iran, a young man 25 years of age announced that He was the One foretold by all the Holy Scriptures. He called Himself "the Bab" (which means gate) and said He was sent by the Lord to announce the coming of One greater than Himself. He declared His willingness to sacrifice Himself for that Great One.

Many became His followers but those in opposition succeeded in having Him imprisoned and finally had Him publicly executed. Twenty thousand of His followers were also killed for their beliefs. The Bab had His own holy Writings. Among His Writings: "In the year nine ye will attain unto all good". Again He writes: "In the year nine ye will attain unto the presence of God".

### **Baha'u'llah- History**

Baha'u'llah, which means "the Glory of God" was born into a wealthy and noble family (a descendant of Aryan kings) in Teheran, the capital city of Iran. He joined the Faith of the Bab and, for that reason, was tortured and imprisoned in Teheran with heavy chains on His neck. This happened nine years after the declaration of the Bab. Since He was of a noble family, His life was spared but He was banished to the city of Baghdad.

He received His Revelation while in prison under heavy chains, and later publicly announced His mission, as many were attracted to Him. The officials moved Him to different cities and finally, imprisoned Him in the fortress of Akka, in Palestine. He passed away in 1892.

While a prisoner, Baha'u'llah revealed many books and letters to guide humanity, He even addressed the kings and rulers of the world, including Napoleon the Third of France, Queen Victoria of England, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, Czar Alexander II of Russia, Pope Pius IX, and the rulers of the Republics of the Americas, to whom He announced His mission.

Baha'u'llah wrote His will and testament so that after Him, His eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Baha would be the Centre of His Covenant and the Interpreter of His Writings. Because of this, the Baha'i Faith is the only religion in the world which did not split into different sects after the death of its Founder.

### **Baha'i Laws**

As every religion has its own laws and obligations, the Baha'i Faith too has its laws that believers have to follow :

- \* Pray and read the Holy Writings every day.
- \* Observe the Baha'i Fast from March 2-20
- \* Observe Baha'i Holy days and attend the Nineteen Day Feast.
- \* Consider work as worship (work which is done in the spirit of service to others is elevated to the station of worship.)
- \* Contribute to the Baha'i Fund. (This Fund is spent for improvement of education, health and welfare of the poor, old and needy, administration, literature, and teachings. There is no collection in the Baha'i

Faith, and

Baha'is do not accept contributions from non- Baha'is. )

- \* Use of alcoholic drinks and narcotics is strictly forbidden.
- \* Observe Baha'i marriage laws. (In Baha'i marriage each partner must freely choose the other. Once the choice is made, the consent of the living, natural parents of both parties is required. This is conducive to unity between the two families. )
- \* Respect for and obedience to the government and no participation in partisan politics.
- \* Backbiting and gossip, are strictly forbidden.
- \* Teach the Baha'i Faith to others. (Baha'u'llah told His followers to tell other people the good news of His Faith for today.)

### **Fruits**

A good tree produces good fruits, so from the fruit we can judge if it is a good tree. Let's study the fruits of the Teachings of Baha'u'llah. The core of His teachings are the 'three onenesses':

Oneness of God  
Oneness of religion  
Oneness of humanity

- \* We are created noble and spiritual beings, and we should try not to lose that position. " Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created". (BWF,P.159)
- \* Living a moral life has a direct influence on our spiritual happiness.
- \* The family is the foundation of human society.

- \* Consultation is a dynamic process for finding truth and for solving conflicts.
- \* Each individual must make his own independent search for truth, (There are no clergy or priests in the Baha'i Faith).
- \* Education must be made available to all. " Knowledge is as wings to man's life, and a ladder for his ascent. Its acquisition is incumbent upon

everyone." (TOB, p. 51)

- \* Men and women should enjoy equal rights, privileges, education, and opportunities throughout the world. " Humanity is like a bird with its two wings - the one is male, the other female. Unless both wings are strong and impelled by some common force, the bird cannot fly heavenwards." ( BNE, p. 139)
- \* " Oh people of the world! The Religion of God is to create love and unity, do not make it the cause of enmity and discord." (BWF, P.209)
- \* " That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race". (TWOB, P.198)
- \* " The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens." (GWB, P. 250)
- \* A world commonwealth of all the nations of the earth must protect the rights of men. "Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest ..." (GWB, P.254)

This is a major step toward establishing the kingdom of God on earth.

God gave us a plan, we have to work accordingly.

- \* Unity of the human race is the goal of God for today; " The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its

unity

is firmly established." (GWB.P.286) Unity of nations, religions, and races.

He also writes, " Soon will the present-day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead." (GWB, P.7)

- \* A universal auxiliary language shall be adopted so that when people are out of their native country they will be able to communicate with the people in the universal language and feel at home.

local

- \* Elimination of all kinds of prejudice. (Prejudice means making a judgment based on incomplete or incorrect information)
- \* Religion must be in accord with science and reason.
- \* The soul is the essential part of every human being and will continue after death. " Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God..." (GWB, P.155)
- \* Economic problems are basically spiritual problem. Baha'u'llah said that work which is done in the spirit of service to humanity is elevated to the station of worship.

These are some of the fruits of the teachings of Baha'u'llah.

It is interesting to note that not only are the prophecies of Hinduism fulfilled in the coming of the Baha'i Faith, but all other religions have certain prophecies that are fulfilled as well. Baha'u'llah writes; "The time foreordained unto the peoples and

kindreds of the earth is now come. The promises of God, as recorded in the holy Scriptures, have all been fulfilled". (GWB, P.12)

Mahatma Gandhi, the great moral and social leader of India said;

" The Baha'i Faith is a solace to mankind."

### **Baha'i Prayers**

There are many prayers revealed by Baha'u'llah, the Bab, and 'Abdu'l-Baha for different purposes:

#### Prayer for Assistance:

"O my God! I ask Thee, by Thy most glorious Name, to aid me in that which will cause the affairs of Thy servants to prosper, and Thy cities to flourish. Thou, indeed, hast power over all things!"

-- Baha'u'llah

#### Remover of Difficulties:

"Is there any Remover of difficulties save God? Say: Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding."

-- The Bab

#### Children's Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

"O God, guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful."

-- 'Abdu'l-Baha

### **Baha'i community**

Since there are no clergy or priests in the Baha'i Faith, then how does the Baha'i community function ?

**Spiritual Assemblies:** In every village or town Baha'is elect nine members (men and women) to the Local Spiritual Assembly. This council is elected for a period of one year, to conduct the affairs of the Baha'is in that community. Baha'is of a country, through their delegates, elect nine members to the National Spiritual Assembly of that country to serve for a period of one year. National Assemblies from around the world elect nine members from the Baha'is around the world to the Universal House of Justice. Members of the House of Justice serve for a period of five years. The Universal House of Justice is the supreme body of the Baha'i Faith and guides the entire Baha'i world. All Baha'is should obey its guidance. All Baha'i elections are spiritually based. There are no nominated candidates, no campaigns, and no advertising.

Remember what Swami Vivekananda said in Chicago's Parliament of Religion: "... if there is ever to be a universal religion...." which has "... infinite space for development..."

The Universal House of Justice, as the only world centre for the Baha'i Faith, while it does not change the laws and principles of Baha'u'llah, has infinite space to guide the Baha'is in accordance with the day to day needs of life.

**Nineteen Day Feast:** Baha'u'llah teaches that every 19 days Baha'is of each community shall gather together. The first part of the meeting consists of prayers. The second part, consulting about any subject to improve their community health, education, or other subjects beneficial to all. The third part is a social time so that the members of the community may become more familiar with each other, as members of one family.

Each individual Baha'i is a valuable person, who, through the 19 Day Feast, the Local Spiritual Assembly, the National Spiritual Assembly, and the Universal House of Justice is connected to the world wide Baha'i family.

[UHJ]<->[NSA]<->[LSA]<->[19 Day Feast]<->[Individuals]

### **Some statistics as of May 1994;**

Number of National Spiritual Assemblies .....172  
Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies ..... approx. 20,400  
Number of localities worldwide where  
Baha'is reside..... over 120,000  
Tribes, races and ethnic groups in the  
Baha'i Faith ..... 2,112  
Languages into which Baha'u'llah's  
Writings have been translated .....802  
Number of Baha'is in the world .....approx. 6,000,000

### **Who is a Baha'i ?**

Any person who studies the Teachings of Baha'u'llah and is convinced in his/her heart that He is God's Messenger for today, and is willing to obey His Teachings. At that point, they may be enrolled into the Baha'i community and invited to community activities and to participate in Baha'i elections. There is no baptism in the Faith.

### **Reference Books:**

GWB - Gleanings from Writings of Baha'u'llah  
BWF - Baha'i World Faith  
TWOB - The World Order of Baha'u'llah  
TOB - Tablets of Baha'u'llah  
BNE - Baha'u'llah and the New Era

The books listed below offer more detailed information:

BAHA'I FAITH, AN INTRODUCTION by Gloria Faizi  
Published by the Baha'i Publishing Trust, New Delhi, India.

THE NEW GARDEN by Hushmand Fatheazam  
Published by the Baha'i Publishing Trust, New Delhi, India.

For additional information contact:

BAHA'I NATIONAL CENTRE  
220 Charlotte Street  
Bourda, Georgetown, Guyana  
Tel: 226-5952  
E-mail: [nsaguy@networksgy.com](mailto:nsaguy@networksgy.com)  
Internet Bahá'í website <http://www.bahai.org>

Internet Bahá'í website <http://www.gy.bahai.org>

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Approved by : National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Guyana.  
June 1995

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Printed in : Georgetown, GUYANA, South America