

PREMA
VAHINI

Stream of Love

SATHYA SAI BABA

31. Bharath is the home of the Eternal Universal Religion

The *Vedic* religion is the only religion to achieve and maintain the foremost position among all religions from earliest times and to be established permanently. The only people who have survived without being destroyed, throughout the historic age, are the Hindus. In this religion, more than in any other, people have practised lives of love, equality, and gratitude. The Hindus have earned their *dharma* through the discovery of philosophic principles and through the *Vedas*. They have drunk deeply the essence of the *Vedas*, which are without beginning and end. A land so holy is a veritable spiritual mine for the world. Just as the bowels of the earth reveal mines of different metals in each area, so in Bharath is found the mine of the Eternal Religion (*Sanathana Dharma*), of the essence of all the principles of all the scriptures (*sastras*), all the *Vedas*, and all the *Upanishads*.

As if by the good luck of the *Bharathiyas* (Indians), from the moment the mine of the Eternal Religion emerged, leaders, thinkers, commentators, apostles, and teachers have been appearing in this land for the purpose of fostering it. Also, from this very Bharath, seers arose —selfless *yogis* of action (*karma-yogis*), wise men, realised souls, and divine personages connected with this religion. Through these people, spiritual wisdom guaranteed by experience flowed all over the country. In this way, loaded with divine essence, the Eternal Religion progressed throughout the world.

But although it spread, the “original home” is Bharath itself. Look at the world today. Machines, cars, and engines of some new type or other are produced in one country and exported to others. But their original home cannot be forgotten. Such cars and engines are manufactured only on the basis of that country’s experience. Nothing can be done without that basis. So too, the Eternal Religion arose. Bharath and people of other countries benefited from its waters through the great personages and the books they composed. Hence, the basis of the original home cannot be ignored. That is impossible.

32. Eternal Vedic religion is the heritage of all mankind

But there is some concern today in this Bharath, the birthplace of those holy persons who nursed and fostered this sacred *dharma*. New modes are being accepted as one's *dharma*, and the Eternal Religion (*Sanathana Dharma*) itself is being ignored; it is being kept aside for people of other countries by people who have not even tested the sweetness of the *dharma*, who have not grasped its meaning, and who have smothered it in empty disputation.

The reason for this is, of course, the absence of proper guides who could show the way. But even when there are such guides, people yield to these modern modes and get attached to them. These are really like little food treats (*pakoras*). They attract by their smell and are bought by people who do not discriminate. Though their own duty (*swa-dharma*) is the pure Eternal Religion (*Sanathana Dharma*), the fascination exercised by outward show is absent, so it gets neglected. Truth has no need for such decorations. Taste is the important thing.

The basic reason for this problem is the fact that people today are motivated by mere whim and fancy. It has become the habit to reject reality and accept the *dharma* of another. This is a great mistake. It is against *dharma* for *Bharathiyas* (Indians) to be attracted by external forms and outward show. No other *dharma* has, or will have, truth and highest love above and beyond that contained in the Eternal Religion. The Eternal Religion is the veritable embodiment of truth. It is the heritage of all. There can be no boundary for holiness. Holiness is one without a second, right?

Those who have attained liberation in this life by adherence to this Eternal Religion, who have earned the grace of God, who have understood the nature of truth, who have achieved realisation —they are all *Bharathiyas*. *Bharathiyas* have adored those who have reached that holy stage, without distinction of caste, creed, or sex. The holiness of that stage burns to ashes all such limitations. It is only until that stage is reached that it becomes impossible to consider everything as equal. So, it is necessary to determine boldly on the realisation of the Eternal Religion. This is the birthright of *Bharathiyas*.