



Spiritual Liberty

the keynote to
Unity of Religious Ideals

*W*isdom and Purity, indicated by the term 'Sufi', have always been the source of inspiration traced in devotional worships all down the ages; and even though Sufism has often been periodically appropriated by various cultural streams during different periods of history, it has never lost its own identity.

There are as many descriptions of wisdom and purity, as there are seekers on the path, but these descriptions could never be classified as being the property of just one belief. As soon as one attempts to define abstract concepts, one gets lost within the labyrinth of one's thoughts and one builds up illusions fashioned at the level of one's mind-world, assuming being in possession of Truth.

Truth is not a religion, nor is it a secret school of speculative interpretations of the original inspiration revealed in all beliefs. Truth cannot be confined by descriptive terminology, nor can it be identified as being the property of one single transmission because of its universal nature. The wise restrain from making a display of their wisdom, using preferably the language of the heart when communicating with others; avoiding thereby the perpetuation of regrettable misunderstandings.

Some declare having found Truth in Hinduism, others in Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, as well as in many other religious beliefs, known or unknown to the world at large; but when Truth is formulated at the level of individual understanding, it is then apparently diversified in various interpretations, just as pure water poured into colored glasses gives the impression of being shaded to the color of the glasses.

In this chaotic world, where political dictatorship as well as religious dogmas prevail like dark clouds, the Message of Spiritual Liberty in our time is a call for freedom of thought from the confinement of traditional beliefs, which do not necessarily correspond to the new age.

The call for 'Unity of Religious Ideals' is an awakening to a broader outlook inspired by the teachings of all religions. Diamonds are found in one, rubies in another, and more precious jewels are found in others, known or unknown to the world at large. Unity of Religious Ideals also implies avoiding such statements as 'my belief', as opposed to 'your belief'. Religious Unity is obviously the religion of the heart; and since there are world-wide hearts, there are just as many calls of the heart, springing forth from one and the same source.

This Message, inspired by the teachings given in all religions, is not only meant for one part of the world; it is a Universal Worship, also offered in line with the social world, as well as to science and to all types of individual creativity.

Freedom of thought is also experienced in Esoteric Teachings known as the 'Alchemy of Happiness', revealed in the great Ideals of Love, Harmony and Beauty, poetically described in a mystical tale related to a magic formula used in transforming base metal into gold. This historical legend symbolizes the melting of the ego along a thorny path known as the 'Art of Personality', where false identifications are overcome when discovering the Divine Guidance as a pearl within the heart.

Humility is not necessarily weakness; it is a feeling that rises from the living heart, which is secretly conscious of its inner beauty, while at the same time veiling itself even from its own sight. When the doors of the heart are open, humility awakens, finding oneself face to face with the Divine Guidance, flowing onwards as Wisdom and Purity, which reveal the true essence of all that is understood by the term 'Sufi'.

Hidayat Inayat-Khan

