



The Elijah Interfaith Institute



Hope, by Swami Amarananda

(9th February 2013)

In the interfaith meet held at the premises of the Centre Vedantique, Geneva, as a part of the observance of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, we have had three inputs: from Mr. Jean-Marc Perret (representing Christianity), from Dr. T. Dhammika (representing Buddhism), and from Mr. N. Sehmi (representing Sikhism). The theme has been chosen as *Hope in spite of the apparent hopelessness*. Mr. A. M. Ganguli has given us the English translation of Mr. Perret's discourse. Now is my turn to give an input from the Hindu / Vedantic tradition.

Quote from Shiva-Mahimnah Stotram

RuchInam vaichitryad rijukutilla- nAnA patha- jushAm; nRInAm eko gamya'stvamasi payasAm arnava iva
(Due to the differences in individual dispositions, people follow different paths crooked or straight, but You, O God, are the only destination of human beings, just as the sea is the destination of all the waters.)

Let us remember the quotes of courage, of hope from savants and sages, and pray for the guidance of the Supreme, at this hour, when nights are darker and the fog is thick:

Quote from Alexander Pope

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast; Man never Is, but always To be blest"

Quote from Martin Luther King Jr. who was enthused by Mahatma Gandhi

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

Quote from Rabindranath Tagore

"True that suffering, death and bereavement exist,
Yet peace, bliss and kiss of the Infinite persist."

Quote from Swami Vivekananda

"Not a work will be lost, no struggle vain,
Though hopes be blighted, powers gone;
Of thy loins shall come the heirs to all,
Then hold on yet a while, brave soul,
No good is e'er undone."



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Quote from an Upanishadic text

rasam hy'evAyam labdhvA'nandI bhavati ; ko hyevA'nyAt kaH prANyAt yad'eSha AkAsha Anando no syAt

(It's only through the tasting of this savour of the Ultimate that one becomes blissful. Who would be alive at all, who would manifest at all the vital energy, if there were not this bliss, at the background of the space pervading the universe?)-- Taittiriya Upanishad 2.7