



The Fifth Bi-Annual Meeting of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders, Oxford (UK), March 2012

On the final day of the meeting, leaders were asked to reflect on what had been accomplished. They were asked to consider three questions:

- 1. What does Interreligious Friendship mean to you?***
- 2. How do you practise Interreligious Friendship?***
- 3. What messages and practices of Interreligious Friendship can you take back from this meeting to your community?***

Some chose to respond independently to each question while others integrated their answers.

Rabbi David Rosen



1. Interreligious engagement means not only overcoming misunderstanding, being understood and understanding the other, thereby eliminating or at least overcoming prejudice and stereotypes, thus serving as enlightened self-interest; it is not only engagement for the pursuit of shared values: it is the greater encounter with the Divine Presence beyond my own religious revelation of that Presence (as all understandings/ encounters with the Divine are partial.

Friendship is just a greater intensification of the encounter with the 'other', and when this is done in the sense and appreciation of that, it is a Divine encounter. It is a profound religious experience.

2. I am blessed to be able to do so daily and look forward to continuing to do so throughout my life.

3. The overcoming of prejudice and bigotry; the deepening of theological modesty; greater human solidarity; perhaps also some healing for their wounds and paranoia.