



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.

Ven Dr Bhikkuni Kusuma



1. What does interreligious friendship mean to me?

Congratulations, Elijah Interfaith, for our friendship.

The world is engulfed by Science and Technology but in spite of the great strides of modern living, science and technology has no ethics and morality for the human mind.

It is like a powerful car with no steering wheel and brakes, heading for disaster.

All religions have some dimension of ethics and morality which must be practiced in daily living. Thanks to Elijah for seeing eye-to-eye all religions.

All religions in one voice must appeal to the modern world for morals and ethics if we want the future generations to survive on earth.

Interreligious friendship means dissolving all differences and supporting the common good.

Forget the past – it is dead and gone! The future is conjecture. The present is the only living moment.



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2. According to Buddha, the practice is:

‘Refraining from evil, doing good, purifying the mind’

The message of all Buddhas:

‘Forbearance is the highest asceticism. Nirvana is the highest good’

One who hurts and worries another in no recluse, is no spiritual person.

Not blaming, not criticising, living by the precepts undertaken.

Moderation in eating, living in renunciation, away from hearth and home, and practicing yoga and meditation, contemplation on the mind, body, environment, developing wisdom.

This is the message of all Buddhas.

It will be noticed that there is no religious dimension in Buddhist ethics except Karmic responsibility of each individual.

We don’t pay for the sins of our forefathers!

3. What can I take back to my community?

Interreligious friendship!!