

## BASIC TENETS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MILLENNIUM MOVEMENT

... Launched on January 1, 2001 by Āshram Ātmadeep, registered as a Non-Profit, Charitable Trust, to spiritualize the Human Family in a world troubled by lop-sided Domination by Science, Technology and Engineering, and to rejuvenate it with the Message of Balanced Scientific-cum-Spiritual living.

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① From time immemorial, it has been made known by great thinkers and teachers in different parts of the world, particularly by the Rishis (Sages and Seers) living in pre-historic times on the Himalayan foothills and the Indo-Gangetic plains of the Indian Sub-Continent, that in its quest for health, happiness and fulfilment in life, the human family needs, and must make intelligent use of, TWO types of knowledge viz, Aparā Vidyā (Knowledge of the transient and the perishable i.e., Scientific Knowledge) and Parā Vidyā (Knowledge of the Permanent and the Imperishable i.e., Spiritual Knowledge). There is no inherent contradiction between Science and Spirituality, since they deal with two different domains of knowledge, and thus only complement each other.

② The main objective of education ought to be the inculcation of both types of knowledge i.e., scientific facts and spiritual wisdom, all the way, from childhood, and at all levels, by precept and practice, in the family, the school, the college and the university, as also in the Class Room of Society at large. An appropriate balance between the two types of knowledge, both in

their theoretical as well as applied forms, will confer health and happiness on the individual and lead to peace, progress and prosperity in society, that is made up of individuals linked together in diverse ways. Lack of balance in life between scientific guidelines and spiritual values is bound to lead, in the long run, to difficulties, pressures and problems, first to individuals and then on to families, communities, nations and eventually to the whole world.

③ Scientific knowledge is intellectual, observational-cum-experimental and objective, while spiritual insight is intuitive, introspective-cum-experiential and subjective. The former emerges in all clarity from an enquiring and active mind, while the latter lights up or flashes forth from a meditative and quiet mind. However, eventually, both types of knowledge get collected, classified, codified and communicated at the level of the human intellect, that supreme rational and analytical faculty, that sets mankind apart from the rest of the living world and holds the vital key to his all-round growth.

④ Society is influenced enormously by Science and Spirituality, but the influence is not direct, but indirect, through their dynamic derivatives or active handmaidens, namely Technology and Engineering in the case of Science, and Religion (or Ideology or Philosophy of Life) and Institutionalizing in regard to Spirituality. In the interest of the well-being and progress of society, it is absolutely necessary that the clear distinction between pure Science (or Scientific Discovery) and pristine Spirituality (or Spiritual Experience) on the one hand, and their four derivatives that influence directly and often dominate society on the other, is analysed, understood and conveyed effectively to the public at large.

⑤ Most of the issues and problems that have caused and are still causing disharmony, disturbance, strife, violence etc. in human society have their origins in the all-pervasive lack of understanding and appreciation of the ways in which human weaknesses and failings tend <sup>to</sup> colour, complicate and distort the functioning of the four socially active derivatives of Science and Spirituality, namely technologies and the engineering skills behind industries on the one hand, and religions and the institutional activities related to them on the other. While Science is a-moral i.e., neither moral nor immoral, and Spirituality provides the foundation

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for all morals, ethics and values, their four derivatives reflect more often than not, the ambition, greed, selfishness, thirst for power and other weaknesses of those humans, who take charge of them, control and direct them, to their own advantage.

⑥ An important aspect of Spirituality stressed in the earliest Vedic texts <sup>of India</sup> relates to the possibility of the same spiritual experience or truth getting expressed in different ways at the intellectual level, depending on the communicating capacity of the experimenter and the comprehensive level of the person or persons to whom the experience is conveyed. Further, the age or period in history, the religious and philosophical concepts prevalent in the concerned society and the limitations or otherwise of the available language of communication will all have a bearing on the way a spiritual insight finds its intellectual expression in words. Thus, it is but natural that there are differences in the revealed texts and traditional rituals or practices of religions --- and it will indeed be immature and childish to quarrel over these differences and to divide people emotionally, on the basis of their faiths.

⑦ A scientific analysis in depth of the body-mind-intellect-ego complex of human beings brings out the astonishing fact that no two individuals are exactly the same in their make-up and personality, not even the so-called identical twins. Since each individual is unique physically, emotionally and intellectually, it is only to be expected that he or she will display some uniqueness in his or her understanding and practice of religion also. The age-old, but ever-green and relevant Indian concepts of Sva-Dharma (one's own Inner Law or Religion) and Sarva-Dharma-Samanatva (Equal Recognition and Respect to ALL Religions) is based on this clear understanding of an individual's uniqueness.

⑧ In its Action Plan the Millennium Movement will be concerned with all aspects of propagation and promotion of important scientific findings and cardinal spiritual values, which can enhance the quality of human life, among peoples and nations all over the world. While achieving its ends, the Movement will remain scrupulously faithful to its three basic characteristics, viz, scientific approach, spiritual vision and global sweep. It will educate people, through discussions, seminars, publications etc., on the Intelligent Art of Balanced Scientific and Spiritual Living, incorporating in its

ambit the psycho-physical and meditative practices of Ancient Yoga on modern scientific lines.

⑨ On the practical side, depending on the active and purposeful participation of Members of the steadily growing World-Wide Ashram Fellowship, the Millennium Movement will fight valiantly for the end of all discriminations and exploitations based on race, religion, region, class, colour, creed, gender etc. In doing so, it will blaze a new trail through adoption of the philosophy of Sarvodaya (Welfare and Uplift of ALL) and the practice of Satyāgraha (Non-Violent Non-Cooperation with Evil and Injustice, on the basis of TRUTH AND LOVE), as enunciated and implemented first by Mahatma Gandhi in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and by many others subsequently, notably Martin Luther King Jr., the Dalai Lama and Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi.

⑩ Anchored, to start with, on the soil of Modern India and the Spiritual Vision of Ancient India, the Millennium Movement has naturally struck its first roots in Indian society and Indian locations. However, it is now poised at the end of the year 2003 to move ahead, surely and steadily, to places outside India and spread its wings gradually, all over the world, with the participation and support of scientifically trained, spiritually attuned and socially responsible individuals, coming forward through person-to-person and group-to-group friendly contacts to join the World-Wide Ashram Fellowship. In its onward march, these FRIENDS of Ashram Atmadeep and PROMOTERS of the Millennium Movement will cooperate and collaborate with all non-political and non-governmental groups and societies sharing their vision and objectives, and also utilize all modern means of contact and dialogue available in this Age of Information Technology and Communications Engineering.

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