



Purity

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When God Creates Heaven out of Hell
Page 7

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Time - The Mightiest of All

Time is the most powerful factor influencing human life. No one can stop the passage of time, and people, places and circumstances change as time goes by. Also, there is an appropriate time for everything, and when we act according to the time, we get the desired results easily.

As farmers know, there is a time to sow, a time to water the crops, and a time to harvest the produce. If one plants the best of seeds at the wrong time, one will reap disappointment. Similarly, from the moment we are born, we act according to time. A baby wails, blabbers, plays, sleeps a lot and does little else, but that is perfectly alright, for the infant is not expected to do otherwise.

But as the baby grows up, its behaviour and activities change. It starts going to school, learns to interact with others, and becomes more aware of the world. As time passes, the child matures, enters adulthood and learns still newer things, including how to manage his or her feelings and deal with the emotions of others.

At every stage of life, we face situations that are particular to that stage. Some of the experiences of an earlier time are never repeated later in life, as they were specific to a particular time or place. We cannot relive those experiences even if we want to, as that time has passed. An old man cannot become his infant self again, just as a tree cannot become the sapling it was years ago.

However, time is cyclical, as shown by the cycles of nature, whereby day turns into night, only for a new day to dawn, and the seasons occur one after the other, each playing its role in sustaining the ecological balance of the planet. When summer gives way to autumn

and then winter, we cannot hope to have summer during winter. But summer will arrive again at the right time, after the cold winter has passed, followed by spring.

Often our attempts to set things right fail to yield results because we ignore this fact. We attempt to stop time moving forward or to bring back an earlier time that was more desirable, but it is impossible to bring back the past as time always moves forward, and never backwards.

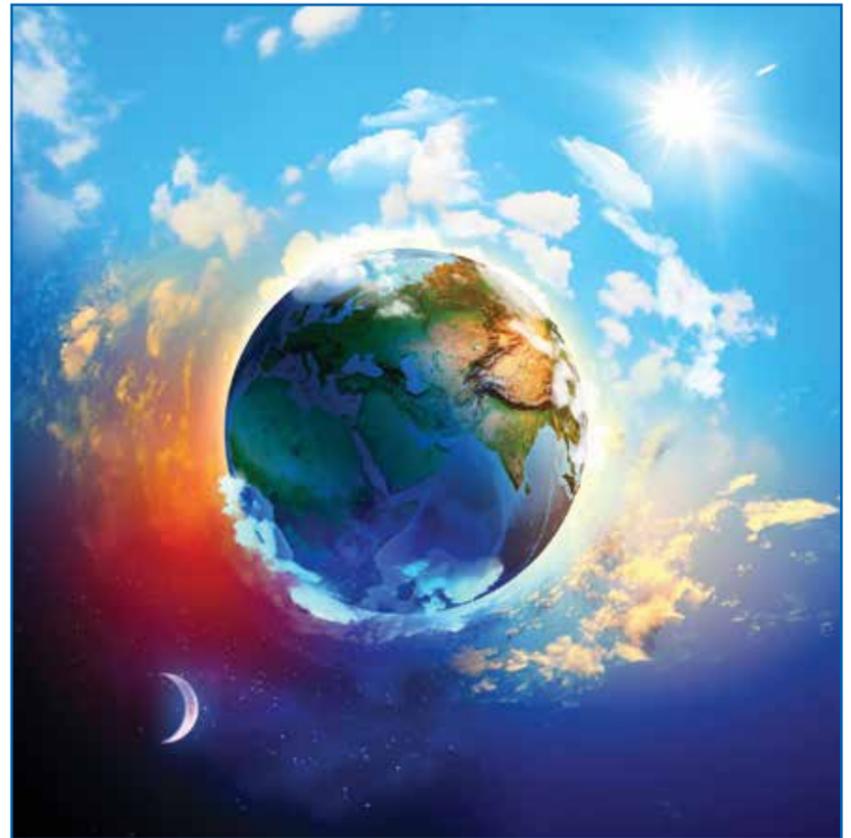
An old building can be repaired to extend its life, but it cannot be made new as everything in it suffers the ravages of time. But once the building has reached the end of its useful life, it can be pulled down to construct a new one in its place.

Similarly, a tree cannot become a sapling, but it produces seeds from which a sapling will emerge and grow into a new tree.

An old man also cannot become a youth in the same life. But after the old man's death, his soul will take birth in a new body as a baby, which will go through youth, adulthood and old age before passing away to be reborn again.

The world we live in has similarly passed through various stages in the cycle of time, which begins with the Golden Age, when everything in the world was super perfect and humans lived in harmony with each other and nature.

Gradually, as time went by, the quality of human souls, and consequently their actions, deteriorated. The newness and goodness faded, reducing the joy of life. As souls became weaker still, vices began to influence them, and they began to experience unease, sorrow,



guilt and fear. Now, in the final epoch in the cycle of time, called the Iron Age or Kaliyuga, souls are at their weakest, and are in bondage to vices. Their actions, selfish, cruel, and dishonest, reflect this bondage, and the result of those actions is the world we see around us, with its myriad woes.

Universal peace, prosperity and happiness cannot be brought about in this world when the consciousness required for that does not exist in the majority of the people in the world. This world can again become the peaceful and happy place it once was, but only after undergoing a process of renewal. Just as a dilapidated building needs to be demolished to build a new one,

everything that is old will have to be swept away for this world to be made new. Temporary fixes and piecemeal solutions can only extend the life of the old world with all its baggage of problems, and not create a new one.

This renewal will happen as the wheel of time turns, ending the Iron Age and starting a new cycle with the dawn of the Golden Age once again. So, instead of making futile attempts to perpetuate what is old, we must work with time and prepare to enter the Golden Age by acquiring the qualities that will create a new world of purity, peace, love, truth and bliss. ■

(Purity Bureau)

Change your vision, Change your world

Charles Hogg, Sydney, Australia

To me, India offers a spirituality, a deep spirituality that I find resonates incredibly deeply in my heart. It's not just relevant for this country, but I found it relevant to where I live and all the countries I've visited. The spirituality that offers not just to know and believe, but to experience the reality of myself as a spiritual being, and a deep union with the Divine, with God. When I come to this country, no matter what is happening externally, these feelings resonate, because it's so deep in the culture of this land.

As we've been hearing so much about the state of the world, I think there is a crisis in the soul of humanity, and when that crisis bubbles to the surface, we put labels on it—we call it stress, anxiety, depression, unhappiness and so many different things. We see this epidemic growing and growing, and each one of us is concerned what can we do. I feel India can give a gift to our world, offering these deep truths, and today this is happening. Wherever you go in the world now—it may be New York, South America, Asia, Russia—you'll see sisters in white sarees,

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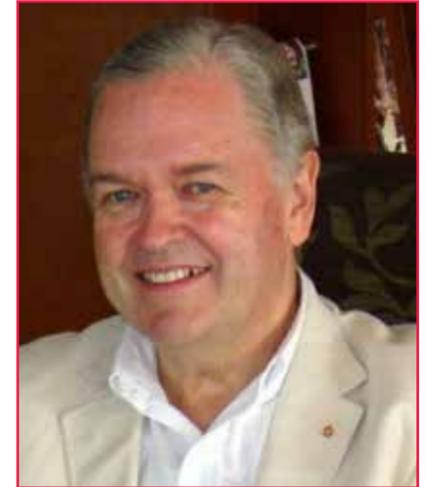
carrying the traditional values of spirituality at the state of the world.

I remember I would often go on protest against injustice. At that time Australia was involved in the Vietnam war. Once, at the age of 17, I went on a march against the war. One thing led to another, and I was arrested for a night. That night really changed me as a person. As the night grew long, we sat around, two hundred peace leaders in Australia, and as I heard the conversation I began to realise that we were an incredibly peaceless, negative group of people. It dawned on me deeply, that the world will not change at all if you try to fight the

peacelessness.

Can I convert the ideas, the beliefs, the theories, into a deep, rich, spiritual feeling inside? I feel meditation is converting the knowing into experiencing, because that's when it becomes a power in my life. I began to take up meditation, and it was an absolute epiphany for me. It felt different, by just putting two truths into my intellect—the truth that I am an eternal soul, and that I have the eternal relationship with God. As these truths penetrated deep in my being, it changed my whole vision of how I saw myself, how I saw others and how I saw the world. If my relationship with myself is not healthy, it pollutes every part of my life, my relationships with you, my work performance, even my physical health. Meditation is like going into the laboratory of my mind and experiencing the depth of who I am and the union with the Divine.

My passion in life has always been to go beyond differences, and when you see the permanent soul, its like we really are one family. But when you see a body there will be differences on many levels that divide us today. If we



adopt the vision of the soul, it's actually taking that energy out in the world and the perfume of the mind will create a different feeling.

We are at an extraordinary time. On one hand we see a world that seems to be declining so rapidly, and on the other hand people are understanding that when I change, the world will change. We move in cycles, and are at the end of an era where the culture of body consciousness is reaching an extreme and the seeds of a new awareness are being born. I really hope that each one of us lends our little finger to spiritual response to a very challenging world and begin our own practice, because it will contribute to a much better world for all of us. ■

Our Ancestors

Ever since Darwin, many people in the world have come to accept the theory that the ancestors of modern humans were apes. While scientists have not been able to conclusively prove this theory, they are right at least in one respect. The precursors of humans are certainly apes, in character if not in anatomy.

Man has acquired all the vicious traits of monkeys, such as lust, greed and attachment, and his behaviour is no different from that of apes. That is why God comes to earth to remind us of our spiritual identity and rid us of the vices in order to first make us human again and then to elevate us to the divine status that we had when the world began in the Golden Age. ■■■



United Nations, New York: BK Savita Geer (2nd L) after accepting an award for the extensive work being done for sustaining peace by Brahma Kumaris in Nigeria, during a ceremony organised by 1,000 Women in Religion for Global Peace and others at the Nigerian Mission at the UN.

Think it Over

- A loveful command does not arouse hostility.
- If you fix your schedule you will never be careless.
- Nothing happens by accident or chance.
- Home is not where we live but where we belong.
- Stress is mostly created by my own thoughts.
- Calmness gives air-conditioning to a hot situation.
- Introvertness paves the way for all virtues.
- Give spiritual nourishment to your soul every day.
- To respect one another's ideas is to infuse power into the group.
- Do not think about your weaknesses but count your blessings.
- Do not just praise God, but bring His virtues into your life.

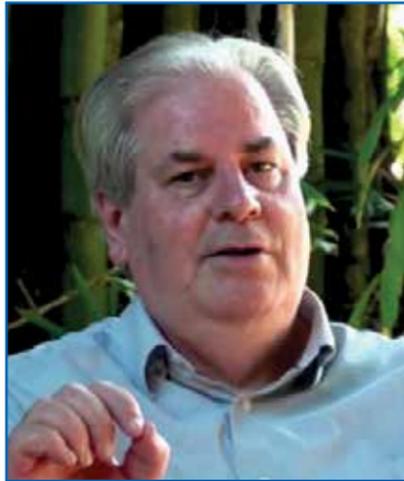
In Times of Crisis

Divine Mind is the Creative Mind

Ken O'Donnell, Sao Paulo, Brazil

When I think about this topic, the first thing that comes to my mind is silence. Silence is the language of God. That doesn't only mean not speaking, but at a deeper level it means going into the experience, rather than continue to talk in our minds about things. Plato said that thinking, was a soul talking to himself. Actually you can be yourself without talking internally—you don't need words. What is love, for example? Maybe you could tell a few synonyms, but then you run out of words, you can't explain love in words. This is why if I think of the second language of the soul, it would be music. Music is a universal language. Once I had the privilege to do a musical concert for deaf people. I thought how am I going to do this? So I just shared with them the emotions I had while writing the songs, I sang the songs with the same emotions, and you could notice that people were really feeling it in their hearts. So you can transmit things at a deeper level.

When we talk about a mind that can help change the world, actually it's not a big secret. If you look at the world, you can exactly see the expressions of the minds of human beings. For example, we think that pollution is something out there, but actually when we see pollution we are seeing our own minds at work. So first of all I have to look at my own creation—my thoughts, the condition of my relationships. If there is a mess in my life personally, we can trace it to the mess that's in our minds.



So this thing of different minds creating a different world is not such a big deal, because that's what we have always been doing. The world that we live in is the world that we have thought into existence. It's come out of us, individually and collectively. So now when we want to create a different world, we need to go into silence and touch the bottom of our souls.

I was remembering, just after a big financial collapse in 2009, I was with 4,000 people in Mexico at Human Resources International Conference. They were worried about jobs because they are the ones that hire and fire in companies. I asked them, how many of you will have your jobs five years from now. Not many people lifted up their hands; even they were not having a guarantee for their future. Then I asked, if you are doing something useful or beneficial for the world five years from now, do you think the world will give you a job—everyone put their hands up. How would I know if I am using my thinking, my speaking, my doing in a beneficial way? How do I know that the world will look after me?

Because that's something inside of me. You need to just stop and think about the world that you are creating around yourself. If you are in a passive state, then you are at the receiving end; and actually you are receiving, maybe, the results of your past. But if you start sending out good vibrations and bring out the best of you from inside, you notice the quality of relationships and things around you change.

I used to be much more involved with music than I am now, and I remember once I was playing a song from my heart for God. I had the experience that any talent I have is not for the service of ego, but I have to hand it over to the Divine. Just like I am the musician and the guitar is the instrument, I am the instrument and God is the musician. So there are two levels—He plays me, I play an instrument; He plays me and I speak.

Today, human beings are so clever. We can make fantastic gadgets, we can communicate with the other side of the world, but sometimes we can't talk to the person next to us. We can understand and speak languages so well, but we don't know how to transmit our feelings. If we go back into the state of silence, we can see the words that start forming around us. If we speak

If we speak the language of silence we'll know how to get along with people, how to bring out love for everyone.

the language of silence, which is the language of God, we'll know how to get along with people, how to bring out the love for everyone, how to give benefit to the people who work with us. And if we can create a different context, then we can start to believe that human beings can change the world. We need to do something more than just live our lives. If something valuable touches you, start nurturing it like a seed; give it the light of understanding, the water of love and care, the soil of values in which it can grow, the time of patience and the space of freedom to move, and you'll have a beautiful world—both inside and outside.■

Omens of Jupiter

The sign of Jupiter represents wisdom and prosperity. In India, many people consider it auspicious to admit their child in school on Thursday, the day of Jupiter. However, the entire human race is presently living under the influence of Saturn, which represents ignorance and poverty. The 'inner eye' of conscience has closed, and so there is 'darkness at noon' and poverty of character to be noticed everywhere in the world. Human happiness has vanished into thin air and stress, fear, hurry, worry, insecurity and uncertainty are growing. More and more people are finding it hard to get natural sleep and are using tranquilizers to relax.

Who is to blame for this sad state of the world and Saturn's eclipse, so to say, which has converted the intellect of humankind almost completely? No one actually! Everything is created new and in course of time, becomes old and eventually very old, requiring renewal.

So there is no need to despair and lose hope. The time is now ripe for Jupiter to take over from Saturn, just as night is followed by day. And the happiest news of all is that the constantly spinning world Drama Wheel has already entered the auspicious period of 'Confluence', when God Almighty, the Supreme Saviour, Liberator and Creator, who is the Sun of Knowledge, lifts the curtain of ignorance and falsehood from the human intellect.

Soon, all evil and human suffering will finish and the new era of peace and prosperity will dawn.■

BK Brij Mohan, New Delhi



Pandav Bhawan, New Delhi: The first Lokpal, Hon'ble Justice P.C.Ghose, former Supreme Court judge (middle) with Justice V. Eswaraiah, former Acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court, and BK Sister Pushpa.

When God creates Heaven out of Hell

Heaven is regarded by many people to be a place where God, divine beings, angels, or venerated ancestors live. It is described as a higher place, paradise, where there is no sorrow or suffering, and all live in unalloyed joy. Some people also believe that heaven will be created on Earth some time in future.

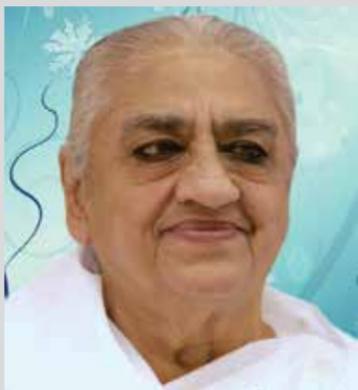
The Bible describes God as the ruler of heaven and Earth. Jesus is said to have spoken of the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven.

These conceptions of heaven assume that it is a place separate from our world, where not everyone can go.

The Book of Genesis says that, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters." This seems to suggest that heaven is a place created out of nothing by the will of God.

If that were the case, the question arises as to when was heaven created and how did it happen. How can a place be created out of nothing?

Blessings



When someone gives sorrow, it is up to us to take it or ignore it. If I give you rotten fruit would you take it? So why do you take sorrow? In fact, to take sorrow is a mistake. When we stay in our true self-respect we stop reacting emotionally to people's behavior. When we refuse to take the bad things they are giving, they will lose the habit of giving them.

Dadi Hirdaya Mohini

The quality of human souls determines whether our world is hell or heaven.

Indian religions speak of a *Deva lok*, a plane of existence where gods and divine beings exist. It is described as a place of eternal light and goodness where one can go as reward for performing charitable actions.

At the same time, Hinduism says that the process of creation moves in cycles, and that each cycle has four great epochs of time, namely *Satyug*, *Tretayug*, *Dwaparyug* and *Kaliyug*. Since the process of creation is cyclical and never-ending, it has no beginning or end, and goes on eternally.

Satyug is the period at the beginning of the cycle of time, when the world is in a pristine state, with all souls completely pure and the elements of nature unpolluted. Since the souls are free of any influence of vices, there is no pain or sorrow in that epoch, and there is unalloyed happiness. The world is heaven during that period of time.

But if this very world was heaven, how was it created?

As the cycle of time suggests, our world becomes heaven after the end of *Kaliyug*, which is the time when the world passes through its darkest phase. In the last stage of the cycle of time, souls and matter are devoid of their best qualities, worn out and polluted. The souls have gradually lost their virtues over successive lives and as a consequence are in the grip of weaknesses or vices such as lust, anger, ego and greed. Their actions, therefore, cause suffering, and as a consequence bring them sorrow.

Nature also gets ravaged by the depredations of vicious humans, and when the ecological balance is disturbed, the elements stop behaving as expected, causing natural calamities.

It is when sorrow, suffering and disorder in the world reach extreme proportions that God comes to this world to save His children and re-create heaven on earth, where His children can live in peace and joy once again.



God turns a world that has become hell into heaven. He does this by first reminding human souls of their identity—that they are souls, not bodies, and that peace, purity, love and truth are their innate qualities. He also tells them that they can regain their powers and virtues by remembering Him, the Almighty, which would enable them to overcome the influence of vices.

Through this purification and empowerment, the souls eventually achieve their original state, turning from ordinary humans into divine beings. When this happens, their actions are informed by their virtues, and they spread peace and happiness in the world. Their relationship with nature also becomes harmonious. When a critical number of souls is thus transformed, their actions bring about major changes, whereby the planet's ecological balance

is restored and all impurities are removed. The world, so to say, gets rejuvenated, and a new beginning is made as *Kaliyug* ends and *Satyug* dawns once again.

The Bhagavad Gita hints at this transformation, when God tells Arjuna that He incarnates in this world whenever unrighteousness reaches extreme proportions, to uplift the righteous, destroy evil, and re-establish a righteous order.

This metamorphosis from hell to heaven, brought about by God, takes place at the end of each cycle of time. Heaven and hell represent two different states of this world during different periods of time, with souls having corresponding experiences during those periods. The quality of human souls determines whether our world is hell or heaven. ■

(Purity Bureau)

The Cycle of Time

In the Golden Age, the journey of humanity was joyous and gentle. Sorrow was a concept that had not even been invented. The world and humanity were in perfect harmony.

The power of humanity began to fade and it was Silver Age, not as pure as gold, but still precious, still beautiful. Copper Age came. Human

beings had lived in bodies for so long that they believed they were bodies. Peace was replaced by inequality and unfulfilled desire.

There were great upheavals in nature. Believing they were bodies, people thought they could die. Fear was born.

The world has moved into the Iron Age, Religions have lost their power. Suffering, poverty and violence are part of life.

There is desire for power. Weapons have been invented that can wipe out humanity.

Iron age is humankind's darkest time.

