

# Toward a Culture of Harmony and Peace

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**"Peace is not a dream; it is hard work." Oscar Arias**

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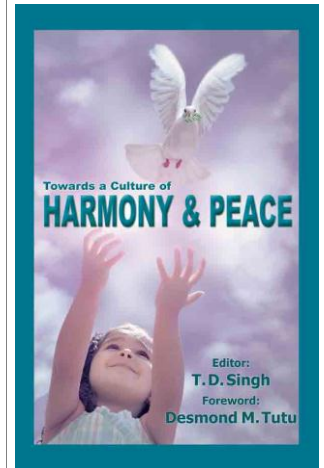
- Section 1: In search of world peace - An overview
- Section 2: The role of religious wisdom in achieving world peace
- Section 3: Role of inter-religious dialogue and interfaith cooperation for promoting a culture of peace
- Section 4: Science, religion and spirituality for promoting world peace
- Section 5: Social justice and empowerment for harmony and peace
- Section 6: Vision for a peaceful world

## This book will allow you to:

- ✓ With the help of scholars, discover in depth and benefit from the **teachings of**: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Judaism, Bahá'í faith.
- ✓ Be an **artisan** of your personal **internal peace**, and a source of **inspiration** for others around you, in any group of faith or community.
- ✓ Gather the **tools** and the courage to **sow** today the fruits that our children will gather tomorrow.
- ✓ Participate in **practical actions** and **positive changes**, to facilitate the **transition** from war to **peace**, from chaos to **orderliness**, from oppression to **freedom**, and from hatred to **love**.

- ♦ **How** to promote a culture of peace and healing? **What are the ways and means** for creating harmony? **Where** must peace be **first** built?
- ♦ "Any process of peace is **bound to collapse if this is missing**." What is "THIS", as taught by Rev. Desmond Tutu? Learn more about a great lesson, which will enable each one of us to quickly and effectively **improve our relationships** on a personal level (with our spouse, family members, friends), and which is useful as well for achieving reconciliation between religious groups and nations.
- ♦ From A.P.J. Abdul Kalam: "In my childhood one experience deeply touched me. ... I am 72 years old now and in my life I have never come across such a **beautiful message on the essence of life and how religions graduate into spiritual force**." What is this beautiful message?
- ♦ "**What really is peace?** ... Have you seen peace? ... Have you perceived it with any of your senses? ... How is it that we do not know what peace is?" Then, strangely... "How is it that we are able to instinctively recognize peace and want it? ... Why we miss it so much, when we do not have it?" Let's go deeper with Saidas Baba and see how we can have peace.
- ♦ "The word jihad, for example, is now routinely translated as "holy war", specifically the kind of "holy war" practiced by Muslims against unbelievers. This phraseology is **far removed from the true concept** of jihad in Islam." With Nobel Laureate Ahmed Zewail, let's highlight some of the **misunderstood principles** of Islam.
- ♦ In which **unique country** of the world is there **no anti-Semitism**, this country having welcome thousands of Jews and allowed them to peacefully live with their faith?
- ♦ Can **spiritual wisdom** be found by combining the **insights of religion** with the **tools and methods of science**? Let's discover more, with physicist Freeman J. Dyson.
- ♦ How to help realize that goodness or salvation is not the monopoly of any specific religion? How to leave behind dividing exclusive attitudes?
- What are the main causes of terrorism? Why and how can conflicts arise in the name of religion?** What is the root of misunderstanding and misconceptions?
- ♦ **How to develop spiritual eyes**, spiritual understanding, spiritual and moral qualities, in order to achieve **personal and social transformation**?
- ♦ How to bring the missing **wisdom and compassion**, along with **intellectual and economic resources**, to overcome the new challenges impelled by science and technology (competition, conflict, widening gaps)? How to encourage the growth of a **creative and compassionate global consciousness**? How to **aid developing countries**?
- ♦ Can we **preserve the earth** and generate a more **equitable and humane future**? (from Jerome Karle) And what about gender equity, poverty, social exclusion and global domination?
- ♦ Committing ourselves to **justice** (social, economical, political) to serve peace. (from Swami Agnivesh, Chair, UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Issues of Slavery)
- ♦ How to understand the meaning of a **universal connection with one another**? (from T. D. Singh)

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## Readership:

Religiously concerned persons participating (or desiring to participate) in Inter-Faith gatherings and positive actions for more Harmony and Peace in the world among all peoples,

Mediators, Conciliators, Coaches in Conflict Resolution,

Students and Teachers of Yoga, Philosophy, Comparative Religions, etc.

Individuals desiring a better world for themselves and for future generations to come,

Spiritual seekers, Non-violence, World Peace and Harmony seekers