



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

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The Midtowner

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Dr. V. J. S. Vohra

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PROGRAMME

Carbon Foot Prints

A New Paradigm for Indian Industry

Presentation by: PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma, Professor Emeritus
Energy Research Centre, Panjab University, Chandigarh

Please note change
to summer timing,
that is, 7.00 pm

Friday, April 06, 2012

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Sufies and Sufism – The way of Life

In the club meeting on March 30, 2012, the Chief Guest, Mr. Vijai Vardhan, IAS, Financial Commissioner & Principal Secretary (FCPS), Govt. of Haryana was introduced by Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua. A keen historian, Mr. Vardhan is BA (Hons) History and MA History from St. Stephens College, Delhi University. He represented the college in boxing, squash, badminton and cross country athletics. He joined IPS in 1984 and IAS in 1985. Mr. Vardhan has held multiple important assignments in Govt. of Haryana, and presently, he is FCPS in the department of Renewable Energy Sources. He has deep and abiding interest in mysticism, and has given presentations on Sufism, Confucianism and Taoism. He has also narrated poetry live in various festivals. He is also author of three books on Sufism.

Mr. Vardhan started his talk with a remark, "Rotarians are Sufies, and it is no surprise that I am speaking to you on Sufism." Sufism is one of the greatest mystical traditions of human history, and has produced countless numbers of enlightened beings throughout the centuries. It is a system of self-purification and development based on the life and character of the Prophet Muhammad. His was an example of how to live in perfect harmony and love with one's Creator and His creation.

Sufism evokes considerable interest amongst people mainly because of the mysticism associated with it and also because not much is known about the secrets of their knowledge. Sufism could be better understood only through participation and practice. The use of wool (Suf in Arabic) in clothing has characterized Sufis. Both Moses and Jesus used wool for their clothing and many of the Prophet Muhammad's companions also used wool, which was available easily and was cheap for them to afford. Use of coarse wool as clothing also reflected upon one's inclination towards austerity and renunciation of worldly pleasures.

To be a true human being, free from all bondage and honest with the Almighty is being a Sufi. Hakim Jami, a great scholar and Naqshbandi Sufi said do not be proud of your intellect and learning, for in the Sufi way your intellect hampers your progress and learning is stupidity. But this has to be understood in the right perspective. The Sufi is a complete man, with his essential personality reflecting from deep within. Sirajudin, a

scholar from Kashmir said a Sufi is a rose among roses and a thorn among thorns. Khwaja Hasan Sani Nizami, Sajjadanashin of Hajrat Nizamuddin's Dargah said a Sufi is liberal like the ocean, kind like the Sun and humble like a river. Sufi is lost in his Master's love. He is satisfied without food; shows opulence in poverty; joy in sorrow and loves even his enemies.

The Sufi lives only in the present. He does not think of yesterday or of tomorrow. He listens to his inner self and acts accordingly. For him the present moment is the moment to achieve his target. He does not wait for a better or an auspicious tomorrow. The Sufis are people with an open heart. They do not have any prejudices and their mind is not preoccupied with any bias towards any one.



Mr. Vijai Vardhan, IAS

The Sufis are pledged to the service of humanity which they consider to be their duty. They are the people of the highest morality. Sufism can be considered as something approaching a universal faith with liberal teachings and great tolerance as exhibited in the conduct of most of the Sufis.

India has always been a land of great saints, where Sufism in its true spirit has flourished from time immemorial. One of the most renowned and revered Sufi saints, Hajrat Nizamuddin Auliya was a disciple and chief successor of Baba Farid. Credit to a great extent goes to Hajrat Nizamuddin Auliya and his disciple Amir Khusro to take Sufism to every nook and corner of India.

Mr. Vardhan also explained the significance of figure 40 and gave a blissful display of Sufism through power point presentation which goes as follows:-

“A Sufi feels poor when he has wealth.
He feels wealthy when he is poor.
He is humble when he has power.
He hides when he has fame.”

“A Sufi feels sudden and inexplicable joy when faced with a misfortune.”

“A Sufi owns nothing. He is owned by nothing.”

“A Sufi is thankful not only for what he has been given but also for all that he has been denied.”

“There are more fake Gurus and false teachers in this world than the number of stars in the visible universe. Do not confuse power driven, self centred people with true mentors.”

“A genuine spiritual master will not direct our attention to himself or herself and will not expect absolute obedience or utter admiration from you, but instead will help you.”

“True mentors are as transparent as glass. They let the Light of Good pass through them.”

“Do not go with the flow. Be the flow.”

“Sufis do not judge other people on how they look or who they are. When a Sufi stares at someone, he keeps both eyes closed

and instead opens a third eye – the eye that sees the inner realm.”

“In this life stay away from all kinds of extremities, for they will destroy your inner balance. Sufis do not go to extremes. A Sufi always remains mild and moderate.”

“The earth and the sand are burning. Put your face on the burning sand and the earth of the road. Since all those who are wounded by love must have the imprint on their face and the scar must be seen. Let the scar of the heart be seen, for by their scars are known the men who are in the way of Love”. --- Prophet Muhammad

“What You Are Looking For Is What Is Looking For You.” --- St. Francis of Assissi

“All is contained in the divine breath. Like the day in the morning dawn”. --- IBNArabi

“The miracle of Jesus is Jesus himself – not what he said or did.”

Mr. Vardhan ended his presentation with a poem of Mansur Mastana, given below with translation:-

Agar hai shauka milne ka, to hardam lau lagata ja
Jalakar khudanumai ko, bhasama tana para lagata ja

If you want to merge with your most passionate Longing, you need to keep directing everything towards It. Let this I burn in



R'ann Urmil Luther welcomes Mrs. Sangeeta Vardhan, wife of Chief Guest Mr. Vijai Vardhan. Looking on are R'ann Gurinder Dua, Rtn. Deepa Bhar, PP Gurdip S. Deep and President R.K. Luther.



Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia presents a memento to Mr. Vijai Vardhan.

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Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh gets punctuality award from Mr. Vijai Vardhan.

the fire, and smear its ashes on the body

Pakara kada ishka ki jadu, sapha kara hizrai dil ko
Dui ki dhul ko lekar, musalle para udata ja

*Pick up the broom of Love, and sweep your heart clean
Take the dusts of duality and blow them out all over your
prayer mat*

Na ho Mulla, na ho bamman, dui ki choda kar puja
Hukam hai shah kalandara ka, analhaka tu kahata ja

*Dont become a Mulla or a Brahman (Muslim and Hindu
priests), leave duality behind as you worship The emperor of
Freedom has this command: Keep telling yourself: Analhak*



Mr. Vijai Vardhan presents birthday gift to Rtn. Daulat Ram Agarwal.

(I am God)

Kahe Mansura Mastana, haka maine dila me pahachana
Wahi maston ka mayakhana, usi ke beecha ata ja

*The poet of this prayer Mansur Mastana says, I have
recognized God within my own heart That is where the
ecstatic beings dwell, make sure to keep their company.*

There was an interesting interactive discussion between Mr. Vardhan and Rotarians, some of whom were quite knowledgeable about Sufism!

Vote of thanks was proposed by Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia. He thanked Mr. Vijai Vardhan for enlightening us with his presentation on Sufism.

Uniforms distributed by Sri Bharat Manthan Trust to Students of Blind Institute

A colourful function was arranged by Sri Bharat Manthan Trust on 31st March 2012 in Press Club, Sector 27, Chandigarh with an impressive musical evening. Mr. M.P. Singh, Principal Secretary to Governor of Punjab and Administrator (U.T.) Chandigarh was the Chief Guest on this occasion. His Holiness

Budh Puri, Punjab graced this function with his blessings on the Trust.

Students of Institute of Blind, Sector 26, Chandigarh delighted the audience with wonderful religious and other songs in

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presence of their Chairman Major General Rajinder Nath (Retd.) and Mr. K.R. Sood, Principal and their teachers.

It was an honour to have the presence of Rtn. Manpreet Singh, District Governor, RI District 3080, alongwith IPP Rtn. Prem Anand and Rtn. Deepak Sood, Vice President & PE (2013-14) of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown.

Mr. D.S. Grewal, Secretary CSCA, Chandigarh, along with fellow Senior citizens from Mohali and Chandigarh were also present.

Mr. M.P. Singh, Chief Guest and His Holiness along with

Founder Trustee Mr. Shashi Malhotra, Mr. N.S. Kalsi, Rtn. A.K. Puri and other Trustees distributed complete uniforms to all students of Blind Institute. Rtn. A.K. Puri is also one of Trustees of the trust.



Souvenir of Sri Bharat Manthan Trust was also released on the occasion.

Flash News
Source: www.eflashonline.org
Continue Fighting Polio!

Dear Rotary leaders,

I am glad to inform you that Dr. Dipankar Mukherjee RTL [East] WHO-NPSP confirmed at the SLPM today that 18 month old Sumi Naskar of Indrabala village, near Baruipur in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, admitted to hospital on 12 March 2012 with AFP has tested Negative for Polio Virus. [Remember this was the case which generated adverse publicity in Hindustan Times and shook the confidence of the Rotarians].

We can all start Smiling again and continue Fighting Polio!

April 15, National Immunization Day for Pulse Polio Immunization should be our focus now. Let us put all our efforts and make it 100% success.

Regards,

Dr. P. Narayana

Vice-Chairman, India National Polio Plus Committee

Get Well Soon

R'ann Sushobhita Sharma was hospitalized in PGI, Chandigarh. She has now been discharged and regaining her health at home. We wish her a very speedy recovery so that we soon see her in our meetings alongwith PPDr. S.K. Sharma.

Wedding Anniversary

- | | |
|---|----------|
| R'ann Seema & Rtn. Dr. Dinesh Sahajpal | April 06 |
| R'ann Pritpal & Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati | April 07 |
| R'ann Herpreet & PP Rtn. Col. A.J.S. Gill | April 09 |

Birthday of Rotarians

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Rtn. Praveen Aggarwal | April 09 |
| Rtn. Vijay Kumar | April 11 |



Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh

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