

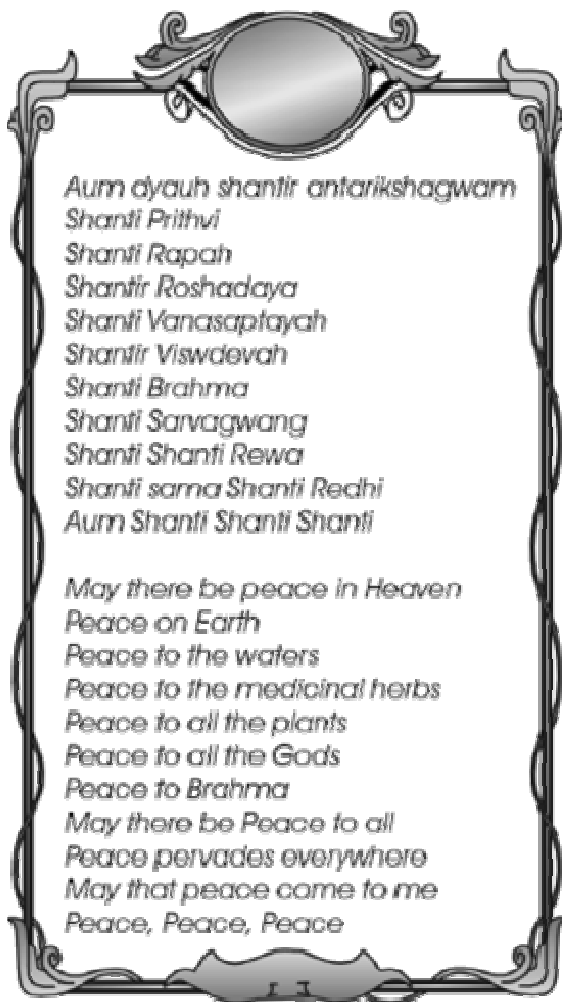
HINDU VIEWS: **ONENESS OF HUMANITY,** **PEACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**



“For, so sustained by sacrifice, the gods will give you the food of your desire. Who so enjoys their gift, yet gives nothing, is a thief, no more no less.” – Bhagavad Gita 3:12

“Unfortunately, Hindus have forgotten this Vedic view of the earth and don’t protect their natural environment. They have not added a (traditional) Hindu point of view to the ecology movement which is perhaps the main idealistic movement in the world today...part of the challenge of the modern Hinduism is to reclaim its connection to the earth.”

- Ajit Adhopia (December 2, 2001)



In the Assisi Declarations issued by a gathering of world religions in 1986, the Hindu statement was: *“The human role is not separate from nature. All objects in the universe, beings and non-beings, are pervaded by the same spiritual power.”*

Hinduism stresses the interdependence of man, both on each other and the planet it inhabits. It is thus that the Atharva Veda say *“We may believe in different religions...yet we share the same home – Our Earth...we must learn to happily progress together or miserably perish together. For man can live individually but can only survive collectively.”* Indeed, the Hindu texts seem to suggest that we all owe a responsibility to the environment not only for ourselves but also for the sake of those around us.

www.cuhcs.org.uk/sanskaar/article

“By its very nature, Hinduism is not a religion of a chosen people or an appointed community. It rejects the approach which divides humanity into believers and non-believers, kafirs and heathens. It regards such divisions as spiritually untenable. It expresses man’s seeking for truth; therefore, it belongs to all. Hinduism’s reach is not limited to humanity; its compassion reaches out to all, human and animal. It teaches compassion for all beings, on all planes.”

- Dr. Madan Lal Goel

The very common Hindu prayer, “Shanti Paath” (Prayer for peace) is essentially a prayer for peace to nature and everything around us.