

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE RAMADAN EID BANQUET AT AMIR MAHAL, CHENNAI
ON 08.06.2019 AT 8.00 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali,
Prince of Arcot

Thiru. M.M.Rajendran,
Former Governor of Odisha

Thiru. Gopalkrishna Gandhi
Former Governor of West Bengal

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me happiness to be here today to extend my greetings at the Banquet function organised on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting undertaken from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan.

The period of fasting was a period of spiritual reflection and increased devotion and worship, the intention behind the effort being the focus to redirect the mind and the heart away from selfish material activities and to focus on actions of generosity and charity. In fact Zakat, one of the pillars of Islam, is given special emphasis on this occasion.

In this context let me quote to you the words of the Prophet who said, "Charity is a duty. He who hath the means there to, let him do a good act and abstain from an evil one. That is his charity."

Similarly, The Rig Veda also says and I quote, "Assemble, speak among yourselves as one, be united in your minds, partake together of common benefits, may your aims be one and true, may your assembly be synthesized and harmonious: A common purpose do I lay before you;

Address your endeavours unitedly, common be your aim and your hearts united;

May you be of one mind that all may gain true happiness".

Saint Kabir in his beautiful poetic expression said that a river or stream does not dry up if a sparrow lifts a drop of the water through its beak. Similarly the wealth of a person does not get drained out or exhausted by charity to fellow human beings.

Christianity says “Know thou, that in the service of thy fellowmen, do thou serveth me.”

The underlying Unity that pervades all religions is clearly evident in all of the above.

How we see God is a direct reflection of how we see ourselves. If God brings to mind mostly fear and blame, it means there is too much fear and blame welled up inside us. If we see God as full of love and compassion, so are we full of love and compassion.

All religions preach ahimsa, love and compassion. The religion of humanity is explained by Swami Vivekananda who said and I quote, “It is a privilege to serve mankind, for this is the worship of God. God is here, in all these human souls. He is the soul of man.”

India a land of unity in diversity is home to people of all faiths. All through history our nation has witnessed the movement and migration of massive populations into its soil in search of food, shelter and refuge. Bharat, that is India, has given solace to all those who came to her, just like a Mother who feeds the children that run to her seeking comfort in her company. We can proudly say that the country has assimilated the cultures of all those who came to her and those who were already a part of her and enmeshed them into a common Indian cultural practice that is based on tolerance, brotherhood and forbearance.

I conclude with the words of Poet Saint Thiruvalluvar who in one of his couplets said and I quote,

“Smile, Charity, pleasant words and civility-These four are marks of true nobility.”

On this joyous occasion, I convey my warm felicitations to Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot and I wish that good health and well-being and prosperity be showered on all those assembled here. May Eid bring joy and serenity to your homes.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind....