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The concept that the diverse individuals that make up our world coexist as one mutual family is a core idea of Hindu philosophy. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam; “vasudha” meaning the Earth, “eva” representing emphasis and “kutumbakam” meaning family, is a widely renowned phrase in Sanskrit that appears in the Vedas. The values and morals instilled in the younger generation of Hindus by the older are suggestive of the idea that the well-beings of others is the mission of Indians and Hinduism. To exist as one entire family, no matter what your race, religion or beliefs, is something that the scriptures of Hinduism promote extensively. The *Ramayana*, *Bhagwad Gita* and the Vedas all include quotes on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

The most accepted and rarely criticized view on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam comes from the Vedas. Vedic literature is the oldest documented spiritual and philosophical text in the world. Ideally, it doesn't preach superiority of one religion over the other, but rather *sanatana dharma*; the eternal path for all living things with the basis on the nature of the soul. The belief in the Vedas had to do with universal brotherhood, or universalism in short. Modern science has concluded that from the writings of the Vedas, the human race spawned from one common mother and father millenniums prior to the world as we know it now. Race, creed, color and other less significant features were developed later on. This Sanskrit idea is found not in the *Rig Veda*, *Mahabharata*, not even in the *Puranars* or the *Manusmriti*, but rather the Hitopadesha. The *Hitopadesha*, a collection of Sanskrit fable in prose written in the 12th century BC, is a Vedic scripture with an infamous shloka that speaks to the world being one family: “This is my own and that a stranger- that is the calculation of the narrow-minded; for the magnanimous hearts however, the entire earth is but a family.”

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, essentially a spiritual and cultural topic, speaks to the central idea that one may perceive if they are a part of a family. Love, co-operation, harmony and mutual support are just a few of the various aspects that make a family whole. Why not then, apply this sense of family to the entire world? Hinduism is a complex religion, based on certain morals and values that we have learned from our gurus and scriptures. However, our philosophies are heavily centered around the core idea of peace; peace of mind, peace of heart and soul, and finally, peace amongst people and the world.

Various organizations based in India have been and are starting to introduce the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam to their specific communities and beyond. The literature of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) gives us a sense of the roots of the idea of the world living as a family, stresses that this is a mainly Indian belief, and incorporates the effects and drastic changes that could occur if the people in the world existed as one: “This gigantic idea, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, is an exclusively Indian contribution to world peace. This ancient nation evolved a world-view based on the motto “Loka samasta sukhina bhavantu”, meaning “Let the entire world be happy” long before any League of Nations or United Nations was thought of to avoid global strife. The Indian nation evolved this grand vision not by marching its armies and conquering the rest and offering peace; but by the inner-directed pursuit of universal values by the Rishis living in the forests and mountains of India.”

Science, however, can correlate to the idea of the world being one family. Darwin’s theories of evolution and natural selection seem to argue against this fact. After the discovery of *Pangea*, we now know that the seven continents had indeed been one whole unified pasture of land. Continental drift and the process of plate tectonics had shifted the Earth’s crust, altering the massive piece of land and placing the smaller sections in the arrangement they are today. Now if *Pangea* did exist, who are we to say that all humans at one point had not been equal? They all lived on the same stretch of land, so why couldn’t they all be the same in race, beliefs and habits? And lastly, if they could coexist mutually back then as a family, then why not now? The idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam can be shown through this point; that the world could have been living in harmony at one point in time. Who is to say that it cannot happen again?

The philosophy of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam is one that is debated on controversially and is sometimes not taken seriously. However, making the world into one family could in fact solve everything that is wrong. Race, religious beliefs, values and morals are a few things that separate the people that inhabit this Earth. However, all of this separation does have grave consequences. War, conflict, hatred, greed, lust, suffering, envy, the list could go on. The philosophy of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam is a Hindu belief, but it should be the belief of every single person, everything and everyone, whether they are religiously affiliated or not. To make the world a better place, and for us Hindu's to experience the path of *sanatana dharma*, Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam is something that we must continue to pursue no matter what the circumstances.