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Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam

We live in a world full of boundaries and borders. These borders lead to disputes. These disputes lead to violence and wars. Sometimes we believe that these terrible things are just a part of normal life and are inevitable. However, we can change all of this if we keep one important Vedic principle in mind. **Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam**. This short but important phrase means: “the world is one family”. Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam serves as a mantra for violence and dispute prevention, and the promotion of love.

Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam come from the words, “vasudha”, meaning earth, “eva”, meaning emphasize, and “kutumbkam”, meaning family. The mantra originates from the ancient Hindu text, the *Upnishad*, which also contains all of the main fundamentals to Hinduism. Although these ancient texts were not written by one particular author and their philosophies did not have a collective name. But these texts had such a universal concept, they became famously known as *Sanatan Dharma*, or ‘perennial duty’. Later this helped in the evolution of Hinduism. Henceforth, the phrase came to be known as a Hindu principle. This phrase basically wants to tell us that we all are related so we should love each other and do not fight. Even in scientific terms, this principle can be proved so beautifully true. As we all are made up of atoms which is the building block of the life or matter. So scientifically also we are related. This quote also reminds me of the first scene in the Hindi movie, *Paa*. In the movie, a child named Auro (played by Amitabh Bachchan) suffers from progeria like syndrome, which causes him to age faster. Although he was disabled, Auro’s level of thinking was high and creative. His creativity was showcased when he won an art competition for his project, a white globe. The white globe represented how the world could blend together and how there were no boundaries. Although to any eye, it would look like a plain white sphere, it served a deeper meaning behind it. If the world would learn to work together like a family and just get along, we could look a lot like Auro’s project. This again leads back to the principle of Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam. Also, many famous Indian figures have referred back to the term in their famous speeches and teachings. For example, Mahatma Gandhi taught that all parts of life were indivisible from non-violence. His point of view about the unity of all things accentuated that chances to investigate principles of non-violence existed even in the tiniest parts of everyday life, from following your own religion to respecting others and their beliefs, to careful attention to hygiene and sanitation. Therefore, you can see, Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam applies to many worldly concepts.

Although originated from the Hindu religion, Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam has been translated and used in many other songs, religions, and languages and has become a world-known concept. For example, the song “We are Family” by Sister Sledge uses the term “we are family” to refer

to how the whole world is her family. Also, some religions have indirectly taken up our concept of Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam. As an example, the religion of Christianity says that everyone is related because they are children of Jesus. The same way, we Hindus think that we all are family because we are the children of our Gods and Goddesses. Also, on a more modern term, one of the most famous social networking websites, Facebook, also lets you show your belief in Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam. The website allows you to show your relationships with people, in which you can include siblings, parents, spouses, etc. Of lately, most people are adding many of their close friends as their family members, which helps represent how many people consider people all over the world as a part of their family. For example, I, myself have made twenty-four of my non-blood related friends my siblings. Last but not least, the “King of Pop”, Michael Jackson, also promoted the term with his songs, “We are the World” and “Heal the World”.

Henceforth, Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam has made its way around the world and nearly everyone around the world has heard it in one way or the other. Whether it be through studying Hinduism, watching Hindi movies, listening to music, studying other religions, or through the internet. Therefore, the world should get together, chant and practice, “Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam”. This would definitely work to make the world be a white globe without violence and disputes!