

PERENNIAL PHILOSOPHY ('kk'oroknh n'kZu)

'Perennial' word comes from Latin root 'Philosophia Perennis', means Perennial wisdom, is a new perspective in modern spirituality, that explains or views all the world's religious traditions as sharing a single, metaphysical truth or origin from which all Esoteric (for Eternal/Spiritual/specific) to Exoteric (common/general) knowledge and doctrine has grown with (Sanatan Dharma).

India has global cosmopolitan culture, one of the oldest and longest traditions of philosophical thinking as Perennial Philosophy or Ideology in the world. This tradition covers the Vedic Period, the period of Buddhism, Jainism, the ages of the Epics and Puranas, the other philosophical systems of Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, Vedanta [The Prasthan Trayi (izLFkku =:h)], the trio-logy includes – Brahma Sutra/Upanishads/Gita philosophy i.e. Nyaya Prasthan (U;k; izLFkku), Shruti Prasthan (Jqfr izLFkku), Smriti Prasthan (Le`fr izLFkku).

Indian philosophy represents itself as Perennial as, humanistic and scientific, practical and theoretical correlating vision, which leads to a **correct way of thinking** as well as **Right way of thinking/living**, man being at the center of all cognitive enterprises, all philosophical activities, instead of ending in intellectual exercise, subverse, a larger purpose of answering questions, about the life and death, the destiny of man, the nature of thinking and all about four **Purusharthas**.

1. **Dharma** – Righteousness – Moral Values
2. **Artha** – Prosperity – Economic Values
3. **Kama** – Pleasure, Love , Psychological Values
4. **Moksha** – Liberation – Peace, Transcendental Stage Of Life – Spiritual Values

Aldous Huxley gave the definition of Perennial Philosophy, "The perennial philosophy is a comparative study of mysticism. It derives from the theological traditions of the Philosophia Perennis."

It is said that Indian philosophy has very much clearest, integrated and comprehensive human philosophy, as it has the highest values of life to achieve Salvation, liberation, Self Realization or

Moksha, the four ashramas (phases of Life) are the base of Indian Tradition and culture i.e. Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Banaprastha, Sanyaas. The main objective of these stages of life is to prepare mind for highest knowledge of Brahman; Inculcate cultivate and foster the seminal (basic/ekSfyd) values to quintessential (human/loksZRre) values, both ephemeral (vYidkfyd) to Eternal (lukru) Perennial values.

WHY IS INDIAN PHILOSOPHY CALLED TO BE PERENNIAL

Indian Philosophy denotes the philosophical speculations of all Indian thinkers, ancient to modern, Hindus or Non-Hindus, Theists or Atheists. Indian Philosophy discusses the different problems of Metaphysics, Ethical, Logical, Psychological and Epistemological, therefore, Indian philosophy has a synthetic or comprehensive outlook.

Indian philosophy is marked to its unflinching devotion to the search for truth. Indian philosophy believes in an Eternal moral order in the Universe, means Spiritualism.

All Indian great thinkers conceptualized the real meaning of education, as the development of Innate Human Potentialities or Social orientation of the Human being or as Spiritual Pursuit (act to achieve a plan).

From ancient to modern contemporary, all the great visionaries, by their revolutionary, indigenous and path breaking thoughts and actions have left a lasting impact not only in India but on the world as a whole.

NEED OF PERENNIAL PHILOSOPHY TODAY

The entire world is tremendously disturbed today, predominantly due to Religious intolerance, ignorance, fanaticism, terrorism, dogmaticism, and presently with Pandemic Disaster. Solutions to these worldwide problems are from the ideals of Indian Philosophy as Unity, Values, Ethics, Love, Friendship, Spiritual Secularism, Respect to all Citizens/Human Beings, Empathy, Open-Mindedness, Honesty, Commitment, Compassion, Courage, Leadership, Loyalty, Reliability, Creativity and Positive Attitude are the core values. To foster these values, Right education is perhaps the most cherished goal of any human civilization. Today education with Ethics only, can address the problem. Right Knowledge is the best method to contribute to a better world, there is a need to sharpen the perception of the world and add meaning to the human lives. The

goal of life should be to manifest the divinity within. Integration of **thought, words** and **action** is very important. The main aim of education should be Good Moral Character, Moral Life, Development of Personality, Total Development, Conservation of Culture and Universal Values.

Prof Nupur Sen