

## Protect Hindu Culture to Sustain Diversity - Pujya Swamiji

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Flaying the western theological belief that considers human beings as 'born sinners', Swami Dayananda Saraswati pointed out in vivid contrast Hindu culture nurtured divinity within oneself by encouraging different forms of worship to realise Eswara which co-exist in harmony.

In order to preserve the world religions and different cultures associated with them, it was very much necessary to protect Hindu culture which per se accepted diversity in theological beliefs and lifestyle so long as they all led the way to realise Eswara (the supreme being). 'We need to be aware of different sampradaya (traditional concepts) of Hindu culture and their importance to recognise that knowledge is right here, right now.

Moreover, we have to be grateful that we belong to Hindu dharma that glorifies the purity of human body rather than calling ourselves a sinner in this world,' he said.

The Swamiji was giving a discourse on the occasion of felicitation organised by Dharma Rakshana Samithi, a spiritual forum, to mark his 80th birthday in Chennai on Monday.

Dwelling on personality growth, he said one cannot claim ownership of knowledge, money or possessions for one had to be at

the 'right place at the right time' which was the result of destiny.

Pointing at himself, the revered Swamiji said for an ascetic like him it was a process of continuous learning with so many teachers in the course of his life.

'There are lots of hidden variables in life to be at the right place at the right time and sometimes, I had to learn the hard way. But at the same time, everything is given to us including the physical body and one does not have the right to abuse it for he or she cannot claim its total ownership,' he explained.

But at the same time, everyone has to search to claim their true nature to accomplish things in life and for this a basic understanding of the immanent nature of Eswara as propounded by Hinduism would be indispensable.

While awareness has been created to preserve the existing flora and fauna in the world, a vibrant living culture of Sanatana Dharma should be protected despite efforts to destroy it.

'We have to be alive to the reality and the need to protect Hindu dharma which has to retained in its diverse forms and spirit for sustenance of other cultures of the world,' he declared.

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting S Jagathrakshakan said the ashrams and gurukulams being run by the Swamiji focused on Vedic chanting and taught Upanishads which in effect contributed to the welfare of mankind.

The Swamiji elaborated on complex philosophical issues through simple discourses which helped one and all, he said.

Sakthi group of companies chairman N Mahalingam recalled the ceaseless efforts of the Swamiji in the propagation of Sanatana Dharma. The industrialist called for joint research by Indian and foreign varsities with focus on linguistic science to trace the ancient roots of Hindu civilisation.

He informed the temple chariots in Thiruvudaimaruthur were getting ready for procession with timely help from Swamiji.

TVS Motor Company CMD Venu Srinivasan and Thiagarajar Mills Ltd managing director Karumuthu T Kannan noted that Arsha Vidya Gurukulam has been promoting inclusive growth by covering the neglected sections of the population who were left out of economic progress.

Moreover, those who generate wealth have to set aside a part of it for charitable cause in order to protect Hindu dharma, they said.

Dharma Rakshana Samithi vice-president S Gurumurthy noted that fundamentalism was alien to Hindu culture and its people

were mostly governed by self-restraint brought about by spiritual bonding. 'Nowhere in the world do we have a country of more than 7 lakh villages with just 12,400 police stations which only showed that we are not governed by state or police, but through our strong religious beliefs,' he said.

Paying her respect on the occasion, Latha Rajnikanth, wife of actor Rajnikanth, said a special hall on the premises of her Ashram group of schools was dedicated to nurture teachings and principles of Dayananda Saraswati.

She also said a charity event was being planned to mobilise resources for AIM for Seva being run by Swamiji. 'We are witnessing a golden period of Vaithika Dharma under the leadership of Swamiji,' Latha Rajnikanth said.

The members of Youth for Dharma took a pledge to fulfill the social mission and objectives of Swami Dayananda Saraswati on the occasion.

Earlier, children of Isai Mazhalai run by 'Abaswaram' Ramji performed a Carnatic recital followed by a dance show choreographed by Association of Bharatanatyam Artistes of India (ABHAI) president Dr Padma Subrahmanyam in which 96 budding talent showcased their skills.

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