



## An Expression...

There was this Hindu who saw a scorpion floundering around in the water. He decided to save it by stretching out his finger, but the scorpion stung him. The man still tried to get the scorpion out of the water, but the scorpion stung him again.

A person standing tried to stop him from saving the scorpion that kept stinging him.

But the Hindu said: "It is the nature of the scorpion to sting. It is my nature to love. Why should I give up my nature just because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting?"

*Don't give up loving.*

*Don't give up your goodness.*

*Even if people around you sting.*

As we celebrate Diwali, Eid, Thanksgiving, and Gujarati New year, the compassion for nature and one another will help us reach God and to the ultimate pleasure and peace.

Another saying goes - Buddha did *tapasya* (penance) under a banyan tree for years and ultimately

discovered that God exists within every human heart in the form of love, compassion, understanding and all positive attributes that human kind is capable of.

God's messengers such as Krishna among Hindus, Jesus among Christians, Mohammad among Muslims and Gautama among Buddhists have some common threads that weave through their lives. These are love, compassion, understanding, commitment and respect for all living creatures. Each one of these faithful pioneers demonstrated these qualities through their work, their teachings and their lives. It must, therefore, be assumed they were demonstrating the way our creator expects us to live.

Sue Monk Kidd wrote in her book *Firstsight* that "Living out the compassionate being means blending our tears with the world's, in a way that heals and creates community". The word compassion is not, therefore having a sentimental feeling of pity, it is sharing of the pain. It means a "suffering-with" that flows from the life of God in the soul, not from egotistical motivations.

When compassion wakes up in us, we find ourselves more willing to become vulnerable, to take the risk of entering the pain of others. We open our lives to them in a genuine willingness to be known. We tell them our own story of suffering as a way of offering healing and hope. We feel their heart bleeding into ours, we catch their tears. We relieve their pain as much as we are able to, and by relieving theirs, we relieve God's."

As Gandhi has once said that, "*all human beings can only hope toward understanding God and aspire to reach salvation*", which he defined as living a life of compassionate service, sacrifice and satisfaction. Gandhi believed that greatest religion was to ensure that we- wipe the tears from every eye and bring hope and decency to every life wherever they may be. Gandhi wrote "*I do dimly perceive that whilst everything around me is ever-changing, ever-dying, there is underlying all that change a Living power that is changeless, that holds all together, that creates, dissolves and re-creates. That informing power or spirit is God*"



# Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



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*...For I can see that in the midst of death life persists, in the midst of untruth truth persists, in the midst of darkness light persists, Hence I gather that God is life, truth and Light. God is Love. God is the Supreme Good."*

Resource- "God without religion by Arun Gandhi, Firstsight by Sue Mon Kidd-

*Phalguni Kikani*

## Good News....!!

VVM Website is Now Running.  
Visit us at  
[www.vvmhouston.org](http://www.vvmhouston.org)

## March Goes On...

When Vallabh Vidya Mandir was organized our vision was to provide useful solid education and make it full of fun. Both would go hand-in-hand. This will encourage more and more children to join us and their parents to support us. We knew we ought to provide "VALUE".

In the last twelve months we have deliberately taken some steps to create infrastructure conducive to good education. We furnished our

classrooms with contemporary, sturdy and comfortable furniture and excellent writing surfaces (marker boards), we purchased bulletin boards and built all wood cabinets for our library and storage. We also furnished VVM office with nice furniture, computer and printer / copier. To communicate with students, parents and well wishers we started publishing newsletter and developed a very informative WEB Site. All these are solid steps towards good education.

Now we have turned our attention to "FUN Part". We propose to install a nice playground that will provide playing pleasure, exercise opportunities and a place for students to spend their free time in company of their friends. This will also encourage more students to join VVM and help us grow.

The proposed playground will be contemporary, safe, ADA compliant, and attractive. It will be fenced and lighted and furnished with certain amenities. The playground will be designed for 2 – 12 year olds. It will consist of swings, physical challenge events, climbers, overheads, play panels and slides to provide variety of

activities and abundant fun. The playground will be designed, furnished and installed by an experienced, reputable supplier. We also propose to install two nice basket ball systems selected by and for the teenagers.

## Our Thanks...!!

To Sri Udayan Parikh for his wonderful seminar on "Importance of Music in Human Life"

It is estimated that it will take \$60,000 to accomplish our goal. A fund raising drive has begun and so far during Diwali celebration we have received 24 pledges to contribute over \$15,000. An updated list of pledges is regularly posted on our bulletin board. Please review that list at least once a week to see the progress made. We have made a good start but we still need to go a long way. There are many well wishers who have come forward with strong endorsement of our plan. They have pledged to donate \$1,001, \$501 or \$251. We request all the parents of VVM students to contribute funds based on the number of children they have in



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the family: one child (\$151), two children (\$201) and three or more children (\$251). These are modest amounts to invest for an improvement that will provide benefit for many years to come. Funds will continue to be pledged by many more well wishers but it is our belief that parents can and should show their support for a project of which their own children will be immediate beneficiaries.

So come forward and open your heart and wallet and fill out the pledge form available at the VVM Office for the proposed playground. Modest individual contributions will help us achieve our goal collectively. And the sooner we can do it, sooner our children will enjoy it!

*Sureshbhai Patel*

## VVM Youth Group

The Youth Group will have its next meeting on **November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.**

*For details please contact: VVM office.*

## Holiday Gift Drive

Holiday Gift Drive will be held at Vallabh Vidya Mandir. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Please bring an unwrapped gift for around

## UpComing Events..

December 10, 2006 @ 1 PM  
Free Workshop  
**Beauty and Skin Care**  
(Pre-packed Lunch Boxes will be provided for \$3)

\$10. Our Volunteer teacher Ms Neena Desai will make sure the [gifts get to the needy children](#). Ms. Desai is involved with homeless shelters and Red Cross Society. Pls. bring the gift before **December 16, 2006.**

## No Classes..

November 26, 2006

Due to  
**Thanksgiving!**

## Free Workshop

“Managing Personal Finance”–  
by  
Mr **Nitin Kapadia** – Merrill  
Lynch  
**Nov 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM**  
(Pls Register at the Front Desk)