



# iNTERFAITH iNSIDER

SAIT Interfaith Centre Monthly Newsletter.

## Love, Hindu Style...

Greetings and salutations, my name is Basanta Dahal and I am an inquisitive student at SAIT College. As a Hindu, I am captivated by the multifaceted perspectives on the love that are woven throughout the fabric of my faith.

In Hinduism, love is a complex and multi-faceted concept that holds great significance in both religious and cultural contexts. The ancient Hindu scriptures, such as the Vedas and the Bhagavad Gita, describe love in many forms, including devotion towards the divine, selfless love for others, and romantic love between couples. This love is viewed as a means of attaining spiritual growth, union with the divine and promoting compassion and kindness towards others.

Devotion towards the divine is a central aspect of Hinduism and is expressed through acts of love and worship towards the gods and goddesses. This type of love is seen as pure, selfless, and limitless, and is considered to be a means of attaining union with the divine. In Hinduism, it is believed that devotion to the divine leads to a state of inner peace and happiness, and can help individuals overcome obstacles and difficulties in life. Selfless love for others is also a central aspect of Hinduism and is viewed as a means of promoting compassion, kindness, and generosity. This type of love is considered to be an important aspect of the Hindu concept of Dharma, which is the moral and ethical code of conduct for individuals. By showing love and compassion towards others, individuals can promote positive energy and create a more harmonious world.

In Hindu marriages, love between partners is considered an important aspect of a successful union. The Hindu wedding ceremony is built around the idea of the couple's love for each other and the commitment they make to each other. Love between partners is seen as a means of promoting mutual understanding, trust, and support. It is also considered a means of promoting spiritual growth, as partners support each other on their spiritual journeys. Valentine's Day, on the other hand, is not a widely celebrated event in Hindu culture. It is viewed as a Western observance and some Hindus may choose to celebrate it, while others may not find it relevant to their beliefs and customs. In Hinduism, there are many traditional festivals and celebrations that revolve around the themes of love and devotion, such as Holi, Diwali, and Navratri. These festivals often involve acts of kindness and generosity, as well as communal gatherings and festivities.

As a Hindu, I find these perspectives on love to be deeply meaningful and relevant to my life and beliefs. Regardless of the specific form of love, it is seen as a means of promoting positivity, compassion, and spiritual growth in individuals and communities.

**February Events**

Interfaith Interface

Topics:

Feb 3 - "World

Interfaith Harmony

Week"

Feb 10 - "Valentine's

Day"

Feb 17 - "What is

Mahayana New Year?"

Feb 7 - World Interfaith Harmony Week - Labyrinth Walk

Drop in from 11am to 2pm in Macdonald Hall for a chance to walk SAIT's Labyrinth and engage in thought provoking discussion with others from various faiths over coffee, tea and sweet treats.

**Interfaith Interface**

A safe, inclusive and inspiring activity where students come together to engage in thought-provoking dialogue.

Fridays 1:30pm in MB305, Stan Grad.

sait.ca/interfaith

Interfaith Centre, MB305, Stan Grad Centre



**A Lenten Reflection**

- Reverend Cristino Bouvette

*Excuse me, I think you have something on your face...*

Any Christian who observes the traditional season of Lent has likely heard this statement from some well meaning person on some Ash

Wednesday. This day which initiates Christians' observance of this holy season the world over undertake the most bizarre of customs. Taking ashes from the burned palm branches we used in the previous year on the day of another interesting custom (yes, we wave palm tree branches on the Sunday before Easter as we are coming into church that day to re-enact Jesus' entrance into the city of Jerusalem days before His death) a priest or other minister takes those ashes and places them on our heads. In ancient custom, they were sprinkled on the crown of the head and in more recent times, they are taken and smeared on the forehead in the shape of a cross. This is typically what we receive now, hence why on Ash Wednesday every year, unsuspecting people assume there is an uncanny number of people walking around who evidently didn't wash their faces!

Why would Christians observe such a strange custom? In part, there was an ancient observance as a gesture of mourning or repentance of placing ashes from the fireplace on one's head. It helped demonstrate a willingness to show outwardly that someone was aware of their personal sinfulness. Having been adopted as a Christian custom, it also took on the significance of the death we are all destined to face. Traditionally, as the ashes are being put on the head, the minister says a line from the Book of Genesis which God spoke to Adam after his sin: Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return (Gen. 3:19). In the same way that those living palm branches eventually withered, died and were reduced to ash, so, too, do we believe we will follow. Yet, the hope we share as Christians is that Jesus Christ, by His death and resurrection from the dead, promises life after death. At the beginning of our Lenten observance, we remind ourselves of the death caused by sin but we conclude celebrating with joy the gift of everlasting life at Easter. So if you see some dirty faces around campus on February 22- you'll know why!

**WIHW events happening around Calgary**

**FEB. 1 UNWIHW OPENING CEREMONY**

7 - 8:30 p.m. The Atrium at City Hall. Greetings from Mayor Jyoti Gondek, with Calgary Interfaith Council members and friends.

**FEB. 2 STRANGERS TO NEIGHBORS POTLUCK**

6:30 - 8 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 30 Everstone Blvd. S.W. Great food, great conversation, family friendly.

**FEB. 3 ATTENDING TO SPIRIT: SPIRITUALITY AND CHILDHOOD HOPE IN CHRONIC ILLNESS**

3 - 4:30 p.m. on Zoom. Dr. Duane Bidwell, 2023 Chair of Christian Thought, Swanson Lecture in Christian Spirituality.

**FEB. 5 CIC INTERFAITH DISCOVERY**

4 - 5:15 p.m. on Zoom. Sharing wisdom from our traditions and stories from our lives on the theme: From Strangers to Neighbours.

**FEB. 7 INTERFAITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD**

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Details to follow.

**FEB. 7 UNWIHW CLOSING CEREMONY**

7 p.m. on Zoom. Join us virtually in a time of sharing and remembering together.



"We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

— Maya Angelou