

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS

VISIT BY CARDINAL TAURAN TO JAIN TEMPLE AT OSHWAL CENTRE

14TH JUNE 2013

Eminence, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure, in the absence of our Chairman, Mr Nemu Chandaria, to conclude this event and to present a vote of thanks. A sudden need for Mr Nemu Chandaria to travel has pushed me at the deep end, so I owe my thanks to him for this situation. In reality, he has done most of the work of coordinating and planning this event and we are all grateful to him. I take the liberty to mention Mr Jaysukh Mehta who kept the planning team informed and updated at all times. Whilst Mr Nemu Chandaria provided the coordination, working with him was Mr Raaxeet Shah, President of the Oshwal Association of the United Kingdom and a strong team from both organisations. This is a good example of the Institute working with Jain organisations. We are grateful to the Oshwal Association and all those who were involved in planning, preparing and producing this successful day.

Institute of Jainology, over the past 25 years, has represented Jains, Jain organisations and Jain philosophy at all levels without any sectarian bias. We continue to participate in interfaith activities in the UK as well as abroad and always nominate a Jain representative according to need.

Our association with The Holy See dates back a long way, in fact to 1993, and I had the pleasure of representing the Jain faith at The Day of Prayer for Peace – Assisi, 24th January 2002. We are grateful to The Holy See and more specifically to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue for the on-going relationship between the two faiths. For the event today, we are grateful to His Eminence, his staff and the staff of the Office of Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales, especially Mrs Katharina Smith-Mueller who has coordinated the event to a successful conclusion today.

To make this event successful, a lot of individuals have worked very hard. It is very difficult to name all of them, so may I request you to put your hands together for one and all at the same time.

Representatives of Jain organisations, Catholic organisations, MPs and other dignitaries who have spared their time on a busy working day have made this day a special one. Let us appreciate their presence.

I have avoided mentioning names in my delivery. However, I feel that those who have made special efforts to travel from overseas deserve a special mention:

Mr Bakul Mehta and Mrs Saroj Mehta from Oman

Mr Girish Shah & Mrs Sushila Shah from Los Angeles
Dr Manish Mehta from Detroit

We thank them for their special effort and their presence at today's celebration.

Before I conclude, I am inspired to take this opportunity to propose two special messages on behalf of the congregation present here today:

We send a message to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second on the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of her coronation.

We send a message to The Holy Father, Pope Francis on his Papal appointment.

We pray for their good health, a long life, peace and prosperity everywhere.

Many of you know the Jain recitation for peace and may join me:

श्री श्रमणसंघस्य शांतिर्भवतु,	Shraman sanghasya	in the four-fold community
श्री जनपदानां शांतिर्भवतु,	Janapadanam	unto the nation
श्री राजाधिपानां शांतिर्भवतु,	Rajadhipanam	unto the ruler
श्री राजसन्निवेशानां शांतिर्भवतु,	Rajsanniveshanam	unto the palace
श्री गोष्ठिकानां शांतिर्भवतु,	Goshtikanam	unto the assembly
श्री पौर-मुख्याणां शांतिर्भवतु,	Pauramukhyanam	unto the mayor of the city
श्री पौरजनस्य शांतिर्भवतु,	Paurajanasya	unto the people of the city
श्री ब्रह्मलोकस्य शांतिर्भवतु।	Brahmalokasya	unto the cosmos

ॐ स्वाहा, ॐ स्वाहा, ॐ श्री पार्श्वनाथाय स्वाहा।

And, as I always say, there is no event without an audience! Please give it up for all of you.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. I now request Mr Ashish Patani to guide us for the rest of the programme.