

Sant Kirpal Singh

World Conference 1974

Chapter 10









# World Conference On Unity Of Man Feb. 1974

I hope you will carry  
this very practically in  
your lives. God bless  
you all.

Sant Kirpal Singh

# Conference Report

The World Conference on Unity of Man commenced on 3 February, 1974 under the sponsorship of Sant Kirpal Singh and ended on 6 February, 1974



**Religious, political and social leaders** from all over India and some hundred delegates from all over the world, nearly from 30 countries, participated in the Conference.

The World Conference on Unity of Man had a memorable start with a great procession – a demonstration of unity: well over hundred thousand men, women, and children from eighteen countries of the world of different races, nationalities and creed marched along the three and half miles distance on the main thoroughfares of Delhi to reach Ramlila grounds, the venue of the Conference. Sant Kirpal Singh and the heads of various religious formations walked in front of the procession.

Over four hundred delegates from all parts of the world and two thousand from all over India participated in the deliberations.

The religious and political leaders who came included: Nichidatsu Fuji, Buddhist leader from Japan; Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, head of the International Order of the Sufis; Acharya Sri Tulsi Ji, Jain Leader; Dr. Angelo Fernandes, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Delhi; Lama Kushak Bakula, Head Lama from Ladakh; Mufti Atquil Rehman, Muslim leader, as well as Indira Gandhi with her cabinet, and many others, as for example the Vice-President of India Dr. G. S. Pathak, the Defence Minister Sri Jagjivan Ram, Dr. Karan Singh, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Swaran Singh.

In addition to these many other ministers of the Union of India, members of Parliament, and state officials addressed the Conference or took part in the panel discussions.

Above and right: Procession in Delhi on the morning of 3 February, which opened the World Conference on Unity of Man









## Welcome Address

by Sant Kirpal Singh, President of the World  
Conference on Unity of Man, 3 February, 1974

Dear brothers and sisters,

**I am happy to greet you all**, who have gathered here from all over the world. In this momentous session we have to explore and find out ways and means to cement and strengthen the solidarity of mankind. Nations, like individuals, are swayed by passions, prides and prejudices which create chasms in the real social order which are very often difficult to span. We are living in an age of decadence, when moral and spiritual values are at their lowest ebb. With all these drawbacks and the numerous divisive tendencies, there is still a ray of hope of regeneration and reorientation. This very hope has brought us together.

Sant Kirpal Singh during the conference, 3 February, 1974

The problem before us is how to bring about a change in man's heart and effect his inner conversion so that he can see truly and clearly and learn to discriminate between truth and untruth. Since this lies beyond the scope of the body and intellect, it can only come about through an inward illumination of the divine wisdom in the sanctuary of the soul. This is the individual aspect of the matter. We also have to forge abiding bonds of kinship among the nations of the world so that they will treat each other with genuine courtesy based on inward love and friendliness, and seek the welfare of all members of the human family, transcending their political ideologies which create rivalries and international tensions.

All mystics, Eastern and Western, have believed in the possibility of direct communion with the Spirit and Power of God through love and contemplation, without the aid of reason and logic. It puts man on the road to inwardness – not to be confused with escapism – with an active living morality as the essential prerequisite.

This is the religion of spirit – or the science of the soul – and through it an individual finds his proper relation to the universe by establishing contact with God through His expression, the Power called Naam, Shabd, Kalma or Word which is the Maker, permeating and controlling all creation.

The relationship with this Power is achieved by developing reverence for life at all levels of existence without distinguishing between high and humble – including man, birds, beasts, and lower species. The non-human forms are the younger members of the family of God. This idea of the sanctity of life is a living religion of love in the innermost part of our being. True theism cannot be reasoned out intellectually or felt on the level of emotions; it proceeds from true knowledge, which is an action of the soul in perfect harmony beyond the senses. This is what is called “spirituality” – the contact of the soul with the Oversoul – and it is achieved by rising above body-consciousness through practical self-analysis, a demonstration of which can be given by an adept in the process. We call it “Para Vidya” (the Knowledge of the Beyond) because it lies beyond our sensory perceptions.

This science of the soul is not something new; it is the most ancient teaching of all. The way back to God is of God's own make and stands on its own, without the necessity of scriptural support to uphold its authenticity. But unmistakable references in the scriptures of all religions from the earliest times to the present day bear witness to the Unmanifest Reality in its primordial form of Light and Sound.

Such conferences in the past have been organized at the level of religions, and consequently have not been able to achieve integration in the required measure. A significant feature of this conference is that it is being organized at the level of man, as envisioned by Saints and prophets like Socrates, Buddha, Mohammed, Christ, Kabir, and Nanak, so that it may lead to true integration. The challenging task before the religious and spiritual leaders is to bring about a radical change in the ethical, educational and economic status of humanity. Economic uplift is essential because “a hungry man is an angry man” and to talk of God to him is a mockery.

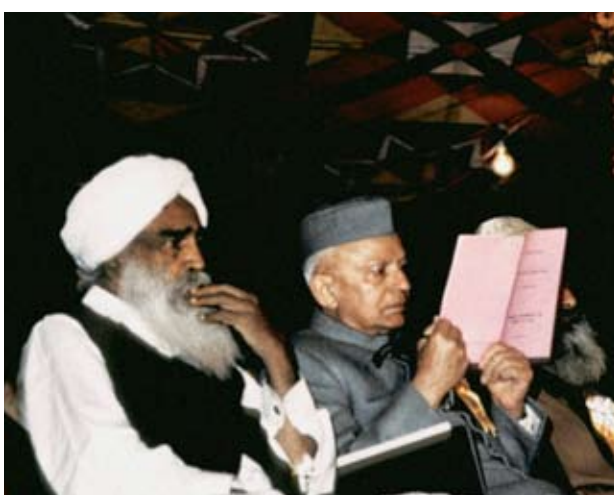
I am confident that each one of us fully realizes the significance of this cosmopolitan meeting and will extend his wholehearted support toward the fulfillment of its objectives: developing human understanding and heralding the unity of mankind. Let us pledge ourselves to this task, transcending all narrow allegiances and commitments, and stand united and resolute until its ultimate fulfillment. **Extract**

## Political And Religious Leaders

We are all one it is true, but we have not yet become one. When will that be? When we see Him in all and all in Him.



Seated left to right: Sant Kirpal Singh and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, 5 February, 1974

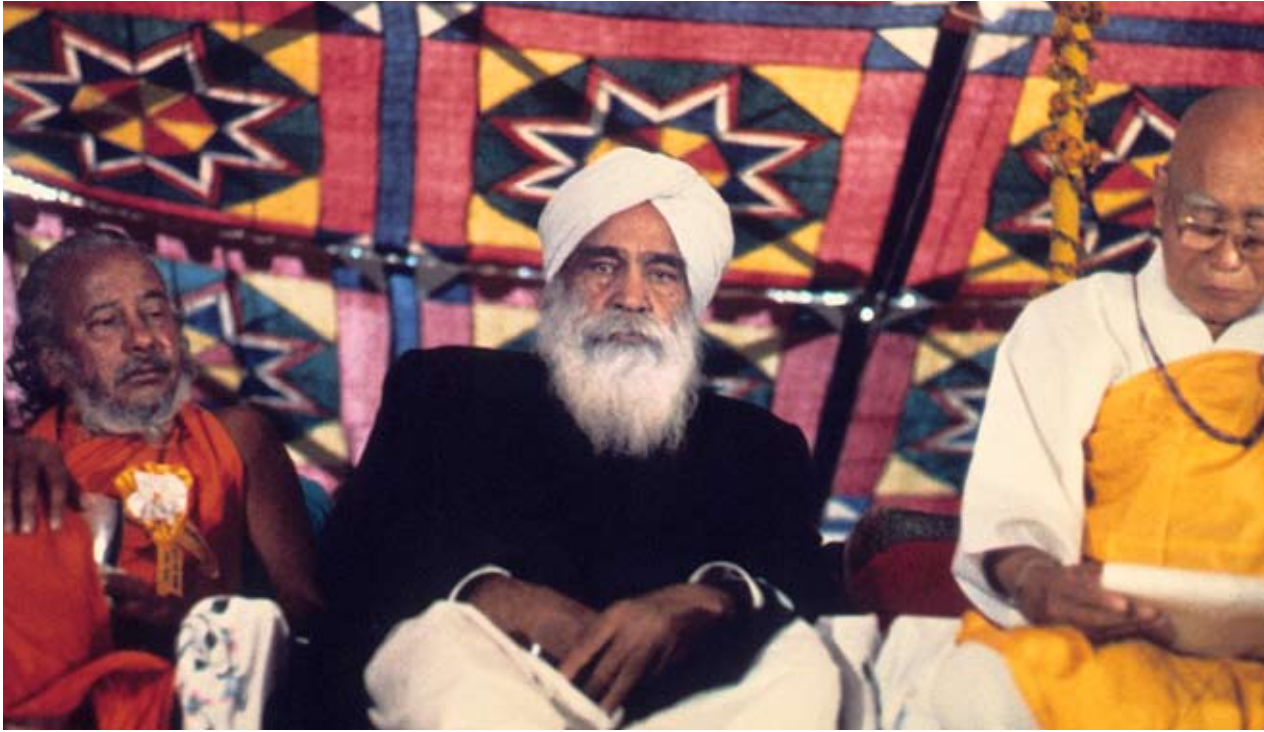


Inaugural Address by Dr. G.S. Pathak, Vice-President of India, 3 February, 1974



Sant Kirpal Singh greets the Defence Minister Shri Jagjiwan Ram, 4 February, 1974





Seated left to right: Swami Ved Vyasand, Sant Kirpal Singh and Nichidatsu Fuji, 4 February, 1974



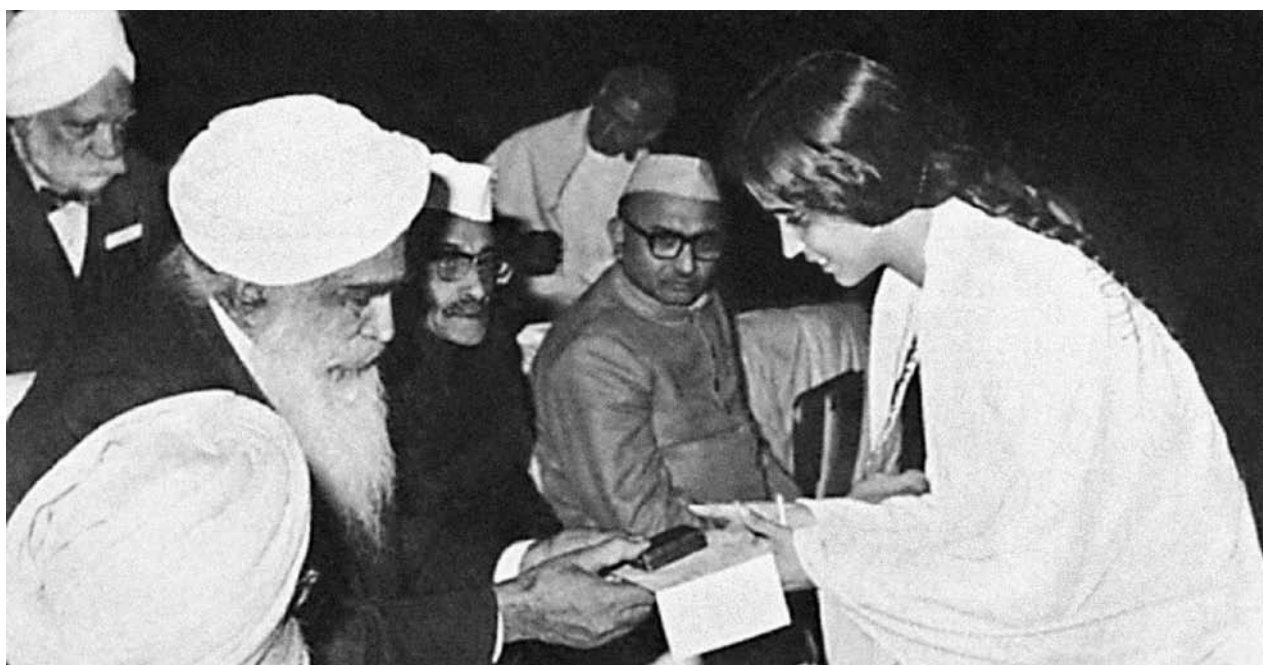
Sant Kirpal Singh with Nichidatsu Fuji, President of the Japan Budh Dharma, 4 February



Sant Kirpal Singh with religious delegates, 3 February, 1974

## Parallel Activities

During the World Conference on Unity of Man an Essay-Contest was held and a Medical Camp was set up



***Essay Contest** – With a view to arousing consciousness among the youth of the world, essays on Unity of Man were invited in English, French, Hindi and Urdu, either in prose or poetry. About 300 essays were received.*

Above: Kumari Saroj Kumari, third-prize winner in the Essay Contest, receives her prize from Sant Kirpal Singh

Above right: Medical staff at the conference - third from right Dr. Harbhajan Singh

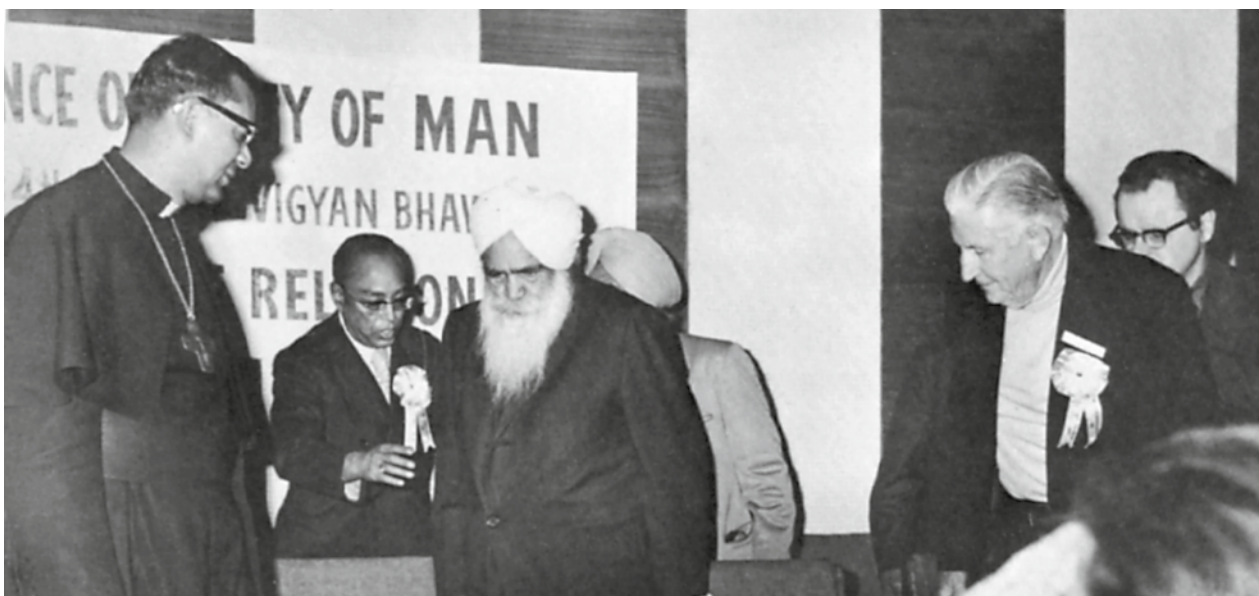
Left and right: Sant Kirpal Singh visiting the free homeopathic dispensary set up at the Ramlila Grounds in Delhi





# The Panel Conferences

In the afternoon of 4 February, 1974 the Conference split up into four Panel Conferences or seminars, in which different aspects of the idea of the unity of man were examined in depth



Dr. Angelo Fernandes, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Delhi, welcomes Sant Kirpal Singh to the panel conference on Religious Unity, 4 February, 1974

**The object of the Conference** on Unity of Man is to propagate the idea of unity of man – that all mankind is one, all are born in the same way, their outer and inner construction is the same and all are endowed with the same privileges from God. No high, no low – all are equal. We are drops of the ocean of all-consciousness which is God. So we are all brothers and sisters in God.

Man is he who is perfect all round – physically, mentally and spiritually. 'Be ye perfect as your Father, which is in heaven.' We give food to the body, we also feed the intellect, but what food do we give to the soul, which is a conscious entity? What is the food for soul? Man cannot live on bread alone. The food for the soul, a conscious entity, is to contact God – the ocean of all consciousness, that enlivens all creation.

It has to know that power, to contact it. Such a man, who has developed all round, may be called a perfect man. The object of all formations or social bodies is to turn out such perfect men.

There is a great awakening now which I observed during my third world tour recently. The regeneration of society depends on the regeneration of man. Bricks may be manufactured in any kiln. If they are strong and of good quality the house will be strong. If the bricks are not properly burned and the material is substandard, you cannot have a strong house. So whichever the formation, man should be man in the true sense of the word. There is a general awakening today in every direction. People are so unhappy, may God grant them peace and happiness. The way to that is to seek the company of awakened men.





Subjects Committee putting the draft resolutions into their final form, 5 February, 1974

### **Panel No. 1: Unity of Man – One World**

#### **“ONE WORLD – THE DIGNITY OF MAN”**

talk given by Yogi Bhajan

#### **“THE PATH OF ONENESS”**

talk given by Sant Kirpal Singh

### **Panel No. 2: Current World Problems Affecting the Unity of Man**

#### **“THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION”**

talk given by Rev. G. J. Christo

#### **“TRUE LOVE”**

talk given by Frederick Aye

### **Panel No. 3: World Harmony**

#### **“LOVE AS FEARLESSNESS”**

talk given by Kaka Sahib Kalelkar

#### **“UNIVERSAL HARMONY”**

talk given by Dr. Sean Sieglén

### **Panel No. 4: The Essential Unity of Religions**

#### **“THE POISON AND THE NECTAR”**

talk given by Dr. Karan Singh

#### **“FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGIOUS UNITY”**

talk given by Russell Perkins

#### **“TOWARD THE UNITY OF CONSCIENCE”**

talk given by Archbishop Angelo Fernandes

# The Resolutions

Elaborated by the Subjects Committee on 6 February, 1974

## RESOLUTION NO. 1

The World Conference on Unity of Man noted with gratification the tremendous response of the common man in all parts of the world to the call for unity.

Recognizing the demand for peace and unity, the Conference concluded that today there is dire and urgent need to promote in thought, word, and deed the eternal values of love, non-violence, truth, tolerance, and selfless service of humanity in the hearts of men.

The Conference looks for guidance to holy men to help to free mankind from fear and ignorance and transform modern man into a whole man who is at peace with himself and with those around him.

The Conference concluded that all religions are in essence one, and that their main purpose is to lead mankind on the path of love and selfless service.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas the World Conference on Unity of Man convened by Sant Kirpal Singh Maharaj Ji in February 1974, composed of representative religious and political leaders of India and abroad, demonstrated the overwhelming public appeal for world unity, the need was felt to devise practical means of implementing this wish, which the Conference believes is one felt throughout the masses of mankind in our time.

It was resolved:

1. That the World Conference on Unity of Man should awaken public opinion to the need for One World Consciousness.
2. That the World Conference on Unity of Man expressed the wish to apply to the United Nations and UNESCO for accreditation as an official agency at a future stage.
3. That the World Conference on Unity of Man should

establish connections with all organizations having kindred aims throughout the world for the purpose of achieving a better co-ordination of activities.

4. That the World Conference on Unity of Man should delegate regional and national representatives in various countries to organize similar meetings with a view to shedding light upon the common denominator between all faiths.

5. That such representatives as afore said should request elected representatives to appeal in their respective legislatures for the promotion of an unbiased study of comparative religion in school and adult education.

6. That the World Conference on Unity of Man should invite religious leaders and teachers of meditation to compare their methods and encourage mass encounters including the disciples of several leaders.

## RESOLUTION NO. 3

The World Conference on Unity of Man resolved that UNESCO be addressed to encourage among world youth fuller understanding of the common ethical roots of all faiths through organized, nation-wide study of each other's religions, and to appreciate their contributions to the prevailing moral basis of mankind; and secondly to encourage the same through the audio-visual system of mass media available commonly to people.

## RESOLUTION NO. 4

The World Conference on Unity of Man records its firm conviction that mankind as part of the universe is essentially one, and that the well-being or ill-being of one individual affects all humanity.

The Conference records its conviction that spiritual awakening with love as its basis is the foundation of the Unity of Man.



So please – there is no need of changing your religions or social bodies, but it is most necessary that you follow the teachings of those religions, that is all.

Sant Kirpal Singh, 6 February, 1974

## Concluding Remarks

Talk given by Sant Kirpal Singh on 6 February, 1974

**So dear brothers and sisters** who have come from abroad, I submit that in these four days we have been very productive; all of us have laid our heads together and come to some conclusions. After all, what are these conflicts and schisms going on in each country? The fact is that unity already exists – we have forgotten it.

What is that unity? The right understanding that all men are born in the same way with the same privileges from God and the same construction outside and inside. As man we are all one – no high, no low. We were first man; then the tongue became Christian or Hindu or Mohammedan or this or that thing by wearing all those labels. But that is not all; further, we are one at the level of that conscious entity which is administering this factory of the human body. So we are conscious beings and God is all conscious.

Some Power is controlling us in the body, which works as long as we are in it; we live in this world only for a certain time, until that Power which is controlling us leaves. That Power is God into expression, and is called Word, Naam, Shabd, Kalma.

So that Godpower whom we have to find, and he who has to do the finding, both live in the temple of the human body. But our attention, which is the outward expression of our soul, is identified with the world outside so much so that we have forgotten

ourselves. So we have to just know ourselves, by withdrawing our attention from all outside and from the body below. When we know ourselves, we are able to know the Overself who is controlling us in the human body.

So please – there is no need of changing your religions or social bodies, but it is most necessary that you follow the teachings of those religions, that is all. And those are? God resides in every heart. All is holy where devotion kneels. And, He resides in every heart whether the labels are this way or that way.

So for this purpose we come to some resolutions. I hope all these were repeated to you, read by my brother or friend. I take it that they appeal to you. If so, I think each one of you can raise some finger in assent. (Every hand went up from the assembled delegates.) It is for your good and the good of all humanity.

So I thank you for your coming from far off and taking so much trouble. You have taken time from your busy hours, also spent so much money. Those who have come from India, we are thankful; but those who have come from abroad and spent thousands of dollars, they deserve more thankfulness. So I convey my thanks to each one of you, whether you have gathered here from here or from abroad. Today is the last day of these sessions. I hope you will carry this very thing practically in your lives. God bless you all.

You say, „Happy birthday to you“. I say to you, “Happy birthday to you”. You are getting the thing (first-hand experience) by the grace of Hazur Maharaji. It is His words that are bearing fruit. Pray from the depth of heart. A prayer that comes from the heart is accepted and answered.

Sant Kirpal Singh, 6 February 1974



# Birthday Celebrations

Sant Kirpal Singh's 80th Birthday  
on 6 February, 1974



Sant Kirpal Singh, 7 February, 1974

**So dear brothers,** you are all graced with the man-body, which is a golden opportunity. This is the first step towards realisation of God. God is - there is no doubt about it. If you sit at the feet of a competent Master you will get the awakening and that would change your angle of vision. Reading of scriptures and biographies of the Master kindles in one an interest and longing for spirituality.

When we read that such and such person realised God we naturally ask, can we also see Him?

The sayings of the Masters are milestones for our guidance, telling us how they progressed, step by step, to reach the ultimate goal. You can compare and see where you stand.

Published and printed by:

Unity of Man – Sant Kirpal Singh  
Steinklößtstraße 34  
5340 St. Gilgen - Austria / Europe  
Phone: 0043-(0)6227-7577

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First edition 1994, printed in India  
Second revised edition 2007, printed in Austria

Internet:

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