



What is Arya Samaj?

Arya Samaj, founded by Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati, is an institution based on the Vedas for the welfare of universe. It propagates universal doctrines of humanity. It is neither a religion nor a sect.

ARYAN VOICE

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Wishing You All

A Peaceful

Joyous

And

Prosperous New Year

ARYA SAMAJ (Vedic Mission) WEST MIDLANDS

(CHARITY REGISTRATION No. 506019)

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कस्त्वा युनक्ति स त्वा युनक्ति कस्मै त्वा युनक्ति तस्मै त्वा युनक्ति।
कर्मणे वां वेषाय वाम्॥ यजुर्वेद 1.6

Kastvaa yunakti sa tvaa yunakti , kasmai tvaa yunakti tasmai
tvaa yunakti /

Karmane vaam vashaaye vaam // Yajur Veda 1.6

Meaning in Text Order

kah = who, tvaa = you, yunakti = appoints, sah= He, tvaa= you ,
yunakti = appoints , kasmai = for what, tvaa = you, yunakti =
appoints, tasmai= to fulfil your duties, tvaa=you,
yunakti= appoints, karmane= to engage yourself in action,
vaam= ladies and gentlemen,
vashaaye= to nurture good qualities and acquire knowledge,
vaam= men and women.

Meaning

O men and women! You are appointed in this world by God with special purpose. Make full effort through your constant efforts to obtain humane qualities and to acquire the knowledge of the Vedas and God has appointed us to spread that knowledge to others.

Contemplation

In this mantra there are few fundamental questions which we ask ourselves from time to time. Who has appointed us in this form equipped with senses, mind, intellect and vital breath? The answer to this question is that we are appointed in this world by Him with all means to our soul sublime. We must understand that we have been appointed in this word in human form which is very precious to us. We are fortunate among the species of the universe having been bestowed with the faculty of intellect

and with the freedom to pick and choose our path for our welfare.

It is our responsibility to understand the depth of our importance to be in human form and not to waste it in a destructive manner. Make sure we understand the value of each minute because this life is precious gift of God. Our path is prescribed by the Vedas.

We have to achieve our goal through penance, austerity, cultivating the spirit for the welfare of others and to remember Him with faith and devotion. We should follow the principles of truth, justice compassion, generosity and service.

The word 'Vaam' is used in this mantra for both men and women. The mantra emphasises that the purpose behind life has been prescribed by the Vedas also applies to women as well.

Finally the mantra says that we should remain active in action for the last breath of life.

There is a particular word in this mantra 'veshaaya' which means to obtain all good qualities and knowledge of mankind in the life. The sole purpose of life is to obtain good qualities and knowledge and the sole purpose of life is to distribute that knowledge to others.

Krishan Chopra

संन्यास-धर्म-भाग-9

आचार्य डॉ. उमेश यादव

जैसा कि हम समझ चुके हैं कि संन्यास-ग्रहण जगदुपकार के लिये हैं और यह विशेषकर ज्ञानयज्ञ है। सद् ज्ञान के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिये विद्वान् और सदाचारी होने के साथ त्यागी-तपस्वी होना भी आवश्यक है। त्यागी-तपस्वी इसलिये कि न्यून से न्यून आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति से अपनी विद्वता और सदाचारिता के आधार पर अधिकाधिक सद् ज्ञान वा वैदिक ज्ञान वा आर्ष ज्ञान का प्रचार-प्रसार कर सकेगा। इसलिये यह सीधा प्रश्न है कि संन्यासी को क्या ब्राह्मण ही होना चाहिए? उत्तर भी सीधा ही है-हाँ, अवश्य। सद् ज्ञान का सच्चा प्रचारक एक सच्चा ब्राह्मण ही हो सकता है। ब्राह्मण होने का तात्पर्य जाति-प्रथा या जातिवाद से या जन्म से ब्राह्मण होना आदि नहीं है अपितु ब्राह्मण का वैदिक अर्थ विद्वान्, सदाचारी, सत्याचरणवाला, त्यागी-तपस्वी आर्य से है जो सदा ही उच्च विचार व सदा जीवन रखता है। मनुस्मृति में स्पष्ट कहा- "जन्मना जायते शूद्रः, संस्काराद् द्विज उच्यते" अर्थात् जन्म से तो सभी शूद्र ही होते हैं, संस्कार से सभी द्विज अर्थात् ब्राह्मण, क्षत्रिय, वैश्य बनते हैं। तो यह सिद्धान्त मानव समाज में एक वर्ण-व्यवस्था का मूल आधार है। यहाँ गुण, कर्म व स्वभाव पर आधारित उनके संस्कार, ज्ञान, प्रवृत्ति और कार्य पर ही उनके वर्ण निर्धारित किये जाते हैं। अत एव संन्यासी को तो ब्राह्मण ही होना चाहिये। विना ज्ञान तो वह पृथिवी पर समाज का भार हो सकता है फिर समाज वा संसार का उद्धार कैसे कर सकता है ? हम चाहें तो भी सभी मनुष्य संन्यास नहीं ले सकते क्योंकि सब में तद्वत् योग्यता नहीं आती। अन्य आश्रम ब्रह्मचर्य, गार्हस्थ व वानप्रस्थ भी अपनी-अपनी सीमा में महत्वपूर्ण हैं पर इनका कार्यक्षेत्र व योग्यता भिन्न है। अतः संन्यास धर्म मानव समाज में सर्वपूज्य है क्योंकि इनका जीवन सबके लिये अत्यन्त लाभकारी है।

प्रायः देखा जाता है कि भिक्षाटन से अन्न वस्त्रादि वस्तुओं की पूर्ति करते

हुये अविद्या में फंसे नशे आदि द्रव्यों का सेवन कर भगवे वस्त्र पहन कर केवल मस्ती में रहना जो पसन्द करते हैं, वे भी स्वयं को संन्यासी, साधु, महात्मा, बाबा आदि शब्दों से बताते हैं परन्तु ये झूठे, निकम्मे, अज्ञानी एवं पृथिवी के भाररूप लोगों का टोला है। वैदिक नियम से ये संन्यासी तो कतई नहीं मान्य होंगे। ऐसा भी नहीं है कि संन्यासी अग्नि या धातु को नहीं स्पर्श कर सकते। प्रायः ऐसा कहकर ऐसे ढोंगी आम भोली-भाली जनता को ठगते फिरते हैं। सो यह सब मिथ्या, अंधविश्वासी तथा अज्ञानियों की बातें हैं। संन्यासी तो केवल ज्ञान सम्पन्न, ब्रह्मचर्यशील, सदाचारी, त्यागी-तपस्वी होकर सर्वथा बुरे कर्मों से पृथक् रहते हुये सदैव श्रेष्ठ कर्मों में प्रवृत्त संसार के लोगों को श्रेष्ठता का उपदेश करने वाला होता है और संन्यासी को ऐसा ही होना चाहिये। संन्यासी को परिव्राट् कहा गया है क्योंकि वह सदा ही भ्रमणशील होता है। भ्रमणशील होने के नाते वह जितना भला अपने सदुपदेशों से संसार का कर सकता है उतना गृहस्थी या अन्य नहीं कर सकता क्योंकि संन्यासी के अलावे अन्य सबकी जिम्मेवारियाँ उनकी अपनी ही कार्य-सीमाओं में अधिक है, किन्तु संन्यासी इन सब जिम्मेवारियों से सर्वथा मुक्त परिव्राजक (चारों ओर घूमनेवाला) होकर जन-समुदाय के बीच परिव्राट् बन जाता है जैसे राजा राज्य में सम्राट् है वैसे ही संन्यासी मानव समाज में परिव्राट् है। इस कारण संन्यासी मानव समाज में सदैव आदरणीय है। हमें हमेशा ही संन्यासी को जरूरत की चीजें प्रदानकर उनकी सेवा करनी चाहिये।

Why and Where Did the Religions Fail?

Last month we saw the salient features differentiating science and religion. The most striking one is that science has universal acceptance because it is rational and logical while no religion has universal acceptance because it includes dogmas too. The consequences are enormously devastating for the entire humanity.

Most of the religions claim to make human being a better person but this is not found to be the case. The irony is that the more religious a society is, the more corrupt and inhuman are likely to be its followers. Most of the religions claim to give our individual spirit a kind of solace in the shadow or vicinity of the infinite cosmic spirit of God. But the fact of the matter is that the religions tend to position a human being (claimed to be a prophet, the son of God, the incarnation of God, a guru, and so on) between us and God. The result is that the religious followers get further away from God though the religions promised to take them closer to God.

On a more practical term, one would have expected that the religious followers will consider themselves as children of God, besides treating other human beings and other species likewise. Should this have happened, the entire humanity would have become one family consisting of the children of God. That would have definitely given rise to universal brotherhood and love leading to a peaceful world. But the reality is vastly different. Different religious groups view one another as adversaries and go to any extent, including killings and wars, to subjugate and even eliminate the opposing groups. It has almost come to such a pass now that the so-called "clashes among cultures" is being taken for granted as if we must believe that we cannot live in harmony with one another if we belong to different cultural backgrounds.

Specifically, due to their dogmatic ideas and irrational beliefs, the religions failed on the following accounts:

1. They failed to come up with a rational and consistent explanation of the events taking place in the world. In other

words, they did not present any acceptable philosophy. They even took resort to unacceptable statements such as, the sun revolves around the earth, the earth is flat like a mat, etc. They even keep harping on their rhetoric even in the present age of science and thereby they willfully keep their followers in darkness.

2. They encouraged people to believe that the laws of nature are not infallible. A mortal human being can override the laws of nature.
3. They positioned a human mortal between us and God. Thereby God was sidelined and devalued.
4. They brought arbitrariness in God's way of functioning as if God favors people of certain religious affiliation.
5. Followers of no religion lead a better quality of life than others do and nor do they demonstrate more humane qualities.
6. Most importantly, the humanity is divided on the basis of religion. One religious group hates another causing enormous pain and miseries.

The result is that during the last few decades, a significant cross-section of the human population has exhibited its distaste towards religions, thanks to a continuous build up of scientific temper. Attendance in the so-called places of worship is on decline. As the humanity gets away from religions, it is getting closer to its natural human tendencies. Sometimes we see greater presence of human compassion among those who are not followers of any organized religion. These days people prefer to become spiritual rather than religious – they now want to explore the true human spirit that can sustain the entire human population in an atmosphere of love and peace.

There are loud vocal protests against wars, terrorism, environmental degradation and injustice. The media is playing very active, and generally, a positive role. Gone are the days when millions of people were massacred at the whims and fancies of a bunch of individuals and a large population wasn't even aware of it. These days even if a few people die in an unnatural manner and due to a deliberate human act

then media brings such a vivid picture that people around the world condemn it in a matter of a few hours.

This is a good sign and every positive thinking person should welcome it. The next few years will see collapse of most of the religions almost the way communism collapsed in its own heartland. Imagine how much the people in erstwhile Soviet Union got fed up with the non-acceptance of the individual's spirit within the doctrine of communism. Their intrinsic thirst for spiritual freedom led them to vote to disown communism that they had carried on their shoulders for so many decades. The days are approaching when I can foresee that the followers of different religions will begin to see the idiosyncrasies in their religions and they themselves will give the final blow to their own religions that they had professed so religiously. Let us welcome the current age of science.

While welcoming the dawn of a new scientific age, we must exercise great care lest we swing from one pole to another. It will be equally fatal if we do not learn from the failing religions. The religions did not expose spirituality in its pristine beauty with sufficient logic and rigor. On the other hand, scientists were wrong that they hesitated to include spirituality in their scope of study. Their exclusion of spirit and consciousness encouraged the religions to flourish in the past. The hesitation of scientists to study consciousness and the realm of the spiritual domain left a vacuum that led to the birth of the present religions. They almost went into an arrogant phase when they were appreciating the art that this creation is, but refused to even explore the artist. Let us not make this error again.

This is where inner sciences will play increasingly more important role. We are entering into a beautiful exciting period. Who would have imagined a few decades ago that more than 10 million Americans will practice meditation everyday? They are definitely deriving benefit from this scientific approach – one arm of inner sciences wherein one explores his/her innermost core of individuality, the individual's spirit. Who would have imagined that beefeaters in the western world would become compassionate enough and give up meat eating? The times are changing rapidly. Every religion will now find its base shrinking and on

the other hand science will be widening its base. However, the care must be taken that our study includes both matter and spirit, and it must be done scientifically. The world consists of both matter and spirit closely inter-linked. A human being is the closest example. We should note that we are a composite of body and spirit.

Next month I will write where the future lies. There is an urgent need to create a fusion of science and spirituality, call it scientific spirituality or spiritual sciences. We must study, explore and experience both matter and spirit, call it a unified theory of both matter and spirit. Generally, people think that our senses can study matter alone – what is called direct perception, *pratyaksa*. The spirit and its existence is on a feeble ground that it must be inferred and is not amenable to direct perception, and hence, it is called inference (*anumana*). Usually, we have a lower opinion about *anumana* in comparison with *pratyaksa*. I don't have any intention to keep you in suspense but I do want to say at the outset that I will make some startling observations that:

- 1) If at all *pratyaksa* (direct perception) is possible, it is for the spirit only, and
- 2) The matter is known through *anumana* (inference) only.

Having made the above statements, many readers will not like to wait for me to prove what I have stated. I promise to do so in the early part of the Second Series of my articles that should begin after I complete the First Series in the next two issues. The Second Series of articles will develop "fusion of science and spirituality" with all its components. Next month I will discuss its need.

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Vedic Vivah List

January 2010

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THE THIRST.

What does it mean?

1. To feel the need to Drink. (Water)
2. To have a strong desire to process something.

WATER.

We are all water creatures.

Did you know that?

1. It makes up 60 percent of our body.
2. Seventy percent of our brain is water. (In Swahili there is phrase which says KICHWA MAJI) which mean water brain.
3. 80 percent of our blood is water. (May be the phrase “is ke ragoon mein pani hai khhon nahi” might have come because of this.)

You can go almost a month without food, but your body will not survive without water for more then seven days.

Did you know that?

1. That water covers most of the earth but just 3 percent of fresh water is in the form of ice. Only 1 percent of fresh water is readily accessible for human use. Only less than 0.007 percent of all the water is available for drinking.
2. A quarter of clean water that enters your house is used to flush the toilet. One flush uses a total of 3 gallons.
3. A single load of laundry uses 40 gallons of clean water.
4. 10 minutes of shower uses 50 gallons of clean water.
5. Brushing your teeth with running water use 4 gallons, while without running water only 0.25 gallons.

Did you know that a water crisis is looming and our water sources are under tremendous pressure?

The population of the world will grow to 22 billion by 2020 and the water consumption will increase to 6 times that. Some American cities and other densely populated cities of the world will run out of water completely in 10 to 20 years. Millions of people in the world who have been displaced by dried up river bed and the ravages of the war and other natural calamities live on 3 gallons a day where as in America they use up almost 160 gallons a day. One in three people lack adequate access to safe clean water. A child dies in a poor country from water related disease every 15 second.

It is said that we will run out water before we run out OIL.

We will not have enough water to harvest grains thus will bring about food shortages and it will bring about hunger problems, which is already being experienced by China, India, Pakistan and many African countries.

It is a thirsty world, our industry is THIRSTY, Agriculture is THIRSTY and we are THIRSTY.

It is time to water a second thought, use less and save more. Now you know what THIRST is.

These are excerpts in brief from a slide presentation I received in one of my e mails.

Kewal Ahluwalia.

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Dear Bandhu

HAPPY NEW YEAR

May God bless you & your family with Health, Wealth & Prosperity.

As you know that your Arya Samaj is proactive in the service of our community. Your Arya Samaj regularly sponsors **Ved Prachar on Radio XL**. **HAVAN YAJNA** takes place **EVERY SUNDAY at 11am** followed by Bhajans and then Parvachan by Acharya ji and some visiting dignitary, finishing with Rishi Langar. **CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES** are held regularly **EVERY SUNDAY**. **FREE PRANAYAM & YOGA** Classes are held on **EVERY TUESDAY evening from 7.15 till 9pm**. The people who go to work attend Tue evening class thus getting rid of the stress and rejuvenate their energies. **ARYA FRIENDS GROUP – people of all age groups meet on every Wednesday from 11am till 2pm**. The session starts with Aasan, Pranayam for one hour followed by Bhajans, songs, jokes, and Quizes & anecdotes followed by the Preeti Bhoj (Lunch). Then members play games. Everyone thoroughly enjoys the sessions. **COURSES in VEDIC PHILOSOPHY** are run by Arya Samaj from time to time. The 10 week courses are conducted in English by Dr Harish Chandra,

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1. Combustion scientist turned vedic preacher dealing with the problems like Insomnia, Stress, Harmony in Irelationships, Efficiency at Work etc.
2. We also provide **PRIEST SERVICES** of our Learned priest to perform Sanskaras and Rituals according to the authentic Vedic ways.
3. **HALL HIRING** A very well furbished Hall of 250 capacity is available for hiring for social finctions including birthdays, engazement parties Lady sangeet or other family & musical functions.
4. **SEMINAR ROOM** is available for meetings & Seminars etc at very reasonable charges.
5. since many years, Arya Samaj also has been running **MATRIMONIAL SERVICES** to help the community.

All these activities cost money. We have made several important contributions recently and are on the path of many more. There is a dire need to Install Modern Efficient Heating System at your Arya Samaj building. Any contribution from your goodself is welcome and appreciated. Please donate generously.

Cheque Payable to: Arya Samaj West Midlands

With Heartiest blessings & Thanks

Cordially Yours

V.Cale

President

Arya Samaj West Midlands, Nechells, Birmingham B7

4SA. 0121359 7727

Om Shanti-Shanti-Shanti

मैं स्वतन्त्र हूँ

मैं स्वतन्त्र हूँ

अपनी मर्जी का मालिक

गीता पढ़ूँ या नमाज़

कहाँ का कैसा समाज

जो डाले मुझ पर दबाव

यह मैं और मेरा स्वभाव ।

मुझे है सड़ीगली प्रथाओं से परहेज़

यह बात अलग

कि खुद अपनी इच्छा से

बेटी के लिये दे रहा दहेज

बड़े आये तुम हड्डी में कबाब

कैसा और कौन सा दबाव

अपना घर फूँक कर

पितरों की शांति के लिये

बुलाता पण्डितों की फौज

शान से करवाता मृत्युभोज

भाड़ में जाय समाज-सुधार

मेरा स्टेटस, मेरा अहम

मैं जो करूँ मेरी मर्जी ।

हाँ मर्जी गई भाड़ में

जब जीन्स पहने कोई ग्रामीणबाला

तो करदो उसका मुँह काला

रचाये ब्याह उँचे कुल में

नीचे कुल की छोरी

या विधवा बने फिर से दुल्हन

हमारा करेगी मानमर्दन
तो काट कर रख देंगे गर्दन
रहे अपनी मर्जी से अकेली
पति के नाम पर आँसू बहाकर
या अब लो जीवनमरण का प्रश्न
कोई अपनी इच्छा से
होना चाहे सती
तो धर लेंगे मौन
दबाव देने वाले हम कौन
उसके प्राण उसकी मर्जी ।

भीतर का आतंकवादी
भावनाओं का करता ब्लैकमेल
और चिल्लाता
मुझे किसी ने बहकाया नहीं
फँसाया नहीं
गुमराह नहीं किया
मजहब के लिये मैं करता आत्मबलिदान
दुनिया, समाज
और यह परिवेश क्या करें ?
जो मैं करता वह मेरी मर्जी ।

- हरिहर झा

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THE SANDY ROAD

This is a nice story from the collection of Jataka Tales. Once upon a time, there lived a merchant in a small village. The merchant dealt in different kinds of goods. He wanted to sell his goods in the town, in order to gain good sum of profits. One day, he decided to go to the town to try his fortune. He arranged for some men who could go along with him. During the journey, he had to pass through a desert, so he also arranged for water, rice and firewood.

According to the plan, he packed his goods in several carts and set out for the journey along with his mates. When they reached the desert, the sun was shining on the fine sand, making it severely hot. In the day time, no one could dare to walk on it. One could only think of travel through the desert during the night time, when the moon made the sands cool. So, the merchant and his people waited for the night to start their further journey.

With the arrival of night, they started their journey. One of them, had knowledge about the stars, so he was guiding the way to other people by reading the position of stars. They travelled for the whole night without taking any break. At daybreak, they stopped and camped. They released the oxen from the carts and fed them. They made fire, cooked the rice and ate the food to their fill. They spread a huge covering over all the carts and the oxen. Subsequently, all the men laid down under it, to rest till the sunset.

When the sun set in the early evening, they again built fire and cooked rice. After the meal, they folded the covering and tied the oxen to the carts. As soon as, the sand became cool, they again started their journey across the desert. Night after night, they travelled in such manner and rested during the day time.

On the last morning, the one who was guiding the group said, “In one more night, we will cross the desert”. Every one was happy to hear this, as all of them were tired.

After taking meal in the evening, the merchant said, “Now, you people can throw the water and the firewood because tomorrow we will reach the town. Tie the oxen and start”. The Guide took his position at first in the line of the carts, but instead of sitting and guiding the drivers, he laid down in the cart on the cushions. Soon, he was in a deep slumber because he had not slept for many nights and in the daytime, the sun had been so strong that he had not slept properly.

The oxen went on, for the whole night. Near daybreak, the guide awoke and looked at the last stars fading in the light. He said to the drivers, “Stop! We are in the same place where we were yesterday. The oxen must have turned about while I slept”. They released the oxen, but there was no water for them to drink, as they had thrown away the water the previous night. They spread out the covering over the carts and the oxen rested tired and thirsty. The men lay down too, saying, “Without wood and water, we are lost”.

Every one was tired and sat down. The merchant thought, “This is no time for me to sleep. I have to find water. The oxen cannot start unless they get water to drink. The people need water otherwise they cannot cook rice. If I give up, we will lose. There must be water somewhere below”. He walked down and down, keeping a close watch of the ground. Finally, he saw some grass and thought, “There must be water somewhere below otherwise that grass would not be there”.

He ran back, shrieking to the people, “Get the spade and the hammer”. All of them jumped up and ran with the merchant to the spot where he saw the grass. They started digging and after

much toil, they struck a rock. After this, they could dig no further. The merchant jumped down into the hole they had dug and kept his ear to the rock. He called to them, “I can hear water running under this rock. We must not give up”. Then, the merchant came out of the hole and said to the serving boy, “My boy, if you give up, we are lost. Please go down and try”.

The boy stood up raising the hammer high above his head and hit the rock with his full strength. He didn't give up, thinking the words of the merchant. Every time the hammer came down, he thought that everyone must be saved. Ultimately, the rock broke, the boy hardly got any time to come out of the hole and it was full of water. All the men drank water, as if they could never get enough. They watered the oxen and took bath.

After drinking and bathing, they split the extra wooden yokes and axles from their carts. They made a fire out of it and cooked their rice. They had their meal and rested through the day. They also placed a flag on the well, so that the passing travellers could see and have water. After the sunset, they started their journey and reached the town in the morning. They sold the goods making huge profits and happily returned back to their village.

Moral: Will and Determination can achieve anything.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO

- Pankaj and Rosie Handa for the 1st birthday of the twins Anushka and Ashrita. Also to grandparents Mr Satpal and Mrs Asha Handa.
- Mrs. Reena and Mr Manoj Kumar for the Mundan sanskar of their son Joshan Dev Kumar; also to grandparents Mr. Prem Nanda and Mrs. Sadhana Nanda
- Atul, son of Mr Praveen and Mrs Nimi Ghai, for his new home.
- Mr Sudesh and Mrs Radha Sethi for the namkaran of grandson Daniel Krishan Jai, son of Aruna and Ilie.

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A Direct Debit leaflet is enclosed with this month's Aryan Voice. Please support your Arya Samaj by filling this form for a regular donation.

Every effort has been taken that information given is correct and complete. But if any mistake is spotted please inform the office,

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