

Book Review: *Truth is One*

by Robert Almony Jr.

In their 1954 work entitled *Truth is One*, Henry James Forman and Roland Gammon examine a quote from the Rig Veda: "Truth is one: sages call it by various names." The book is all about different aspects of the unity of religion. It not only provides a good basic introduction to the world's many religions, but also gives commentary on the everyday life of the real people who belong to these faiths.

In its 224 pages, filled with glorious black and white photographs, *Truth is One* covers the basic background and beliefs of these great religions and philosophies. Especially in India, religion and philosophy are inseparable. After all, every religion began as someone's philosophy on life, death and whatever lies beyond.

Among these philosophers, manifestations of God or great prophets who inspired the world's major religions are Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster, Abraham, Moses, Christ, Muhammad and Baha'u'llah. These manifestations of God are not God in human form, but, like flawlessly polished mirrors, they perfectly reflect His qualities. They are the pure channels through which God makes Himself known to humankind. In the words

of [ask who said this and where it came from]: "They are all sent down from the heaven of the Will of God, and as they all arise to proclaim His irresistible Faith, they therefore are regarded as one soul and the same person. ... They all abide in the same tabernacle, soar in the same heaven, are seated upon the same throne, utter the same speech, and proclaim the same Faith."

Although each manifestation of God has founded a new religion with its own character, all of the religions are part of the overall process through which God reveals His will for humanity. All are part of the "changeless Faith of God," which is "eter-

nal in the past, eternal in the future." Each manifestation brings new social teachings suited for his time, but the essential message never changes. The revelations of the manifestations of God are like the successive chapters in *Truth is One*, all of them leading toward the latest chapter in the revelation of God's word for humankind.

After reading the beautifully illustrated encyclopedia *Truth is One*, one might want to read Houston Smith's *The Religions of Man*. Smith's book provides a more in-

depth introduction to the great religions of the world.

In their enlightened introduction, Forman and Gammon quote a reference made by Dr. Bhagavan Das in his *The Essential Unity of All Religions*. It is as follows:

"The Anthem of the Universal"

One Cosmic Brotherhood,
One Universal Good
One Source, One Sway,
One Law beholding us,
One Life enfolding us,
In Love always.

Lust, Greed, Fear, Envy
and Hate
Long made us Desolate.
Their reign is done.
Race, Color, Creed
and Caste
Fade with the
Nightmare Past,
Man wakes to learn
at last,
All Life is One!

-from the *World Fellowship* ☉