

# Om

# Shānti

The Voice of  
Veda Vedanta  
Mandiram



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## “Sisters and Brothers of America” listen to Swami Vivekananda

By Dr. Murarilal Nagar

Sept. 11, 1893. Chicago, World's Parliament of Religions.

Viśvavibhūti Svāmi Śrī Vivekānanda commenced his epoch-making speech, greeting his audience as: “Sisters and brothers of America!”

All of a sudden there was an unprecedented, spontaneous and tremendous ecstatic effect on the whole audience. None knew why or how that instantaneous electrification was caused. It did happen, though. It was a reality.

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### Editor's column

I recently traveled to India for the first time in my life. The experience of such an ancient, alive culture filled me with a sense of awe and respect for the saints and sages of old. I felt the same genuine admiration for the scholars I met at Shankar Math in Mount Abu.

Swami Mahananda Giri, one of the monks at the ashram, took the time to translate Swami Maheshananda Giri's lectures for me. He also gave me some advice regarding Om Shānti, both the state of Being and the magazine.

As for the latter, he asked me why I spelled the holy syllable “Om” instead of “Aum.” My reasoning was that “Om” is the spelling that is recognized by many Americans. The goal of our magazine is to strengthen understanding between India and America. True, this spelling does not show all three syllables that compose the musical sound, and “Shānti” is not written three times, but I think the message is clear. The meaning of the symbol in the globe, on the other hand, may not be.

Some Indians have asked me why there is an ‘m’ next to the Devanagari symbol. It is meant to show a union between the Sanskrit and English ways of expressing the same, universal message. I thank you all for your input and welcome more.

Aum Shānti, Shānti, Shānti!

—Katherine Marie Lee (Kamalee), Editor

● **Special Thanks to:**  
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