

What IS Ishval? - Notes by Bob Hardy

The Aims of ISHVAL by Eugene Halliday

- The promotion of human and divine values.
- The study of concepts contained in the hierological traditions of all nations and peoples.
- The interpretation of these concepts.
- The formation of these concepts into a mode of education such that full human value may be derived from their application.
- The teaching of these concepts to all persons who desire to receive such teaching and are prepared to put them into practice, insofar as this should prove possible for them.
- "Love God and Your Neighbour as Yourself."

By "God" is here meant Absolute Infinite Intelligent Power, containing within itself, in pure actuality, all that man conceives as valuable - Love, Life, Personality etc., and infinitely more than man can at present conceive.

By "Neighbour" is meant the occupants of the Universe.

By "as Yourself" is meant that the self of the neighbour and of oneself is essentially one at source.

By "Love" is meant "work for the development of the potentialities of being." Thus "Love God and Your Neighbour as Yourself" means "Work for the development of the purpose of the Absolute Infinite Intelligent Power and for all creatures within the sphere of creation."

No information is provided regarding the authorship of 'The Purpose of Ishval' (see below), however, it can be seen that for 'The Aims of Ishval', Eugene Halliday is cited as sole author. There is an 'addendum one' contained in the Ishval Minutes, dated 28th January 1999, which is obviously (to my mind at least) an expanded version of 'The Purpose of Ishval'. Although this document is not dated, it does cite Eugene Halliday as 'Chairman', thus it is reasonable to suppose that it was written before 1987 - the year of his death (?)

Whatever the source, the word 'neighbour' is here given a hermeneutic meaning far beyond its present everyday meaning. However, such is the pace of contemporary culture that I would venture to suggest that aficionados of the TV series 'Star Trek' would immediately recognize the manner of its use here.

The word itself is a partial acronym for (The) Institute for the Study of Hierological VALues. The purpose of Ishval in 2004 was clearly stated on the homepage of its (then) official website - www.ishval.org.uk

The Purpose of Ishval

The promotion and propagation of the principles of Truth in all religions, in order to achieve unity in the interpretation of sacred writings between all denominations. And mutual understanding and practice of the principles of Truth in a true spirit of ecumenism.'

[NOTE: It is worth mentioning here that the 20th Century use of the word 'ecumenism' favors an exclusively Christian use.

Ecumenism noun: the doctrine of the ecumenical movement promoting cooperation and better understanding among different religious denominations; aimed at universal Christian unity.]

It could be argued that support for these aims would supply a part-solution, at least, to the growing problems of religious intolerance (both entrenched and recently imported), that are clearly seen to represent a real problem to the security and well-being of the population of the UK at large. Non-Christian immigrants and their descendants now constitute a significant percentage of the present population of the UK, and thus there is a pressing need for some form of 'universal ecumenism' such that members of all religious groups (some of whom hold diametrically opposed religious views) can attempt - if not to produce some form of synthesis - then at least agree upon an 'uneasy truce'.

Ishval members therefore could be seen to be attempting to involve themselves in contemporary society in a both a productive and supportive way.

However, this seems highly improbable to me - given the levels of immigration in 1966, when ISHVAL was founded.

Personally, I see this attempt to be, at best, misplaced, due to my perception of the production of the 'other' (whatever you want to call these, be it: the 'outsider'; the 'pariah'; the 'infidel', the 'goy', the 'untouchable' etc.) as an obvious, fundamental, and essential, component of those cultural constructs that we refer to as 'religions'.

E.H. to be

Appt. of a council or exec. committee & who shall serve. How elected.

The calling of A.G.M. for re-election of Council & Officers & (Statement of A/C.).
Membership to be in gift of Council.

Types of membership.

Council to have powers to make new rules in accordance with the aims of ISHVAL.

Council to have powers to employ persons or officers in connection with work of Ishval.

Council to have authority to spend such monies as may be necessary to maintain the grounds and fabric of any property they have on loan, rent, lease etc.

The quorum for Council meeting.

Next
General Meetings to be announced by the Chief Officers at close of meeting. A.G.M.

Ishval's aims: The promotion of human & divine values.

The Study of concepts contained in the historical traditions of all nations & peoples.

The interpretation of these concepts.

The formulation of these concepts into a mode of education such that full human value may be derived from their application.

The teaching of these concepts to all persons who desire to receive such teaching and are prepared to put them into practice, insofar as this should prove possible for them.

'Love God & your neighbour as yourself.' By God is here meant Absolute Infinite Intelligent Power, containing within itself, in pure actuality, all that man conceives as valuable Love, life, Personality etc., and infinitely more than man can at present conceive. By 'neighbour' is meant other occupants of the universe. By 'as yourself' is meant that the self of the neighbour & of oneself is essentially one at source. By 'love' is meant 'work for the development of the potentialities of being'. Thus 'Love God & your neighbour as yourself' means 'work for the development of the purpose of the Absolute Infinite Intelligent power and for all its creatures within the sphere of creation'.