

## ABSTRACT

This study on Emerson and Iqbal has been undertaken basically to demonstrate that all true intellectuals and moralists think alike and that the cultural divide between the East and the West is arbitrary. In a world which has witnessed tremendous changes during the last fifty years, distances have been reduced and because of the technological advancements, the computer and the internet, facts cannot be hidden and distorted.

We are witnessing a surge of the crusade spirit in the West and there appears to be a deep distrust between the West and the Islamic world, yet the dialectical process, will ultimately lead to a convergence of views and humanity in the future will stand better united. An Armageddon may be in the offing, but what would follow later is more promising.

If disputes are resolved logically and realistically, at the national as well as international level, much of the foreseeable conflict and bloodshed can be avoided. In the present global context when the lethality of weaponry is stunningly fatal the world can ill afford a clash of civilizations.

By studying the philosophy of these two scholars, one from the West and the other from the East one can conclude easily that if the world chooses to adopt an anti-materialistic stance and is more spiritual in its outlook, then toleration and amity would prevail.

The note of commonality which is noticeable in both Emerson and Iqbal has been discussed under the following headings:

- Both were anti materialistic.
- Both were steeped in the mystic tradition.
- They were revolutionary in their outlook
- They were champions of human dignity.
- They looked upon religion as an essential truth, which needed to be reinterpreted and reinvigorated from time to time.
- Both were seers, poets and reformers.
- They wrote to inspire and to ‘revolutionize modes of thinking’
- They looked beyond the narrow confines of nationalism, to overall humanitarian concerns.
- They left behind their legacies for successive generations.

This thesis has six chapters. The Introduction deals with the philosophy of life as propounded both by Emerson and Iqbal. It draws attention to the similarities which exist between the two and talks of strong faith in God and their belief in the great potential of men. One point which is strikingly similar is their mysticism. In Chapter-2, Mysticism and Sufism are discussed, the salient features of Christian, Islamic and Hindu mysticism are explained. Chapter-3 covers the life history of Emerson and highlights the important features of his work. The Fourth Chapter is about Iqbal, his works and philosophy. In Chapter-5, comparison is drawn between the two. Their views on Personality, Religion, Poetry, overall philosophy of life are elucidated with particular reference to Emerson's Essay on 'Self Reliance' and Iqbal's 'Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam. The Conclusion focuses on their legacy, their impact on the future and their achievements.