



St. Vincent College
(Affiliated to Savtribai Phule Pune University)
Pune -411037

Title of the Event	Online Interreligious Talk: "What is the Importance Given to Nature or the Earth in My Religion?"		
Date of the Event	26th October 2024	Place of the event	Online Mode
Objectives of the Event	To facilitate and promote interreligious dialogue on various themes		
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Mr. Micah Joseph		

A short narration of the program

Online Interreligious Talk: "What is the Importance Given to Nature or the Earth in My Religion?"

An enlightening Online Interreligious Talk on the topic “What is the importance given to nature or the earth in my religion?” was held on Saturday, 26th October 2024, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM IST via Zoom. The session featured Mr. Micah Joseph, a respected scholar of Judaism, who provided profound insights into the Jewish perspective on the relationship between humanity and the natural world.

Key Highlights of the Lecture:

1. Jewish Teachings on Nature:

Mr. Joseph began by emphasizing the centrality of nature in Jewish scripture and tradition. He discussed how the Torah underscores the sacredness of the Earth as part of God’s creation and humanity’s role as stewards of the natural world.

2. The Concept of Stewardship:

Drawing on the biblical principle of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), Mr. Joseph highlighted the Jewish ethical responsibility to care for the Earth. He elaborated on the role of humans as custodians, tasked with preserving nature for future generations.

3. Ecological Insights from Jewish Laws:

The speaker delved into Jewish laws (Halacha) that promote ecological balance. He shared examples from:

- Shabbat (Sabbath): Encouraging rest for both humans and the land.
- Shmita (Sabbatical Year): The practice of allowing agricultural land to lie fallow every seven years.
- Bal Tashchit (Do Not Destroy): A prohibition against wastefulness, which underscores the value of conservation and sustainable living.

4. The Role of Festivals in Honoring Nature:



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Mr. Joseph illustrated how Jewish festivals, such as Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) and Tu Bishvat (New Year of the Trees), celebrate the cycles of nature and foster a connection with the environment.

5. Judaism's Contemporary Relevance in Environmentalism:

The lecture highlighted how Jewish values align with modern ecological concerns. Mr. Joseph provided examples of Jewish communities leading sustainability efforts, including reforestation, water conservation, and renewable energy projects inspired by biblical teachings.

6. Interactive Q&A Session:

The talk concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where participants sought insights on how Jewish teachings can inspire broader global environmental movements. Mr. Joseph encouraged an interreligious approach to ecological challenges, emphasizing the shared values across faiths.

Participation and Feedback:

The talk was attended by students, faculty, and participants from various religious and cultural backgrounds, fostering a rich interfaith dialogue. Attendees expressed appreciation for Mr. Micah Joseph's eloquent presentation and his ability to bridge ancient teachings with modern environmental concerns. It was a successful and inspiring event, furthering interreligious understanding and cooperation for ecological well-being.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Snehsadan Institute
Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	The participants learned about different religious perspectives on nature and ecology
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	Interreligious dialogue was facilitated and promoted through this event
No. of Participants	20
Faculty in Charge	Dr. Gilbi John
Documents Attached	1. Photographs



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ST. VINCENT COLLEGE, PUNE 37

in collaboration with

SNEHASADAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION, PUNE 30

Inter-Religious Talk On

**What is the importance given to Nature or
the Earth in my Religion?**

Judaism

On

Saturday, 26th October 2024

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Zoom Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86098654221?pwd=DhAt5BVmE4RVrsZdlSba9Ezoquxr au.1>



Mr. Micah Joseph

Zoom Meeting Details

Meeting ID: 860 9865 4221

Passcode : 960927