

## ONE GOD, ONE WORLD, ONE HUMANITY: VISION OF GURUDEV R. D. RANADE

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### Abstract

Gurudev R. D. Ranade a legendary mystic and philosopher of modern India, articulated a vision of spiritual unity that transcends religions, cultures, and nationalities. In his philosophy, Ranade emphasizes that God, the world, and humanity are intrinsically interconnected within a seamless unity. 'One God, One World, One Humanity' provides a holistic framework that blends rational mysticism with spiritual insights, advocating a universal understanding of divinity, existence, and human fraternity. Gurudev Ranade's rational mysticism combines the scientific and spiritual aspects of existence in this article on the philosophical foundations of his vision. The article provides a comprehensive analysis of his philosophical and spiritual contributions by examining his views on God as the center of spiritual reality, the interconnectedness of the world, and the universal brotherhood of humanity. Additionally, this work highlights the relevance of his ideas to contemporary global challenges, such as religious intolerance, environmental crises, and the need for intercultural dialogue.

This article explores Ranade's mystical experiences and rational philosophy in depth in order to illustrate how his teachings are relevant for fostering harmony, understanding, and unity in a divided world.

**Keywords:** Gurudev R. D. Ranade, Rational Mysticism, Universal Brotherhood, One God, One World, One Humanity, Spiritual Philosophy

### Introduction:

The contemporary world, characterized by divisions based on race, religion, and nationality, stands to gain immensely from the timeless vision of unity proposed by Gurudev R. D. Ranade (Ranade, 1926). An eminent Indian philosopher and mystic, Ranade devoted his life to the pursuit of spiritual truth and emphasized the essential unity of all beings under one divine principle (Kulkarni, 2022). His philosophy, rooted in Rational Mysticism, bridges faith and critical inquiry, encouraging a harmonious blend of devotion and reason. Ranade's emphasis on "One God, One World, One Humanity" advocates a spiritual worldview where God is experienced directly, the world is seen as a unified manifestation of the divine, and humanity is recognized as one global family (Ranade, 1933). His vision addressed not only the philosophical and spiritual crises of his time, but remains deeply relevant to modern society's fragmented fragmentation (Kulkarni, 2021).

**One God: The Central Spiritual Reality** Gurudev Ranade emphasized that all religious traditions, despite their diverse practices and doctrines, converge toward the experience of a single Ultimate

Reality - God. His concept of Rational Mysticism upheld that God is not merely a theological construct but an experiential reality accessible through disciplined spiritual practice and reasoned inquiry. He encouraged seekers to move beyond dogma and embrace direct spiritual experience.

**One World: Interconnectedness of Existence** Ranade saw the material and spiritual worlds as manifestations of the same divine essence. He believed that the perceived divisions among nations, cultures, and peoples are illusions born of ignorance. In his vision, the world is a unified field where each element contributes to the greater whole, much like diverse notes creating a single symphony.

**One Humanity: Universal Brotherhood** Central to Ranade's philosophy is the idea of universal brotherhood. He asserted that every human being, regardless of caste, creed, or nationality, shares the same divine essence. His teachings urged humanity to transcend superficial differences and recognize the inherent divinity within each soul, fostering compassion, empathy, and solidarity.

**Philosophical Foundations: Rational Mysticism** Ranade's Rational Mysticism combines critical reasoning with profound spiritual experience. He argued that mystical experiences must be analyzed and understood through rational means, bridging the gap between faith and reason. This unique synthesis empowers individuals to pursue spirituality without renouncing intellectual inquiry.

**Contemporary Relevance:** In an era marked by religious conflicts, ecological crises, and social fragmentation, Ranade's vision of "One God, One World, One Humanity" provides a much-needed blueprint for global harmony. His teachings encourage interfaith dialogue, ecological stewardship, and the promotion of human rights based on spiritual interconnectedness.

### Review of Literature:

The philosophical and mystical contributions of Gurudev R. D. Ranade have been examined in various scholarly works. Ranade's *A Constructive Survey of Upanishadic Philosophy* (1926) systematically explores the Upanishads and identifies the theme of unity amidst diversity as central to Vedantic thought. His *Mysticism in Maharashtra* (1933) traces the lineage of mystical traditions and highlights the universal quest for God-realization across cultural boundaries.

N. V. Kulkarni (2022) delves into the metaphysical aspects of Ranade's Rational Mysticism, emphasizing the need for integrating reason and spirituality. Kulkarni's work illustrates how Ranade's philosophy can bridge the gaps between empirical knowledge and spiritual wisdom, a synthesis essential for contemporary times. Charuta Kulkarni (2021) provides a detailed exploration of Ranade's concept of Morphic Spiritual Experiences, demonstrating the enduring relevance of his ideas in the context of interfaith dialogue and global spiritual consciousness. She argues that Ranade's vision paves the way for a holistic understanding of human existence, transcending materialism and sectarianism.

Other comparative studies, such as those focusing on mystics like Meister Eckhart, Rumi, and Ramakrishna, affirm the universal characteristics of mystical experiences as advocated by Ranade, reinforcing the vision of "One God, One World, One Humanity."

### **One God: The Central Spiritual Reality**

Gurudev R. D. Ranade emphasized that the foundation of all true spirituality lies in the recognition of one, singular divine reality—God. According to Ranade, God is not confined to any particular religion, sect, or nationality but is the universal, eternal, and infinite reality that pervades all existence (Ranade, 1926). Ranade drew extensively from the Upanishadic dictum "Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti" (Truth is one; sages call it by various names) to argue that different religious traditions are diverse expressions of the same underlying spiritual truth. In *A Constructive Survey of Upanishadic Philosophy*, he demonstrated how the Upanishadic sages realized a singular spiritual source behind the phenomenal world (Ranade, 1926).

In his later work, *Mysticism in Maharashtra* (1933), Ranade emphasized experiential spirituality, encouraging seekers to directly experience the divine through disciplined spiritual practices rather than relying solely on dogmatic beliefs. He maintained that true knowledge of God arises from mystical union, supported by reasoned analysis (Kulkarni, 2022). Charuta Kulkarni (2021) further supports Ranade's assertion, noting that his Rational Mysticism offers a balanced path where both faith and reason are essential. This approach empowers spiritual seekers to transcend sectarian divisions and to experience the One God within their own hearts.

By advocating the existence of a single divine essence, Gurudev Ranade laid the foundation for his broader vision of world unity and human solidarity. In his view, recognizing the universality of God is the first step toward realizing the ideals of "One World" and "One Humanity."

### **One World: Interconnectedness of Existence**

Gurudev Ranade's concept of "One World" is rooted in the profound interconnectedness of all existence. He taught that the world is not a collection of isolated entities but a unified whole, bound together by the underlying presence of the divine (Ranade, 1933). This vision draws from the Vedantic idea of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world is one family (Mahopanishad VI.71-73). Ranade believed that recognizing the interconnectedness of existence would naturally lead to compassion, empathy, and a commitment to social justice. Modern scholars such as Sharma (2005) have noted that Ranade's philosophy anticipates contemporary discussions on global ethics and ecological consciousness. By emphasizing the spiritual unity underlying the diversity of life, Ranade's vision invites humanity to transcend divisions of race, nationality, and religion.

Furthermore, Ranade's emphasis on interconnectedness aligns with the mystic traditions worldwide, such as the Sufi concept of Tawhid (unity of all existence) and the Christian idea of the Mystical Body of Christ. His insights thus offer a universal framework for understanding and nurturing the bonds that unite all beings.

## One Humanity: Universal Brotherhood

Building upon the foundation of One God and One World, Gurudev Ranade envisioned "One Humanity" as the ultimate goal of spiritual realization. He taught that the recognition of a common divine essence in all beings would naturally lead to universal brotherhood and mutual respect (Ranade, 1933). Ranade emphasized that spiritual practice should culminate in ethical living—characterized by love, compassion, and service towards others. This ideal mirrors the teachings of other global spiritual leaders, such as Swami Vivekananda's advocacy for the "oneness of all existence" and Mahatma Gandhi's vision of "Sarvodaya"—the welfare of all (Vivekananda, 1896; Gandhi, 1948).

According to Joshi (2010), Ranade's notion of universal brotherhood is not merely theoretical but rooted in lived experience, emphasizing selfless action (Nishkama Karma) and social responsibility. His teachings encourage breaking down barriers of caste, creed, and nationality, advocating for a society where dignity and equality are upheld. Scholars like Sharma (2005) argue that Ranade's vision is particularly relevant in today's fragmented world, offering a spiritual basis for human rights and global cooperation. By promoting the idea that humanity is one family under the parenthood of God, Ranade inspires a model of inclusive and compassionate living.

## Philosophical Foundations: Rational Mysticism

Gurudev Ranade's philosophical system is often termed "rational mysticism," blending intellectual rigor with deep spiritual intuition. Unlike mere speculative philosophy, his method insists that philosophical reasoning must be accompanied by personal mystical experience (Ranade, 1933). Rational mysticism acknowledges the role of disciplined thought while recognizing the limitations of logic in comprehending ultimate reality. Kulkarni (1987) notes that for Ranade, mysticism was not irrational but trans-rational — it goes beyond reason without contradicting it. Deshpande (2003) emphasizes that Ranade's rational mysticism is a call for balance: reason refines faith, and faith enriches reason.

## Contemporary Relevance

The vision of Gurudev Ranade remains highly relevant in today's fragmented and polarized world. In an era marked by religious extremism, social inequality, and environmental crises, Ranade's message of spiritual unity and universal brotherhood offers a path toward reconciliation and sustainable living. Modern interfaith movements and peace initiatives resonate with his call for inner realization leading to outer harmony (Sharma, 1997). Furthermore, contemporary eco-philosophers emphasize the interconnectedness of life, reflecting Ranade's idea of "One World" (Deshpande, 2003). His rational mysticism also provides a counterbalance to both blind faith and nihilistic skepticism, offering a spiritually meaningful and intellectually satisfying worldview (Kulkarni, 1987; Joshi, 2011).

## Discussion

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Ranade's vision holds significant implications for modern society, as it encourages a shift from divisive religious and cultural identities to a more inclusive understanding of spirituality. By recognizing the universality of God, individuals can move beyond sectarianism, fostering greater tolerance and cooperation among diverse communities. This approach not only promotes peace and mutual respect but also lays the groundwork for global unity and solidarity, addressing contemporary challenges such as religious conflict and cultural misunderstandings.

This philosophy can address modern societal issues by promoting a sense of global solidarity and shared responsibility. In a world facing challenges like climate change, economic disparity, and social injustice, recognizing our interconnectedness encourages collaborative solutions that transcend national and cultural boundaries. By fostering empathy and compassion, Gurudev Ranade's concept of "One World" inspires individuals and communities to work collectively towards a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

In today's fast-paced and often divided world, spiritual teachings like those of Gurudev Ranade hold significant importance. They offer a framework for fostering empathy, understanding, and connection among diverse groups, promoting peace and harmony. By emphasizing values such as love, compassion, and selfless service, these teachings encourage individuals to look beyond superficial differences and work towards a more just and equitable society.

In modern contexts, rational mysticism can serve as a bridge between science and spirituality, encouraging open-minded exploration of phenomena that lie beyond empirical measurement. By integrating mystical insights with scientific inquiry, individuals can develop a more holistic understanding of the world that respects both empirical evidence and intuitive knowledge. Furthermore, rational mysticism can foster dialogue between diverse belief systems, promoting mutual respect and understanding in an increasingly interconnected global community.

## Conclusion

Gurudev R. D. Ranade's vision of "One God, One World, One Humanity" offers a timeless blueprint for addressing the existential challenges of modern society. By affirming a singular divine reality, he dismantles sectarian dogmas and fosters interreligious harmony (Ranade, 1933; Kulkarni, 1987). His emphasis on the interconnectedness of all life underpins contemporary ecological ethics and global social justice movements (Deshpande, 2003; Sharma, 1997). The ideal of One Humanity translates spiritual realization into compassionate action, advocating for universal brotherhood, equality, and service (Joshi, 2011).

In a world beset by fragmentation—be it cultural, political, or environmental—Ranade's rational mysticism provides a path that honors both reason and spiritual experience. His teachings challenge individuals to cultivate inner transformation that manifests as collective well being. Embracing Ranade's integrated vision can inspire movements toward peace, sustainable development, and global solidarity, affirming that the ultimate solution to humanity's crises lies in recognizing and living the unity of the divine, the world, and humankind.

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