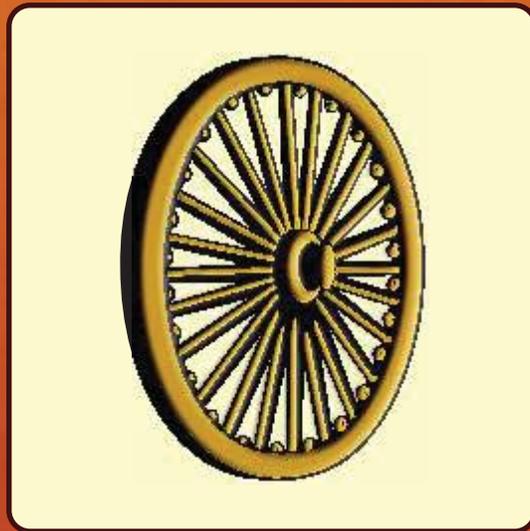


# **Dharma- Its True Nature**

**An International Seminar  
May 1995, Dhamma Giri, Igatpuri**



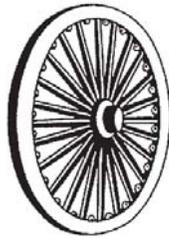
Vipassana Research Institute

# **Dharma – Its True Nature**

**An International Seminar**

**6-7 May 1995**

**Dhamma Giri, Igatpuri**



**Vipassana Research Institute**

**Dhamma Giri, Igatpuri 422 403**

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# Introduction

## Background

The history of the evolution of civilisation is an incessant quest for social order based on justice, equality, peace, harmony and happiness. Men of wisdom in every country of the east, west, north and south have engaged in this quest.

India's contribution has been significant. It gave to the world a concept of Dhamma/Dharma, which embodies all the essentials of an ideal social order and is universally applicable without any distinction based on sex, caste, creed, sect, religion or nationality. It ensures freedom to the individual to shape his destiny in a manner of his own choosing, which is conducive to his personal development and happiness, and that of society as a whole, in the fields material as well as spiritual.

The Vipassana Research Institute is engaged in the scientific research on the theory and practice of Vipassana meditation: a technique of exploration and observation of mind-body phenomena leading to the purification of mind. The technique can bring about a major change in the attitude and behavioral pattern of the individual. The technique has a unique potential as an instrument to bring about change and improvement in the fields of Education, Health, Management in Government and Business, and Social Systems—strengthening the concept of secularism, national integration and international understanding.

The Institute has been organising annual seminars, national and international, dealing

with various aspects of the above areas. In April 1994, the international seminar, organised at New Delhi, dealt with the subject “Vipassana Meditation—its Relevance to the Modern World”.

This 1995 seminar was an outcome of the April 1994 event. The Institute feels that the Indian society, or for that matter the world society, is today at a crossroads in history. It is overwhelmed by the growth and advancement of science and technology—computers, genetics, electronics, media—on one side and on the other, gradual and sustained erosion of human values in all spheres of life. Communal, religious, ethnic, and caste conflicts, so rampant today, are stark manifestations of this reality.

Wisdom lies in understanding this phenomenon and taking corrective measures. This is part of man's eternal quest and in consonance with the great heritage of India. Accordingly the Institute selected the theme “Dharma—Its True Nature” for the 1995 seminar.

The objective of the seminar was very limited, yet very specific. The Institute had no wish to get involved in any controversy related to philosophical speculations and ideological differences and standpoints. The goal was to have a free and objective deliberation on different aspects of this important theme. A principal outcome would be a statement to create awareness of the problems and possible solutions and suggest an action plan to redeem society from this all-pervasive evil of ignorance of the essence of Dhamma.