

# Jain sect 'saint' tells summit to improve Man

By George M. Collins  
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"It's their God that's different from your God and my God, and by God; that's what is making all the trouble!"

"Enlightened Man has one religion . . . and that is Love. . . ."

With these two sentences one of the world's best known Sikhs, Yogi Bhajan Singh, Guru Ram Das Ashram, of Los Angeles zeroed in on the biggest problem facing the Third World Spiritual Summit Conference which opened a three day meeting at Harvard yesterday.

The conference theme calls for the 30 speakers and panelists from as many faiths and denominations to ponder what "Religion in the Seventies" will be about.

But it was evident in the opening session at Sandes Theater that religious history will get in the way of progress at this confertnce and in the decade.

Harvard's Divinity School Dean, Rev. Dr. Krister Stendahl took time out from the installation of the University's president to assure the group that in his view there is no sound basis of fact that religion will die or that it has no future."

"Religion is not a precious flower about to die," the Lutheran scholar said, stressing that regardless of claims to the contrary "Hunger for God is one of the grand forces in human existence."

Hit speaker of the day was a youthful-appearing "Saint" of the Jain religion of India. Already named a "Saint" by his followers, Munishri Chitrabhanu, President of the Divine Knowledge Society of India, explained the four basic tenets of his sects beliefs.

Traceable back to the 6th century B.C., Jainism is characterized by the belief that while gods control the realm of time and matter no being higher than an absolutely perfect human

soul is necessary for the creation of moral regulation of the universe.

Stressing that Jainism believes in quality — rather than quantity — and so does not try to convert anyone, the Munishri told his listeners that they shouldn't depend on God, but upon themselves.

"All the prayers in the world to God will not stop the Vietnam War," he said. "But President Nixon could do it with one word. See the power of Man. Man is the Master of the Cosmos . . . he can do and undo . . . If we don't face this fact we will waste each others time . . . Man has become so powerful that he commands the world. What we Jains are after is to perfect Man."

He pointed out that Jains consider God as the "Indicator" not as the "Creator" and pointed out that if you follow God's light "you will not fall into the pit." The conference continues today.