# Get to Know Your Enemy

by Jerry Lazarus

I went to college with a fellow Indian student, Viju. He often talked about "those terrible Pakistanis," stating that they were bad people and he did not want to associate with them at all. Viju simply knew, as an Indian, that Pakistanis were bad people.

Viju and his parents immigrated to the U.S. when he was just two. He did not grow up in India where such a sentiment is not uncommon, nor did Viju have any personal encounters with Pakistanis in the U.S. Where did he get this prejudice? His visible animosity puzzled me.

I invited Viju to meet Fahim, a close Pakistani friend of mine. Initially, Viju resisted my invitation. But given our friendship, he agreed to a brief visit. Fahim wasn't aware of Viju's prejudice. The three of us met for dinner and spent the entire evening conversing. While Viju and I were walking back to our apartments, I asked him what he thought of Fahim, the Pakistani. He looked at me, and with a smile on his face said: "He is just like us!"

C.S. Lewis writes in his book, *The Screwtape Letters*, that a person might feel "encouraged to revenge himself by some vindictive feelings" toward his enemy. "But it is usually a sort of melodramatic or mythical hatred directed against imaginary scapegoats. He has never met these people in real life—they are lay figures modeled on what he gets from newspapers." And I might add, it is modeled from general sentiment held in the larger society that he belongs to—be it family, friends, associates or groups.

When I was in college, I dated a woman from Burma. She told me that if we were ever to marry, her parents would reject me because I am an Indian—that they generally looked down upon Indians. It occurred to me that she had mentioned many times that her parents were pious Buddhists. They held Buddha and his teachings in high regard, and followed the teachings closely. I wondered how her parents could find it worthy to worship Buddha, an Indian, while rejecting Indians in general. Such prejudice and intolerance did not make sense to her either. In 1 John 4:20 we are informed of the truth: "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"

# A.R.E. SouthEast Region Bookstore Holiday Sale

by Jerry Clement

Here are some ideas for the holidays, stocking stuffers or even for yourself. The South-East Region Bookstore would like to let you know we are having a special sale until January 31, 2009. Some items are in limited supply.

Here is a list of books and products, for gifts, or just because.

#### Dream Book Combo:

How to Interpret your Dreams
Dream Images and Symbols TOTAL

TOTAL \$30.90+\$7.00 Shipping

Holiday Special = \$22.00+ \$4.00 Shipping

Dream

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16 Clues to Your Past Lives Reg. Price: \$12.95 Past Lives and Present Karma Reg. Price: \$15.95

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Olivae almond skin lotion 8oz. Reg. Price: \$6.95

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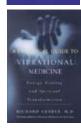
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