

PROMOTING THE CULTURE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD

—*Dr Sohan Raj Tater*

Present Scenario of the Globe

Today the entire world is witnessing a horrifying situation because of territorial conflicts, religious fundamentalism, violation of human rights, global terrorism, environmental and ecological imbalances, global warming, economic disparity etc. We are aware of the fact that, in spite of mind-boggling scientific and technological advancements along with astonishing materialistic developments, the world is passing through a very crucial phase of uncertainty and fear complex arising out of violence, terrorism and variety of conflicts. **Well known scientists, thinkers, philosophers, educationists, academicians, spiritual leaders and socially committed people are feeling urgent necessity of establishing culture of peace throughout the Globe.** Now the time has come to follow the words of the great noble son of India Swami Vivekananda, "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved". Our aim is to bring this statement into reality and to rotate the wheels of change to make the movement of establishing "culture of peace" more proactive.

As we know that the entire world is passing through a tense and chaotic stage, never before noted in the history of human civilization. Conflicts, clashes, violence, bloodshed and massacre have become the order of the day, practically in all parts of the world. In spite of mind-boggling scientific and industrial developments like nano-technology, artificial intelligence, space research etc., the situation is worsening day by day. Even though the present scientific innovations and technological advancements have converted this world of ours into a global village on the face of it, but

the hearts and minds have drifted far apart with deep differences being created between man and man, one nation and the other, one religion and the other and between different sexes, races and castes. If we don't take urgent action for promoting the culture of peace, it will be too late; there is imminent threat to the human life and mother nature.

All of us have forgotten our ethos, culture, concepts of morality and ethics and the good traditions. The time tested human values and spirit is missing. The unfortunate part is that this is taking place in spite of a well devised education system. The values of bygone era, which helped this planet earth to sustain over the ages, are missing. Once the value system is missing, then there is no difference between the human beings and the other creatures. It is highly desirable to change the mindsets of the people so as to inculcate the time tested human values.

Necessity of promoting culture of peace

Propagate non-violence as means to resolve any dispute, conflict or all sorts of issues, differences arising out of caste, creed, race, religion and the boundaries of nations by mutual discussions, deliberations and dialogues in the society, following in footsteps of mahatma Gandhi. Create awareness about human rights in the society together with the associated responsibility and also promote the democratic traditions. Make individuals to be auto critical and responsible citizens with appropriate understanding of essence and philosophy of science and religion/spirituality ready to accept challenges. All the people from the world should try to curb consumerism and uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources to ensure equitable distribution and their availability to the future generations, and also adopt eco-friendly measures which will help in controlling environmental pollution, bi-degradation, global warming and sustainable development.

Every creature of globe wants to live and nobody likes to die. Therefore, no one has any right to destroy or harm any other living being. Jaina ethics believes non-violence means universal truth. There is only one caste, namely manhood. Jainacharyas have always stood for the dignity of man and equality of all, advocated the birth right of independence of all individuals and have preached the elevated ideal of non-violence. Selfishness lies at the root of all global problems. **Culture of peace in the world can be achieved and maintained by renouncing negative ideas of anger, pride, hypocrisy and greed.** Social awareness should be generated for peaceful co-existence. First of all morality and character of individual should be lifted. Non-absolutism of Jainism gives respect to thoughts of every human being. Youth should campaign in the villages and colonies of city to train people that they should not attach to the worldly objects; be not their slaves : turn to the self within where from comes the true happiness.

We should meet on injustice not with the force but with forbearance. Violence begets violence, emity leads to emity. There is nothing in the world or even out of it that can be called good except the principle of non-violence of all living brings. The root cause of violence is material goods. The virtue of Non-violence and Aparigraha are capable of establishing universal peace. Anand (bliss) is experienced by the sage who is free from all desires. The highest aim of human life is to attain eternal bliss. The Gita tells us that the actions should be performed after brushing aside all attachment and the desire for the fruit. All the conduct should be such as would bring us the maximum of happiness and remove miseries from our lives. Jainism says that the dharma is made up of "Non-violence, self control and austerity" Positive emotions bring pleasures and negative emotions make life miserable. Non-violence is the heart of Jainism. All worldly problems can be solved by keeping non-violence in centre. We can protect

environment (i.e. earth, water, fire, air, vegetables and small creatures) by reducing our day to day requirement by reducing our greed.

The protection of Human Right Act, 1993 of India, defines human right as the right relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in the International covenants and enforceable by courts in India. Therefore, so far as India is concerned, only enforceable right embodied in the constitution are human rights. Prominent constitution knower Cranston asserts that, human rights by definition is an universal moral right, something which all people, everywhere, at all times ought to have, something of which no one may be deprived without grave affront to justice, something which is owing to every human being simply because one is human.

Rationality and logic are intrinsic to science and spirituality. A spiritual experience is the goal of a deeply religious person where a major discovery or an invention is the goal of a scientific mind. If both the aspects are unified, amalgamated in our own patterns, we can transcend to the level of thinking, in which unity is the cohesive concept. Then the enlightenment of citizenship will take place. For this environment, the two major components—science and spirituality have to interact. **If you think in term of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people educate the student.** The roadmap to peace in Globe is to promote the features of harmony between man and nature and focus on the peaceful characteristic of people among Globe. **Harmonious development means vigorously promoting the principles of equity, justice, sincerity, amity, vitality, stability and order.** We want our people of Globe to be everything that is them, deep at the centre of their being.

Human beings are born equality in dignity and rights. There are moral claims which are inalienable and inherent in all human individuals by virtue of their humanity alone. The values of dignity and equality of all members of the human race, like other basic principles which underline what we today

call human rights, can be found in virtually every culture, religion and civilization. What the world requires today is recognition of basic human values, in particular of the fundamental social right of justice and dignified conditions of life and liberty.

Ways of promoting culture of peace in the world

For promoting culture of peace we should promote individual inner journey, exploring our inner harmony, in our inner environment and in the process to find ourselves and our identities with the outer environment. However our external environmental and search for external harmony, becomes equally important. This journey is a dual balancing act between belonging and exploration, internally and externally. People are invited to investigate how their "identities" are attached to their internal narratives. On the one hand, it creates a conviction of autonomy for the people, that one has a will of one's own, a certain freedom of choice, a degree of possibility. But it must also relate the self to a world of others—to friends and family. In the words of Bruner, a prominent philosopher, "we seem virtually unable to live without both, autonomy and commitment, and our lives strive to unable the two." So do the self-narratives we tell ourselves.

Promoting value based universal education and training system could be one of the best tool to attain world peace. The ingredients "value based" and universal need to be understood in their proper prospective. The term "value based" is indicative of human values—the values without which there will be little difference between a man and an animal. The term "universal" is indicative of worldwide without any restriction to sectarian boundaries. Thus it is clear that to evolve such a system warrants greatest efforts and changes in the prevailing trends and attitude of the world communities. **Culture of peace can be promoted by imposing balance with Right and Duties.** Rights and duties are very important elements of

human rights. The administration of justice consists of the enforcement of rights and fulfillments of duties. **Rights and duties are correlated to each other in such a way that one cannot be conceived of without the other.** In other words the existence of one depends on the existence of the other. A right is always against someone upon whom the correlated duty is imposed. In the same way a duty is always towards someone in whom the correlated right is vested.

For promoting, culture of peace in the world, following rights are to be provided to citizens of the world :

(i) Justice

Plato and Aristotle, justice in the most general sense, was essential virtue, the virtue most important for living together in communities, cities and nation-states. It is "just" for instance, for some people not to have two square meals a day, while others have more money than they can possibly spend? It is just that hard-working talented people go unrewarded, while others raised in wealth and power are constantly rewarded? Should men and women have equal and just rights? Should everybody be rewarded just compensation for work? Should everybody have just and fair human rights?

Social justice implies that all citizens be treated equally irrespective of birth, race, caste, religion, sex, title etc. It is in this context that the term justice is related to human rights. **It implies that the human rights should be applicable to all human beings to promote culture of peace.** Economic justice requires that the rich and poor be treated alike and that efforts be made to bridge the gap between them. For world peace the state should secure to its citizens and adequate means of their livelihood. Political justice means equal share to all citizens in the right to participate in the political process without any distinction on grounds of race, caste, creed,

religion and birth. For without justice and respect for human rights, there can be no lasting peace, nor can a democracy be true to its intrinsic principles.

(ii) Liberty

Liberty, means the freedom to do anything provided it does not injure the freedom of others. It implies necessary restraint on all in order to ensure the greatest possible liberty to each. Liberty in this sense can be maximized only when there is mutual respect and goodwill and all follow a simple rule of social behaviour : "**Do unto others as your would have them do unto you**". Liberty can exist only when the state maintains those conditions, which help its citizens rise to the fullest stature. State should provide natural, civil, political, economic and national liberty to its citizens for promoting world peace. The true test of liberty lies in the laws of the state and the extent to which these laws help a citizen to develop all that is good in him. All laws flow from liberty. **Liberty, thus, thrives best where rights are guaranteed to all without any distinction of sex, creed, colour, status and so on.**

(iii) Equality

The popular meaning of term equality is that all men are equal and should be entitled to identical treatment. It has been asserted by many that all men are born equal and nature has willed them to remain so. The natural equality of man was recognized in the declaration of the Rights of man issued by the National Assembly of France, which said, "Men are born, and always continue, free and equal in respect of their rights". The American Declaration of Independence makes a similar statement : "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." The state should provide suitable opportunities for all citizens, without any discrimination, for the full development of their potential. Equality involves—absence of legal

discrimination against any one individual, group, class or race. Equal claims to adequate opportunities for all, and the interest of no person or group being sacrificed for another. Equality means—claims to a minimum of education, housing, food and guarantees against economic security. State should provide civil, political, social, natural and economic equality to all citizens of their state.

(iv) Dignity (fraternity)

The term dignity has been used in various constitutions the world over international documents relating to human rights and even in the Indian constitution. If we read the definition of the term "Human Right" in the protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 we will find that it refers to "**the dignity of the individual**". The dignity of the individual was of supreme importance in the minds of the founding fathers of our constitution. Their object was to improve the quality of life of the individual by guaranteeing certain "Fundamental Rights" and by issuing guidelines to the state (in the form of directive principles) to orient its policies to ensure the dignity of all citizens to promote world peace. The recognition of human dignity as a 'source' of human rights can extend and strengthen human rights by formulating new Rights. Also violation of dignity as a rule is required to be dealt through legal action and assertion of Rights. Respect for dignity may be realized by asserting claims of right, or through social process such as education, material belief and political leadership and so on.

Adopt value based universal education system in the schools as well as at the higher education levels by including the time tested human values like-morality, ethics, concepts of tolerance, harmony, family values and reverence for all life. Education throughout life is based on four pillars : learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be. Knowledge, skill, attitude and values are very important

elements in building up one's personality through education for which Swami Vivekananda said that, "It is the manifestation of the perfection already in human beings, we must have life building and human making character education." Gandhiji always worked on the concept of activity education which was both craft centred and child centred and was thus diametrically opposed to the academic and book centred system.

Conclusion

Today the entire world is witnessing a horrifying situation because of territorial conflicts, religious fundamentalism, violation of human rights, global terrorism, environmental and ecological imbalances, global warming, economic disparity etc. All of us have forgotten our ethos, culture, concepts of morality and ethics and the good traditions. The tested human values and spirit is missing. Entire world is passing through a tense and chaotic stage. Conflicts, clashes, violence, bloodshed and massacre have become the order of the day, practically in all parts of the world. The unfortunate part is that this is taking place in spite of a well devised education system. Well known scientists, thinkers, philosophers, educationists, spiritual leaders and socially committed people are feeling urgent necessity for establishing culture of peace throughout the globe.

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For promoting culture of peace we should promote individual inner journey, exploring our inner harmony, in our inner environment and in the process to find ourselves and our identities with the outer environment. Promoting value based universal education and training system could be one of the best tool to attain world peace. Culture of peace can be promoted by imposing balance with Rights and Duties. Social justice implies that all citizens be treated equally irrespective of birth, race, caste, religion, sex, title etc. Human rights should be applicable to all human beings to promote culture of peace. World peace can be promoted only when there is mutual respect and goodwill and all follow a simple rule of social behaviour : "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. State should provide natural, civil, political, economic and national liberty to its citizens for promoting world peace. Adopt values based universal education system in the schools as well as at the higher education levels by including the time tested human values like—morality, ethics, concepts of tolerance, harmony, family values and reverence for all life.

—Advisor, *Jain Vishva Bharati, University, Ladnun*

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