

## World Peace- A Far Distant Dream

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Humanity is striving for ages to strike a chord of Peace. In present day, United Nations Organization with the cooperation of the Governments of several nations has established norms for establishing Global Peace. There are also several UNO wings working in all the countries for Peace establishment. In addition, there are millions of Non-governmental service organizations and billions of Volunteers working round the clock in the Mission of Global Peace.

In spite of tremendous efforts:

Every day, there is death toll due to terror attacks

Every day, there is a corruption scam blowing up

Every day, there are instances of thefts, rapes and murders

Every day, there are deaths due to hunger

Every day, there are riots due to some reason or other

Every day, there is quarrel among family members, friends and neighbors

Every day and everywhere, there is pain and suffering

One wonders, if one is at all serious, why man kills another human being-in the name of god, in the name of peace, in the name of some ideology, or for his country-or for the king and the queen. Probably we all know this: that man has never lived on this earth, which is being slowly destroyed, and why man cannot live at peace with another human being. Why there are separate nations, which is after all a glorified tribalism. And religions, whether it be Christianity, Hinduism, or Buddhism, they are also at war with each other. Nations are at war, groups are at war, ideologies, whether it is the Russian, or the American, or any other category of ideologies, they are all at war with each other. And after living on this earth for so many centuries, why is it man cannot live peacefully on this earth for so many centuries, why is it man cannot live peacefully on this marvelous earth? This question has been asked over and over again and,

### **The Answers are:-**

The system of all nations pay no respect to the people's needs. It drains the leaders and the people of their life energy by creating inequities everywhere: among nations, in the business and corporate world, in our school, our health system, our relations to governments, our families, and how the law views and judges the rich vs. the poor.

It creates a perpetual arms race among nations, and forever sows mistrust. It also calls for contractual agreements to instill a fake sense of security, for the root cause of mistrust is never removed:

One worker is pitted against the other for the lowest labor rate, irrespective of his costs of living. The need to eat and have shelter and transportation is being exploited, and because inflation the goal post of survival is being moved every time the worker catches up with it, and this in favor of bigger profits for the industrialists and stock market investors. Our nations have no rest, for they have no security-economically, financially, socially and governmentally, and there is no refuge from the possibility of war.

From a secret meeting held over 110 years ago we learn of people who understood the needs of the people, yet did not sympathize with those needs, but rather aimed to

capitalize from them by concluding with these words: “They will never be free of needs, and by their needs will we enslave them!” (Paraphrased).

The system drains the people of their life energy, and as that life energy is being withdrawn from them, the weaker vessels of society express themselves in crime very early in their young lives.

For many of our children our schools became hell holes of emotional abuse by social misfits and bullies, and when the victims snap in desperation, by taking knives and guns for being constant targets of teasing and mocking by their peers, we sit back and wonder: “How could this have happened? He was a loner, withdrawn, had no friends, was not good looking, was different from the rest, dressed old fashioned, and was unpopular. We never thought he would take a knife and randomly stab pupils and teachers!”

And yet society is not taking responsibility for the fact that the system creates abusers, and when the victim snaps, the victim gets punished while the abuser goes free.

We are living in a world of really amazing contradictions. On the one hand, people are afraid of war; on the other hand, they prepare for it with frenzy. They produce in abundance, but they distribute miserly. The world becomes more and more crowded, but man becomes increasingly isolated and lonely. Men are living close to each other as in a big family, but each individual finds himself more than ever before, separated from his neighbor. Mutual understanding and sincerity are lacking very badly. One man cannot trust another, however good the latter may be.

The belief that the only way to fight force is by applying more force has led to the arms race between the great powers. And this competition to increase the weapons of war has brought mankind to the very brink of total self-destruction. If we do nothing about it, the next war will be the end of the world where there will be neither victors nor victims—only dead bodies.

‘Hatred does not cease by hatred; by love alone does it cease’. Such is the Buddha’s advice to those who preach the doctrine of antagonism and ill-will, and who set men to war and rebellion against one another. Many people say that the Buddha’s advice to return good for evil is impracticable. Actually, it is the only correct method to solve any problem. This method was introduced by the great Teacher from His own experience. Because we are proud and egoistic, we are reluctant to return good for evil, thinking that the public may treat us as cowardly people. Some people even think that kindness and gentleness are effeminate, not ‘macho’! But what harm is there if we settle our problems and bring peace and happiness by adopting this cultured method and by sacrificing our dangerous pride?

Tolerance must be practiced if peace is to come to this earth. Force and compulsion will only create intolerance. To establish peace and harmony among mankind, each and everyone must first learn to practice the ways leading to the extinction of hatred, greed and delusion, the roots of all evil forces. If mankind can eradicate these evil forces, tolerance and peace will come to this restless world.

Peace is always obtainable. But the way to peace is not only through prayers and rituals. Peace is the result of man’s harmony with his fellow beings and with his environment. The peace that we try to introduce by force is not a lasting peace. It is an interval in between the conflict of selfish desire and worldly conditions.

Peace cannot exist on this earth without the practice of tolerance. To be tolerant, we must not allow anger and jealousy to prevail in our mind. The Buddha says, ‘No enemy can harm one so much as one’s own thoughts of craving, hate and jealousy.’ (Dhammapada 42)

The world is like a mirror and if you look at the mirror with a smiling face, you can see your own, beautiful smiling face. On the other hand, if you look at it with a long face, you will invariably see ugliness. Similarly, if you treat the world kindly the world will also certainly treat you kindly. Learn to be peaceful with yourself and the world will also be peaceful with you.

Man's mind is given to so much self-deceit that he does not want to admit his own weakness. he will try to find some excuse to justify his action and to create an illusion that he is blameless. If a man really wants to be free, he must have the courage to admit his own weakness. The Buddha says:

'Easily seen are other's faults; hard indeed it is to see one's faults.'

**References-**

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