

The Scorching and Gentle Breeze of Peace

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World peace, when we speak of it, the answer would always be about tranquility, calmness, and non-violence. World peace is a big deal to every country in this world. And it's very difficult to achieve because not everyone is cooperating. Not everyone can achieve it at the same time. World peace is a commonly debated issue among today's society. Questions that arise are: Will it ever be attained? When? Is it even possible? These questions have reached the minds of everyone, with a variety of opinions. Political status, culture, and belief all affect their beliefs. Everyone has a different thought, and no one really knows. Will there be a nuclear war? Will a second coming of Christ occur? Maybe the world will unite under one leader? The world's future in world peace can be predicted by none, but I, as many people do, have my own theory. I believe that world peace will never be attained, that it is just an idea created by the human emotion of hope. Not that this is a bad idea; it is a great thought. However, unrealistic. Even one person can contribute to it's country's peace. Of the many problems we face today, some are natural calamities and must be accepted and faced. I cannot recall a single day without a report of something terrible happening somewhere. Not even one's life is safe. It is true that cultural conflicts are increasing and are more dangerous today than at any time in history. Yet the fundamental reason for the tension in the world is the absence of a just economic order. Ruthless exploitation by subjecting weak countries to colonialism, neo-colonialism and globalisation has brought the world to the present pass. Despite all scientific achievements, more than one-fourth of humanity is confronted with deprivation, hunger, disease and illiteracy. However, the artificial world order is collapsing, and this is the period of history when values undergo a fundamental shift. The distinguishing features of such traditional periods are a mixing and blending of cultures, and of course in the process consistent value systems collapse. Power has its own dynamics, and there are many instances in history when the victor and the vanquished belonged to the same religion. At present, the world is in the middle of violence and turmoil and the threat of nuclear war

surrounds the horizon. Therefore the need for interfaith harmony has never been as urgent and great as it is today. However, to achieve the laudable objective of creating interfaith harmony, first of all there is a need to rewrite history. The focus should be on achievements in science, art, literature and culture, and ideas that have helped mankind.

It has to be mentioned that the cause for tension or friction between Islam and Christianity at present is not because of a difference in perception regarding the teachings of Islam or Christianity but because of an unjust world economic order. As a matter of fact all religions gave the message of peace and love. And God assigned all the Prophets with the task of making human beings humane and reasonable with a view to establishing a society where people could live in peace, so that they could achieve intellectual, spiritual and material welfare. However, religious shysters gave a spin and misinterpreted religion to create hatred between the followers of different religions. It is true that some Muslim religious scholars in an effort to prove the supremacy of Islam try to belittle the importance of other prophets and religions. Nevertheless, religious leaders of Christians, Jews and Hindus also demonise Islam for the acts of a few terrorists and warmakers. It has to be acknowledged that today Muslim countries are backward or underdeveloped, and are still hanging with hope in their hands. The development of science with its faith in rationalism as objective reality and empiricism has led to the birth of modern technological civilisation, which spans the entire globe, firmly binding all societies, and subjecting them to a common global destiny. But simultaneously enemies of peace are at work in Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Jewish societies, and it is here that the role of leaders assumes great importance. Unless leaders are endowed with vision, wisdom and courage, they cannot see the intense conflict between dynamic reality and static forms. Hegel describes the fate of those leaders who were chosen by history to become the executors of its 'will' and who have fulfilled the task that was their destiny. "When their object is attained, they fall off like empty shells from the kernel. The leaders today must possess the vision that enables them to remain at the crest of the movement that brought them to power; otherwise they are bound to become the flotsam and jetsam of history." Peace is a journey of thousandmiles, and it must be taken one-stepat a time. In today's world' peaceneeds to become more than just aword. Let's pledge to open our heartsand

meditate on actions for worldpeace...to be the change we wish to see in the world... let's begin with our own little step, and see what a world of difference that makes. This world could use a little help right now. The world needs to learn to blend its people a little better, and what you will inevitably get is acceptance. Intolerance towards certain stereotypes, religions, and ethnic societies will not exist anymore, because it has been blended already, and the entire world becomes one. If we can find common ground, that would be a good start. The lesson that needs to be learned is to leave talk of religion off the table entirely when the focus is for peaceful relations. Let's face facts, everyone thinks that their religion is the correct one, how could we possibly use it as a means of peace or as a starting point? We, as a society, need to learn tolerance, and be color blind to other nations ways, and learn how not to be easily offended. Also learn how not to offend. For today some countries need to forgive, but not forget, and move on, so the hatred doesn't poison your land. Learn to accept the fact that mistakes can happen, even with the smartest of races.