

PEACE OR PIECES...?

B. B. Venkatesh

Research Scholar & Assistant Professor
IFIM College, Bengaluru, India.

Abstract

Peace is something which is very important for our existence. We can live without anything but not without peace. People are ready to give up anything for the sake of peace. If society goes away from peace, the existence of society will come in danger. If we are able to find answers for this, then we would also have a solution for this also. Peace has always been disrupted leading to the killings of people in the name of different types and levels of war. There are lots of disharmony between different religions and castes, Blacks and Whites, rich and poor, powerful and underdogs, man and woman, human life and plant life. Beyond all these, at family level is also important. If we are at peace in all these levels and not in peace within, it is of no use. peace is disturbed at various levels. Broadly, it can be classified into two. External and internal disharmony. World wars, some time patriotism, fear, disturb the peace. Present Paper will talk about the important of peace.

Keywords: Disharmony, Society, Conflict, Peace, Piece, War.

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The British dictionary defines the term 'peace' as a state of tranquillity, quiet & harmony. A state free of oppressive and unpleasant thoughts and emotions. Harmony in personal relations. A state free of war. The dictionary makes effort to describe it in 4 different sentences probably because of the complexity of the concept called 'peace'. Peace is something which is very important for our existence. We can live without anything but not without peace. People are ready to give up anything for the sake of peace. They are ready to give up their lives for the sake of peace and this is the problem.

When people are ready to fight and give up their lives, the very relevance of peace is questioned. Why does man fight in the name of peace is the million dollar question. If we are able to find answers for this, then we would also have a solution for this also. Now let us understand the facts and figures as per the war is concerned. Peace has always been disrupted leading to the killings of people in the name of different types and levels of war.

Peace can be or should be found and established at different levels. Peace at world level, at national level, state level and locally. We have lot of disharmony between different religions and castes, blacks and whites, rich and poor, powerful and underdogs, man and woman, human life and plant life. Beyond all these, at family level is also important. If we are at peace in all these levels and not in peace within, it is of no use.

Effort has been made at all times and at all levels to restore peace. People were successful sometimes to a great extent but slowly and gradually disharmony has crept in. Disharmony has become the common factor all around the world and among all species. Let us try to understand why peace is disturbed at various levels. Broadly, it can be classified into two external and internal disharmonies.

External disharmony is in the outer world starting with international level where people live with their own ideologies and differences. When they get to develop a kind of love and respect towards their own race it is called as patriotism. This patriotism, sometimes become more

and turns to something called obsession. It is exactly where a man starts hating a man of another race. This hatred gets on his nerves and he becomes intolerant. He reaches a stage where the very idea of a person of another race disturbs him. He plans to eliminate him from his sight. It may be pushing him to displace himself to a far off place or to make him disappear. One of the two reasons for the migration in the world is this fear of one's life, I feel, the other being for the search of better prospects.

Two world wars have been fought. Around 38 and 60 million people have died in first and second world war respectively. There would be no life on earth if the third one happens is the prediction of war scientists. Man has advanced to a great extent that he has made provisions for all his needs. Weaponry is also an important thing all-through his evolution. Since his origin, he has been innovating his weaponry. In early stone-age, he had strong stones as weapons. As an innovation, he sharpened it. As he stepped into metal-age, he updated himself to metallic weapons. As he progressed with scientific discoveries, he kept on enhancing his fighting capacities by leaps and bounds, his recent discovery being atomic/nuclear bomb. It was not just manufactured but also used on mankind. The effect of it is not just on the existing people but it goes further to the upcoming generations. This is the effect of the recent advancement. One man sitting in a corner of this world can bring the whole world to ashes including himself. A strong, sharp and definite sword is hanging on each one of our heads.

Apart from these two world wars, wars at lesser levels are being fought from time immemorial. The best example being our own country and its neighbors. The surrounding countries before becoming separate countries, they were the integral part of our own country. They had problems being a part of this country. So they fought for a separate country and got separated. Even after getting separated, they have problems with us. Now and then they keep on reminding us of their existence through unwanted terror or disputes. So what was the use of yielding to their wish? I do not want to get into details as it may hurt a few. We have reached a stage where it is difficult to talk about our own enemies. All of a sudden, our enemies have gained fans and followers who have become very vocal about it. They have the guts to stand in a national platform and raise slogans expressing their determination to cut down our country into pieces and we are talking about peace. Irony is that they have an open support of national political parties. The common man of this country will never ever excuse them. Over all these, we have been termed as intolerant nation. The only nation which has not just tolerated but

accepted other religions since thousand years is our country and I feel proud to belong to such a country.

Similarly, we have issues with our neighboring states, areas, localities and finally within our own families. Our own people, may be brothers & sisters, cousins, husband-wife, parents-children, we have lot of disturbances within ourselves. Our own families are like a miniature world. The quarrels at family level are no less than any world war in intensity. It has all capabilities to go on for years together or even to go fatal. A person who has been loved for such a long time becomes the most dreaded enemy and so on and so forth. It can and has gone to a great levels of disasters and tragedy.

These are all the various areas of disharmony at external level. One threatening another, one killing another. The very structure of this external disharmony is different from internal disharmony. As these two are structurally different, the solutions also would be different. Now what is the solution for external disharmony?

The solution is our *UPAYAS*, the four-folded path, *Saama*, *Daana*, *Bheda* and *Danda*. The word *Upayas* is a Sanskrit word which means ‘Approaches’, the four-folded approaches to tackle the offender. *Kautilya* referred to these *Upayas* in his works.

All the disharmony in the world is due to a few people’s intention of creating trouble to others. The origin of intention, if it is due to ignorance, it can be handled by any simple means. But majority of the trouble makers are well aware of what they are doing. So any amount of love or compassion cannot work. It has to be handled according through the four-folded path.

Saama means conciliation or alliances which is the first stage where it is told in a nice, polite way describing the issue.

Daana means gifts or compensation which is the second way where we accept to what has happened. It is like excusing with a gentle warning and going ahead by extending an alternative to support the offender.

Bheda means rupture or divide and rule which is the third stage where the first two has not worked. It is the stage where it is handled intelligently. Let me put it across point wise.

- By using tricks to cut down his supporters or make them stay neutral.
- By cutting down the sources from which he gains strength, for example arms and ammunitions, food, man power etc.
- By putting conditions which would put him to trouble or unfavorable conditions.

All these tricks can be categorized as arm-twisting techniques. The British were probably the masters of this trick.

The fourth one is *Danda* being the most effective and result oriented but used as a last resort. This becomes most effective because all through the journey of the first to three, the enemy would have been studied well, interacted enough to know its weaknesses and strengths. And strategically if *Danda* is raised, result is assured.

The *Upayas*, are the age-old time-tested tool to bring in peace in the world. I strongly disagree with each and everybody who talks about love and compassion as tools to win over the opponent's heart. India is a peace-loving country. One of our neighbors seems to have eternal problem with us. The newly elected Prime Minister, much against the majority of people's wishes, invited the head of the neighboring country for his swearing-in ceremony. A fresh breath of air was felt between the countries. He even visited the country that too on an auspicious occasion.

All these affirming steps were a part of *Saama* and *Daana*. Things were not right still. Then a situation came that it has had some issues with its own province. He immediately seized the opportunity and supported them to arm-twist this country. This was *Bheda*. There were many other related issues pending and almost all of them seemed to be resolved. But still the neighbor continues to meddle with the peace of our country. Now the only resort is to see that it gets trapped into the pit which it has dug or see it to perish. With this kind of approaches, I mean *upayas*, these people can be handled. Even god himself appears with loads of love and compassion also, peace cannot be restored.

This is about restoring external disharmony. Now how to restore internal disharmony. It is even more difficult. We possess an equally crude world inside each of us. We are not just made up of a gross physical body. We are a series of layers getting subtler and subtler. We are composed of thoughts, emotions, intelligence, conscience, consciousness, etc. It gets subtler as we go deep into our personality as described by *Maharshi Patanjali* in his Yoga Sutras.

Maharshi Patanjali in his Yoga Sutras recommends a eight-fold path called *Astanga Yoga* which comprises *Yama*, *Niyama*, *Asana*, *Pranayama*, *Prathyahara*, *Dharana*, *Dhyana* and *Samadhi*. By following this path, one can attain peace at internal level.

There is another path for peace-internal which was trodden by the man who conquered the whole of Asia and beyond. He happens to sit under a tree with closed eyes for some time and

opens eyes and announces that he has attained enlightenment. He is none other than Gouthama, the Buddha.

He sat under the tree with closed eyes and did what? He meditated. But what exactly he did in the name of meditation is the question. What he did then is practiced in its original form under the name '*Vipassana*'. This technique which is practiced in its original form is an answer for our internal disharmony. It takes us deep into our existence and cleanses the effect of emotions and sensations we would have experienced till then.

Anything which is oriental is not expression-friendly. It is experience-friendly. It is always better to cognize it with experience than with anybody's expression. Its very structure is like that. The difference is like mountain and ocean. If we have to discover the mountain, we need certain tools and if we have to discover the ocean, we need another set of tools. We cannot or should not question why not same tools. The very structure is different. Similarly, the very structure of internal and external peace is different. That particular set of tools are required for respective work. It can neither be interchanged nor use different ones. We need to use respective tools and restore peace at any cost.

If peace is so important, why is it disrupted every now and then? What could be the reasons for it? Even the people who disturb peace know that peace is important. They also know that the opponent would be ready to do anything to restore peace. To make use of this as a weakness, they disturb peace so that their demands would be heeded and fulfilled. But it is their personal problem. Still we do have a solution for their problem. They have to work on their internal enemies, '*Arishadvargas*' namely, *Kaama*, *Krodha*, *Lobha*, *Moha*, *Mada* and *Matsarya*. We have special classes for them also. By understanding all these things the mischief-mongers may live peacefully or their very living may become doubtful.

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