

WORLD WITHOUT WARS

Peace Is Possible

The world is in crisis. “Man Started Pollution. Man Can Stop It!” This poster with a Native American shedding tears appeared in a New York subway three decades ago. Humans can stop all human sufferings, including wars, if only they are determined to do so. Global sufferings require human action. Global problems such as nuclear and ecological holocaust must be solved now before they become uncontrollable. Cooperation has saved mankind in the past and only cooperation can solve the global problems mankind now faces.

Global problems can be solved only by adopting a global perspective and participation. The law of cause and effect is universally accepted. All phenomena arise from existing causes and conditions. This is referred to as Dependent Origination. The global system is a natural open and dynamic one. Any efforts that undermine such a system will fail or become fatal. Proposed solutions based on artificial, closed and static systems (egotistic, tribal, national, etc.) are destined to failure and condemnation. We need a global perspective, deep insight and devoted engagement to solve our problems.

Mankind has evolved through three revolutions: Material (Production), Social and Spiritual. The first stages of these were Agriculture (10,000 years ago), Urbanization (5,000 y.a.) and Religious (2,500 y.a), respectively. The Religious revolution later gave rise to the Sciences, Arts and Ethics. Religion (whether it be tribal, ethnic or world) can be defined as a “way of life” and refined to be a “way to life” — life that is “holy”, whole, wholesome and universal. Later stages of these three revolutions are Industrialization, Nationalization and Globalization, respectively.

The Production Revolution enabled the Urban Revolution. “Civilization” (i.e., urbanization from the Latin *civitas*) was made possible by the five calamities of delusion, bondage, discrimination, exploitation and the extermination of existing “holy” systems. City-states came into being with their view of the pyramidal structure of the human, animal and natural world. This pyramidal structure made possible egoism, slavery, class differentiation and war. The spiritual revolution grew to combat these with the five blisses of wisdom, freedom, equality, love and peace.

What are wars? It is important to realize that war arose in civilization only very recently. It is not inevitable instinct. War is also rare in that it is only 0.1 percent of our long human history. City states (called Greek *polis*, Hindi *pura*, French *bourg*, etc.) with separating walls began the systems of taxation and war against outsiders which have taken on different forms until the existence of today’s nation states with all kinds of social, global and ecological problems. Wars have been fought between the smallest of societies and gradually to the largest of nation states. The result is that the last century became the century of warring nationalism fought with the worst weapons (nuclear, chemical, etc.) and on the largest, most sweeping scale

(biological, ecological, etc.). One hundred sixty million humans were killed, six million from a single race and sixty thousand from a single atomic bomb.

Why are there wars? Wars arise from the three poisons of delusion, attachment and aversion that contaminate and eventually kill all both physically and spiritually. Our delusions take the forms of ego, “isms” and ideologies based on biases and our not knowing the dependently originated nature of the entire system. Our attachments are revealed by our greed for material things, fame and fortune. Aversion brings forth hatred of our ego-enemies. These habits have been heavily instilled in us by the hidden curricula of society and are deeply ingrained in our physical, verbal and mental actions on both the individual and societal levels. They continue from the past into the present and will lead to future catastrophe unless we stop these conditioned tendencies.

What is peace? In conventional competitive society we are continuously compelled to race and fight both physically and psychologically. Because these habitual tendencies result in physical, verbal and mental actions, we can stop the habitual tendencies when we stop the actions. When we sit still our volitional, emotional and intellectual states become calm and clear. Constant practice of contemplation and meditation enables us to penetrate and pierce through our habits (their physical manifestations, mental fabrications, the three poisons, egoism, etc.). This is the clear, concrete, universal way to unconditional peace and insight. Perpetual peace is possible only in this way, not by forces or weapons

How is peace achieved? Only such unconventional, holy insights attained through meditation, prayer, etc. allow us to go beyond conventional mundane value systems such as fame, fortune, egoism/nationalism and forestall violent seas of blood and oceans of tears. Any universal (holy) religion must go beyond secular ideas and values to attain the higher and wider perspective represented by Truth, Law, The Way, Dharma, The Divine, etc. Religion (from the Latin *re-ligare*) means to reunite with the holy, the greater system of the whole, going beyond ego and pseudo-ego in the forms of tribalism and nationalism. All problems originate from short-sightedness and small-mindedness.

It is quite natural that the Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago in 1993 C.E. with eight thousand participants from all religions of the world issued the Declaration Toward a Global Ethic. The Global Ethic contains the basic rules to imbue global life with peace, love, truth and equality based on the common principles agreed upon by all religions. The four principles are derived from the Five Precepts (the first five of the Ten Buddhist Precepts), the Judeo-Christian-Islamic Ten Commandments, etc. The fourth principle below is slightly modified:

No killing.

No stealing.

No lying.

Equal partnership between men and women.

These four principles are based on the interdependence of all our lives and life-support systems - the law of Dependent Origination. They could be presented as Five L's: Law, Life, Love, Lielessness (Honesty) and Liberation. These five L's correspondingly relate to the five

principles on which a global system's structure should be built — the Five S's of: Systemic, Sustainable, Saving, Safe and Simple.

The Ten Precepts are the essential base for unconditional peace (*nirvana*) and unsurpassed awakening. The Ten Commandments are the necessary ground for Heaven on Earth. If more than 80 percent of the world's population belong to formal religions and sincerely practice them, then Pure Land, Peace and Paradise are truly near at hand. We need only be determined to become genuinely holy. Neither holiness and discrimination nor religion and war can coexist. "Three ordinary people, gathered in cooperation, can make a truly wise one." Imagine what truly holy people could accomplish amongst the billions of humans.

Properties and Process of Peace: Awakening knows no ego. Love knows no enemy. Dedication knows no violence. Violence is weakness in the face of the three poisons of attachment, aversion and delusion. By achieving the Three Learnings of morality, equanimity and insight we counteract the three poisons, we conquer ego and we achieve consummate peace. Because we are already habituated, we need new cultivation and education. Peace on the individual level must be put into action and taken out into the world. Social action is essential. Both individual and social education must go beyond the merely intellectual and extend into emotional and volitional areas as well. Education into the way to peace must be integrated into personal and societal systems.

The Declaration was modified into The Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities by the Interaction Council composed of ex-presidents and prime ministers, etc. and forwarded to the United Nations for their adoption as an integral counterpart of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the latter. It is essential and inevitable that the United Nations adopt this Declaration in order to outgrow antiquated nationalism and transcend the unprecedented destruction of the 20th century wars and to establish genuine world peace and actualize the true way to life through international treaties, national constitutions, regional laws and rules, etc. War is immoral. Nations must abolish wars and the weaponry used to wage them.

Because of our unprecedented and profligate use of the earth's resources and subsequent destruction of the earth's environment, all humans are urged to notice the cancerous nature of human civilization, reflect on their personal role in this phenomenon, and renew their way of living to be truly holy. This requires us to incorporate our lives into a system which is cyclical rather than pyramidal in structure and in which resources are conserved in accordance with the Five R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rearrange, Restore) and information therefor is processed in accordance with the Five A's (Access, Assess, Agree, Advise, Act).

For the first time in this global age of human history, we can put an end to war and begin a new century and millennia of limitless life, love and light. We must utilize the global network that has the potential to infinitely reflect our words and deeds like a jeweled net. Our common work with this network will become the model for truly democratic world—a fully functioning, crystal clear, limitless life system.