

**WORLD PEACE - PERSPECTIVES ON ENGAGED BUDDHISM****Kamble Mohan Sakharam, Ph.D.**

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Abstract

In present paper following points are described.

Introduction – Modern age is age of stress and strain.

Concept of peace – State of mind, perfect understanding between two individual or even to oneself.

Concept of world peace – Peace and happiness among & within all nations & peoples.

World peace theories – Political, communist, democratic.

Religious views about world peace: - Bahai, Christianity, Hindu, Islam, Jainism.

Messages of saints :- Saint Dnyaneshwar, Saint Tukaram, Muhammad, Ashoka the Great Emperor, S. N. Goenka, A. J. Muste.

The Essential Teaching of the Buddha : - Four Noble Truths. 1) There is suffering. 2) Thnha is the cause of suffering. 3) Suffering can be over come. 4) There is Noble Eight Fold Path.

Relevance of the Buddhist Contribution to world peace in the present content: - Some news from newspaper/five – precepts – the base of Buddhist morality.

The unique path of enlightenment – The Noble Eight Fold Path – Patticca Samuppada, Nibbana, Meditation

on Loving Kindness = Metta

Conclusion

*न हि वेरेन वेरानि सम्मन्तीध कुदाचनं ह्य
अवेरेन च सम्मन्ति एस धम्मो सनन्तनो ह्यद्य*



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Introduction :-

Respected Dhamma brothers and sisters, it is true that we are living in the world which Dickens called, “ Hard Times”, pressure and tension, concomitant to economic growth and eroding the value system; that was integral to our ethos. Today the entire world is passing through the tense and chaotic stage, even worse than what was experienced during the two world wars. The present turmoil is also a war between good and evil, sacrifice and greed, virtues and vices, tolerance and rigidity, religious co-existence and fundamentalism, traditional time-tasted values and quick selfish motives and so on.

World Peace: Let us first see what is peace? Peace is the state of mind which brings perfect understanding between two individuals or even to oneself. Peace within self leads to the peace in the family. Peace in the family leads to peace in the society. Peace in the society extends to different communities and finally it leads to peace within a nation and between different nations which ultimately helps in establishing Global peace.

World Peace is an ideal of freedom. Peace and happiness among and within all nations and peoples. It is an Utopian idea of planetary non-violence by which nation willingly co-operate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance which prevents warfare. Global peace is state of geopolitical and social equilibrium .

World peace Theories –: many theories has given regarding how world peace could be achieved h Some of them are given below.

- 1) Political ideologies –: According to former U.S.president George Bush –“The march of democracy will lead to world peace”.
- 2) Leon Trotsky –: assumed that ,the world revolution would lead to communist world peace .
- 3) Democratic peace theory-: Jack levy- quoted, “as close as any thing we have to any thing we have to empirical law in international relations.”

Religious Views about world peace –: many religions and religious leaders have expressed a desire for an end to violence or world peace.

- 1) Bahai faith –:according to bahai world embracing collective security. Arrangement as necessary for the establishment of a lasting peace.
- 2) Christianity-: peace through good will and by sharing the faith with others, as well as for giving those who do try to break the peace. Love god and love your neighbor as you love thyself.

Hinduism –: Firmly believes in non- violence, tolerance and peaceful co-existence. (Vasudaiva kutumbakam.)

Islam –: surrender to Allah, the Almighty, total faith in His rubbiyat and total regard for virtues.

Shikism –: A believer of God should strive for the union with Him by working hard and by sharing the fruits of labour with others.

Jainism-: Ahimsa and self control are the supreme principles of Jainism which ultimately lead to salvation. Jainism believes in self purification.

Zoroastrianism –speak truth; be true to one self .think good Do good.

Judaism –“That which is hateful to you, do not do for your fellow humans”.

Confucianism –: Do not impose on others what you do not desire to be imposed on your self.

Messeges of saints and seers about world peace .

Saint Dnyaneshwar -

सर्वे पि सुखिनः सन्तु ह्य
सर्वे सन्तु निरामयः सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु ह्य
मा कश्चिद् दुःखःमाप्नुयात् ह्य

Jagatguru saint Tukaram.

शांतिपरते नाही सुख ह्य येर अवघेचि दुःखः
म्हणुनी शांति धरा ह्य उतराल पैल तीरा ह्य
खवळलिया काम क्रोधी ह्य अंगी भरती आधी व्याधी ह्य
तुका म्हणे त्रिविध ताप ह्यमग जाती आपोआप
म्हणुनी शांति धरा ह्यउतराल पैल तीरा ह्य

Juses Christ - Sprituality is love , joy, peace, kindness, gelentleness & self control.

Prophet Muhammad- Relegion of islam comprised of three elements of Islam ,Imam and Ishan.

Guru Nanak Devji – Says belivers of god should strive for the union with him by working hard, by adoring the divine name.

Mahatma Gandhi- It is law of love that rules the mankind.

S. N. Goenka : Rare is a human life,

Rare to encounter the Dhamma.

We are fortunate to have both.

Let us work to banish suffering.

Jan Willis: - We must think globbly while acting locally. Peace and non-violence are the only sane choices in a violent world, like the greater pacifist.

A.J. Muste: - I believe there is no path to peace, rather peace is itself the path.

Ashoka the Great Emperor: - Tells us, “ Subba Manusa Mama Paja. One should not honour only one’s religion and condemn other faith. Universal low is Dhamma – Let us listen concord is good, not quarreling.

The ancient land of India gave a message of peace and harmony to the world, to all humanity, but it did more. It gave a method, a technique for achieving peace and harmony. All sages, saints and seers of the world have advised, first find peace within your self = know thy self.

The Essential Teachings of the Buddha

The Buddha was a human being. He was born as a man. He lived as a man His life came to an end as a man. His massage of peace and tolerance was wel - comed by all with

desirable joy and was of eternal benefit to every one who had the fortune to hear and practice it.

The Gautam Buddha – an embodiment of truth, love and compassion. He says – development of knowledge with wisdom, compassion with love and moral character only will lead to the well being of the entire humanity. True friendship, reverence and respect for all living beings is the pathway for the well being of the mankind .

The way to world peace is through understanding the world and being at peace with it, The way to live in the world is through being generous and morally responsible. The way to free oneself of ignorance is through mindfulness.

All of the many teachings of the Buddha centred on the Four Noble Truths just as a rim and spokes of a wheel centre on the hub. The Four Noble Truths are based on common human experiences of suffering.

The first Noble Truth is that life is suffering.

The second Noble Truth is that all suffering is caused by craving.

The third Noble Truth is that suffering can be overcome and happiness attained.

The fourth Noble Truth is the path leading to the overcoming of suffering; this path is called the Noble Eight Fold path.

Relevance of the Buddhist Contribution to world peace in the present content.

Today we all live under lot of stress and strain – Lets see some shocking news from news paper Pune Mirror on 13th -14th March 2010.

‘They killed my daughter!’ Father alleges that, in laws killed daughter over dowry demands.’

*PS. we all are puzzled too!

*Admission agents dash students MBA dreams.

*Sex was used to get G8 tenders – London

* 38 Women, 26 Kids killed in UP asharam stampede scramble over free utensils, clothes leads to tragedy.

* Former woman Army Officer gets one year rigorous Imprisonment – Chandigarh.

* Man on fire – harassed by his wife and in-laws – (Pune).

Is there any way to come out of these present turmoil? The Buddhist say, yes, there is the path → The Eight Fold Path – *एकयनो मग्नो* |

Five precepts are the basis of Buddhist morality. Sila means to abstain from all unwholesome physical and vocal actions, namely –

Abstain from killing –

Abstain from stealing

Abstain from a life of misconduct

Abstain from lies, harsh words, backbiting etc.

Abstain from intoxicants.

Compassion, care and love towards others are innate to human being. The purification of mind is most important aspect in Buddhism.

The path of Buddha is rational, pragmatic and scientific. It is non -sectarian and result oriented. It is simple, well defined, so that anyone can practice it without any confusion. It is doctrine of reality. It is unique path of enlightenment; based on the Noble Eight Fold Path.

The Noble Eight Fold Path is divided into three parts.

1) Sila 2) Samadhi 3) Panna

Sila –means morality which is summed up as ‘sabba papassa akaranam’=abstain from all sinful actions, unwholesome action. (Right speech, right action, right livelihood)

Samadhi –is concentration, “kusalassa upasampada”, to perform wholesome actions which concentrated wholesome mind (right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration)

Panna – is wisdom or insight =”sachitta pariyoda panam”, purify the totality of mind by developing insight.

Thus Buddhist Eight Fold Path is the (क़ायनो मग्नो) noblest of all unifying influences and only lever that can uplift the world .

According to Buddhism ignorance is the cause of birth and death. It is explained in the paticca samutppada. Paticca Samutppada means because of or dependent upon or dependent arising or dependent origination. The ultimate goal of Buddhist is Nibbana- means non attachment.

Buddhist message enabled human beings to think freely and wisely. It is depicted in the Tipitaka. In every book of Tipitaka, there is a clear direction for mankind which led them to emancipation and peace. According to Buddhism the minds of all living beings are totally interconnected and interrelated, whether they are consciously aware of it or not. .The most fundamental precept in Buddhist teaching is respect for life and the prohibition against taking life. If we end killing, the world will be at peace.

To overcome the present situation of stress and strain .we must do meditation, which is the very heart of Buddhism .Through meditation we can change our minds and attitudes. We can become more peaceful ourselves as a consequence .We can help to engender peace in the

world. Meditation on loving kindness = Metta is the unique technique of Buddhas teaching. Vipassana purifies the mind. Metta attempts to break all the barriers, which separate another from another and generates pure love and compassion. Countries like Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan, Laos, Nepal, Tibet, China, Mongolia, Korea etc. grew up in the cradle of Buddhism.

In conclusion – I would like to leave you with these two Dhammapadas -

१. न हि वेरेण वेरानि समन्तीध कुदाचनं
अवेरेण च सम्मन्ति एस धम्मो सनन्तनो द्यद्य
२. सब्बे सत्ता सब्बे पाणा,सब्बे भूताच केवला
सब्बे सत्ता भद्रानि पस्सन्तु मा किञ्चि पापमागमा

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