

## Dawn of a new civilization- Universal Brotherhood

18/02/06

Dear Brother and friend,

For many a days, I have been gripped in obsession to seek a reconciliation between the aspect of freedom of speech versus its potentiality to serve as an inflammatory implement to cause emotional strife and disdain.

I must admit that freedom of expression is a natural calling and also a fundamental right of every individual to be treasured and upheld under all circumstances. No doubt can be entertained on this fact.

However the tool of freedom of expression (F.O.E.) is analogous to a knife that may be used to slice a roll of bread and shared or slit another's throat. So the relevance exists in how we exercise this tool.

Statutory laws are formulated to "Restrict" such freedom of choice when it becomes a threat to life and property. Such laws serve as guidelines and restrictions to such choices to remain within its perimeter and not to cross its limitations in detriment to the public at large.

Punishment and penalty is imposed depending upon the degree of a crime or offence and the damage caused. So more or less the punishment can be equated with the offence in due measure.

The purpose of such punishment is to address and seek Retribution, Prevention, Reformation and Deterrence in the best interest and safeguard of society.

When an outcome or damage is objective in nature i.e. it can be measured and therefore the laws can be administered to solicit a justification, but when the effect is subjective or in the nature of feelings and certain beliefs then laws fail to reach the complex structure of emotions.

Each individual having different levels of understanding, tolerance, kindness, mercy and sentiments, it is arduous to determine the degree of feeling so as to ascertain a just response or retribution for an aggrieved party.

Where laws fail to restrict, it is then the core values of humanity as enshrined in the various scriptures that come to the rescue of restraining the tool of freedom of expression.

So the only remedy to a flared condition of the Muslim brotherhood or towards any ethnic or religious group is in fact, "Restraint" "Restraint by all". Restraint that implies tolerance is to be espoused. We may not agree with each others view points but tolerance binds you in friendship.

We all exercise restraint in our daily lives and refrain from using words in our interactions either for fear of reprisal towards oneself or to avoid causing any harm to others in a mode of variable compassion.

This feeling of “Non- harming, Non-hurting, Non-violence” can be summed up in one word: “Ahimsa”. The doctrine of “Ahimsa” was highlighted by Buddha and practiced to the “T” by Mahatma Gandhi to advance Hindu-Muslim unity, to extol and promote the equality between woman and man besides many other issues of such time.

“Forgiveness” being the counterpart of Ahimsa has been propagated and exemplified by all Prophets and therefore should be emulated to glorify their historical presence in due respect and diligence.

We surely cannot glorify our prophets or our preceptors if we go against their teachings or values. On the contrary we insult them more than anything else.

Restraint by values or restrictions from laws or rendering a sincere apology does not forfeit our freedom of speech. Let not F.O.E. become your own foe.

Therefore in my opinion the enraged environment in the world today is in reality the conflict and search for a solution between “The exercise of freedom of expression versus the arousal of individual sentiments.”

I do believe that many a social injustices and iniquities can be aptly addressed by the practice of Ahimsa until its essence becomes a primary condition of our soul.

Practice of this concept in all our responses can be the greatest virtue to be inculcated by everyone irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

This alone can open the floodgates of Universal Brotherhood wherein different religious entities can unite for a common cause and walk side by side in favor of peace, economic order and a dawn of a new civilization nestled in trust and harmony.

As a memento let me share with all of you a universal song for the future:

Let us join hand in hand,  
To walk that extra mile,  
One day we shall all depart  
What do we leave behind..... Chorus: What shall we leave behind,

Let us grow in peace and love  
And share our thoughts divine  
This is the only way  
To scale the skies sublime ..... Chorus: To scale the skies sublime,

All do come from one source  
To live on earth side by side  
When earthy winds affect our hearts  
Why do we contend to divide...Chorus: Why do we contend to divide,  
Let us join hand in hand....

In love and for love:: Daduzen