



Mahatma Gandhi Institute
&
Rabindranath Tagore Institute



School of Indological Studies
Department of Philosophy



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“The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.”

‘Peace’ such a simple word to pronounce but at the same time so profound and mystical since it is loaded with different layers of interpretations and meanings. Observing International Day of Peace at the MGI is in itself a historic event as it is for the first time that such a laudable initiative has been undertaken by the School of Indological Studies following a resolution taken at the very



first Standing Committee meeting to make MGI more visible through activities that will not only promote philosophical debates but also translate same in a very pragmatic way into our daily life making us more goal oriented and productive in our enterprises.

Speaking of ‘peace’ especially after the entire world has been through periodic lockdowns and confinements, is something riveting. The theme chosen by the UN for this year: *recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world* is more than evocative after we have experienced the harrowing aftermaths of the covid-19. This gruesome pandemic has arrested the frantic pace at which we were exploiting the natural resources of this planet in a mad quest towards material success, personal gain and political supremacy.



Paused, we have been compelled to go for *introspection* and rediscover our true self which has been shrouded by layers of material desires and egoistic pursuits. Cries of woes and feelings of anguish rend the air as the world order is collapsing under economic pressures, public health crisis and rapid depletion of natural resources.

<https://www.postermywall.com/>

At a time when world leaders are racking their brain to cope with such unprecedented calamities and afflicting strife, is international peace still possible? Well, from misery comes unity and at the MGI where Indian Philosophy is a way of life, the perennial teachings and values embedded in the sacred scriptures are being deciphered and deployed in such ingenious and creative ways so as to build resilience, promote unity and foster peace among all segments of the population in order not to give way to panic in front of the pandemic.

For sure, our age-old scriptures contain such precious gems and treasures in wisdom that have been so precious and zealously encapsulated by our farsighted seers and sages that it is our sacred duty at the MGI to unleash them to overcome all the daunting challenges threatening humanity before we fade away under this sweeping wave of materialism and egoism. Yet, misery has the capacity to bring unity and solidarity among men of all races, igniting love and compassion in our heart for one another. It is with such peaceful state of mind and absolute serenity that we can find remedy in the face of adversity. Hence, in this era of new normal, we should start seeking peace internally and come to terms with our true identity, only then we can mirror peace externally and make this world a haven of peace for all beings.

May Peace Be Upon You All. Love All Hate None.

Om Shanti!

“Peace comes from within, don't seek it outside.” The Buddha

“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.” Rumi

Mr. Vishal Beeharry

Chairman, Standing Committee

Member, MGI/RTI Council



<https://www.istockphoto.com/>



What is Peace?

"Peace" is used to describe the cessation of violent conflict. Peace can mean a state of quiet or tranquility— an absence of disturbance or agitation. Peace can also describe a relationship between any people characterized by *respect, justice and goodwill*. Peace can describe *calmness, serenity, and silence*. Peace is when people are able to resolve their conflicts without violence and can work together to improve the quality of their lives.

<https://www.peo.org.cy/>

International Day of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted *to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples*.



<https://www.iofc.ch/stories/international-peace-day-be-change-you-want-see-world>

The United Nations General Assembly declared World Day of Peace in 1981. Twenty years later, in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously voted that this would be *a day of nonviolence and ceasefire*.

The culture of peace is a culture of dialogue and prevention, and, in this context, the role of the United Nations has never been so vital. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms that *“there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.”*

Each year, World Peace Day is celebrated with a theme that is relevant to the ongoing global events. This year’s theme is focusing on the act of *‘Recovery better for an equitable and sustainable world’*.

RECOVERING BETTER FOR AN EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD— *Prof. Abha Singh*

Pro-Vice Chancellor, B. N. Mandal University,

Madhepura, Bihar, India

Former ICCR Chair, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius



Peace is the highest calling of human heart. The theme of UN for International Day of Peace, 2021 implies, to my mind, recovering from the devastation that the world has faced and is still facing since last two years, due to the pandemic Covid-19.

This global health crisis has snowballed into multidimensional crisis, ultimately leading towards crisis of peace and peaceful co-existence. It is not simply a matter of signing of a peace accord among nations. Since the people of entire world have common stake, i.e. health, therefore it is an opportunity for one and all to participate together in the process of recovery. For it, understanding of interconnectedness of entire universe is essential. Interconnectedness of existence is the basic orientation of Indian philosophy, which has been emphasised through the philosophy of ecology, reaching its pinnacle in highlighting the spiritual connection of all. Man is a spirituo-psycho-physical organism, therefore, her/his well-being involves the health of body, mind, and soul. However, morality based just on rules of equality, justice and promise-keeping (or truthfulness) may or may not address these important components. Herein ushers the importance of compassion and non-violence as the prime moral principle.



<https://www.dailysabah.com/>

Through this platform we need to put stress on the development of a culture of peace. Such culture would be based on a pluralistic attitude that holds together an awareness of interdependency of people, cultures, nations, and religions, and the respect for what makes man truly different and unique. Unity, peace, and harmony cannot ignore the difficulties in dealing with doctrinal or political differences at micro

level. The best way of dealing with such differences or any difference (for that matter) is through the tool of ahimsa. Apropos to it, healing through compassion would definitely serve the purpose.



From knowing the world to dealing with the world. A new approach of Humanities

Dr. Ovidiu Cristian Nedu
University of Bucharest, Romania

These days, there is a widespread conception that the Humanities are somehow useless and that education should mainly focus on developing technical and economical skills. I will try **to argue that, even if, indeed, the degrees and the “specialists” in Humanities** are, in most cases, of not much use, nevertheless, general Humanistic education has an important practical consequence for a society. Unlike natural laws, that work by themselves, a society is not spontaneously created but it generally springs from the conscious decisions of its members. Therefore, civil and Humanistic formation always has a practical consequence, namely the construction of a particular type of society.

Nevertheless, an important change is required in the way we deal with Humanistic education. Since most of the individuals bring some contribution to the edification of a society, Humanistic education **should not aim at creating “specialists”, at offering BA-s, MA-s, Phd-s**, but it should be offered in simplified and straightforward **ways, accessible to most of the people. It should be “democratized”**. Moreover, we should drop the naive expectation that the formation of a human takes place mostly during his college years and shift to continuous Humanistic education, not necessarily in a formal context. Here, online teaching offers some important opportunities since adult education is much easier through online and media programs than through physical attendance of some lectures.

“World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just mere absence of violence. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion.” – Dalai Lama



<https://www.pinterest.com/>



Balancing Peace from Inner to Outer

Dr Richa Kapoor Mehra

Amity University, India

Like 'democracy', 'justice' and 'human rights', 'peace' has become a buzzword. Peace is defined as a stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there's no fighting or war, everything coexisting in perfect harmony and freedom.

The idea of peace has multiple dimensions. Since the emergence of new nation-states, weapons of mass destruction have gradually emerged. That is why many thinkers have gradually emerged to protect human society with the means of peace and harmony. Peace, in this context, refers to safeguard human life. According to me human life can be safeguarded if there is peace within ourselves.

Sri Aurobindo's method of integral yoga can be practiced for implementing inner peace. Integral yoga helps in the transformation of our superficial, narrow and fragmentary human way of thinking seeing, feeling and being into a deep and wide spiritual consciousness. Integral Yoga aims at perfection and transformation of human life, through the method of integral yoga, one can achieve cosmic peace and harmony.

"Those who are free of resentful thoughts surely find peace." - Buddha



<https://on.unesco.org/33mnkQs>

Universality of Peace

“Shanti”, “Salaam” “Shalom”, “Paix”, “Paz”, “Pax”... All human communities around the world, irrespective of their language, culture, religion or race **respect and strive to observe “Peace” which they consider as vital for man to lead a meaningful, purposeful and happy life.** However, since languages, cultures, religions and races differ across the planet, the concept of peace acquires various colours and nuances according to their respective contexts. It becomes imperative therefore to conduct a survey so that a fuller and deeper meaning of Peace emerges which ultimately enriches all human societies.

All world religions have considered Peace as related to the Divine, either as an essential feature of Divinity or Its manifested quality. In Hinduism, which is the oldest surviving religion, the idea of peace can be traced to its most ancient texts: the Vedas. It is expressed in many hymns but is extolled in its most complete form in the Yajur Veda. The well-known *Shantipatha* is still recited till day in all Hindu homes and shrines. In subsequent Hindu religious and philosophical texts, like the Upanishads and the Bhagavadgita, **the notion of “Shanti” grows from a social necessity into a spiritual goal called Moksha or Mukti where man attains complete freedom from the transmigratory cycle.**



This is also reflected in religions which have branched out of Hinduism, namely Buddhism and Jainism. Buddha describes the state of peace as that of complete absence of sorrow or *nirvana* while the Jaina Tirthankaras speak similarly of *kaivalya*. Hinduism and its two offshoots unanimously concur that Peace - from social to spiritual, rests on the foundational concept of Ahimsa or non-violence.

Hinduism : Love ,Peace & Humanity – Facebook

Parallel to the Hindu concept of “Shanti”, one comes across the term “Shalom” in Judeo-Christian traditions meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility with numerous references in the Old and New Testaments. “Shalom” which is a Hebrew term is equivalent to “Salaam” in Arabic. Both the words “Islam” and “salaam” come from the same root. The phrase “Dar-as-Salaam” mentioned in the Qu’ran, literally means “the house of peace” which symbolizes the ideal society. “Islam” means therefore, a religion of peace. All great prophets and messiahs, sages and saints, from occidental and oriental civilizations acknowledge the importance of “Non-violence” as a condition sine qua none for Peace to happen. The respective scriptures associated with them testify their words and actions.



<https://www.open.edu/>

In Chinese Culture, Peace is upheld as primordial by philosophers belonging to Confucian, Daoist and similar traditions. They were all lovers of peace in unique ways, promoting the concept of “universal love”, “Wu-Wei” (Non- action) and “Dao” (way). Thinkers like, Confucius and Lao Tzu taught people to follow the Way of Heaven, never to use force in order to impose on others against nature, and to promote love, even to loving the people who fail us.

In the African continent, the idea of “Ubuntu” is professed; especially among in the Nguni Bantu speaking cultures in the eastern, central and southern parts. It is both a generic term standing for “humanity” and a specific one meaning “I am because you are”. Philosophically Ubuntu upholds



“the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity”. Thus “Ubuntu” sees humanity as whole with all the individual parts interpedently connected. Hence, Peace implies the participation of every person in the community and every community in the country so that finally the whole of humanity co-exists in mutual respect and co-operation with a sense of fraternity.

<https://www.politurco.com/>

Inspired by the world religions and their founders and contemporaneous with us, Mohandas Karamchand or "Mahatma" Gandhi infused Non-violence in his life and demonstrated its relevance and applicability by peacefully liberating India from colonial rule. Embold-



Venturesafrica.com

ened by the successful application of non-violent techniques of Gandhi like Non-co-operation and Civil Disobedience, leaders like Nelson Mandela, **Martin Luther King, and others found in Ahimsa a "weapon for peace"** against domination and exploitation. While 21st of September became International Peace Day, the 2nd of October has been declared International Day of Non-violence in honour of the Mahatma, showing the intimate relationship between Non-violence and Peace.

The above synoptic, yet holistic, overview of Peace as understood across Cultures, Religions and Peoples of the World clearly establishes that Peace, underlined by Non-violence, is one of the most important component that leads to justice, stability and mutual respect in human societies. Ultimately, it creates a climate of well-being and prosperity for the whole of mankind and as such it should be highly valued, preciously preserved and liberally promoted.

Loving messages of Peace for All

" Peace is an energy which is present within. It manifests when you start loving yourself. To keep it alive, positive thinking and selfless service are needed. What happens afterwards? Transformation takes place. One is filled with bliss. This is the moment when the divine nectar that we all call peace manifests and takes the form of the Divine. The same Divine is present in you and in me. "

With love,

Swami Ajay Rampoortab
President, Sai Trinity Seva Trust



<http://www.saibabaofindia.com/>

Where there is purity there is peace. To be peaceful one needs



Inner cleanliness, keeping a pure attitude towards the self and others. Pure attitude is being full of good wishes and pure feelings. The more I am stable in this consciousness of generating goodness from within the more peaceful I become and successfully create a peace-charged atmosphere around.

<https://wallpapersafari.com/>

Being at peace in the present chaotic times where everything seems uncertain is the real challenge for every human being. Unless and until every individual endeavours to cleanse the mind and heart, world peace would remain an illusion. As it is rightly said that peace or war begins in the mind. We only believe in peace when we see it, experience it or feel it in every fibre of our being. Concentrating gently on the centre of our forehead, behind our eyes we watch; that is where we create our thoughts and lovingly train our mind to reflect on peace.

To be peaceful is to be free from expectations and to want nothing from anyone. This is the secret of being content in all circumstances and in all relationships. When there is the realisation that my true nature is peace, then the peace within me will naturally awaken the innate peace in others and bring hope to them.

To live in peace together we collectively need to connect inward, upward and forward. Firstly, connect to my inner being of light, the soul, the living energy, then tune my heart and soul with the Highest Source of Peace, the Supreme Being and finally spread peace in terms of positive and pure vibrations. By creating peace in our mind, we will be able to create a world of peace around us. This is the gift of peace we need to share among each other and ultimately celebrate world Peace.

Sister Sweta

Brahma Kumari, Flacq Centre

Inspirational Quotes and Invocation on Peace

Nāsti Buddhirayuktasya Na Cāyuktasya Bhāvanā.
Na Cābhāvayataḥ Śāntiraśāntasya Kutah Sukham.. B.Gita 2.66

“But an undisciplined person, who has not controlled the mind and senses, can neither have a resolute intellect nor steady contemplation on God. For one who never unites the mind with God there is no peace; and how can one who lacks peace be happy?” B.Gita 2.66

“I call myself a peaceful warrior because the battles we fight are on the inside.” - Socrates

*“If you depressed you are living in the past
If you are anxious you are living in the future
If you are at peace you are living in the present.” - Lau Tzu*



<https://www.scout.org/id/>

**Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaḥ, Sarve Santu Nirāmayā,
Sarve Bhadrāṇi Paśyantu, Mā Kaścidduḥkhabhāg Bhavet.
Om Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ.**

May all sentient beings be at peace may no one suffer from illness,

May all see what is auspicious, may no one suffer.

Om peace, peace, peace.

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