

**Hatred is never appeased by hatred.
It is appeased by non - hatred.
This is the eternal law.**

- Dhammapada.

Do you know that every war has first begun in the mind of one single person? Yes. Every war in the world bringing death and misery to millions of people has first started in the mind of a person. If individuals do not agree to wage war, a society will never get involved in a battle.

Now look back into your own mind? Are you peaceful. Look at your family, your wife, your husband, your sons and daughters, your father, your mother, your brothers and sisters, all your relations. Is there peace in your family? You may have the deepest feelings of affection towards them. But well, there is still a question.

Now look at the society with a broader perspective. Are we in a position to elect office bearers in a small society without conflict? Are we able to conduct the election of office bearers in a co-operative society without violence? Why are we always looking at foreign observers during elections? Can you go to the polling station without fear?

When individuals take to violence the whole society becomes violent. Then we all have to live like beasts in the jungle looking at each other with suspicion and fear. Is this a healthy environment for us to flourish as full fledged human beings in the 21st century?

Do you know how many brothers and sisters of our own have been killed in this country since independence ? Look back into the gloomy days of 1971 and 1988 /90 in the South and the last two decades in the North and the East. It is in any case not less than 100,000. Are we not accountable for these deaths as a society? Surely we are.

It had been reported that 700,000 people have been rendered homeless in this country as a result of war in the North and East. 270,000 children are among the refugees. 55% of the children in Sri Lanka express fear and uncertainty about their future. Is this the legacy that our future generation is going to inherit from us ?

Surely, It should not be. If it is so what is the place for Maithree (Compassion) known to Buddhists? What are the places for Ahimsa (Non Violence) known to Hindus, love known to Christians, brotherhood known to Muslims and the tolerance and understanding known to the whole Sri Lankan culture. Where should we go now ? In which direction ?

Surely we have a path. It is nothing else but the path of love, compassion, non-violence and brotherhood. Let's begin with ourselves without waiting for others. Love your neighbours. Have compassion towards them. When you have conflicts, solve them through non-violent means. Treat every one as you treat your closest relation.

Well, when we all can live peacefully in this country our children will be certain that they will inherit a beautiful Sri Lanka where there is no violence.

If you are interested in working together with individuals and groups committed to work for peace, social justice, social welfare, social development and good governance please contact us, write to us or visit us.

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