

Peace Through Poetry

Krishna Srinivas

ALL around, today we witness Chaos and turbulence. Restlessness of the people has resulted in strikes, violence and revolt every where. Nations are raging wars and millions and millions are sacrificed. History unfolds all these tragedies from bygone ages and even today a solution is not found. The League of Nations is there but its persuasions to warring nations to stop wars have failed. It is high time the intellectuals of the world start thinking.

Here Poets have to play a tremendous part and launch reign of PEACE. How?

Once, two ancient kings of Tamil Nadu stood in the war field, ready to fight but our most sagely Poetess AVVAIYAR stepped in and cried that wars cannot solve problems and dialogues alone will restore PEACE. The Kings agreed and people got harmony and Poetry won.

In modern times, great Poets have done admirable work.

In Russia the tall, big statue of Mayakovsky stands in the Moscow Square majestic and triumphant. He had the courage to resist Dictator's regime and roused the masses to struggle. The Czar was thrown out.

In our own country, the great Poet Subramanya Bharti wrote moving songs and he faced the wrath of British Government and cried.

Uchimeedhu Van idinthu vishntha bothilum
Achamillai, achamillai, acham onerum illeye

Even if the skies break and fall on our heads
We are not afraid, we are not afraid

This magnificent spirit is in our veins and we must produce such majestic poems and keep public agile and vigilant.

In this glorious line, comes our President Ikeda—gathering millions of followers in over One hundred and ninety countries.

Look at his soul stirring Poem—We Advance.

Steadfastly we advance
in the sincere and bloodless battle of the century
The forces of emotionism, panic, and envy
have become three cowardly enemies
blocking the path of our lordly peace.

.....

Even in the midst of raging storms,
I ask you to remain Expert Musicians
playing the delightful melody of hope
in the vast sky
expanding far within your life

On that glorious day in July 1979, I had the thrill of meeting President Ikeda—the saviour of Humanity in a main office of Soka Gakkai International in Japan.

In a dedicated voice, he told me. “Poetry is the proof of the Society’s Humanity—the noble song of human spirit. The people seem to have their ability to feel and care—living in a vacuum of spiritual death. Poetry is the dynamic energy that could lift us from desolation. Poetry resides in Eternity.”

These words of our President are Mantras to be chanted for ever.

He then proclaimed:

Destruction—a matter of a moment
building—a struggle to the death
inertia is darkness, hope is light
retreat is death, advance is life

Friends! The world today is rushing to extinction. Only a great Poet like President Ikeda can save it.

Very fortunately this symposium is held today. I feel since we will succeed in regaining a lost heaven.