

NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: Jan - Feb. 2017

Dear NKARC members and friends,

Happy New Year!

The first NKARC letter that you received was four years ago, in April 2012. Since then, over 55 epistles have come your way, pulling together your contributions and suggestions. It has been gratifying to see growth of our group from 25 to over 150 (including friends) and increase in the coverage of nonkilling arts topics from fiction to festivals, music, visual arts, humour etc.

The topics we began with were on a specific arts category such as fiction, drama, non-fiction, poetry, visual arts, music etc. exploring the nonkilling thematic in each of these fields. In that process one was trying to work on both exploring and evolving some meaningful definition of nonkilling arts. Unlike many other civil society newsletters that are focussed on contemporary peace and justice issues, in this letter we throw light on the content, new and old, not just limited to lament but about works of art that speak about potential hope and optimism. As Glenn Paige in his email synthesised such focus, "Nonkilling art explores the spirit and practice of how to prevent, respond to, and to improve individual, social, and global well-being beyond killing." Further a sharp insight was added underscoring, "Nonkilling Culture crosses all the lines." Crossing of all lines in a Nonkilling Culture is about a culture which goes beyond nations, nationalities, gender, religion etc, raising us from tribalism to opening our hearts and minds in their broadest sense.

In one recent email commenting on the "terrorist attacks" Glenn reminded that rather than extended lamentations after every terrorist or other killing, we should have the following for a standard CGNK press-release-type of response: "Terrorist killings like other killings from homicide to war are scientifically understandable and potentially preventable. The Center for Global Nonkilling offers evidence of progress toward that end. (www.nonkilling.org)". That has been the spirit of NK Arts Letter.

I congratulate my friend and mentor Prof. Glenn D. Paige who last month received a "Honorary Doctorate of Humanities" from Jagran Lakecity University in Bhopal, India. Both the Citation and Paige's Acceptance Speech are worth noting, a testimony to this leading -edge Nonkilling paradigm, its scope and significance since its first mention in 2003. The citation and acceptance speech bring the clarity of the concept to fore, as mentioned below:

The Citation by Jagran Lakecity University

Professor (Dr.) Glenn Durand Paige, Honorary Doctor of Humanities

A pioneer in evoking interdisciplinary creativity to empower humanity with confidence that killing-free societies are possible. Author of *Nonkilling Global Political Science*, now in 30 translations, including Hindi and Urdu. Founder of the nonprofit Center for Global Nonkilling in Hawai'i, USA with mission "To promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world by means of infinite creativity in reverence for life." Now engaging 800 scholars in 400 universities in 83 countries in religions, sciences, humanities, arts, and professions. Jagran Lakecity University celebrates your scholarly journey from war veteran to global nonkilling political scientist and takes great pleasure in awarding you the degree of Honorary Doctor of Humanities."

Excerpts from Professor (Dr.) Glenn Durand Paige's Acceptance Speech

Distinguished Chancellor, and Members of Jagran Lakecity University Academic Council and Governing Body,....

,,,"My life-long work on research and education promoting Gandhian values has been about taking Mahatma Gandhi's message of principled nonviolence beyond civil disobedience and social protests into the realm of social science and public policy. As a founder and Chair of the Governing Council of the Center for Global Nonkilling, a United Nations NGO, and as a social scientist my work has focused on developing the Nonkilling paradigm, aiming for a killing-free world as a measurable goal and ensuring that metrics of behavioral and social science methodology is available to evaluate and develop policies and programs for preventing global violence. Globally, we must use all intellectual, material and spiritual means at our disposal to achieve this next stage of nonkilling human revolution.

The objective of Nonkilling peace is unambiguous - peace which aims to stop killings without killing anyone. I described a Nonkilling Society in 2003 to be "a human community, smallest to largest, local to global, characterized by no killing of humans, and no threats to kill; no weapons designed to kill humans and no justifications for using them; and no conditions of society dependent upon threat or use of killing force for maintenance or change".

Is a Nonkilling Society possible? A resounding "Yes!" is asserted in the Center for Global Nonkilling's work. This is not a utopian vision. Nonkilling is aimed explicitly at actions for the betterment of fellow citizens, doing good through preventing injury/killing to self, others and group(s). The World Health Organization in its Report on Violence and Health in 2002 concluded that "violence is a preventable disease", similar to the conclusion of *Nonkilling Global Political Science*. Through its Global Alliance for Violence Prevention, the Nonkilling Paradigm is becoming part of the public health policies of many nation-states..." For complete text of the acceptance speech, click on:

<http://nonkilling.org/center/2016/12/03/paige-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-jagran-lakecity-university/>

It is gratifying that over all these years, I have rarely received an email from you asking me to drop your name from the bcc list. I appreciate your support, especially those who have provided content or pointed material for it. Over this period, not only there has been a camaraderie with like-minded individuals but also with groups with similar views such as IFLAC, Nuclear Age Foundation, Global Poetry, Transcend Media etc.

This first 2017 letter comprises items of poetry, song, cinema, poster making, and journalism extolling nonkilling maxim of peace through peaceful means. These works point to nonkilling philosophy that I mentioned above reflecting our fundamental responsibility "not to kill others" and our human right "not to be killed". Our alpha to omega is defined by Life. From birth to natural death no human endeavor can be pursued if we are killed.

1. Nonkilling Poetry

One of the clear articulations of nonkilling in this letter from its beginning has been poetry. The poetry using different expressions and styles from thoughtful open verse to rhymed reflection have covered larger themes pointing to hope, love, peace, compassion, courage, and nonkilling. This is amidst war, terrorism, and a struggle for human dignity. Some of the fine works have been from colleagues Francisco Gomes de Matos, David Krieger, Ada Aharoni, Sohail, Sumeet Grover, Rashida Khanam and many others. This month we have 2 pieces of rhymed reflections from friends Francisco and for the first time Anoop Swarup, two very appropriate poems as we herald 2017! Kudos to colleague Francisco for 3rd edition of his Nurturing Nonkilling Plantation book. See the attachment for a comment from Prof Morton Deutsch on Francisco's unique poetry of wisdom.

(a) HELPING EDUCATE A COUNTRY TO BE GREAT

Reflections by Francisco Gomes de Matos, a Peace linguist. Co-founder,

ABA Global Education, Recife, Brazil

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens not to hate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens not to humiliate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens their dignity to elevate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens their compassion to cultivate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens their human rights to advocate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens their environmental policies to ameliorate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens their Peace/Nonviolence/Nonkilling initiatives

to associate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens their global diplomatic/trade relations to

innovate

We help educate a country to be great

by teaching its citizens their diverse spirituality to celebrate

###

(b) ALOHA:

Dr. Anoop Swarup, the new Chair of the Center for Global Nonkilling, was honoured on December 20, 2016, with the Soka Gakkai Hiroshima Peace Award at the Hiroshima Ikeda Peace Memorial Hall, Japan in a recognition of his dedication and service for a nonkilling world. Below is a "verse" cited in his speech, he wrote for his book of poems, "Aloha":

'In our times of mindless terror, killings, revenge, and fight,

Ever thought of destitution, suffering and children in Fright,

Let us pledge and rebuild bonds, bridges that divide and blight,

With Buddha, Gandhi, King, Mandela, Ikeda and Paige in sight,

In infinite reverence to life, let each one of us be the knight,
 Mankind's creativity to guide, billions of us to advance and light,
 Do not despair & dread the echoes, do trust our conscience be right,
 With faith & prayer, let Peace & Prosperity be humanity's delight,
 Like the zillion stars at night, be the hope for humanity so bright,
 Forever in nonkilling and peace, eternal be triumph of god's might.

-- Anoop Swarup

2. Theatre and Nonkilling

There has been a wide coverage of theatre and drama in this letter. In one of the earliest letters in 2012, NKARC colleague George Simson recommended that "CGNK and others band together to sponsor writing, producing, and acting live drama about nonkilling in the first Nonkilling Playhouse." He elaborated on some of the facets of such an undertaking. We were not able to realize that but over the years we have tried to identify relevant plays and critical essays that you sent and identified a cluster of activity that came closer to George's vision. I am thankful to Teesri Duniya Theatre co-founder Rahul Varma for sharing with us the pages of their leading-edge journal "alt.theatre" in this endeavour, especially its former editors Ted Edward and Nikki Shaffeeullah for agreeing from time to time with relevant articles for the letter.

Shakespeare and Nonkilling

In this month's letter, there is an insightful piece from IFLAC colleague Ada Aharoni pointing to William Shakespeare as a "wonderful literary teacher of Nonkilling". Prof. Aharoni writes: *"Hamlet contemplates killing himself when he finds out the truth about the tragic death of his father and that his mother was an accomplice to the murder. "To Be or Not to be "in my view is - "should I go on existing or not?" This is the interpretation I gave to my students at Haifa University and at Pennsylvania University, where I taught a course on Shakespeare. However, Shakespeare is on the side of life, not of death, and that is why his hero, Hamlet, decides to live, despite his horrifying discovery.*

It is evident in all of Shakespeare's tragedies and even in some of his comedies, that he strongly condemns violence and killing!

Look at the horrifying bloodbath at the end of Hamlet, when his final speech is a clear call to: NO MORE KILLING! The same message of Nonkilling we get in Othello, in Romeo and Juliet, in The Tempest, in Anthony and Cleopatra, etc. In each of

Shakespeare's tragedies the moral message of the whole play is like in Hamlet, a strong condemnation of the futility and the pity of spilled human blood, and the sheer denial that killing can help to solve conflicts.

Shakespeare, in addition to all his great qualities, was not only a literary genius, he was also a great humanist and a wonderful teacher of literary NONKILLING!"

Thank you so much, Ada. For the article on line, click on: <https://iflac.wordpress.com/>

Shakespeare as Ada points out was a great humanist. His plays are not about glorification of war and violence, there are consequences and cost to every act of violence in his work. It's not a gratuitous or nihilistic violence that we see in modern drama where one is uncertain if the violence is for effect and or its purposelessness showing the playwright's inability to logically complete his/her argument. To Shakespeare, civil wars are the worst of all. His Henry VI, a part of his "history cycle" where in one scene we see the King reflecting on the horror of war, as well as two characters in the same scene: a father, who finds that he has unknowingly killed his son; and a son repenting on having done the same to his father in the battlefield. For more on the scene, click on:

http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=henry6p3&Act=2&Scene=5&Scope=scene

3. Nonkilling Fiction

"New Planet New World" by Ian Prattis is a futurist novel inspired by Tolstoy and Doukhobours

How can we build a sustainable community from scratch on a new planet? Ian Prattis in his new novel shows us first the demise of modern civilization via climate change, violence, inequality, and wars on earth, and then his protagonists go on to attempt an innovative architecture for its resurrection on another planet. See a short review by NKARC colleague Koozma Tarasoff:

<http://spirit-wrestlers.blogspot.ca/2016/12/doukhobors-and-tolstoy-inspire-novel.html>

4. Music and Nonkilling

Under this section, in previous letters in addition to nonkilling songs, we have had commentary on whether nonkilling music is possible? See below links to two youtube songs from Guatemala and India, and a rhymed reflection on Nonkilling music and youth from Bangladesh. Focus on two songs being performed is not about form and structure but points to impact of content and tone.

(a) Peace songs from Guatemala endorsed by American Friends Service Committee, entitled: "Making of 3 Songs for Peace from Guatemala (5 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1G51CZG5uE>

(b) Love song

GRATEFUL: A Love Song to the World | Empty Hands Music | nimo feat. daniel nahmodA song about gratitude. Download his A Love Song, Empty Hands album free. Click on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO2o98Zpzg8&index=3&list=PLx7I9WcMK0LZ19ADweJE5IWFrnKeqTer1>

(c) There have been interesting conversations in this letter on the subject of Nonkilling and Music between Olivier Urbain, Glenn Paige and Rashida Khanam. Rashida as an educator provides below another of her reflections, this one entitled: "Music Instilling Nonkilling Values in Young!"

Music Instilling Nonkilling Values in Young!

Music you are Nonkilling instilling moral and ethical values in younger s' heart at the beginning of life,

Music you are Nonkilling in nurturing hearts and minds through sounds of tune embedded with Nonkilling spirits,

Music you are Nonkilling being power of love for nurturing hearts and minds of Young's serving Nonkilling end,

Music you are Nonkilling in rousing humanity in Young's heart helping them morally imbued respecting life for self and others,

Music you are Nonkilling letting young hearts to fall in love with plants and animals even the smallest ones,

Music you are Nonkilling being motivational and inspirational power for knowing the purpose of life; doing good to others,

Music you are Nonkilling helping young heart, a bit by bit, for broadening the vision of thought and deed with goodness of heart,

Music you are Nonkilling having great impact on conscience- "the higher court of Justice" for doing justice to life,

Music you are Nonkilling infusing the values of truthfulness, trustworthiness and humanness at the early stage of life.

Music you are Nonkilling being ethical power like devotional songs disposing young to metaphysical virtues,

Music you are Nonkilling inspiring Nonviolent actions widening hearts with imaginative power for searching the transcendental beauties of life,

Music you are Nonkilling, endowing young hearts get transformed with cosmic power of love to be Nonkilling one- the courageous, hopeful, and principled human for making the world to be different- a Nonkilling one.

-- Rashida Khanam

5. Nonkilling Cinema: A Docudrama on Rape and Violence

Indo-Canadian Film-maker Deepa Mehta won the Trailerblazer Award last month Dec. 3 at the Whistler Film Festival for her latest film, Anatomy of Violence. It's a docudrama about the notorious gang rape of a young woman by six men while travelling on a bus in New Delhi on December 16, 2012 (a topic that was previously examined in Leslee Udwin's 2015 BBC doc, Daughter of India). Deepa Mehta's film however mixes fiction and fact in an improvised exploration of the events leading up to, and following, the gang rape. Twelve actors collaborated with the filmmaker to imagine what might have driven these men towards such a heinous assault. The film also imagines the nature of a young woman's life, her family, her friends and her hopes and dreams before the fatal attack. "What makes monster like men?" is a question that the film poses. A bold and courageous film which explores the issue of gender, sexuality and equality in modern India, raising disturbing questions about complicity of society in producing such men. For trailer see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tCDgXISwtk>

6. Nonkilling Journalism: PTSD

Prevention of suicide is one of the key concerns of Nonkilling public health policies in most countries. The book "Waking Up From War" by Dr. Joseph Bobrow (2015) is about "healing war traumas" wanting to repair the emotional and moral injuries caused by wars mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan and how to restore integrity overcoming moral injuries caused to one self, family, society and world at large. Bobrow is a trained American psychotherapist and Zen master who demonstrates through the stories of American war veterans the elements that contribute to such trauma, it also points to the element that contribute to healing through community building, safety, connection, dialogue, mutual respect, and compassion. Bobrow concludes: "until we face the truth of war and its dreadful human costs, we will not provide the best care for our veterans."

The book has even 3 long poems of love and war and a short introduction by the 14th Dalai Lama. As one of the book reviewers note it as a candid account of deep pain and great healing.

7. Nonkilling Educators: Peace Ethics through Creative Posters

See below the link to the peace posters and the article, "**More Peace Please: Brazilian youth create posters for a school-wide ethics campaign**" by Maria do Rozário de L. Botelho. Inspired by the work of Prof. Francisco Gomes de Matos, these were published also on the Global Campaign for Peace Education website. Posters. For the article and posters, click on:

<http://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/more-peace-please/>

Cc: "Maria do Rozário de L. Botelho" <rozario@abaweb.org>

8. Last Word:

Ada Aharoni in introduction to her poem, "Sulha Reconciliation Pomegranate" writes about value of a poem of peace: "Diplomatic Peace Poetry" as I call this kind of healing poetry, can impart the important and crucial basic message and consciousness that we all belong to one family, the family of humankind, and that war, violence and terror only lead to chaos, destruction, sorrow and deep pain and horrible misery on all sides." You can see in her writing not the hypocrisy of politicians and their greed for power, it is an intense search and longing for a shared nonkilling humanity. In Ada's words: The "Diplomatic Poem," has the marvelous ability to delve deeply into one's consciousness and to create bridges of trust, understanding, respect and even love, between people, ethnic groups and nations. For her full article, entitled THE POWER OF THE DIPLOMATIC POEM, click on: www.iflac.com/ada

See below Ada Aharoni's poem:

The Sulha Reconciliation Pomegranate Poem

ISHMAEL

Why doesn't Israel explain this more
that you, my brother,
and a million Jews of Arab Lands,
like you,
had to spread their wings wide
like us the Palestinians,
and flee too?

ISAAC

Why do you want Israel
 To explain this more?
 What is it to you, brother?
 Come on, let's end our strife
 And open wide
 The Sulha pomegranate!

ISHMAEL
 Your life story is
 For me the saving face of Sulha*
 The uncovering of the black veil
 On her truthful face.
 It shows we're not the only underdogs,
 As tragedy, like in all wars,
 Is on both sides!

YITZHAK
 If two tragedies
 Cancel one another,
 We can now open the
 The Sulha Pomegranate
 My brother

ISHMAEL
 Wait, wait, don't open yet!
 Our two uprooting tragedies
 Do not cancel one another
 But it makes it easier to pave
 The Sulha path, you see,
 Knowing you have already paid
 For the Sulha

When it all, all began.
 Now I can identify with you
 My brother in pain
 And you can identify with me -
 We are mutual victims
 Of this long conflict.

Now at last, let's open together
 The Reconciliation Pomegranate.

*Sulha: Reconciliation, in Arabic.

Setting Things Right

Set the morning
to wake you up
when the blackbirds chime
and the sun smiles

Set your head
to forget bad dreams
to delete yesterday's pain
to rub the slate of the world's aches
clean

Set the world
into a state of reversal
erase all the people
begin again
with the Garden of Eden
Let it stay that way
with the pear trees
the serpent, the birds
and chimpanzees

Forget Adam and Eve
and all the ensuing evil
no Cain, no Abel
Go out
lock the gate
leave Paradise
to its peace
###

My deep gratitude to those who contributed or pointed to the material for
this letter.

Looking forward to your further inspirations and comments as always.

Nonkilling Regards,

Bill

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja
Coordinator
NonKilling Arts Research Committee(NKARC)
Center for Global Nonkilling(CGNK)
www.nonkilling.org

"Nonkilling art explores the spirit and practice of how to prevent, respond to, and to improve individual, social, and global well-being beyond killing." - Glenn D. Paige

"Nonkilling Culture crosses all the lines." - Glenn D. Paige
== Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress==