

NKARC - THE BEGINNINGS

April 15, 2012

NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC)

Dear members of the Nonkilling Arts Research Committee,

With the encouragement of Joám and Glenn, I am volunteering to serve as coordinator of the NK Arts RC. I will be inviting your suggestions about things we might do.

Arts transcend many disciplines from fine arts, graphic design, illustration, photography to poetry, works of fiction and non-fiction to performing arts including drama, film, music, dance etc.

Given below is my preliminary attempt at defining Nonkilling Literature inspired from thoughts of CGNK founder Prof. Glenn D. Paige and SGI founder Dr. Daisaku Ikeda on nonkilling creativity.

Nonkilling Literature:

A nonkilling literature creates consciousness about stopping the rise of leaders and followers who celebrate vengeful extermination of enemies, by committing itself to prevention of killing, to reconcile the vengeful, and to create conditions of life which bring out in us a profound respect for each human being. For example, there is a clear connection among atrocities from WW1 to WW2 to Cold War and beyond. A preventive Culture of Nonkilling Peace helps to reconcile vengeful animosity, however recent or ancient, before they erupt in atrocities again. Ultimately, whatever we do to hurt others, we end up doing to ourselves (spiritually, mentally, and physically). Nonkilling creativity is about the artist tapping into something much deeper and universal than we are used to in our usual analysis and judgments.

A nonkilling literature brings out a profound reverence for human life as each individual is seen as unique and indispensable. It brings out a pure hearted unconditional love in us and others- a love which brings hope, happiness and encouragement. It is a literature which filter things out and is left with the essence of what has to be treasured most - Life. It is in cognition of such truth through observation, understanding and evaluation of reality, its meaning and value, the work leads to creation of value that Japanese educator Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871-1944) called value-creation, that a genuine happiness is cultivated through such creative effort. Human beings do not have the power to create matter, Makiguchi asserted; they only have the power to create value. What does a piece of literature big or small has contributed to creating value becomes an important question.

In summation, truth telling, shared humanity and value creation form key aspects of a healing process, the work of art leads to transmutation of heart through the alchemy of forgiveness.

One thing our committee could undertake is to use the RC as a platform for sharing work of colleagues and inviting comments and dialogue in seeing the criteria used to describe the piece as a Nonkilling work, and potential of a particular piece in expanding the definition of

Nonkilling Arts and Literature. We could also identify other literary/art pieces that we may have recently come across that fall in this domain. Some preliminary thoughts.

As a facilitator of this Research Committee's platform, I look forward to your comments about what we might do using this e-network.

Nonkilling Regards
Bill

"Nonkilling is THE measure of human progress."

Balwant (Bill) Bhaneja, PhD
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