NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: December 2015

Dear NKARC members and friends,

Past couple of months have seen some senseless killings in different parts of the globe. The kill, kill, kill actions have evoked surprisingly strong thoughtful Nonkilling responses too for human dignity, protection, and solidarity for innocent victims of religious and racial intolerance.

Reminds me of the Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel who in his autobiography cautions that it is not the religious fundamentalists we should be concerned about, but the fanatics in any faith (or one without). This month as we close another year of human history, I felt that the powerful nonkilling poetry you sent deserve to be the focus for this issue. There is other interesting material you kindly sent my way, which due to shortage of space I am keeping it for our Jan 2016 Letter.

I am humbled by the evocative nonkilling poetry and its message of unity in these pieces. Inspired by Nonkilling spirit they succinctly seek to awaken universal understanding of basic truth needed as foundation for a Global Nonkilling Ethic that can guide all human problem-solving efforts from birth to natural death. The poems below are: Paris, Isis, 9/11…by Koozma J. Tarasoff O'Killer by Ehtiham Rana, We were not Born to Kill by Francisco Gomes de Matos, Awake by Rotarian Ralanchand, No More Killing by Donn Paige, Mother Earth is Calling by K. Sohail, and Ode to Nonkilling by Anoop Swarup.
(a) Paris, ISIS, 9/11…

By Koozma J. Tarasoff

This is an appeal to the world for common sense:
A clash of values can lead
to the death of our civilization;
We need to listen, compromise and love
so that we can learn to live in peace.

How can we make sense of
the vicious terrorist attacks in Paris?
132 people killed and many severely injured on November 13th.
What senseless slaughter! Bloody murder! Uncivilized!

Earlier, terrorists destroyed a Russian plane with 224 on board,
and badly damaged a Hezbollah center in Lebanon with 44 dead.
All are our brothers and sisters. We mourn their loss.

Son-in-law John just returned from Paris
having escaped the madness in the cafe and the concert hall.
He found the Parisians resilient —
determined to overcome fear and
together rebuild the city.

President Hollande called for revenge with blood,
urged the country ‘to go to war’ against
a bunch of criminals called ISIS.

Have we not learned anything from the past?

Recall that George W. Bush, Jr. tried something similar
after 9/11 resulting in a total defeat in Iraq.
His team killed and maimed millions as they slavishly followed a flawed policy of the endless war, echoes of empire and imperialism — a black eye for the Americans.

Recall the lessons of World Wars I and II, the Vietnam quagmire, the Korean War, and countless wars before. Wars exist for profit, for oil, for money, for religion, for territory — a shameful barbaric behaviour for humanity.

Have bombings, sanctioned killings helped society to become better? Have extremist violent acts added value to society?

We seem to be good at destroying but bad at rebuilding peace with full free medical services, basic infrastructure, homes, food, free education, enhanced culture and respect for life itself including the health of our environment.

What have we really learned from the wisdom of the ages, from our mentors —

**Tolstoy**: 'War is a slavery of our times.' Killing people is murder and therefore war is contrary to religion and morality.

**Gandhi**: 'An eye for an eye will leave everyone blind.'

**Smedley Butler**: 'War is a racket' in which soldiers are called to protect the wealth of the rich. 'War is a racket ... It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.... Out of war a few people make huge fortunes.'

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**: 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

**Tolstoy** (Nov. 26): 'Just as one candle lights another and can light thousands of other candles, so one heart illuminates another heart and can illuminate thousands of other hearts.'

**The Golden Rule**: 'Do to others what you would want them to do to you.' Also: 'Thou shalt not kill.' Most people support this.

Why should children be taught one thing in school while the adults bully the people to go to war to kill and contribute to a crime against humanity?
The Law of Love: Let's adopt it.
Bring our troops home.
Convert swords into plowshares and
create Departments of Peace in our parliaments.

Just image —
How fresh our Planet Earth could be
when we act
‘AS IF’ we are civilized again —
creating a future
that gives hope
to us,
to our children,
to our grandchildren, and
to all peoples of the world.
O’ Killer

Listen!
If you have ears, heart and mind
You can kill one or many
You can not kill all
When you plan to kill
Ignore the fact
Every such action has adverse reaction
Not only you, on siblings also
Killing the fellow human being
Most heinous act, deplorable and condemnable
Every faith, religion preach good
Good for one, for all
You are a negation
Sculpture of hate
Humanity understands
You are not alone
Companions with you
Demon, devil, evil mind set
Supporters, associates, sponsors,
Supplier of arms and weapons
Whether a group organization or nation
Naked or veiled
All fanatics
Can fulfill thrust for time being
Eventually, are losers
That is nature
None can ever defeat nature
O’ Killer! misled soul – on wrong path
Whosoever you are
Ultimate looser

RANA EHTISHAM RABBANI
President Peace & Humanity Foundation Pakistan
www.humanityworld.com
(c) We were not born to kill!

A rhymed reflection

By

Francisco Gomes de Matos

a peace-nonkilling linguist

Recife, Brazil

To kill we were not born,
but by myriad killings an increasing number of pages
in human history painfully have been torn.

A most serious gap in the development of a
peaceful/nonviolent/nonkilling life we should fill
by committing locally and globally the ultimate human duty to fulfill:

Not to kill! Not to kill! Not to kill!

Of the right not to be killed, all of Humankind

should be assured,

and, for people of all ages, an education for

nonkilling should be ensured.

Humankind was not born to kill,

but to share the Earth peacefully-nonviolently-nonkillingly, human beings should show a sustainable will.

###
(d) Awake!

by Rotarian d. Ralhanchand, Coimbatore.

(Dedicated to His Holiness Pope John Paul II in celebration of His 1986 visit to India)

High up in the sky Hawks and Eagles Sweep
Awake! Awake! from your slumber deep.
For Man the Human is lost in the woods
And Man the Monster is awake on the earth
For gun & bullet, tanks & bombs are his tools
And Raw, Rich Red Blood is his food.
Haste, Change, faster; quicker, here and now
To the Universal Peace, Love and Brotherhood
If no change of heart & mind be
Then no brother or sister you could be.
Since your sleep would be deep & complete
Only charcoal, Carbon, Ash remain to be
Molecule, Atom, Nucleus, Nuclei Nutron Fussion
And lo! You sleep forever and wake up no more.
Then, Awake! Awake! from your slumber deep
For High up in the sky Hawks and Eagles sweep.

###
(e) No More Killing
   By Donn Paige

   simple lyrics; that could be translated into many languages; a simple melody, easily sung.

   No More Killing
   No More Killing
   Put away your sword
   No More Killing
   Stop all your War

   We want to live in Peace
   We want to give in Peace
   We want to love in Peace

   Please let us be in Peace

   Check out Donn singing it on:
   https://thevoiceofone.bandcamp.com/track/no-more-killing

(f) MOTHER EARTH IS CALLING
   by
   Dr. K. Sohail
   www.drsohail.com

   O my children !
   O my dear children!
   O my seven billion children !

   You are hurting
   Your are in pain
   You are suffering

   It breaks my heart to see you suffer
   All of you are my children
Whether you are
    from the North or the South
    from the East or the West
Whether you are
    Men or women
    Black or white
    Healthy or sick
    Normal or abnormal
    Ordinary or extra-ordinary
    Over-privileged or underprivileged
    Rich or poor
You are all my children
And a mother loves all her children
O my children!
Now you are entering the 21st century
I feel concerned
I feel worried
You are well aware
A mother always worries about her children
Even when they are grown up
I am afraid
You might hurt yourself
You might kill yourself
You might commit collective suicide by civil wars and nuclear weapons
I know you are intelligent and smart
But I am not sure whether you are wise enough yet
I know
Wisdom comes far later than knowledge
My children
You have divided yourself in
Nations and cultures, religions and sects
And you have been fighting wars, holy wars
Killing your enemies
Not knowing they are your brothers and sisters
You are all my children
Children of Mother Earth
I have been here for centuries and millennia
Far before you were born
O my children!
I want to tell you a story
You know
Mothers like telling stories to their children
You might be old
But you are still my children
So please listen to the story carefully
It might entertain you
It might even enlighten you
And bring you some peace
O my children!
There was a time on earth
A long time ago
A long long time ago
When you, my children
Had created
Matriarchal societies
When you were proud
Of being children of Mother Earth
When you were proud
Of your motherland and mother tongue
That is when you lived in love and peace and harmony
That was the time
You were young and naïve
You had not figured out
The mystery of birth
You did not know
How children were born
In every village
Some women had children
Others did not
When children were born
They called all women mothers
A child was raised by the whole village
Children were showered by love
By all women
And they grew up to be loving adults
But then some men
Some very smart men
Figured out the mystery of birth
They figured out they were the fathers of those children
So they wanted to give their names to their children
And wanted to own their mothers
They did not want other men to touch them
So they had duels
To keep other men away from those mothers
Even in their children
They liked boys more than girls
They wanted to give their property to their sons
That was the beginning of a patriarchal society
Those mothers
Who loved their children
Kept quiet
They did not want to argue or fight
They were peace loving women
They loved all their children equally
But men took advantage of them
They controlled them and abused them
They deprived them of their rights and privileges
They deprived them of their properties
They made laws to protect their own rights and privileges and properties
They created governments
And became presidents and prime ministers
To protect their political rights
And if that was not enough
They became priests and pundits, maulanas and rabbis
And created Heavenly Father
To protect their religious rights
That Heavenly Father
Never talked to women
Only to men, Holy Men
And delivered divine revelations
In which
Women were second class citizens
Men created patriarchal systems
To protect
Their property rights and political rights and religious rights
But that Heavenly Father
With passage of time
Became powerful
Too powerful
And you know
Power corrupts people, even gods
That Heavenly Father
Became angry and revengeful
And made laws
That were unjust
He judged people
Declared them sinners
And sent them to Hell
And eternal damnation
And those men
Priests and pundits, maulanas and rabbis
Used Heavenly Father
And divine revelations
To start wars, holy wars
Killing people, spilling blood
Followers of each religion and sect, nation and culture
Insisted they were the chosen ones
Of that Heavenly Father
O my children !
O my seven billion children !
I have been watching this for centuries
I have been watching it quietly
But my cup of patience is overflowing now
I cannot stay silent any longer
I cannot see my children suffer anymore
I came to tell you
That Heavenly Father is an illusion
Created by men
Created by priests and pundits, maulanas and rabbis
To justify their power
To rationalize their control
Time has come
For this drama to end
Before it is too late
This patriarchy has to end
O my children!
O my dear children!
You have to say good bye to Heavenly Father
And come back to your Mother Earth
You are my children
I gave birth to you
You were born from my womb
And I will accept you
When you die
In my bosom
You will rest in peace
O my children!
You need to realize
Heavenly Father is a fantasy
Mother Earth is a reality
Now you are old enough
To separate
Fantasy from reality
O my children!
O my seven billion children!
Time has come
For you to choose
Between
Your Heavenly Father
Who pushed you to violence and war
And
Your Mother Earth
Who is calling you
To a life of love and harmony and peace
And you have to choose
Before it is too late.

###

(g) Dr. Anoop Swarup shared a poem he wrote in felicitation of a Honorary Doctorate awarded to Dr Daisaku Ikeda, President SGI last month in New Delhi. He had a standing ovation on these lines dedicated to Prof. Glenn D. Paige exalting Nonkilling:

‘In these times of mindless terror, killings, revenge, and fight,
Ever thought of destitution, sufferings and children in fright,
Let us pledge and rebuild, bonds, bridges that divide and all the blight,
With the Almighty, Gandhi, King, Mandela, Paige and Ikeda in sight,
In infinite reverence we owe 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 at the dread and those echoes, but in our own conscience to be right,
Faith and prayer be with us, high time for Peace Prosperity to be humanity’s delight,
Let we the billions work like the zillion of stars, in the hope and humanity so bright,
Forever be our goal of Nonkilling Peace, eternal be the joy and triumph of his might.'

Dr. Swarup is Vice Chancellor of Jagran Lake University in Bhopal, India. Starting January 01 he will take over from Prof. Glenn Paige as new Chair of CGNK Governing Council.

My profound gratitude to all who contributed or pointed to the material for this letter.

Looking forward to your contributions and comments as always.

Wishing you a peaceful 2016!

Nonkilling Regards,
Bill

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja
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"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 is THE measure of Human progress==

January 2016 letter


- Paul Saltzman's 2 documentaries, Ada Aharoni's Pomegranate documentary
- Koozma Tarasoff's feature report on Ottawa Peace Festival
- Rahul Varma lecture on Diversity in Canadian theatre
- Paul Hebron on Peace Museums