

**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 Ralhanchand, *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.



[Peace symbols](#) adapted for the [Paris bombings](#) and [Russian plane crash](#).

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.



[Another Mother For Peace](#) logo



## 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 loser

**RANA EHTISHAM RABBANI**  
 President Peace & Humanity Foundation Pakistan  
[www.humanityworld.com](http://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.

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(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](http://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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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(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

- Music and Environmental Activism - Social Alternatives, [http://socialalternatives.com/sites/default/files/pdf/issue/free/vol\\_33\\_issue\\_s\\_mall.pdf](http://socialalternatives.com/sites/default/files/pdf/issue/free/vol_33_issue_s_mall.pdf)

- 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

