



Keeping the Channels Open

Dialogue is the only way to bring lasting harmony in society. Differences in ideologies and actions, how big they are, can be resolved through dialogue. It's the only way to bring people together.

Dialogue is a sign of a civilised and cultured society. Unfortunately, people don't want dialogue. If a person is not in agreement with your point of view, you treat them as untouchables. But differences can be resolved only when we understand the other person's perception. Boycotting him or her will only widen the gap.

I do condemn violence, but I don't condemn people who instigate it. If I condemn them and close the channels of communication, how will they be touched and how will their hearts be opened? A reformer needs to build bridges, not break them.

Dialogue can only happen between groups which disagree with one another and have different points of view. That means diversity is essential for dialogue. But intolerance for diversity has been the problem of today. The only purpose of organised religion is to facilitate more dialogue. But the purpose has been lost as we haven't globalised wisdom and human values. We have to incorporate knowledge and wisdom from all traditions to live healthier, happier lives. And this can happen only by facilitating dialogues among people from all backgrounds through spirituality.

For advancement of human civilization, dialogue is necessary. Peace and social harmony depend on our mutual understanding of diversity and acceptance of diversity in a globalised world where people of diverse religious and racial backgrounds interact with each other on a regular basis.

The key to achieving peace in this new environment lies in intercultural dialogues to nurture understanding of the differences that exist. Broad-based ecumenical education in every part of the world is essential to foster harmonious co-existence among different cultures and civilizations and achieve peace and security.

Most of the problems and conflicts in the world today arise out of lack of proper dialogue and communication. Hatred cannot be countered by hatred. Hate need to be treated with love as the power of love is much more than that of hatred.

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