

1. ~~True salve~~  
~~सर्व सौख्य~~  
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Essay - 5  
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1. A true salvation is not just the abolition of sin but the acceptance of sinner  
सच्चा मोक्ष सिर्फ पाप का उन्मूलन नहीं बल्कि पापी को स्वीकार करना है
2. Life is not a problem to be solved, it's a mystery to be lived  
जीवन कोई समस्या नहीं है जिसे हल किया जा सके, जीवन एक रहस्य है जिसे जिया जाए
3. India's path in 21st century, an Asian century  
21वीं सदी, एक एशियाई सदी में भारत का पथ,
4. Paths are made by walking  
रास्ते चलने से बनते हैं

3. Wars are poor chisels for carving out  
peaceful tomorrow

Global War on Terror started with high  
ideals of eradicating terrorism in all its  
forms, thus creating peaceful society. United  
States used all its might including tanks,  
artillery and fighter jets to chisel double  
peace—peace within and outside Afghanistan.

However, even after investing  
4 trillion dollars, countless American lives  
and 20 years, the whole operation was  
counterproductive. USA lost the war of

introducing democracy at Gun point. This not only resulted in their retreat, but also complex take over by Taliban. Thus, the war that started with intention of creating peaceful society ended up with the draconian rule of Taliban.

The above anecdote exemplifies why war are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrow. No wonder it is often said - "There is no good war or bad peace." The question naturally arises - "why is war antithetical to peace?"

However, before answering above question it is imperative to first understand the meaning of war and peace. In our course of understanding, we will also try to analyze how we can avoid wars and devise alternative mechanisms to establish peaceful tomorrow

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## War and Peace: Constant marker of Humanity

Leo Tolstoy in his book War and Peace, defines peace as presence of Justice. In other words, when society realises the importance of fairness, equality, inclusivity and methods of dialogue in dispute resolution, peace automatically informs all level of society. It is a state when each individual has liberty of choice and freedom from all forms of fear.

However, such state of peace is difficult to achieve and seldom occurs in reality. The reason could be attributed to perverted forms of dispute resolution. Thus, people generally rely on argument of power than power of argument to solve disputes. This breeds war.

war is a state of intense conflict where violence, coercion and

methods of subjugation are used to be on the favourable side of dispute resolution.

Though war carves out immediate gain for the victor, yet it acts as poor chisels for creating mutually amicable peace. Let us explore the above argument through a spatio-temporal analysis.

Historically, if we turn back pages of time, peace was equated with more lands and cattle. According to Rigveda, capturing more cattle in "gavishti" (cattle war) was the main Dharma of righteous King. However, this maxim led to countless wars like the Draupadya war. The losers of war were given the title of "dasyu" who today are often called as Dalits. Thus, war did not create peaceful tomorrow for Dalits, instead it created untouchability and Stratification.

Moving forward to medieval

Times in Europe, peaceful society was one where everybody followed one religion. This created countless crusades fought between the Catholic Church and the Muslim Caliphate.

Even after losing countless lives, peaceful society was out of sight. Instead the wave descended Europe into the dark ages.

Things were not very different even in modern times. Society was considered peaceful if allocation of resources and dispute resolution was based on one ideology.

This led to clash of ideology - Marxism vs Capitalism. This war resulted in massive strikes, armed revolutions and ultimately culminated into the first world war.

Even in contemporary times wars are being fought and justified under the pretext of high moral values that

Seeks to create peace. Naxalism in India and terrorism worldwide seek to create a peaceful order. The result, however, is in complete contrast. Incidents like 9/11, 26/11, gadchiroli ambush highlight again the fact that wars are poor chisels for peace.

Having discussed, how wars have negative interplay with peace, it is pertinent to find out the reasons for the same.

Firstly, wars erode the material progress made in the society. It not only destroys the current physical capital but also the capacity of state to invest in future Gross Capital formation. According to recent estimates by World Economic Forum, the Russia-Ukraine war has costed almost 17 years worth of development.

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with loss of crucial economic progress, a vicious cycle of poverty, unemployment will engulf both society thus divorcing them from peace.

Secondly, wars destroy Social Capital by creating security dilemma and mutual distrust. For instance, India and Pakistan ties have not normalised because of the state sponsored warfare via terrorism. Currently visa regimes are highly restrictive, trade is miniscule to 2.5 bn\$. Even talks have been initiated to renegotiate the indus-water treaty which was supposed to be harbinger of peace.

Furthermore, wars result in the polarization of the masses. Since wars are generally fought between two sides, individuals generally chose one of

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sides. After this stage talks for solutions are seldom possible. The reason is mutual

antagonization and biased communication

process. The above is evident if we

analyse the Manipur violence between

Kuki and Meitei. Similarly, even the Sudan

crisis where civil war has made the

chances of peaceful coexistence bleak at

best.

Lastly, wars also result in complete break down of talks. without active

communication, words just act like

swords. According to Sigmund Freud, major

reason for break down of relations are

war of words. Instead of patient and

receptive communication, war of words

result in psychological distress. This snatches

away the possibility of peaceful settlement

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Now that we have analysed the reason why wars are poor chisels for carving peaceful tomorrows. However, is this an iron law? Are there some wars that create peace in society. Well the answer is Yes.

If the wars are fought with the right intention to achieve rightful purpose, wars do help in creating peace. For example, Raja Ram Mohan Roy's crusade against Sati. He declared an all out war against the conservative, patriarchal mindset. This warfare, however, was not fought with weapons. Rather through the power of rule of law. This good war having right intentions and purpose led to abolition of Sati and a relatively

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peaceful society for woman.

Similarly, if wars are fought against the tyranny of Evil who is hell bent on destroying civic liberty, then also wars can be considered just. For instance,

Bhagat Singh call for armed action against the tyrannical British who had committed atrocities like Jallianwala Bagh, death of Lala Lajpat Rai can be considered as just.

Furthermore, wars sometimes are not luxury, but a necessity for creating peaceful society. Humanities collective war against Climate Change through various initiative like Paris Pact, 2015, Mission Life, net zero are just wars against the threat of Sixth Mass Extinction (Elizabeth Kolbert)

However, these are just exceptions and in general wars are poor chisels for peaceful tomorrow. Than what are good chisels, which can be adopted.

One way could be promoting values of empathy and compassion. These values could help in understanding emotions of others, thereby create an environment conducive for dispute resolution.

Above could be instilled via value based education, without any ideological colouration. Maxims of Kants Human dignity, Buddha's values of Universal Humanism can be right guide. For such education Gandhiji's model of Nai Talim or Japanese system of Chitokutai could be adopted.

Lastly, for virtuous use of above, an atmosphere of ideal speech situation

based on communicative action must be promoted. What better way to create such atmosphere than democracy

In nutshell, wars seldom have any positive consequence, let alone act as force multiplier for peaceful society. If we learn anything from USA debacle in Afghanistan via Global war on Terror, it is that we must use dialogue, debates, discussions. It not only saves countless lives of innocent humans, but also has better chances of creating harmony in society.

Going forward, we should pledge to create a peaceful society where people use method of war as last resort. Only then can we hope & dream for peaceful society. Perhaps below poem will further help. —

My friends, you will not tell old lie, with high zest  
Dulce est decorum, pro patria mori  
(It is right to die for one's country) — with red Owen.

खण्ड—B / Section — B

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5. What we cannot bear removes us from life; what remains can be borne  
जो हम सहन नहीं कर पाते वह हमें जीवन से दूर कर देता है; जो बचता है उसे सहा जा सकता है
6. If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change  
यदि आप चीजों को देखने का तरीका बदलते हैं, तो आप जिन चीजों को देखते हैं वे भी बदल जाती हैं।
7. Human capabilities may be finite in an infinite universe but it is the courage that counts  
अनंत ब्रह्मांड में मानवीय क्षमताएं सीमित हो सकती हैं लेकिन ये साहस है जो मायने रखता है
8. The way upward and the way downward are one and the same  
ऊपर का रास्ता और नीचे का रास्ता एक ही है

B. It is the mind of man alone that is the cause of his bondage or freedom

Sometimes, it is shocking to believe that one of the greatest minds of 21st Century—Stephen Hawking was under the bondage of Cerebral Palsy. His entire body was out of control of his mind. This made him paralysed and bonded to wheel chair.

Yet, it is same mind that gave Stephen Hawking wings to venture out into the entire cosmos and unravel

the mysteries of universe. His mind gave him enough freedom to think without barriers. It is his unbridled freedom given by his mind that helped him postulate -

Black holes are not black at all. His thesis also removed bondages of humanity and gave renewed freedom to analyse universe.

The above instance showcase how powerful mind is and the ways in which it controls ~~over~~ freedom and bondages. It is for this reason essentialist like Plato held - "It is our consciousness that determines our existence."

In this essay, we will explore how our mind manufactures bondages as well as liberates us. Next, we will also examine exceptions to above. Lastly, we will also find out ways to train our mind in balancing bondage and freedom

to create  
a better future

to create a better world for future and a better future for our world.

## Mind: Creator of Bondages

Juval Noah Harari in his book

"Sapiens" argues how humans make sense of reality through fictional stories. It is these fictional stories used by our mental intellect as frameworks to process the data. For instance, man understood thunder through the story of Thor. Today he understands it through story of electrostatics.

It is these same stories that create bondages. Bondages are rigid mental constructs that prohibit us to take a particular action. Mind has created such constructs to regulate behaviour, attitude and values. These constructs and bondages ensure that with available information best actions are taken. This could be

analysed at various levels.

At individual level, man has created bondages based on culture and education which he acquires via socialisation.

For instance, Religions create bondages of certain social conduct like hinduism teaches bondage of Plurality. Similarly, Islam teaches bondage of Charity or Zakat.

At organisational level, mind of the executive creates bondages in form of rules, regulations and code of conduct. For instance, Indian Civil Servants are bonded with Civil Services conduct rules that lays out expected values like objectivity, dedication to service, impartiality etc.

Now that we have understood how mind creates bondages, let us explore how it liberates individuals to achieve state of freedom. But before that let

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Mind: Emancipation towards freedom

James Clear in his book Atomic Habits, defines freedom as a psychological state which allows thinking without barriers

In other words, when man without any external pressure, coercion or oppression is

able to apply his mind to come up with novel ideas, choices or innovation he is said to be free. For instance, Lord Buddha after

attaining enlightenment was free from any fears, desires. This was because, his

mind was not constricted by existing social, political frameworks

Now that we are clear with meanings of ~~fear~~ and bondage, freedom and its interplay with mind, let us examine how mind alone is responsible for the above, through multi-dimensional analysis.

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Mind: Increasing bondages and freedom

If we analyses at political level,  
Mind creates bondages through political ideology  
Our understanding of political reality is hostage  
to majoritarian politics. However the same  
mind when objectively realises, subjective  
political reality it allows for freedom.  
For instance, before French Revolution, the  
first & second estate controlled every aspect  
of politics. However, post Revolution of 1789,  
the bondages of mind were replaced by  
freedom of liberty, Equality and fraternity

Similarly, at Social level our  
mind create bondages based on social  
structures having bedrock of conformity  
bias-align behaviour with traditions. However,  
when our mind sheds these dogmas it  
creates new freedom. Let me illustrate

this with the feminist movement

Before advent of Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir and Kate Millet

woman thought that patriarchal bondage was natural. However, these feminist provided

emancipation and freedom with the

suffragate movement, #MeToo and the

recent Mahsa Amini Protest. Now woman have understood that all sex are equal and an egalitarian society is their right.

Furthermore, at Economic level

also one could witness how mind plays games. Before LPGR reforms of 1991 in India, the state called for License and

Quota Raj. This made our minds create bondages regarding free capitalist business

model to the extent that we thought of

Stigmatised Capitalism [Economic Survey].

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In contrast after ~~removal~~ LPG reforms  
our minds have liberated our economic  
rationale. Today we have used it to become  
5<sup>th</sup> largest economy, 3<sup>rd</sup> largest startup sector  
and according to IMF global sweetspot of  
world economy

Even at Scientific level, mind  
has been sole factor in deciding our  
bondage/freedom. Our scientific understanding  
of reality decides our level of bondage  
and freedom. For instance, Humans were under  
the bondage of flat Earth dogma during  
medieval period. This made us restricted to  
our homelands out of fear of falling off.  
But with expanded scientific learning due to  
likes of Copernicus, Galileo, humans found  
freedom of navigation. Ferdinand Magellan  
was able to freely go around the globe  
because of likes of Galileo.

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Even if we look at Mythology, we will find the same result. During Mahabharata, Arjun was bonded to his familial love to the Kaurvas. His mind did not let him pick up weapons. However, Lord Sri Krishna's monologue in Bhagratgita regarding nishkam Karma opened the eyes and mind of Arjuna towards his Dharma-fighting evil. This gave him freedom to act

Having seen how mind determine our freedom and bondages, a pertinent question arises in our mind. Are there other aspects that cause bondages/freedom. Well the answer is Yes!

one such bondage/freedom arises when the state is unable to create conditions for exercise of free will by the mind. For instance, if Law & order

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cannot be maintained by the state. Our freedoms and bondage are automatically decided. Take the example of recent Nhu violence, where mind's control gave way to tyranny of masses.

Furthermore, if the mind is underdeveloped on fed false information, its capacity to decide bondage/freedom is automatically restricted. George Orwell in his book 1984 terms this condition as Totalitarian Society. For instance, Germans during Nazi regime had been stripped away of their mental faculty by propagandas.

Moreover, sometime virtuous external restriction also limit our minds capacity to determine bondage/freedom. For instance, under our faith and trust towards our constitution, we have voluntarily

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surrendered our freedom and placed  
ourselves under the bondage of constitutional  
patriotism.

However, in today's society  
external aspects have become more  
dominant than our mind in controlling  
our freedom/bondages. Increasing surveillance,  
targeted Advertisements, echo chamber  
have made us subject to external whims  
and fantasies than our internal locus  
of control.

To regain the preponderance of  
mind, it is imperative that we infuse  
our thoughts with critical rationality.  
This would enable us to undertake  
informed decisions.

Moreover, regulations by  
states are also in order. This would  
restrict the invasion of privacy that

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Big data companies are undertaking. Lastly  
Civic virtues must also be spread in  
the society so that we respect the  
intellect of others, instead of trying  
to paternalise their thoughts.

Only by following above  
footsteps, can we ensure that mind of  
man is the force behind decision  
making. It would help in creating a  
Society u

Where mind is without fear  
where words appear from depth of truth  
where nations are not divided into fragment

Let my country awake

— Rabindranath Tagore

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