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Wars Are Poor Chisels for Carving Out Peaceful Tomorrows.

It was just another day in the war torn Berlin in 1945. There was intense fighting on the streets, young men losing their lives, bombs killing civilians and no sign of tomorrow. As

Amidst all this was Adolf Hitler, whose hands were shaking with fear in his bunker. He was about to shoot himself because all that he dreamt of had come crashing down upon him. He had wished for an "Aryan" superpower to rise tomorrow through the policy of Blitzkrieg. But, all that he got was destruction and defeat.

The above tale of how Hitler

had used war for carrying out a peaceful & developed "German Reich" clearly demonstrate why wars are good chisels for peaceful tomorrow.

In this essay we shall explore how wars rather than giving us development and peace only manifest destruction and doom on all dimensions and how we must avoid them to achieve peace. We shall also discuss how peace must be achieved by peaceful means.

But, before that, we must understand as to why wars are fought and how do people expect to get good outcomes from them.

Wars have been fought from ancient times to either get something done or to achieve an objective by overpowering our adversary. It aims to get concessions by coercing the

opponent to extract the desired outcomes. e.g. - Ancient India had wars for securing cattle called 'Gavishki'.

But, wars always have consequences for all parties engaged and sometimes even for those who had nothing to do with wars. e.g. - Bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki affected more civilians than soldiers.

Similarly, wars have societal consequences. They brutalize men as per Gandhiji and rob them of their true gentle nature. e.g.

The Pakistani society today has become so belligerent and intolerant that any leader talks of having engagement with India, he is sure of being voted out of power. This has affected the regional peace of South Asia.

Also, if society is affected, we cannot ignore economy. It is said that wars ensure that even the largest empire may turn into city states or fiefdoms. e.g.- The Russia-Ukraine war has ensured that while on one hand there is a loss of life, on the other economic issues rise up. These issues then force people to come on streets and fight for a revolution.

And along with it we see the rise of a dangerous trend of politics called Brinkmanship. In such a scenario, extreme political rhetoric gives rise to problems like jingoism and hyper nationalism which leaders exploit. e.g. - Pakistani Prime Ministers always talk about a nuclear war to garner votes. It

has ensured that any chances of peace talks are disincentivized.

Similarly, we see how wars not only affect the fighting parties but also the people and their culture. e.g. In Lebanon, the religious & sectarian divide has become a war of religions. This has completely eroded the unique historic culture of Lebanon and turned the nation into what world Bank calls a failed state. Thus, reducing any possibility of a peaceful coexistence.

And the heat of wars is so high that it even won't stop at just this earth. Today, wars are not just limited to battlefields, but we also see them & big fight in people's

mind. ^{being} e.g. - Use of social media to influence people and create

social cleavages using cyber space.

What could have been a place to meet and connect with the globe has today become a battleground of propaganda.

Another manifestation of the distrust that wars create is the weaponization of space. What "Nell Armstrong" had hoped to have been a giant leap for mankind is today destroying the natural silence and peace of space. The peaceful and unexplored space ^{is} thus, today seeing use of Anti-Satellite weapon (ASAT).

All of this, thus brings us to the question as to how wars affect us humans, ethically and morally. How far are we going to keep repeating the

same mistakes? How long for us will it take to realize that peace that is founded upon blood and violence is nothing but a farce? How many more world wars are needed for us to understand the importance of the adage that 'violence begets violence'?

Though some may argue for 'just wars' as exceptions, but there are exceptions to everything.
e.g. - USA's war on terror can be said to be a just war.
But, again we need to understand that a true peace will always be founded upon peaceful means.
As Malala Yousafzai had said, "you can kill terrorists, but you can kill 'terrorism' itself with education."

Thus, the approach for a peaceful tomorrow must pass

must be chiselled out of
moral and ethical solutions.

For this we can always
take the help from our rich
Indian wisdom and tradition

like values of tolerance and
peace.

An important lesson in
this regard can be learnt from
the life of Gandhiji. Had he
adopted a war against the
British, the huge might of
the British Army would not
have taken much time to wipe
v. out
mem

Thus, with his wisdom, he
went for a solution that would
have given a lasting peace. A
peaceful tomorrow that has allowed
us to thrive today. His Satya
and Ahimsa (Non Violence) are

the chisels that have carved out our peaceful and vibrant nation of today.

Similarly, ~~the~~ our Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has provided us with the perspective that peace will be established if we think of the whole world as but one family.

Even Mohun Jaisa had said that conflicts and wars today are because, "we draw the circles of family too small".

Also, even Nelson Mandela, who despite all the tribulations like 28 years in prison, huge discrimination against his fellow Africans, etc adopted the path of compassion and conciliation.

He knew, if ^a peaceful tomorrow were to come it would not be

from the barrel of a gun but
from the light of forgiveness that
emanates from our hearts.

In a similar spirit, it is
better to fight with words on
a diplomatic table than to fight
with guns. For this, the whole
world must strive for global
peace by coming together as
an institution. e.g. - The UN.

Remember that during World
War-II, Allies had initially thought
that Hitler's wars would ^{not} affect
them and that after he ^{wins over}
his targets, peace would come. But,
it was not to be and the
fire of wars spread throughout
Europe! It engulfed millions of
lives and ruptured peace.

Also, it is a spirit of
cooperation and global brotherhood

that a truly peaceful tomorrow
may be achieved. In this
regard the great Russian scholar
Peter Kropotkin had said that
you are as peaceful and prosperous
as your surroundings are.

While wars may be an
easy looking solution and may
bring a minor period of
calm, we must remember that
it is the silence before the
storm : e.g. Germany slowly
started militarizing after the
Treaty of Versailles.

Thus, the true chisels of
peace are all but wars. If
is better for humans to cooperate
and help each other than to
undercut each other. We must
always remember that "wars
bring peace but only for graves"

Hence, a peaceful tomorrow passes from the bridges of non-violence, empathy, togetherness and cooperation. Also, our Honourable Prime Minister had very succinctly stated that "Today is not an era of war." Rather, it is through open dialogues & mutually ~~cooperation~~ beneficial coexistence. As

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan had said "Future belongs to those with grains not guns". or not ~~being~~ those like Hitler who make war the tool to seek peace which is not inclusive ← fragile.

8) It Is The Mind Alone That
Is The Cause of His
Bondage or Freedom.

It was during his student years as a young scholar that this young man was suddenly paralysed. When the reports came, the doctors had declared that he had a few years left and he won't be able to move again.

But, this would not stop this brave young man from telling this world about the secrets of this universe and black holes. This young man, was none other than the great physicist, Stephen Hawking.

The above story highlights how Stephen Hawking did not let his

mind use his circumstances to
cause his bondage. But rather,
it helped him gain freedom
from helplessness and hopelessness

In this essay we shall
explore how mind has a great
influence on our lives. Now it
can be our friend or a foe. We
shall also explore why mind
may cause bondage and how to
use it to achieve freedom.

Thus, first we shall explore as
to what causes the bondage of
mind. As per Swami Vivekananda,
the trinity of bondage comprises
of poverty, ignorance & inequalities.
But, it is the ignorance that
is at the root of it.

Similarly, we also have other
aspects that cause a bondage

Take for example the material comforts that cause ~~us~~ to be complacent. e.g. When Gautam Buddha was living a luxurious life with all earthly riches, he was still under a burden of or bondage of mind. Even though his senses were satisfied, he was not free due to his mind's attachment to comforts.

In a similar fashion, the mind is under the bondage of fear of failure. Failure stops us from taking necessary actions. e.g. A student may not get his tests evaluated for fear of getting less marks. This bondage of mind limits his true potential.

Also, the mind may also be bogged down from a fear of rejection. This may similarly limit our potential from truly blooming and

Keep us confined to our miseries.
e.g. The famous author of Harry
Potter, J.K. Rowling was rejected
by more than 20 publishers. But,
she still did not give up and
persisted. This ability of hers to
not be bonded by her situation
made her what she is today.

Even evolutionary biologists
suggest that human mind will
always try to minimise conflict
by restricting unnecessary interactions.
But, this is where the human
will power comes to fore. It is
a contest of how the will to
be free overpowers the needs
bondage for safety and biological
survival.

Hence, we must see great
examples from our lives as to

how great people overcame their
bondages for achieving freedom.
Take for instance the case of Dr
Ambedkar.

He was born in a lower
Caste family. This ensured that
there was a perpetual label and
trauma attached to his identity. But,
this did not deter his spirit. He
would not let his mind be
under the bondage of an obsolete
& immoral social construct. Thus,
Dr Ambedkar utilized his mind
to achieve knowledge and reject
the ignorance as was highlighted
by Swami Vivekananda.

In a similar manner, we
see how Dr Albert Einstein had
used his mind as a friend. Even
though he was unable to secure
a professor ship & was working as

a patent clerk, he did not let his mind be bogged down by notions of societal standards. He was initially ridiculed for challenging Newtonian ideas. But, with the use of his genius mind, he was to become the greatest scientist of all times.

Thus, we see how bondage of mind can limit the true potential of a person and in turn lead to his bondage. But, it is the mind only that can take us towards freedom.

For this, the mind must be trained for what are considered the Aristotelian virtues like courage, enquiry, etc.

Also, we need to understand what course ~~bondage~~ must be taken up to achieve them. For example, as per Bhagwat Gita, to get rid of bondage, the mind must be trained to avoid any sort of attachment with this world. Mind must be trained to do one's duty as doing ~~so~~ ~~that~~ leads to salvation.

Similarly, Einstein gave the idea of "Question Everything". As per him, it is when we enquire with a curious mind that we truly understand the depths of our existence and thus be freed from bondage. e.g. - an inquisitive mind would always question the notions like happiness or sadness, victory or defeat, etc. It is only when we accept

Something without truly enquiry about it & understanding, that we pave the way for bondage. e.g. -
Now Dada Bhai Naoroji questioned the causes of Poverty in India via his 'Drain of Wealth' theory. It was due to his enquiry that he came to know the cause of bondage of India.

Similarly, the mind must be trained to persistence and develop goal. It is because of a strong a persistent mind that we are able to see through our mitrations. e.g. Despite all the failures, Thomas Edison ensured that he persisted and ultimately redeemed himself by successfully inventing the light bulb.

A person who does not train his mind for persistence later finds

That same mind agonizing him.
He then realizes that it is better
to fail than to regret.

Also, it is important that we
have a growth mindset. In a growth
mindset, a person uses his mind
to learn from his mistakes & improve.
Rather than be demoralized. eg. Dr

APJ Abdul Kalam had failed at
the entrance test of fighter pilots.
But, instead of being under the
bondage of failure, he used his
mind to become the 'missile man'
of India.

The mind must also be
trained to take risks. A person who
avoids risk for being called a
failure or ~~being~~ is troubled in
coming out of his comfort zone,
will face no pangs of this mind,
throughout his life.

Not taking risks only leads to a feeling of dissatisfaction and regret for which the mind itself becomes an amplifier. Thus, mind must be trained to attain freedom by action. e.g. Elon Musk reportedly failed at his 'Space X' ~~reusable~~ reusable module tests.

But, instead of being bogged down under criticism, he pursued what he believed in his mind and achieved what can be termed freedom.

Thus, it becomes clear how our mind is a double edged sword. It can bring the best out of us or the worst. An uncontrolled mind is like a storm, it causes regression. But, a firm mind can help us attain freedom and

And great heights.

For a firm mind, Gautam Buddha has prescribed the middle path. A mind that balances everything ^{which} ultimately leads to a life of balance, free from bondage of earthly mixeries.

Similarly, we must learn from the lives of great men like Stephen Hawking who demonstrate

how mind holds the key to freedom when directed at the right path. The Bhagwat Gita also says the same thing how mind is a very powerful entity that can help us achieve our true destiny.

Obstructions must be seen as opportunities to train the mind for challenges. As Ryan Nolliday has said, "what impedes us can also empower us". We must also remember that bondage is due to our

own attitudes and perception as
Seneca says, "We suffer more
in the mind than in reality".

Thus, rather than suffering we
should try to achieve freedom.

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