

FIGHTING TERRORISM THROUGH DHARMA

Terrorism is a modern menace. It affects almost all countries in the world. Even the developed countries, which until a few years ago thought they were immune to terrorism, are new subject to the malady.

Even among the advanced countries, all kinds of violence is breaking out. Renowned cities of the world are plagued by mafia of different varieties like the arms, drugs and sex. Rivalries among the gangs lead to reckless killings, arson and loot.

Organised violence in pursuit of an objective turns into terrorism taking toll of the lives of innocent people who have nothing to do with the issue. Indiscriminate bombing of public places, killing important personalities, hijacking of aircrafts and derailing trains have become almost an every day occurrence all over the globe. The sufferings of the innocent people do not receive as much attention as the human rights of those accused of such crimes. Not a day passes without reports of violence against individuals, against religious group, ethnic communities of state repression of minorities, class conflicts and terrorist onslaughts. Unless the World Community wakes up to the imminent danger, life in the planet may revert to the barbarian past.

Primordial man was no better than the beast. He hunted for his food, ate, drank and slept like any other animal. He was violent selfish and greedy. He fought his fellowmen as he did with the beast. Such an animal has today grown intellectually morally and spiritually developing qualities of kindness, compassion, service and sacrifice living in peace and harmony with other beings. He has enriched his life with art, music, dance and literary pursuits.

Very often the malady is apparent but the remedy is elusive. There is no single remedy for social ills. Against individual acts of violence, there is no other remedy than self-control. It is religion with its taboos and mystic admonitions that made man control his primitive passions. The fear of God and of His Judgement on the day of reckoning inhibited man from doing wrong or a sinful act. This is the subjective check that unconsciously kept Man on the right path. No Society can exist unless the people voluntarily observe the code of conduct. It is wrong to think that man adheres to the right path for fear of Law. It is because 90% of the people observe the law and a 10% violate it that law enforcing authorities are able to maintain Law and Order. If, on the other hand, 90% of the people flout the Law and a mere 10% comply with it, there will be no society; there will be only chaos. The fundamental unity of religion lies not in their acceptance of the Ultimate Supreme being. Buddhism does not recognize the Supreme Lord. It is in virtuous life preached and propagated that all religions, totally agree. If each religion taught the children the value of good conduct, violence, crime and anti social activities may abate. Alternatively moral instructions, which in our student days used to be given in the school as part of the curriculum, may be adopted by all Countries of the World as antidote to the poisonous spread of violence and hatred. Either fear of God or a deep sense of responsibility to the State and to fellow men should be inculcated in the young minds if we wish to eliminate the growing menace of violence.