

The need for Creative Leadership in India

Meher Baba's Message

(Released for leaders of all political)
Thought in March 1942

I AM THE ONE



*"I am the very same Ancient-one, in flesh
and blood, come to redeem the modern world.*

MEHER BABA

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The Glorious Past of India

Throughout the boary ages of the past, India has played the most prominent part in shaping the spiritual history of humanity. She has been a home of Avatars, Prophets, Masters, seers and sages, whose contribution to the spiritual evolution of humanity has been unparalleled. The contribution of India to the solution of mundane problems has also been remarkable, since she has produced scientists, poets, philosophers, emperors, leaders and statesmen of the first order. In the past, India has attained eminence in spiritual as well as mundane spheres of life; and her place in the post war New World of the Future is going to be Unique.

The Complexity of National Problems in India

The problems, which India has to face today, are, in some ways, more complicated than the problems which any other country is called upon to solve. Men of all races, creeds, cults and religions have found a home in India; and if this lack of uniformity in composition has presented some difficulties in arriving at soldarity and concerted action in the national life of India, it must, in no way, be looked upon as a pure handicap.

The various streams of culture, which has poured into the life history of India, have added to the wealth of her national personality, and they have not only created a suitable opportunity for arriving at a new cultural synthesis, but have necessitated its emergence. If handled with creative leadership, the presence of conflicting elements in Indian life, can be utilised for bringing into existence a rich world culture, which shall not only rejuvenate and harmonise Indian life, but will also give a new tone to the life of the whole world.

"The New world-culture Must Emerge from Integral Vision"

The process, by which we arrive at the new world-culture, can not be purely mechanical, we can never have any vigorous world-culture by merely piling together certain isolated elements, selected from the present diversity of culture, that way we shall only succeed in getting a patch work of little vitality. A hotch potch of collected ideas can never be a substitute for a direct and fresh perception of the Goal. The new world-culture will have to emerge from an integral vision of the Truth independently of existing traditions and from the laborious process of selection and compilation of conserved values.

The Process of Transcending Limitations

The New-world-culture, which will emerge from integral vision, will, however, automatically bring about cultural synthesis. Since the vision that inspires the New world-culture will be comprehensive it will not negate the values of diverse traditions, nor it have merely patronising tolerance for them. On the contrary, it shall express itself through active appreciation of the essentials of diverse religions and cultures.

The vast vision of the truth can not be limited by any creed, dogma or sect; however, it helps men to transcend these limitations, not by blind and total denial of any value to the existing creeds, dogmas and sects, but by discovering, accutuating unfolding and developing such facts of the Truth as might have been hidden in them.

"Future Role of Indian in the International Sphere"

Evolving a transcendent and synthetic culture, which will express the Infinite Truth, is one task before India, the other task for which India is particularly qualified, is to help other nations in arriving at mutual understanding and harmony. This second task, again, requires creative leadership which will have an unclouded perception of the mission which India has to fulfill in relation to the destinies of the other nations of the world. In her foreign policy, India must, in no way, be a party to colour prejudice and colour-war; black, yellow and white are differences of the skin; they are not differences within the soul itself. Through her past history, India has been a link between the East and the West; and the two have come closer to each other through her.

Implication of Political Poise

The third task before the creative leadership in India is to strive for political poise inspite of the difficult situation in which she is placed, India can never make her full contribution to the world unless she is free from political domination and the fear of foreign aggression or conquest. If she is to fulfill her mission in the sisterhood of nations, India must be free to shape her own national life and to determine her policy towards other nations. But insistance upon

this fundamental need should not be allowed to disturb her political poise. While leadership in India would be justified in striving for national freedom and self-determination, it must not allow itself to be vitiated by reactionary isolationism. In the same way, while discharging the clear duty of foreign aggression, India should try to keep free from hate, malice or revenge.

The Problem of Violence and Non-Violence

Aggression must be met with resistance and here it is unpractical to insist upon non-violence. Pure non-violence or incorruptable love can come spontaneously only where duality has been completely transcended in the realisation of the last and the only Truth; and non-violence of the brave is possible only for advanced souls, who have, through vigorous discipline, eradicated from their minds all forms of greed and hate. But so far as masses are concerned it is undesirable, to ask them to stick to the external formula of non-violence, when it is their clear duty to resist aggression in self defence or in the defence of other weak brothers. In the case of unevolved masses, universal insistence upon non-violence can only lead to their being cowardly, irresponsible and inert. True love is no game of the faint hearted and the weak; it is born of strength and understanding. The ideal of non-violence, in the face of aggression, is impracticable for the masses; and it will have a tendency to be readily used as a subterfuge for servile acceptance of ignoble conditions and contemptible desersion of a clear duty. In its enthusiasm for the highest ideal, wise leadership can, in no way, afford to loose all sense of the relative and the practical. Human evolution proceeds by gradual stages from selfish violence to unselfish violence and than

from non-voilence of the brave to the pure and incorruptible non-voilence of Truth as infinite Love.

The Deep Truth

All narrowness limits love. In India as well in every other part of world, humanity is breaking itself into narrow groups based upon the supearficial and ultimately false differences of cast, creed, race, nationality, religion or culture and since these groups have been long accustomed to seperative distrust and fear, they have indifference, contempt or hostility towards each other. All this is due to ignorance, prejudice and selfishness ; and it can only be mended by fostering the spirit of mutuality which breaks through artificial isolationism, and which derives the strength from the sense of the invoilable unity of life as a whole. Creative leadership (which has so much scope in the soil of India) will have to recognise and emphasize the fact that all men are already united with each other not only by their co-partnership in the Great Divine plan for Earth, but also by virtue of their all being equally the expression of one life. No line of action can be really helpfull or fruitfull, unless it is in entire harmpony with this deep Truth. The future of humanity is in the hands of those who have vision.

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