

Editorial

Friday August 17, 2018

The want for more

The one basic thing that could make much of almost everything much easier, simpler and smoother, yet seemingly impossible to accomplish is the act of coming clean. It would indeed take a much greater strength of character to own up to our mistakes and shortcomings, and still greater willpower to refrain from deliberately committing acts we consciously know is wrong and false.

The few fortunate ones who have the grit and will to transcend these urges are acknowledged and respected, even revered. On the other hand, a new breed of "Go-Getters" who would not stop at anything to achieve their goal is on the rise - the pressures of present day society helping in developing and pruning such mindset to perfection. They are the restless, hyperactive and aggressive ones who do not cater to emotions and aesthetics. Modern parents and guardians are increasingly urging their wards to adopt the letter approach towards life in order to carve out a place in the society that invariably results in a level of respect - respect that again is dependent on the earning capacity, the social circle adopted and living status maintained. Increasing compulsions for security in terms of food, shelter and a step towards a more secure future could be the factors that prompted the collective thinking towards adopting such an attitude towards life. But then, does that justify the adage "All is fair and love and war"? Is our life becoming a daily struggle - a battle - if not a war, we are destined to wage every single living day of our lives? Where does that leave us with any room or opportunity for improvement - not the financial kind, but a more rounded and holistic one as a person? The present developments in the society - particularly that of mindless atrocities and lack of considerations that is becoming rampant would be, to a large part, a spill-off of this new approach towards life. Greed takes precedence over everything else, making our lives worse off than when we started. What then could be the panacea for these aberrations that has come to plague our lives of late? The answer lies within us - common knowledge which just needs to be acknowledged, and more importantly to act on. Putting up a façade of make-believe and a show of benevolence and righteousness will not absolve anyone of the crimes and wrongs. This is of utmost importance for everyone, and more so for those who are donning the role of public representatives.

Concepts like beauty, peace and harmony can only be experienced if we can rise above our petty urges and look at life - that of ourselves and the ones around us in a different and totally new perspective - one that does not have anything to do with wealth, power or fame. But how does one explain these "abstract" concepts, even after knowing them to be true, to someone struggling to earn a square meal on a daily basis? Aren't there adequate schemes and programs to alleviate these basic sufferings being borne by a majority of the people in the State? How do these people who are consistently trying to find any menial job just to earn enough to eat come to know of these schemes if they are not informed, and more importantly, assist them in getting their fair share? Who would not want a little extra, even in spite of having more than everything they could possibly ever need in life? The best persons to validate this observation will be in the performance of those in whose hands are the reign of power and affairs of the State.

"The earth has enough to satisfy man's needs but not man's greed": Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

MANIPUR PINEAPPLE QUEEN 2018

The Manipur Pineapple Festival Committee, Manipur will be organizing the Manipur Pineapple Queen Contest as part of the 13th State Level Manipur Pineapple Festival to be held on 6th September 2018 at Khouasabung DCC Headquarters in Churachandpur District. The contest is open to all unmarried girls above the age of 18 years.

Interested contestants may collect Entry Form from the following centres. Entry fee of Rs 500/per form is to be paid on the day of screening:

- i) DOVE'S, Kelshampat CCpur Bus Parking, Imphal ii) Somamani Mobiles, Moirang Bazar
- iii) Donna Pharmacy, New Lambulane, Imphal
- iv) Hope's Computer, Tuibuong, Churachandpur v) Bright Pharmacy, Motbung, Kangpokpi District

Entry Forms shall also be available at the spot on the day of screening at Kukl Inn, near Civil Secretariat, Imphal on 18th August from 11:00 AM onwards.

Further Information may be had from Mobile No 7005573861/ 8787351593.

Information 8: Publicity Wing Man'Pur Pineapple Festival Committee, Manipur

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The Founder

By Thangiam Sanjoo Singh

In the major world religions, there is someone who is regarded as the great leader or teacher of that religion. Some of these teachers are called Founders, Son of God and Prophet of God depending on their efforts for the development of new faith. There are also a few religions where they regard themselves as the God, who was reborn in humans from their sins.

The Buddha however, the founder of Buddhism is an enlightened and the fully awakened being who is neither a god nor a prophet of god, nor a messenger but a compassionate teacher who taught compassion, love, good will and showed the way to achieve ultimate happiness, unborn, undying, deathlessness which everyone is capable of achieving, the Buddhahatness, complete silence and inner peace. This is the nature of the mental state that every one of us has a capability to achieve - the state of Buddhahood - depending on individual effort and perfection. The recent historical Buddha, however, was born in 2635 (AD 2012+543= Buddhist era 2555+80) years ago in Lumbini in present

day Nepal and lived and died as a human. He had transformed himself from an ordinary human being to supra-ordinary human being through mental training.

Buddhism does not put much emphasis on the Buddha's biography but concentrates on his teachings. Nevertheless, simple collections of his life scattered in the Buddhist scripture suggests that The Buddha's given name was prince Siddhartha, family name Gautama and was born to one of the leading men of the Kingdom of Kapilavasthu. It is said that he was provided with every pleasure he could desire. He was married at the age of 16 to Yasodharna and at the age of 29 years had a son called Rahula. One night the Prince Siddhartha Gautama walked out of his comfortable life and became an ascetic 'a holy man' (brahmachariya) on the quest of finding the way to liberation and to complete inner peace.

The scripture suggests that when Prince Siddhartha had a chance to see the world outside the palace life, he saw human life as a cycle of suffering which

began with trauma of becoming and proceeded inevitably to aging, illness, sorrow, corruption and death. Realizing this universal fact that no one is exempt from this, he crept away in his 29th year of age without saying goodbye to his wife, his son and his family. It was as though he did not trust himself his own determination to leave palace in search of salvation in case his wife requested him to stay. Further, no one can achieve higher knowledge without sacrifice. Once the Siddhartha left the luxurious life, he travelled in his quest of understanding the true nature of life for six years.

The scripture records his quest in different discourses, particularly in Pali scripture that provides detailed information about his practice of austerity during his search, his determination and dedication. The scripture also says that he had strong faith and confidence in finding the goals of his quest. His dedication and determination was firm and unshakable towards his quest of finding the ultimate reality of nature despite physical difficulties and being abandoned by his fellow ascetics etc. As a result of this

determination and dedication, after six years of austerity practice his eyes opened wide, ultimate light arose in him and ever since he was known as the Buddha which means fully awakened one, perfectly enlightened, the knower of the world and its condition.

The Buddha is not the name of a person but a title of a man who is fully awakened. Buddha from the root *budh* - means awakened. This, it literally means one who has fully awakened by completely extinguishing all sensual pleasures, (bhaggarago), hatred (bhaggadoso) and delusion (bhaggamoho). After the enlightenment, the Sakya muni Buddha, the sage of the Sakyaclan, travelled to cities and villages sharing his teaching which was based on social, individual and psychophysical exercises to human kind. The Buddha continued his journey until he was 80 years of age to share and spread the teaching that offers the path that leads to the end of suffering.

*** The writer is a lay Buddhist and a vocalist of a Rock Band called 'No Name'

Letter to the editor

Fate of Southern Nagas vies FA Pact

(By a slight inhuman judgement of India to the Naga Framework Agreement. The Southern Naga People in Manipur state would be Doom.)

As of now, the world knows that India had forcefully annexed Nagas and all its land into the union of India. Many right thinking individual, human justices, intellectuals and freedom fighters of India had been propounded.

1. When Naga club led by Eno. AZ. Phizo met Subhas Chandra Bose the then Indian National Army (INA) founder and leader, they deeply and seriously discussed upon the Naga Sovereignty the Naga club expressed varied problems of their struggles before Subhas Chandra Bose. The brave man said that you Naga would get freedom when I got it. **When I got freedom today you Naga would have tomorrow and when I got freedom in the morning you Naga would get freedom in the evening.**

2. Father of the Nation, Gandhiji said to the Naga delegation that Nagas have every right to be independence.

3. Former Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru wrote a letter to Assam C.M. R.R. Medhi on 13th May 1956. I feel that we have not dealt with this question of Naga with wisdom in the past. We must not judge them as we would judge others who are undoubted a part of India. The Nagas have not such background or sensation.

4. Sir, Rajagopalachari, the first Governor-General of free India assured on 11 members of Naga delegation in Shillong on 28th Nov. 1949. India wants to deprive the land of Nagas, Nagas are at liberty to do as they like, either to become a part of India or be separated if it would be best for their interest to be isolated.

5. Jaya Prakash Narayan member of Indo-Naga peace Mission said;

1. India says all Nagas are Indian citizens but we do not accept what India says.

2. The Naga peoples are unquestionably a nation.

3. You can live as a nation and preserve integrity.

4. The kind of relationship

between India and Naga may be negotiated.

In the context of Manipur state, the Naga and Meitei had a different/separate administrative system before 1949 merger agreement.

Naga hill areas were administered by a Political Agent (P.A). The Meitei valley was controlled by President Manipur State Durbani. (PMSD)

Sir, Robert Reid, a Political Agent posted for Naga Hills in Manipur during fag-end of the British rule. Sir Robert Reid said: The Nagas are not Indian in any sense of the word neither in origin, nor in habit nor in language, nor in appearance, nor in outlook, they can have whatever they wish from the union of India. They can live as a genuine good nation.

The merger agreement 1949 brought change Naga Hills into one administrative roof with Manipuri Valley people who were far advanced and well developed. However the central government identified Naga clearly as scheduled tribe of Manipur state. They are recognised as the weaker group/society than to those amidst the communities they are living together. India knows Naga tribal's are fragile, insecure, who are in need of protection, they cannot live by themselves.

Therefore the Indian constitution has given a certain opportunities to the society and to individuals to safeguard them. Now, the bottom line of this article is, by a slight inhuman judgement of India to the Naga Framework Agreement, the southern Naga people, the tribal in Manipur are going to be ruined in the midst of those who are well to do and advanced society they are living together. As in social category the Meitei/Meetei are the general category, they are the scheduled cast, they are the other backward classes besides they are going to become a scheduled tribe

category. Nagas are subjugating, strangulating, suppressing and intention toward assimilation. There is no provision to safeguard for the Nagas minorities and other tribal's of Manipur state. Demanding, proposals and suggestion of the hills people are completely turn down time and again. No Six Schedule, No Alternative Arrangement, No Territorial Council, No Supra State, No Naga Cultural Body, No Financial Autonomy, No Naga Pan Hoho, No Naga Integration, No Naga Article 371 (A) instead of many proposals and rightful demanding, the Naga lands are split into pieces by creation of Seven Districts. The cruel and bias thought, the bitter feelings, the barbarous manner, jealousy and merciless mindset towards the hill people that can never be compromised and reconciled with the communal, bias majority of the valley peoples.

We the Naga people and valley Meitei have been presumed each other to be a mysterious brothers. But our real brother or clan in Naga blood are those who live in a contiguous Nagalims across the states and abroad the country like Myanmar (AVA). We the Naga are the real brethren, dirt on the body can clean with soap and water but blood can never be washed away, as thus the Nagas brethren can never be separated now and forever more.

The Manipur valley people are claiming that they are indigenous people, if it is so they should know and well understand about the contents and perspectives of indigenous Rights. "UN DECLARATION THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES" are laid down as many as forty six (46) Articles. Here I would like to write down a few Articles, not in serial.

(a) Indigenous peoples have the right of self determination.

(b) By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

(c) Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, economic social and cultural characteristics as well as their legal systems, while retaining their rights to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the state.

(d) Indigenous peoples have the collective right and individual not to be subjected to any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples or of their cultural values or ethnic identities. Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands and Territories.

(e) Any form of assimilation or integration by other cultures or ways of life imposed on them by legislative administrative or other measures.

(f) So in conclusion but not the least why Manipur valley indigenous peoples, the larger the mightier people should force upon the minority and weaker indigenous Naga people of Manipur to be settled with them which Naga people are tired and no longer the might to bear with them.

Manipuri people, the valley people must be carefully considered, deliberate at this juncture. If these people could not understand or ignore all these rights, they are not deserved to be included in U.N. Declaration Indigenous People Rights.

Naga had declared Independence on 14th August 1947 one day ahead of the India Independence 15th August 1947.

AZ Phizo informed this happy news to all the Naga tribes, He came at Ukhrul personally and said, we have got Freedom, and we are free now.

Your Sincerely,
SS Hunphun
Convener
Ukhrul Discussion Forum.