



Sunday, January 18, 2020.

'The Difference'



By- Dr Nunglekjam Premi Devi
Independent Scholar

'Difference' is what is 'hurts' most;
He knew not what I feel, the most, empty;
'Difference' is strange, the emotions it carries;
He does, does make it intentionally;
'Eat or to be eaten?' ask or to be ask'
'One a truth and one a truth, all true'
'Difference' is how it rules thou emotions;
He laughs and he smiles and he's happy;
Between those two-souls-lic and truth;
Oh! Man, your word hurts most as you lay;
Stepping upon those stone you lay;
Bringing up thy fantasies energetically;
'Hurting and be hurt' 'loving and to be loved'
'Seeing and to be seen' 'happy and to be unhappy'
'Difference' is 'difference' I felt for a moment.

'Difference' is what is 'hurts' most;
He knew not what I feel, the most, empty;
Like - his carries- both the notions-
'Difference' is- Ah! Between the two and two;
'Hate me or lie me; true you or true her'
'Safer and angry' 'he twists and turns his eyes'
'Difference' is usually meant for 'things'
'Things' are things- Oh! It's not about souls;
'Souls' isn't a different thing make it happy or sad;
Life isn't a road -he weighted between those differences;
Soul isn't -like between red and blue;
Soul' isn't -like between shirts and pants;
Oh! Baby, don't bring thou portion between;
One head down and one head turn off;
One a happy moment and one a fun picture;
'Difference' is all difference' I felt for a moment.

'Difference' is what is 'hurts' most;
He knew not what I feel, the most, empty;
'He loves and he tries to be loves -both'
'Love' isn't a finding -different thing-
'Warm' isn't a different -finding different thing-
'Hate me forever or save me forever'
'Save her like you do or leave her little'
'Love isn't a lie, Love isn't a seeing;
'Difference' is all between bad and good;
One at front and one at the side;
'Difference' isn't you blame all to another;
You can't measure in between-thou two;
You can't mould in between-thou shapes;
You can't carve in between -thou curves;
'Difference' is all matter thou feelings;
Difference' is all 'emotions'
One a true 'response' and one a bad 'sentiment'
Share it or save it-thou desire or lust.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DIRECTORATE OF TRADE, COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES

NOTICE
Imphal, the 17th January, 2020

No.I-489(77)/IND/2018: A 'Mega Exhibition cum Vendor Development Program' under National Schedule Caste Scheduled Tribe Hub (SC-ST Hub) is being held on 12th to 14th February, 2020 at Manipur Trade & Expo Centre, Lambokhongrangkhong, Imphal West with an objective to provide professional support to Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe entrepreneurs.

Applications are invited for SC-ST entrepreneurs/exhibitor to participate in the "Mega Exhibition cum Vendor Development Program". Application form may be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Trade, Commerce & Industries, Govt. of Manipur at www.dctimanipur.gov.in or from the office of the Directorate of Trade, Commerce & Industries, Manipur or office of the General Manager DICs of the concerned districts during office hour. Further, selected applicants shall be entitled to TA/DA/Honorarium. Application form can be submitted through the concerned District Industries Centre (DICs) latest by 31/01/2020 during office hours or to the MSME Section, Directorate of Trade, Commerce & Industries, Lamphelpat, Imphal.

Sd/-
C. Arthur Worchuiyo
Director, Trade, Commerce & Industries
Manipur

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By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan 18

While Delhi court has issued fresh death warrants against the four Nirbhaya convicts and set first February, as the date for their hanging, over 400 persons have endorsed a third party mercy petition seeking commutation of the death sentence handed out to the four men.

The third-party mercy petition for Mukesh Singh, Akshay Thakur, Vinay Sharma, and Pawan Gupta, convicted in December 16, 2012, gang rape and murder case has been endorsed by lawyers, activists, and researchers from India and abroad. The four were convicted and sentenced to death in September 2013. The conviction and sentencing were upheld by the High Court and Supreme Court. The top court had also dismissed their pleas seeking review of the confirmation order.

The signatories to petition include senior Supreme Court lawyer Indira Jaising and other lawyers Yug Chaudhry, Ragini Ahuja, sociologist Kalpana Kannabiran, activists Harsh Manohar, Anand and economist Jean Dreze, among others.

"It is naïve in the extreme to think the death penalty is the solution. It is not a greater deterrent than life imprisonment, as noted by the Law Commission when it recommended its abolition. Even the Justice Verma Committee, constituted in the wake



of this very crime, eschewed the death penalty for its futility. Even if we were to execute rapists in rarest of rare cases, it would do little to address our society's deep-rooted patriarchal ethos," states the petition sent to President Ramnath Kovind.

The two-page petition states that the four convicts have been sentenced to death for having raped, brutalized and killed a 23-year-old woman in an exceedingly cruel and barbaric way. Their executions are meant to promote justice and women's safety by deterring such crimes. It is our sincere belief that they will achieve neither. The performance that is an execution - the cold bodies, the broken necks, the soiled clothes, and the smell of execution - will not compensate in any way the life lost on 16 December 2012. Neither she nor her memory

can be honoured with four more mangled bodies. To honour her, we must address the structural causes of gender violence and crime in our society. Hanging only degrades the sanctity of life that was so inhumanly violated that winter's night."

The signatories have stated that violence against women that is endemic in the country and in popular discourse needs to be addressed. "The death penalty engenders the false belief that killing these men will eradicate sexual violence, or at least drastically reduce it," the petition states.

"It is this normalisation of patriarchy and rape culture that needs to be addressed. Unless we do so urgently, we cannot claim that we are troubled by the extent of violence against women in our

society. As of now, we have not even implemented the Justice Verma Committee recommendations or utilised a fraction of the Nirbhaya Fund," the petition states.

Urging the President to reduce the death sentences of the convicts to life imprisonment, the mercy petition concludes, "The death penalty creates an illusory distance between ourselves and men such as the present convicts, as if they were aliens and have nothing to do with us and our society. We shun them, as we do a beggar, not because they disgust us but because they remind us of the worst within ourselves. As a consequence, we resort to the death penalty in an effort to obliterate them - as we would a guilty memory - and cleanse ourselves. Alive, they rebuke us. Do we really believe that an egalitarian society respecting the dignity and autonomy of women can arise from the debris of these four men?"

It may be recalled that while addressing the National Convention of Empowerment of Women for Social transformation last month, President Ram Nath Kovind had said that the women safety was a "serious issue" and had opined that the rape convicts under POSCO Act should not have right to file mercy petition and Parliament should review mercy petitions.

One of the convict Mukesh Singh's mercy plea has already been rejected by President of India. Nirbhaya's mother has expressed displeasure with delay in hanging.

Guest Column

The adversity of Diversity (Being a Chow-Momo Indian; The Dark reality!)

By: T S Haokip

I'd just started having my lunch, which was chowmein, a special dish of that day (Every day a special dish is served in addition to a regular Thali) when the person seated next to me smiled and said, "Chinese foods, nice nah" and every one around had a good laugh. I enquired the reason for the sudden euphoria, to which the person quipped, " Chinese foods, you happy nah?" and they erupted in yet another chorus of laughter. I politely told them I love Dosa and even Rotis too. The intention of making fun at somebody based on looks was unmistakable and beyond the level of tolerance, but I restrained myself from what seemed like an open invitation for an office-canteen brawl. I didn't want to amplify the ignominy further.

To be called CHINESE, not because of ignorance but for the sheer purpose of humiliating one had me mull over it day and night, so much so I feel like an alien in my own country more than ever. The thought really disturbs me. It dwells in one's psyche especially when one is a thousand miles away from home and is the only mangled looking individual in an office having nearly a thousand work-forces. The arduous task of voicing racial discrimination is like wielding a double edged sword. While the perpetrators and their acts will be condemned, it also exposed the victim's vulnerable side, of appearing weak and helpless. It is this dilemma that discouraged many to even talk about it and instead chose to look strong and powerful enough to dismissed off the issue.

In the second instance, I'd just passed by a colleague who called me 'Hien Chinese' out of nowhere. He is a quite, shy and usually friendly guy. I am the least intimidated by someone of his nature and physique. In fact he has my sympathy for his soft spoken nature. In both the instances, I

honestly didn't know how to even respond. If you want to make fun of a person, there are 100 ways of doing that. Why should we make fun of people based on their caste, creed, colour or looks? Unlike the earlier incidents I had encountered earlier, with people who had no idea an Indian could look like me, my experiences in the above mentioned two instances were with people supposed to have a general awareness expected of a Graduate or above. It cannot be ignorance of my nationality, since both are aware of my home state. I failed to understand the motive behind them calling me Chinese. These incidents of mine may be the most civilized racial discrimination on the North East people. I can choose to be silent on it. But it is time, these issues get highlighted; to at least send a message to people around that, 'North East India and its people with different looks should not be neglected and accepted as they are and the diverse culture, history and geography of India should be well inculcated in the minds of everyone including our children.

The fact that perpetrators of this whole menace involved supposedly respectable and educated people makes one wonder as to whether it is the frustration of India lacking behind China in many ways or the blooming growth of North East people in the service sectors across the country that resulted in the increased outburst of discriminatory remarks, which is carefully masked in jokes and loose comments. Either way, we cannot pour out our frustrations by branding people as Chinese, knowing well that they are not. On a lighter note, it is more so offensive to the neighbouring country. We have a long way to go before we can compare ourselves to China. In fact many manufactured goods sold in India are wholly or partially made in China. Their advancement in

military, space and economy is also of enviable proportions. In that logic, an Indian being called a Chinese should not be that offensive. The reverse could be. Many then asked our madman on being called Chinese, As Rahul, a friend from Bihar puts it, "Haokip, why do you all take the Chinese remark so offensive. Aren't they better than India in many ways?" It is only an issue of how, who, why and when that matters. It is the intention that is important. Moreover the discrimination Northeasterners faced had the choicest of derogatory words like chinky, chowmein and momo etc flung at them.

The culprits of racial discrimination against the Northeasterners, though, are not restricted to the educated lots alone. Ten years ago, one fine evening, as I waited for a Bus at Mehdiptam Hyderabad, a pani puri seller nearby yelled out, "Hien Chinese, pani puri khalo. Babut bariya hai." (Hey Chinese! Come have panipuri. It tastes superb) I replied, "Main Indian hun. NE se hai." (I am not a Chinese. I am from NE India.) He Said, "Wo toh pata hai." (I know you are from North East). I was dumfounded. What possible gratification could be derived by calling me that. I wondered: The northeasterners are victims to racial abuses from all types of people; rich or poor, educated or illiterate and North or South. There are countless numbers of experiences faced by most NE people outside the North-East, most of which are silently swept under the carpet. This unspeakable difficulty to comprehend how we are made to feel in actual fact is the hardest part.

Honest mistakes do happened and they are meted with equal humour. It is a fact that the idea that is India, with its beautiful diversity is unknown to many. The sad part is- our inability, as

Indian to avoid the flirtatious idea of rebuking our brethren, just because they look, eat or dress different.

The North Eastern part of India is strategically very important to China. It is this frontier which shielded India from China, a country which is not India's best ally. Most people would not be able to fathom what consequences would befall us if North East India falls under foreign control. Interestingly, there are numerous Organisations aspiring Self-Governance or Sovereignty in the region. The Government of India is investing considerable amount of resources and spending huge amount of money to contain this movement and the people that you branded foreigners are mostly the patriots lots from the region who proudly sing "Jana Gana Mana" and say "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" with honour. One should also remember that it is these "Chink" or "Chinese" looking brethren of the North East, pani puri khalo. Babut bariya hai." that fearlessly protect our border and their braveries in many wars for India are well documented. To those people who think Northeasterners are only to be rebuked, I would like to caution them- the next time you see a North-Eastern person, try thanking him/her for protecting the integrity of the country instead of calling him a Chinese, as branding him/her a foreigner would tantamount to you supporting the militant-movement in the North East which main agenda is to secede from India, apart from the fact that discriminatory remarks based on one's origin, culture and appearance can attract legal punishment under relevant IPC.

****The writer is a former Development professional and has served as a consultant to the Ministry of RD, GOI. He is the Author of the book 'HILLY DREAMS- The story of Aboi.