

*Garden of Thoughts***Responsibility Needs A Universal Declaration**

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Strangely in spite of the teachings of various traditions, beliefs and religions about one human-being's responsibility to oneself and the surrounding community in the service of the higher being(s), the common institution of mankind, namely, the United Nations Organization and its many conventions, declarations and protocols dwells practically on one particular issue, namely, the rights of a human being.

The message and implications of the concentration on the issue of rights is a reflection and an acceptance of the factual reality that rights generally are not honoured and given. They are withheld and suppressed. And at times rights are dispensed in a selective and discriminatory manner. Most of the time they are just simply stolen and ignored.

The perpetrators of rights-denials are those who hold state power and apparatus. It means that in a given society, the powerful few command, control, contain and constraint the majority. It also means that particular society is experiencing some form of authoritarian rule.

When rights are denied or suppressed it is inevitable that there will be resistance, petition and demand for justice and fair and equitable treatment. The call for the release and restoration of rights will be a perpetual phenomenon as long as rights are not distributed. Society with unequal rights will continue to witness internal struggle and instability as well as confrontation.

The society is therefore split between the authoritarian elite and the suppressed masses. It is also about the unlimited rights of the privilege few and the lack of it of the rest.

To demand rights therefore reflect the reality that they are denied. The implication is that are in powers the hands of someone who are unwilling to give away or even to share and are content to hold on to the status quo.

In a sense all the United Nations Organization's documents pertaining to various rights are a call for a fight, and a struggle against the monopoly of state power and control of society's wealth and resources.

The call is justified and noble as all human beings must be treated with the same rule and treatment. Their rights are common and equally applied.

But human society or humanity does throughout history confront leaders and rulers who do not recognize the rights of the ruled. They seem to believe that rights only belong to them by birth, and by mandate from heaven and self-created myth.

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The struggle or the fight for rights is in general met with state-forces and weaponization of law or just simply the employment of raw state-power.

The hope of seeing or of having the various authoritarian rulers to change their minds by their own conscience and volition is unlikely and remote. They would have to be forced and pressured which needs a combination of factors such as massive revolt, disobedience military intervention, and external pressure of all sorts. But it essentially remains the question of the confrontation between the ruling power and the people under the dark cloud of uncertainty and the livelihood of violence.

One thus therefore asks oneself whether the attempt at social change for social justice and social progress must have to start from the word “rights” and the confrontational steps that have to be undertaken? Could there be another approach to righting of social ills?

In any major religion truth and beliefs, all practically start with the responsibility to serve the ultimate being, truth, the almighty, the creator, god or gods for a betterment of life on this earth and the life after in ultimate truth and happiness.

Each person has a responsibility from birth to behave and respect others. And by so doing each person is heeding the call, the teaching and the guidance of prophets, philosophers and thinkers. One can be at peace and content with one’s life and be in harmony with others on this earth and the life after can at this be assured of its rewards.

Life of responsibility undertaken by everyone will mean that there will be no need for the calling for the bestowing of rights because no right will be withheld as everyone acts responsibly.

One could also look at the issue of right and responsibility as the two sides of the same coin in that right and responsibility are like twins as they must exist together. Right entails responsibility. Responsibility honours right thus instead of dwelling only on the issue of right, it is about time that the international community render importance to the issue of responsibility. In practical terms, the oppressed will not have to struggle for their rights but they would only have to state that all, especially the “rulers” must act with responsibility. It is their responsibility to act and behave in a responsible manner.

In this sense the international community can work on documents pertaining to the question of responsibility of mankind by drawing upon the works of the great teachers and lessons from history.

All public office holders have only one responsibility which is to serve for the common good. And they have no right what so ever to withhold or to deny rights of others or to monopolize all rights.

Responsibility must be the name of the game for public service and social harmony. It must be the guiding principle of life on this earth.