

CHIMNEY CHATTERS

TECHNOLOGY AND TERRORISM

The serial bomb blasts in different parts of Mumbai leaving over two hundred people dead and hundreds injured, in a span of an hour at three different places; the attack of 9/11 on Twin Towers in New York with Airplanes smashing the buildings head-on and bringing it down like the house of playing cards; London blasts on 7/7 putting the whole UK first on the terrorists hit list. Once again serial blasts in the first class compartment of Local Trains in Mumbai with an aim to bring this financial capital to grinding head and the latest attempt of terrorists to attack Glasgo airport..... All these attempts indicate that the terrorism has gone hi-tech and the people who are involved here belong to the class of intelligentsia such as professional Engineers and Doctors. Suicidal Attacks of this kind clearly indicate the extent of Brain washing these individuals have gone through and the intoxicating influence of it on them that they have forgotten their dear ones and their future and only thing they are convinced with is that, they are on the path of Holy war. Pity and the saddest part behind all this is the fact that truth can not be multiple or plural and it is one... However, it's the matter of interpretation which finally leads to such discontent. No one can deny that their has not been any kind of injustice meted out to any particular section of society at a given point of time at a specific location. But to generalize such situations and defend ones misdeeds is not correct. Thinking that the whole west is against Islam is as much wrong as thinking that all Muslims are terrorists. Both these kinds of attitudes are misplaced. The fact remains that Terrorism has no sanction of any religion and calling their fight as Holy war is totally baseless. This so called war against establishments in various countries has taken thousands of lives and millions are traumatized and affected by such terrible attacks. It has been the cause of inculcating fear psychosis among the commoners and I guess it is the deadliest sin against the mankind. This by no means, as I mentioned earlier implies that the oppressed ones should not voice their resentment and seek justice. But there is no better way than getting involved in discussion or consultation process. Mahatma Gandhi gave us freedom not by using these kind of violent acts, but just the opposite weapons Peaceful and non violent demonstrations, non co-operation movements with the insistence of Truth Satyagrah so on. Those of us who think Gandhiji is irrelevant in today's society have to introspect. He is as much relevant today as much he was then. But to realize this fact, we need to keep our conscience awake and it is here we need to introduce value education at all level of education. Ethics and value education can only bring in the maturity in our behaviour and only then we shall be able to handle these kind of Hi-tech gadgets for the betterment of the world for it is achieved through pure and goodly deeds and commendable and seemly conduct. The most dangerous combination like oil and fire is this Technology and Terrorism and if technology gains human face i.e. the user of technology becomes

enlightened world citizen, only then it can curtail terrorism most effectively.

CHILD LABOUR IN PACKAGING OF DEAD BODIES

Child labour has been banned by the law. However, those of us sensitive to the problems of the marginalities section of society, know for sure that this kind child labour if stopped at one go without providing them an alternative way for living, the same children will be starving to death. We have seen in this very city of Mumbai a number of children working in Jari factories were rescued from the factory owners. What did that mean? Did they go to their dear ones and get rehabilitated? It is a big question. We need to look into this problem with much more deeper understanding. Because, many a times an apparent looking solution, itself acts as the cause of complex problems before the helpless and instead of we solving their problems, we end up giving more problem to them.

Almost similar such thing happened the other day when a news channel, Star TV reported that Mr. Nagendra Rastogi, a 5 year boy from Murshidabad was working with his father in Murdaghar (Morgue) packing the dead bodies of the patients with fabric and sealing them after properly stitching the fabric cover over the body. The film being shown on TV again and again was truly moving wherein a boy of that tender age without slightest hesitation and fear was doing the job of tightly covering the body with sheeting fabric, stitching and also wax sealing them. All this was happening in the district hospital. The news channel for the slots of their news always try to beam such news which are sensational. But it is the first time on this channel, the respondent while giving his thoughts, clearly suggesting that when enquiry is being made with ADM, please see that this boy does not lose his means of livelihood. Otherwise in the zeal of taking immediate action, what is immediately done, is to stop dealing with such people, who not by choice, but due to extreme situations, are compelled to get involved in it. Let the cure we suggest truly heal the wounds rather than steal their livelihood.

THE INVISIBLE HAND OF GOD

This year onwards since rest of the seniors been retired, I am being second senior most professor, next only to the Director of my Prestigious Institute, serve the institute as incharge Director in his absence or when he is on leave. It is this phase in the month of May, when I was serving the Institute in the capacity as Incharge Director, that we received the order from the University that some of more non teaching staff to the tune of 28 were to be relieved from my institute since they had opted for the Main University. During that interim period it was bit a challenging task to follow this order in totality as a lot of work would have got affected and hence I chose the option of personally talking to the University authorities. The PA had

taken the appointment of the Registrar for me and I reached the University's Kalina Office and had a chat with the registrar Principal Venkatramani. We had a very fruitful meeting and I could see the love and respect in his eyes for the Institute UICT, which I was representing. Any way this was going on and then started the season of admissions to colleges in Mumbai for XI, XII and First Year Degree courses. I am also recently about an year ago, moved to my new place and my neighbour, knowing my status in University had been nourishing high hopes of help from my side in getting his son admitted. About few months ago, he had unilaterally announced such intention and at that time it was too premature to commit either way, I chose to smile it off. However, when last week he rang the bell of my house door and said "Sir, now I need your help in getting my son in such and such college only. The date of filling up of applications is over and we want only in this college and as far as marks of my son are concerned, he has only second class". He was quite frank, but it did not help me much as he wanted the admission in a Commerce College which is not art all my stream and very less chances of any one known person being their to oblige me. At the same time I did not want to give him high hopes. Neither I wanted to tell him that it cant be done without actually trying for his son's admission. Finally the day it was raining very heavily, I thought, I may go to Institute a bit late, but try to assist him. I took him along. Before that I had said my prayers as usual, but this time with fervent appeal to God, that He assist us. We went in search of colleges in which he had applied for admission for his son. This was one among the cluster of 4 colleges in that campus. With that neckneed deep water, we some how made our way and got in to the required college premises. After climbing 4 floors, here I come to the office, with a glass door in the front cabin which happened to be that of Principal. It seems the Principal saw me entering in the office and he just signaled me to come in. To my pleasant surprise, it was Prof.Venkatramani, the acting Registrar of Mumbai University, who is actually a Principal of S.K.Somaiya College and holding additional charge as acting Registrar. He made me sit and I explained to him my agony. On one hand I could not say to my neighbour that I am of no use, on the other hand I hardly knew any body from Commerce stream. Principal Venkatramani asked for tea for us and I remember the goodness and kindness of this person, so humble in attitude and so grievous in his dealing. He assures me of his help and it goes without saying that the boy got the admission. Very first day I told my neighbour that your work will be done and it is God's will that we got right person at that place who came in contact with me only a month before. This was His an and we must not forget, the importance of invisible hand of God which is working through us. Thank you God to confer upon me the crown of being useful to some one.

— Carmel