

2021-2022 Lions International Peace Essay Contest Grand Prize Winner

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We Are All Connected

We all know that comforting feeling when we are being physically embraced, feeling heard, emotionally understood and supported by another human being. This warm human connection is very important in maintaining our overall emotional and physical health.

There is a saying in Sanskrit 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbikam' mainly "the world is one family". Certainly we can see that the whole world is populated by people who are working to attain same things - happiness, peace, security, resources like food and shelter and hopeful future.

Our real identity is not whether we belong to a certain ethnic group or culture. Yes, we may follow different paths or religions but these can be changed and the soul is above all such temporary designations. and the nature of soul is to love and be loved. Happiness is found in relations and no happiness is more than a deep loving relationship. But the highest relationship is that when we are spiritually devoted to the supreme being, the ultimate lovable object. That is eternal spiritual path.

By having a solid knowledge of spiritual knowledge, we automatically are respecting all others regardless of their race, sex or species. This brings moral and peaceful social behaviour in everyone towards, everyone. By having respect for everyone's spiritual identity, parts and parcels of Lord, also gives us innate happiness. We can understand that we are visiting this planet for a short time and we are all in this together.

It is after thousands of destructive wars, humans realized the importance of peace. It applies on every angle like wars, pollution, natural disasters and more.

When peace and harmony are maintained, things will continue to run smoothly without any delay. Moreover, it is a saviour for many who do not like to engage in destructing activities and more.

I think there is another deeper lesson from Covid-19. A lesson about our interconnection and interdependence. It is now clear that if we follow the right measures of our own, if we wash our hands, if we wear a mask, follow proper social distancing, then we may prevent ourselves from Covid.

Unless we are working to make those decisions and choices, then we aren't able to open the school, workplaces are not going to back up and running, our healthcare systems will be continued to be overtaxed and society won't essentially set up.

And, one of the lessons of Covid is we can't respond alone. So, we have to mount a unified, thoughtful response. Unity is not just on a country basis, but between countries. We must be able to work together and put our common welfare ahead of our individual choices.

If we want to build a unified response to Covid and future pandemics, we recognise that we are truly connected and we depend on one another.

To conclude,

We are birds of the same nest, wearing different skins, speaking different languages, believing in certain religions and belonging to different culture - yet we are in the same home - our earth. Born on the same planet, covered by the same skies, gazing at the same stars and breathing the same air, we must learn to progress together happily. For humans can live individually but can survive only collectively. "YES, WE ARE ALL CONNECTED".