Spirituality in the leadership

In the last five thousand years, in this country, we have produced incredible yogis of enormous power and capability. And yet, you have not even heard of most of them. All of them made a tremendous difference to the small groups of people who were around them and in terms of spiritual wellbeing, everything that needed to be done was done.

Still, when it comes to social realities and to transforming social situations, Buddha sticks out. It is not that he was more enlightened than anybody else. No. Then why did this one man cause such a big wave — a wave that is still on? It is because Emperor Ashoka and his family became his disciples, so the whole mechanism of the empire became an instrument to spread a spiritual process.

Spiritual capability is one thing, social reality is another thing. If you want something to happen in the world, if you sit here and meditate, yes, your quality will definitely change and because of that, the quality of the world will change. But if you really want something to happen in your lifetime, if you want some dramatic change in the world, something about the leadership must change.

Right now, whether it is political, military or economic leadership, they are only thinking of conquest. Everybody is trying to conquer somebody. Today, technology empowers all kinds of fools. Anybody can become powerful with just a laptop in his hand. You don’t need guns. With just one instrument you can become super powerful if you just know how to use it.

When this is the technological reality, it is very important that some shift happens in the leadership. If you do not strive for it, the whole world will pay in a very big way and we are already paying. If you look at the climate change that is happening and the projections that are being made, if you look at the way things are developing, smaller countries are going for world-destroying arms. It will not be long before people who are using firebombs will have nuclear bombs, and you cannot control it by force forever.

If a spiritual element enters into the leadership — political, economic or otherwise — on the planet, then the need for war could be taken away to a large extent. It may not be an absolute insurance, but it could ensure to a large extent that the world is not run on somebody’s ideology, belief system or holy book, but rather on the simple sense of what is needed for humanity to exist here.

If the world runs out of human intelligence, love and compassion, the need for war could be taken away to a large extent.

It is time we understood that unless a spiritual element enters into people, the need for endless conquest is always there. As long as it is there, war is just a question of consequence and opportunity.

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