

## "Does Diversity Unite or Divide?"

India is a land of 'Unity in Diversity'. Despite of the diversities in food, colour, language, religion, physiography etc. which differs in every places, we are one. This is meant by Unity in Diversity.

Diversity exists in many areas. There is diversity in food, colour, language, religion, culture, topography, climate etc. Even though the saying is 'Unity in Diversity', it can be found out that diversity **divides** people.

Diversity creates discrimination. Discrimination exists in all pretexts of life. There exists discrimination on basis of caste, creed, colour, religion etc.

Gender discrimination is one such discrimination that has its influence over every sector of life, ability to freely express one's thoughts, education, lifestyle etc. Everywhere men are given preference and women are neglected. Women ought to be devoted for the family life and are denied of every right. This gender discrimination prevails in many places of:

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the world.

Another most prevalent one is discrimination on the basis of religion. There exists different religions based on one's own faith. But people fail to understand the inner meaning of the <sup>Original</sup> Truth, the Almighty God and fight amongst themselves in the name of God. People of a religion disrespect the faith and beliefs of others. This creates many divisions among people. This may lead to various dangers in the society.

There ~~are~~ also exists discrimination on the basis of caste. Society is divided into upper class and lower class people. Lower class people are brutally exploited by the upper class. They are denied of every right. All the comforts and expenses are enjoyed by the upper class folk.

There is a huge difference among literate and illiterate masses. Literates consider themselves superior and illiterates are often cheated by others.

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But what makes a huge barrier among people is financial status! People are becoming selfish day by day and care for nothing except money. In earlier times too, moneylenders or jannuis exploited poor laymen. Even the basic amenities are not with laymen. Without money, it is not possible to survive in this world.

There is also differentiation on the basis of colour. White Americans consider Negroes or Africans too inferior. They are considered as slaves, without any skills, suffering with poverty and starvation, waiting to be saved by a White American. There are many such instances where Black men are oppressed by Whites. Colour discrimination is clearly portrayed in many famous works of English Literature. One such is in the poem 'Cold Within' by James Patrick Kinney.

In the poem, the poet clearly narrates how cold human mind has become because of

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discrimination. The poem narrates the story of six people trapped in a cold winter night. They were a Black man, a white woman, a rich man, a poor man and two others. They each had 6 logs in their hands. They were sitting around a fire which was dying. They had to put their logs into the fire to keep it burning to stay warm. But each one refused to keep their log because of their cold minds. The black white woman noticed that there was a black man in the group and so wouldn't hand over her stick because of the colour discrimination that prevailed in her mind. The poor man refused to hand over his log because he saw a rich man in the group. Thinking of the cruelties rich folk had done to him, he refused to hand over his log. At last we see that all six of them died because of the cold, with their logs firm in each of their hands. Without even thinking of what might happen to themselves, they

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stood coldly waiting others to die. This poem gives a vivid picture of the coldness or the divisions that exist among people. This poem, though written centuries ago, has very much relevance in the modern society. The line 'with the logs still firm in their hands' indicates the selfish face of humans and their feeling of differentiation even in the face of danger.

Writers like Sudha Murty has also written about this differentiation in the human mind. In one such stories of Mrs. Murty, she narrates that during one of her journeys, she had paid for a first class ticket and while she was waiting in a queue, a white well-dressed woman asked her to stand at the next queue meant for third class travellers. Seeing Mrs. Murty dressed in a typical Indian dress saree, she might have prejudiced her to financially uneconomic. But Mrs. Murty said nothing. She whispered to her friend that it was hard to agree with this

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'cattle class' folk and she would go to the third class line when the flight attendant would check her ticket. They were surprised when the flight attendant greeted Mrs. Musty warmly and escorted her to her seat. From her simple looks, she was misjudged to be a 'cattle-class' person (someone who is very backward, financially, educationally etc). People are often misjudged so due to their attire by other upper class people.

From many such stories and works of famous people, we can find out that there exists diversity in many walks of life.

In the story, 'Rosa Parks <sup>sit</sup> ~~Stands~~ Still', 'Dangers of a Single Story' the divisions that exist among people are clearly portrayed.

Language barrier is also a problem faced in modern society. People who know only traditional languages are considered illiterate while the official language (English) speaking people are only considered literates.

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Traditional art forms, culture, language are all vanishing from the society due to modernisation. It is well to be modern, to speak foreign languages, foreign culture etc but it just as important to preserve the indigenous art forms, culture etc.

Diversity prevails in every sector. Only diverse thoughts, culture, food, art etc can create a colourful world. But people shouldn't be criticized of their prevailing conditions.

We cannot be fully assured that the comfort, extravagance will prevail in our life. A turn over can happen. So we must not disregard or criticize others.

God has brought us into this world to co-exist happily. All of us are gifted with diverse talents, abilities, conducive environment etc. It is not one's fault that they are born into poor families or of dark colour or such qualities that are neglected.

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The wheels of destiny may turn over one day and uplift the neglected ones. So it is important to accept one as he is and not misjudge him.

People must not create barriers of caste, colour, creed, religion, race etc. They must try to conquer people with love.

If the the various diversities that exists among various sections of people are respected, there will prevail peace and harmony among the various countries of the world.

We must accept the faults and amongst our fellow beings and stand unitedly. The UNO (United Nations Organization) was formed with that objective. To respect the people of one region and co-exist happily.

Diversities can divide people, but we must resolve to disregard all such barriers of caste, colour, creed, language etc and to stand unitedly. For that, we must do what we can to bridge

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the barriers among people:-

→ The rich people should not exploit the laymen. They must help them financially.

→ Children must be educated morally how to respect the rights, culture, etc. of other people.

→ The message of equality must be spread among every sections of people.

→ Poor people must be given an ear to open up their problems, difficulties etc.

→ Government must set up various welfare programs for the upliftment of weaker sections of society.

→ Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

→ Create employment opportunities for middle class and lower class people.

→ Set up vocational educational institutions for uplifting the illiterate masses.

→ Primary education must be provided to all

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Sections of a society.

- Strict punishment for exploiting poor people.
- People should be made aware that the difference in skin colour is due to difference in distribution of sunlight in various regions of the world.
- Necessary steps must be taken for the protection and preservation of traditional culture, dance, art forms, music etc.
- Providing financial aids, scholarships to the children from uneconomic families.
- Special consideration must be given to people who are differently abled. They must be provided with special love and care.
- Nations of the world must resolve to maintain peace, territorial integrity, harmony and mutual co-operation among fellow nations. They must resolve to co-exist peacefully and happily.

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By following certain measures as mentioned above, we can bridge the gap or the hostility that prevails among various sections of society.

Physiography also divides nations. As an example, Pakistan even now wants to conquer some of our states like Kashmir (for its beauty), Punjab (fertile soil) etc. Many of our historical sites and monuments are under their leash and they also try to invade our existing riches. But they must understand that diversities must prevail in our country too. They mustn't be jealous of our riches. This is applicable to people too. Just as we respect the minorities of other regions, we mustn't try to harm or loot their diversities (riches). Every nation has a specific diversity of its own. We must appreciate the beauty in it rather than trying to harm it.

Nations must maintain territorial

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integrity.

Diversities are natural. They must exist for varieties in nations. They bend to create a colourful world.

But diversities create divisions. They divide people which in turn leads to hostility and distrust among various nations.

So, it is important to maintain unity among nations. Respect the diversity in others. But it must not create cracks and splinters in ~~a~~ ~~mutual~~ relationships among people.

Though it is stated that people are united in spite of the prevailing diversities, we are sure that it is just the reverse when we have a look at the world around. So, I vehemently disagree with the statement that diversity unites people.

It actually divides people. But if we try and adopt a few measures as stated before, we can bridge the ~~diver~~ gaps among





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purple.

One must resolve to respect the diversities (food, language, cloth, culture, religion) among others and instead of creating divisions among people, try to repair the facts amongst ourselves. "United we stand, divided we fall." Let's hope for a better tomorrow which really stands with the statement: 'Unity in Diversity'.....