

खण्ड-A / Section-A

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इस भाग में  
लिखना गना है।  
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Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.  
यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही देख रहे हैं।

Q.2 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

हम उस बच्चे को आसानी से क्षमा कर सकते हैं जो अंधेरे से डरता है; जीवन की वास्तविक त्रासदी तब होती है जब लोग रोशनी से डरते हैं।

Q.3 It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.

बोलना ज्ञान का क्षेत्र है और श्रवण करना बुद्धि का विशेषाधिकार है।

Q.4 Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you.

यह प्रश्न छोड़ दें कि कल क्या हो सकता है, और हर उस दिन को लाभ के रूप में गिनें जो भाग्य आपको अनुमति देता है।

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of light."

Harry Potter and Voldemort, the two main characters of Harry Potter series presents a curious case of a child who is afraid of the dark and a man who is afraid of light. Harry, who is only 11, when he embarks upon his new journey to the wizarding world of Hogwarts, is afraid of every little thing he comes across. He is afraid of the person who claims to

be his friend - Hagrid, his visit to the wand shop and even the station which was to take him to his destination. His fear, his stint of curiosity is all because of his unawareness of the world - the world which is dark to him, evil enough to kill his parents.

On the other hand, is a man who is responsible for making his darkness, the general awareness of a child about the world, even more darker, Valdemort. He was a great magician in his early days but wanted to use his abilities to become invincible. He didn't stop in his endeavour even when his teachers - Dumbledore and others tried to show him the light - the right path. The darkness had taken over him so much that he became afraid of the light and became the darkness from which others are afraid.

This essay seeks to analyse as to what darkness is, what are its manifestations, the fear surrounding it and contrast it with the light and also see why men are afraid of it at times.

"A child's - "Era of Darkness"

Darkness can be defined as anything which is uncertain, something that surrounds us with an unknown fear. It is similar to the scene of black clouds surrounding all over the sky before a heavy rain. We cannot see in the dark and this is what makes the darkness even darker.

A child who is afraid of that darkness of uncertainties can be anybody ranging from an actual infant to someone who is naive, a new entrant to any endeavour.

A human child having a mind similar to a blank slate is afraid of the world that he/she sees for the first time, the world which is dissimilar to the protective space of his/her mother's womb. He is afraid to take his first step, walk out alone or even <sup>for a</sup> ride over his favorite bicycle.

Similar to the infants of humans, are the new born ones of other living being. The mother myna tends to her baby mynas in the nest, before they become ready to fly - a flight away from the darkness of the world - an unknown variable.

A child, also here is a beginner. When Neeraj Chopra, first walked into the world of sports - a dark chapter of his life until then, he was both astounded and afraid of the varied playing

instruments that he could take to. Similar to his response, is the response of a potter who has just started to make potteries. He is afraid of the perfection of the potteries - of his/her fellow potters.

"Fear of darkness - not a TRAGEDY  
but REMEDY"

The reason why we can easily forgive a child being afraid of dark is because that fear has a hidden journey towards the victory. As it is said, "The way to solution of a problem is to go inside the problem itself". The fear of darkness pushes one to come out of it. The child, thus take every possible move to come out of the fear.

So, while the human child starts learning the skills

of life from his/her parents, teachers, surroundings, the baby Tiger, learns the art of survival.

Nations, who have just embarked upon their independent journeys, after period of darkness under colonialism were likewise afraid, and this fear made them to adjust to the new order that was to come before them. Example of this can be India, who was impoverished under British, can now dream of becoming a super-power.

Therefore, a fear of dark can easily be forgiven, to see the rise most successful beings, nations, players of the world. As it is said, "when we are in the dark, we might not know that we are just one step away from the light".

"Light and its might -  
Open the distant of the sight"

All of us are very well aware of the age old saying that "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that."

Such is the importance of light in periods of uncertainties.

Light can be anything that clear our way to success. It can be actual light → in a journey through the no-man's land or a teacher, a guardian and of course our first light - a parent.

So, while young Nuraj Chopra was afraid of the dark new world of sports, he got the light from the journey of his way to different sporting instruments, allowing him to ultimately choose the Javelin - that allowed him to win the gold.

For Maya Angelou and Hellen Keller, the light were their teachers who allowed them to adjust to the world, rising against all odds of an uncertain "dark" childhood.

For nations that were grappled with darkness during the pandemic, light was the scientific breakthroughs that allowed them to tide over the crisis and also prepare for future events.

Thus, it is very important to find light. In the words of Dumbledore, again a character from a Harry Potter series -

"One can find happiness even in the darkest of the rooms, if only we turn on the lights". It is hence a tragedy for the men who he is afraid of light, to be in that zone.



"The unforgiving - fear of light"

Light thus plays a major role in our journeys towards a successful career. However, we have instances of people fearing this virtuous light.

People are afraid to ward off their inner evils even in the face of light. For a drug abuser, light from his/her fellows is incapable of generating a change. For an extremist, light from his/her own religion, the killing sight of their brethren fail to evoke a positive change.

For nations, the light from international organisations, fail to evoke a response to terrorism hiding in their countries, just as in the case of Pakistan and China.

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for women, the light to empowerment fails to unleash a significant response against Patriarchy. Women from Rajasthan, have not taken up the light to ward off their use as water wines.

Therefore, a person who is afraid from light can never be forgiven. For we can make the light brighter but can never force the person to accept the light. A sustainable response to any darkness is the acceptance of light from their inner conscience, there should be a will to rise up from the odds. Albert Einstein, could never tide over his bad school days, <sup>that</sup> during which he was struck out, had he not had a inner light.

"Light is divine"

Light is often equated with God in many religions of the world and hence someone who is warding off light, is warding off the way to the divine, something which a sufi devotee craves for, this is visible in the words, "I want to just see you" (Main Aapse Saamna chahta Hoon).

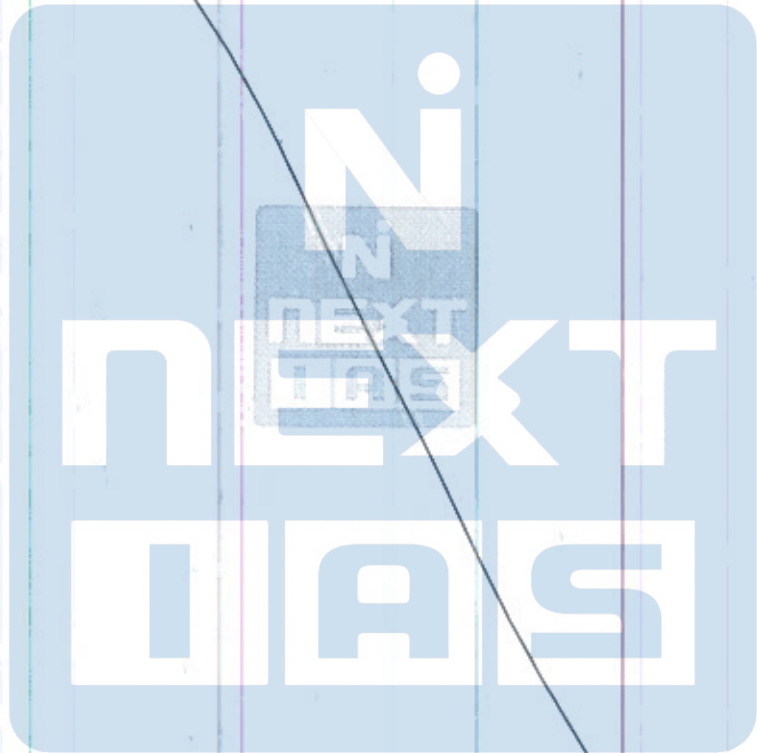
Also, in the words of Ishad Kamil, "Mera falsafa, kandhe pe mera basta, chala main sahan, le chale mujhe rasta"

(My way is the same as the ~~that~~ my journey takes me to). This journey and the way being successful under the beacon of light.

Thus, it is our responsibility as a community to spread light, so that reaches the last person standing.

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.  
सत्य, मशाल की तरह है, इसे जितना अधिक हिलाया जाता है, यह उतना ही चमकता है।
- Q.6 Art is I; science is We.  
कला मैं है; विज्ञान हम है।
- Q.7 Only the dead have seen the end of the war.  
केवल मृतकों ने ही युद्ध का अंत देखा है।
- Q.8 Act as if it were impossible to fail.  
कार्य ऐसे करें जैसे कि विफल होना असंभव ही था।

“ only the dead have seen the end of war ”

The long 20<sup>th</sup> c and after  
the 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen endless wars, the World War-I, followed by an interregnum, but not a peaceful period of clash ~~state~~ - not of nations but people, ethnicities, where millions of innocents like Jews lost their lives.

## The long 20<sup>th</sup> c. and after

The 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of endless war. First half saw two world wars which was interspaced with a "peace" which had no actual peace.

All this saw a widespread destruction of humanity, principles and institutions where millions like innocent Jews lost their lives.

The second half of the century, saw the period of cold war, which even saw the brink of nuclear weapon being used to defeat the competitor. The end of the cold war in 1992, signalled the beginning of a peaceful world order. But low and behold, we saw a major war just within 2

decades in the ~~was~~ form of Russian-Ukraine War, that has caused devastation all over the countries of the world either militarily or economically or at least ethically touching all of them.

This is just one of the wars that we are fighting today, many of the wars are still hidden, silent, the wars in which millions are dying a silent death without any of us even knowing.

This essay seeks to analyse these wars, its endless nature and why only the dead are able to see the end of these wars. It will also analyse, whether it is possible to "end-these endless war"

## " The political fist fight "

Politically, the wars are various rat-races that the political parties and contestants run for the throne of power. The war fought is endless - both in terms of its frequency and in terms of the dimensions that they take to fight the war.

The dead among this endless war are either the political classes who retire from active politics or people who became the sufferers of the filthy war. People, who becomes victim of hate speech, corruption and freebies that prevent them from progress, are the only ~~people~~ <sup>ones</sup> who ended their "hope" from the political class.



## INTERNATIONAL SPHERE

The various wars that we talked about in the beginning, only ends either with large scale devastation or a collective victory, as in the case of Victors of world war-2. However, the war never ends and it is just the matter of time that another war takes place in the world. In this, people who lose their lives in securing their fellow countrymen or as innocent civilians are the only ones who see the end of it. Other, class of who are privileged to see the end are the ones who choose the path of peace. Japan, for example, chose the path of peace after the world war-II and refused to challenge the hegemony of USA.

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It in fact chose to cooperate with USA and other major power to re-build its economy and society that saw the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

### CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS

ever since the beginning of human race, we have been fighting over one issue or other. civilisations have come and gone fighting with each other. <sup>The</sup> curious case of Indus Valley civilisation that saw the Aryan onslaught.

The dead ~~am~~ in the fight were not only those who actually fought and did but also those who could change their ways migrating into different areas and taking up new ways of life or beginning from a new culture.

This, it can be seen that dead are not only those who lost but also those who were victors.

### ENDLESS WARS - SMALL AND BIG

Women, since time immemorial are fighting for their rights. So, ~~as~~ while ancient India saw Brahmavadini Gargi putting up his curious questions to Yajnavalkya, modern world saw the emergence of women idols like Malala Yousufzai.

Amidst the fight, many like Mahsa Amini, lose their lives and others like Taslima Nasreen are threatened with dire consequences to their lives. These women are the only ones who saw the end of fight against Patriarchy of the world.

Similarly, we have the case of war of destruction of the environment. The end of this killing-silent war are only seen by the innocent victims of extreme weather events in different parts of the world.

We have other cases of "endless-wars" as well. Fight of the world against poverty, hunger, malnutrition are all endless in its sight. Each day is a new threat, a new challenge and one new losses to the war. The dead amongst these war are either the people who lost their lives to these fallacies of human race or people who adjusted to it through technology or adaptation. An instance of it is the rise of biotech for food.

## SCIENCE - NEW FRONT OF WARFARE

When Sophia, the man made robot, chuckles and says that "One day robots will rule the world", she is pointing to the beginning of new war in a technoeratic world

The rising use of AI has already threatened the scientists all across the world who wrote in a letter to Open AI, "to stop the devastation of humanity from AI".

In this new field of warfare, which is more "endless" than any of the wars - that are being fought militarily, the living are the deads, who are seeing their cultures, skills, employment and intellect all diminishing in seconds.

"ENDING THE WAR - WITHOUT DIEING  
IN IT"

When Buddha says that this world is a suffering, the root cause of which is endless human desire, he is pointing to this endless war of humanity.

To him, this can only end with people following right vision, right livelihood, right action and conduct. Thus, we need to build up a world order which lives in harmony, where each one takes responsibility of their own and prosperes.

For Buddha, it was salvation - the enlightenment which helped him tide over the crisis of war. For us it can be the very spirit of humanity;

For nations, it is to build a world order in which everyone is safe, no fight over territorial conquests or dominance takes place.

For individuals, it is to build a lifestyle which isn't destructive of the environment surrounding us → the cue can be "mission life" which has been given by India.

thus, we all have the right to see the ways of the world to end and see the "light of a new morning" where all the cracks of the society have been filled in with the sands of love.

In the words of sahir Ludhianvi,  
"Inquilab-i-Bahr wo hai,  
haq jo haqdar tak nã pahucha"

(Revolution is the one in which the rights haven't reached its right holder")

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