

From the time humankind came into existence, humanity, of course in its physical form, has always remained under constant threat. At the primitive stage this threat was in the shape of voracious animals, disease, clashes with hostile groups, natural calamities etc. But we survived a phase of near extinction when faced with a situation of our population reducing to just about two thousand on this planet. The threat has increased manifold now when we are sitting at a huge heap of nuclear arms waiting triggering of ignition from an insane person capable of doing so; though it is sure that some of us will survive that also and start the build up afresh. A deeper analysis of the threats to the physical form of humanity would point out to the conclusion that we might be facing comparatively greater risk from the more effective continuous explosion, i.e. the population explosion. The basis for this thought evolves from the fact that perils of nuclear warfare being known to the handlers may avoid any such conflict; but damages inflicted by population explosion at a particular time would show their effect at a later stage of time, thus rendering any efforts of damage control at that stage as ineffective.

The threats mentioned above are, no doubt, of great concern. But even if, for the sake of convenience, we consider them as no threat, would then the humanity have no threat to its survival? In the long run all life on this planet is to end. But till then humanity in its physical form may survive despite threats. But area of more concern is the threats to the abstract form. The term humanity in this context contains all the human values associated with it; not just compassion or kindness, as is sometimes thought of. And does the humanity in physical form has any charm in the absence of humanity in its abstract form? Abstract form of humanity can never face extinction before extinction of physical form; human values

may take a dip or rise during various periods of time but these will never be absent. But fall in these values below a reasonable level is also similar to extinction. We can consider the humanity in abstract form as survived only if human values are protected to a reasonable degree. And survival of abstract form is important as it is the only key for survival of the physical form.

Perils to the abstract form of humanity are not new. Fight between good and bad forces is continuous. One may be tempted to console himself with the notion that truth is the ultimate winner. But presence of evil despite enormous winning battles by the virtue proves that winner is not absolute but only temporary. And if a comparative study is made it would surely come out that evil has never been as powerful as in the present era. This may be because of the fact that intelligence level of the public at large has never been so high in the past. Prosperity of modern times has swelled the figures of educated people and continuous increase in scientific knowledge due to numerous discoveries has increased the level of knowledge to a degree unthinkable of earlier. Increase in intelligence, both in numbers and quality, has increased analytical capabilities of the people. And these capabilities have increased the level of shrewdness in the intelligent people. We are now capable of analyzing, evaluating and comparing short term sectarian benefits of dishonesty with the costs attached to the morality. Although we know that the long term costs would be sky high in comparison to the abysmal short term gains, yet our myopic vision, blinded by the greed of materialistic achievements, does not let us see and analyze the costs. Thus until and unless costs attached to the morality are not reduced and benefits of dishonesty are not minimized there would be no reduction in the threats to humanity.

There were times when morality was maintained by the spiritual gurus, through religious teachings. The practice, no doubt, is still the most effective tool for the masses. But with the expansion of scientific knowledge the faith in spiritualism has diminished. The religious practices, of late, have become a tool of befooling the masses and grinding of own axes by the shrewd exploiters of public emotions. They deliver fundamentalism in the garb of morality, sectarian view in the name of enlightenment and limitation of thought in stead of broadening the field of thinking by stressing upon faith in lieu of reasoning. This tool, though still very effective, has proved destructive. Basis of almost all religions is prayer for exonerating all sins. It breeds a feeling in the believers that sins can be condoned, thus reducing the fear of punishment attached to it by their religion. This might be the reason of degradation of morality despite an enormous section of society still believing in religious rituals. The governing agencies or authorities can only pursue law and order and not the morality. But these agencies, especially in third world countries, are found hugely short of the expectations attached to them.

There are numerous areas needing attention. But let us concentrate only on the areas under extreme urgency. The topics of lesser importance can be taken care of at another stage. An attempt here shall be made to identify the critical areas, peeping into the seriousness of the situation and then exploring remedial measures. I have been able to identify corruption, irrationality and, of course, some physical threats, as the major areas of concern and will be focusing on these.

For details please read '**Survival of Humanity**'