

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



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Gains of NUG after First 100 Days

Tuesday marked the National Unity Government's (NUG) first 100 days in the office. The first 100 days of performance of incumbent unity government was commemorated with a huge explosion in Jalalabad city that claimed the life of a judge and injured two children. The explosion marks the notoriety of worsened security condition, pleading hastened consideration. The negligible betterment in security condition of the country can hardly be accorded with. Seeing the ground realities concerning security dynamics and its determinants, one can falsely believe the feasibility of its immediate security aversion. However, the security condition will serve as a significant indicator marking the performance of the government. The government, hence, is bound to lay primary attention towards security condition.

With exception to security matters, the decade long war stricken nation, align numerous anticipations of formerly installed government. The government should learn, the honeymoon period over and should come up with its executive body, as piles of unaddressed problems accompanied with multiple issues are awaiting them.

Previously, president whilst talking to elected PC members appreciated young members whilst briefing them on issues and challenges faced by Afghanistan. The president linked the country's development to its security. A peaceful and harmonious Afghanistan not only attracts foreign investments but also paves ways for rapid economic and socio-political growth. Peace can be installed in this piece of land owing pro-progressive or progressive ideology in practice.

Formerly, when President Ghani was inaugurated on Sept. 29, he promised to announce a cabinet in 45 days. Undoubtedly the delay, naming the cabinet was a serious matter of concern for masses, which left far-reaching negative impact on the government's performance. It has been three months that the ministries are being run by caretakers. The delay in naming the cabinet reflects that the president and CEO still have a lot of differences. Consequently, dozens of unresolved cases are pending, due to absence of concerned authorities. This directly adds to miseries of ordinary masses and strengthens their complications. The reopening of high profile case of embezzlement of Kabul Bank is good sign of government's willingness to tackle corruption. The unity government seems to be committed to eliminate corruption from government offices. Certainly, the misuse of position of authority and public resources by public officials is yet another issue plaguing the functioning of the government. If such evil practices continue unchecked under the very nose of government, the improvement will never be dreamt of. The rampant graft by officials, stumbles the credibility and the economy likewise. Absolutely, corruption renders not a decline in government's performance but also causes socio-political downfall. Formerly, a report was launched "SadRoz.af" to assess the degree of satisfaction, people align to the performance of government subsequent to assumption of office. "The unity government achieved four of its campaign promises so far and made progress in 23 others. At least 83 more promises remained untouched" the report read. The report documented the promises of both leading candidates in the runoff election and launched on inauguration day containing 100 promises made both by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah. Of the four promises achieved, one pertains to peace and security, the second one is good governance, one in socio-cultural but no progress could be made to improve the aid-dependent economy. The report stated that the government invested more on governance, peace and security and less on economic and socio-cultural issues.

The straightening of better relationship with Pakistan and US, not mentioned in the report, should be deemed, one of the greatest achievements of incumbent government. It inherited battered relation with two important countries but was reformed. Moreover, president signed, on its second day in office, the long left, Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the US and a Status of Force Agreement with NATO, which helps earning the confidence and persistent support of international community. On the other hand the widening mistrust found between Afghanistan and Pakistan, regarding security issues, had eroded the working relation of the two countries. Previously, President Ghani paid a detailed visit to Pakistan that helped out to carve the foundation stone of improved and friendly relation with its neighbor.

One of the crippling issues Afghanistan is facing is the high ratio of unemployment which has encouraged immigration, crimes, smuggling and corruption. The masses are looking forward for generation of vacancies in different departments. The graduation to job ratio is highly unbalanced. The market is greatly saturated with unemployed individuals who are seeking jobs. Hardly some of them can be accommodated in some departments. The government has to come up with clear and well defined plans and strategies that could take lay down solution to this very problem.

The government is left with piles of challenges and problems; most of which are inherited and the rest are the product of lethargy. It should learn that only relational discourse put into action can reduce the size of problems and earn a prestigious repute to this piece of land. Afghanistan is mired in deep challenges and miracle should not be expected from it overnight. The government contains every faction of society, complicates and lengthens the process of decision making. Despite, innumerable challenges the government must ensure their sincere and timely services to the nation counts multiple. While distributing the ministries the person with high repute and fame and dignified services must be given foremost priorities. Afghanistan can only prosper only when fair decision and fair persons are hoisted to great positions.



Humanity vs. Anti-humanity

By Dilawar Sherzai

The nations are caught within the quagmire of numerous evils and various problems. Every problem is waiting for the solution of a bigger problem and thus the circle keeps on expanding. If we are not blindfolded, our tongues are not frozen, and our minds are stable, why can't we see these problems and dare to attend them, and keep on finding refuge in our own shells.

In fact, these problems have dominated human societies to a large extent and the shoulders of humanity seem to be bending under their weight. However, limping and shambling, the human caravan has kept on moving and on various occasions they have completely neglected these problems. As a matter of fact, human beings have not become brave enough to face the reality; nonetheless, they have faced the consequences as a result. Their this negligence has given rise to myriads of sufferings and misfortunes that they face today. But, it can be observed that there are still human beings who want to walk on the face of the earth with their heads; and they should be stopped as it is not a matter of some nations but of human values.

Humanity is a basically a family and, if thought with open minds, there is no difference and distinction among its members. Those who create differences do not have the right to be members of this sacred family. It is the responsibility of the intelligent human beings to strive for the creation of an international society and raise voice against the differences in human beings that result in wars and conflicts.

The enemies of the human beings, wherever they live, deserve the abhorrence of everyone alike. There are only two sets of beliefs or classes in the world - humanity and anti-humanity. These two are in a conflict against each other in every corner of the world. Whether it is East or West, there are the ones who fight against humanity and then there are the ones who defend them, but none has gotten the full victory yet.

It is really weird to find human beings going against humanity, as it is the only way to guarantee human survival, progress and development on the planet earth. There are human beings who have negative feelings for other human beings, hate others, kill them and even want to completely eradicate them from the face of earth. They appear in the form of extremists, terrorists and criminals and strive to destroy humanity. Unfortunately, at the moment they have ac-

celerated their activities and seem to be a great threat. Facing them would require courage by the ones that support humanity and they require understanding that they have to show iron will and unshakable determination to become victorious. The anti-humans do not want others to live or want others to live as they desire. They strive to impose their ideas and beliefs on others. They do not care whether someone is dying or being hurt what they crave about is whether they are accepting their notions. In fact, they are not endeavoring for a better life in this world but preparing for hereafter. Their beliefs are heavenly for them, thus, they stand much aloof from the worldly affairs and are even ready to annihilate the earth for the heaven.

The concept of a single international community does not teach hatred for one's nation and country; rather it can further strengthen those sentiments. It can further broaden the limits of brotherhood and the love as the family of a person grows further and becomes larger. It becomes embellished with more diversity and coexistence.

Today the industrial and technological developments have transformed the world in a global village and it has shrunk the distance among human beings; however, it lacks an ideology or philosophy that can bring the hearts and souls of the human beings close. Today, they can be closer physically and virtually but they require coming nearer emotionally and humanity can play a vital role in this regard. Which philosophy or ideology can be higher than humanity? The simple philosophy of considering others as human beings, respecting their existence and letting them live the way they want without harming others is all required by the concept of humanity. One does not require writing books and developing detailed philosophies, all they entail is a simple realization.

How simple is the human life and how simply they can live together as a single family but how difficult they have made their lives by having made them complex and dipped in hatred, disdain and killings. Are we really proud of being the best of the creatures, when we do not even know the simplest way of living alive? What is the use of ideologies and the beliefs that take us towards extinction and make us dig our graves by our own sinful hands?

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Compassion Makes the Life Meaningful

By Hujjatullah Zia

The king said, "Divide the living boy in two; then give half to the one, and half to the other." But the woman whose son was alive said to the king - because compassion for her son burned within her - "Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!" The other said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it." Then the king responded: "Give the first woman the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother."

Empathy and compassion are the humanly characteristics and whoever lacks them will be empty of moral norms. Moreover, compassion is highly significant in parent-child behaviors. An uncompassionate mother won't be able to nourish her child properly and an unsympathetic person will not treat his/her mother with respect. Hence, to make life full of love and respect, compassion is the basic need.

The Dalai Lama has said, "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion." He further states, "This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness."

Long ago in India, there lived a young boy by the name of Mohan. One winter's night, Mohan's mother developed a high fever. She could not sleep and was feeling very restless. In the middle of the night, she felt thirsty and asked her son to fetch a glass of water. Mohan got up immediately and went to the kitchen to fetch the glass of water for his beloved mother.

To his dismay, he found the water pot empty. In those days there was no running water in the homes. One could not just turn on the tap in the house to obtain drinking water; they had to carry water from the well or spring for drinking and other daily use.

Mohan was in a dilemma. Should he tell his mother that there was no water left in the pot and ask her to wait till morning when their cook would fetch water from the spring? It would mean that his mother would not be able to quench her thirst till the morning. Could Mohan bear seeing his mother suffer for so long? No, never!

So he left the house that cold night and went to the village spring to fetch water. He filled the pot with water and carried the heavy pot all the way back home. When he reached the house, he quickly poured the water into a glass and brought it to his mother. However, when he entered her room, he found his mother fast asleep.

Mohan was again in a dilemma. Should he wake his mother up to drink or should he just let her sleep through? Well, Mohan decided not to wake her up. He sat in a chair by her bedside holding the glass of water with both hands to make sure he did not spill it.

When his mother woke up a while later, she found, to her great surprise, Mohan sitting by her bedside holding a glass of water in his hands. When Mohan saw that his mother was awake, he quickly handed the glass of water to her with much care. He said: "Sorry I was not able to give you the water earlier. I went to the well to get the water and was waiting for you to wake up so I could give it to you."



Mohan's mother drank the glass of water with gratitude and pride. She truly knew then how much her son loved her and was deeply moved by his compassionate act.

Compassion is an emotion that is a sense of shared suffering, most often combined with a desire to alleviate or reduce the suffering of another; to show special kindness to those who suffer. Compassion essentially arises through empathy, and is often characterized through actions, wherein a person acting with compassion will seek to aid those they feel compassionate for.

The first step in cultivating compassion is to develop empathy for your fellow human beings. Many of us believe that we have empathy, and on some level nearly all of us do. But many times we are centered on ourselves and we let our sense of empathy get rusty.

Imagine the suffering of a human being you've met recently. Now imagine that you are the one going through that suffering. Reflect on how much you would like that suffer to end. Reflect on how happy you would be if another human being desired your suffering to end, and acted upon it. Open your heart to that human being and if you feel even a little that you'd want their suffering to end, reflect on that feeling. That's the feeling that you want to develop. With constant practice, that feeling can be grown and nurtured.

Albert Einstein has stated, "A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

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