

# MRA Offers Synthesis Of Personal And Social Welfare

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FROM the very inception of human existence, man has been constantly in search of truth, the truth which may bring real happiness and prosperity to the world. The same search for truth has manifested itself in different religious beliefs and political 'isms.'

But in spite of this, we have landed ourselves in such a situation, that today the great powers are banking on the number of hydrogen and atom bombs they have and are threatening to annihilate their opponents with them. The world is just on the edge of a volcano. Our entire civilisation can be blown to pieces at any time. Is there any alternative to all this?

## IDEOLOGIES

TODAY generally, people are acquainted with such ideologies as Fascism and Communism. But there is an ideology superior to these, which is capturing the hearts of individuals and nations. This is the ideology of Moral Re-Armament.

What is Moral Re-Armament? Is it an organisation, a movement, or a political party? Does it belong to a particular country? No. It is simply a normal way of life and is for everyone everywhere. There is nothing to join or resign from. It works for an individual, a family, a nation and the whole world.

Frank Buchman is the initiator of Moral Re-Armament. He has very scientifically simplified the basic truths of all times, in the four moral standards of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love.

Just as in engineering, we use accepted standards of measurement for building houses, dams and factories etc., so MRA believes that for real equality, fraternity and liberty, individuals and nations should measure all their actions against these four absolute moral standards.

In order to live these four standards, one has to accept God as a superior authority,

take a pencil and notebook every morning, pray to God to guide him and write down honestly the thoughts that come, to test these thoughts against the four standards and then act accordingly. It is a wonderful phenomenon. It cannot be described. It can only be experienced.

This philosophy is not new to India. It is what Mahatma Gandhi preached all through his life—to listen to the Inner Voice and act accordingly. In the words of the late Honourable G. V. Mavlankar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, "MRA is the old and ancient way of the East. It has given our old philosophy a new orientation and given it wings."

## MIRACULOUS

I met MRA in 1953. At first I took it for one more religious venture, to cure all the ills of the world; but I felt I should try it in my family. I found that as a Marxist I professed democracy from house-tops, yet in the home I was a perfect dictator. I found that, though as a politician I was striving for a united and better world, I was disunited at home.

I resolved to live these four standards. My wife and I found peace and unity at home, which paved a smooth way for our political activities. In spite of the miraculous result at home, I was doubtful if it would work in politics. But I was tempted to make the experiment.

At that time I was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the U.P. Legislative Assembly. When I began to test the subject matter of my speeches in the House I found

I had little to say. This meant a great loss for my publicity, yet I gained ground in my constituency.

By applying these moral standards in my life, I found that as a politician I should always work on the principle of what was right for me, my party, for my nation and the whole world, and not on the principle of who was right. On close examination I found that I had felt I had always been right, and therefore I could not see what was right.

After some time Dr. Sampurnanand became the Chief Minister of my State. Though I had a high regard for his ability and statesmanship, I was not ready to congratulate him on his new post. On scrutiny I found that it was bitterness against him in my heart that stopped me from doing so.

We might have different political convictions, but hatred and bitterness should not be the basis of our work. I sent a letter of apology to him for the bitterness I had against him. In reply, Dr. Sampurnanand spoke very highly about some of the members of the opposition, and sent me a standing invitation to meet him any day for the discussion and exchange of views on any State affair.

These initial experiments on my part created in me a desire to attend the world Moral Re-

Armament Assembly in Caux, Switzerland. I took the opportunity this summer, and in addition to my visit to Caux, I visited Germany, England and France, to see how MRA brings an answer to different spheres of life.

## UNITED FAMILY

AS a politician, I was accustomed to conferences starting with a big agenda and lengthy resolutions, covering roughly every topic on earth, and to speeches which began by imputing motives to others and indulging in mud-slinging. But the MRA World Assembly at Caux was totally different from that.

There were people from more than seventy nations, politicians, trade union leaders, peasants, workers, businessmen, bankers, factory owners, writers, poets, priests, philosophers, professors, men and women from practically every walk of life, sharing with others the stories of their own weaknesses and the wonderful results of the application of these standards in their lives.

I found there a real international family, without hatred and bitterness. There were no masters and no servants. Washing the dishes, cooking, serving meals, sweeping the floors, arrangement of meetings and house-keeping was, all done on

team basis by those who attended the conference. In this living I saw a glimpse which may be called the dream of our future society. Here I found leadership being created which throws a challenge to both the Western democracies and the Communist world.

At Caux and other places, I met persons who had been Marxists of sometimes thirty years standing and also trade union leaders, who had been fighting for one class on the basis of hatred and bitterness towards the other class. Now they have changed their mode of fighting for the one based on the four standards.

I came across factory owners and businessmen who after taking to MRA were really repenting their dishonesty and selfishness and who had begun making restitution by sharing the management with the workers, by increase in wages, bonus, insurance etc. This new method has brought a notable increase in production too.

As a Marxist, a classless society has been my dream. But for the first time in my life I have seen it in actual operation at Caux, without any regimentation of thought, without clique or suspicion and without any need for liquidation of those who did not agree with you.

As a seeker of truth, I have found that MRA offers a superior ideology to any of the ideologies known to the world so far.