

# Global Issues and the Law

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# Can we think like World Citizens?

- Development and Growth of the Human world from a pastoral/agricultural economy to a multi faceted industrial and technological economy has led to a world with fast depleting natural resources. Clean and clear water, pure air, unplumbed oceans and verdant forests are now becoming a rarity. Natural species are becoming extinct, natural food is being manipulated, and nature itself is taking a big turn. In this situation, we, must go beyond our racial/tribal/national identities, and become world citizens, giving our complete loyalty to our preservation as a species, our World and Mother Nature. The concept of World Citizenship has to start taking root in our minds and change our political concepts in the coming future

# Fear- the first and foremost emotion for conflict

- What if I am fearless?
- What if you cannot harm me?
- What if I am free?
- What if I can always move out and away?
- Why am I afraid of change?
- We have to learn to deal with fear without making villains of others
- We have to learn to deal with exploitation without identity politics.

# Ownership of Land

Who owns land?

The person whose ancestor settled the land, or the person who fought for the land, or the person who worked on the land?

Why is ownership restricted? Why do we not have common rules across the world till date?

In a new globalised world, how do you see the issue of territoriality shaping?

# Justification for violence

- Everything is transitory, everything changes.
- All revolutions pass. All sets of circumstances are undone with time.
- Nothing till date has remained forever.
- It's only a matter of time- something lasts for 100 years, something for 400 years, something 1000 years.
- Only ideas and knowledge live forever, but that too in their interpretive forms.

# Example

- We find in the Gospel of Saint Luke (chapter 9) a typical and interesting example. We read: “They (Jesus and the disciples) went to a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was going for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said: ‘Lord do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?’ But he turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village” (Lk 9:51-55)

# Concept of Attachment and Detachment

- You expect Neutrality of a Mediator
- You also expect Non-partiality of a Mediator
- But how about developing non-attachment to the idea you are propagating?

# Study of Attachment and Detachment

- In India, there were primarily six schools of philosophy, of which 2 were theist, and 4 ,atheist. Remarkably, most of them have vigorously studied the role of 'attachment ' to a goal.
- The atheist philosophy of Jainism (developed in 800 BC) discusses the principle of 'non-absolutism', i.e, there is nothing absolute; one must always accept multiple points of view to develop non-attachment.



# Attachment

- Buddhism, another atheist philosophy which developed around 500 BCE was very emphatic about detachment, which it viewed as a state in which a person overcomes his or her attachment to things, people or concepts of the world and ***thus attains a heightened perspective.***
- The Bhagwat Gita, a theist philosophical treatise composed in the Vedas , believed to be dated around 3000 BCE , also mentions “One who performs his duty without ‘attachment’ , surrendering the results unto the Supreme Lord, is unaffected by sinful action, just as the lotus is untouched by water.”

# The Zen Story

# Building our Minds to be a New World Citizen

- Do we have the ability to de-identify ourselves from our group identities and to see ourselves as a part of the larger human race?
- How does one develop this ability?
- How does one train the future citizen of this world to develop this attitude? What are the tools and mechanisms and philosophies that should be highlighted to attain the acceptance of diversity and variety of human behavior?

# World Citizenship

- Martin Luther King Jr. said:  
“Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective”