



Essay Competition On “A WORLD FULL OF HATRED”

Gen Lab is a rising youth organisation aiming to pave the path for Bangladeshi youth to engage in community work in order to achieve social development in the country. Gen Lab believes in free-thinking and hence created a platform for open discussions between people of diverse backgrounds called the Interfaith Conference: Dialogue for Peace & Harmony. The theme for the conference was bridging divides by communication between people from different faiths and cultures in order to work towards world peace as a collective unit. Keeping with the theme, Gen Lab, in association with KAIICID, ACWAY (A Common Word Among the Youth), Center for Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue, University of Dhaka organized an essay competition open to all on the topic, "A World Full of Hatred: Are human beings capable of living in peace? How will you act in creating a world without violence, intolerance and conflict?" After reviewing all the essays, the top 3 were chosen and the winners were given awards on the July 30, 2016.

Obsession over Superiority - the Root of All Hatred

SOPHEA URBI BISWAS

Place: 1st

Let us imagine taking a step into the savannah region in Central Africa in the heart of a winter season. Two distinct gazelle families stand erect face to face in front of the last remnant of the essence of autumn- a promising patch of green grass. The dark and bright hues of green send sparkles of ecstasy into the eyes of the baby gazelles as their parents prepare themselves for the ensuing battle. Their horns tilt in position, pupils dilate and muscles tense. Dust engulfs the intense air, the drumming of the hooves sound the battle cry as they charge forward in supersonic speed. Their horns clash with colossal force, striving to throw each other off-balance. However, neither party seems intimidated. The scuffle continues for a while. The situation is as taught in physics - two forces of equal magnitude opposing each other gives no resultant force lead-

ing to a stationary position, or in this case a stalemate. Both parties enervate as time lapses. Both forces tentatively take a few steps backwards, remaining vigilant to every gesture of their antagonist. Their urge to claim the pasture fades as they contemplate the consequences of a prolonged fight. Both parties warily retreat, ending up nibbling in the grass from different directions, not getting in each other's ways.

Now let us imagine the same situation by replacing the gazelles with two countries that are neighbouring, the pasture with a territory enriched with deposits of oil and natural gas falling in the boundary of the two countries, and the time being a time when the fossil fuels are running out fast, a time such as now. The territory promises an opulent future with ever rising export earnings with a chance for the country to earn the highest GDP in the world. The neighbouring countries sit at a conference trying to reach an agreement while both countries present their adamant views on why they should own the territory entirely. The talks end in failure. Now the question is do they contem-

plate the consequences of an armed battle and retreat?

Is it not fascinating that the answer seems so obvious? The countries engage in a ghastly battle. Fingers tense on the triggers of rifles as unpinned grenades bloom a vortex of explosions. Borders are breached, men of opposing forces shot, women of vanquished territories abused, innocent children stranded to starve to death. Why could they not nibble on the resources without getting on each other's paths just like the gazelles? Some might say because of their human nature. I specify because of their obsession over superiority. The humans have a preposterous urge to establish their dominance and prove their superiority. Is it not the reason why interstate conflicts over resources persist while they could be easily resolved through equitable sharing? Isn't obsession over superiority the reason why people misinterpret their own religion's messages and grow a feeling of hostility and intolerance over other religions? Is it not this condescending attitude the reason why males dominate and women are subjected to acts of violence

and harassment? We are so blinded by this obsession that we do not even perceive our duty of protecting our own species from our own selves. This urge to dominate has led us to establish a food chain within our own species where the affluent and the powerful feed on the feeble to survive. I congratulate the Homo sapiens for attaining the title of the most loathsome species on earth!

In my opinion, this obsession over superiority is the root of all hatred, conflict and acts of aggression in today's world. This obsession is a part of human nature itself; as long as humans survive, his urge to attest his superiority will. Yet, it is the degree of this urge that can be controlled to prevent acts of aggression and violence and create a tranquil world. We should develop an attitude of sharing rather than snatching, of caring rather than dominating, and of living in harmony rather than inducing a fight. As Erin Gruwell once said "I realised if you can change a classroom, you can change a community, and if you change enough communities you can change the world."