

# A Voice That Being Held in a Prison Cell

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A human is not inherently a criminal but is influenced by the circumstances encountered throughout his life. Not every criminal act is morally reprehensible; some may constitute acts of self-defense. From the evolutionary transition from apes to Homo sapiens, humans have continually adapted to changing environments and situations. Survival instincts have driven behaviors such as hunting and resource accumulation. Societal norms of peace have emerged from the need to resolve conflicts, leading to the development of civilization and social organization based on cultural differences.

Are all humans now completely peaceful and civilized? No, despite physical evolution, our fundamental psychological instincts, reminiscent of our ape ancestors, persist. The recurrence of wars serves as a reminder of humanity's failure to learn from past conflicts. Violence, when sanctioned by authority, is often deemed civilized, such as in the context of warfare.

India, with its ancient civilization, encompasses diverse religious and cultural beliefs. While some uphold non-violence as the ultimate moral duty ("अहिंसापरमोधर्मः" - Ahimsa Paramo Dharma), others may interpret and apply religious teachings differently. Despite the ever-changing nature of laws, the concept of dharma remains eternal.

As a follower of dharma, does it imply refraining from punishing criminals? No, but only when one comprehends the entirety of the sloka: "अहिंसापरमोधर्मःधर्महिंसातथैवच" (Ahimsa Paramo Dharma Dharma himsa tathaiva cha) - Non-violence is the ultimate dharma, So too is violence in service of Dharma. The interpretation of "violence" varies depending on whether it aligns with or violates ethical principles.

It is undisputed fact that a criminal should be punished, but not every time there is a need to give death punishment to criminal. Taking away the tumor in the body is the best thing than giving poison to the patient. A born baby is similar to new computer harddrive with no memory, no guilt and no mens rea. A criminal is not born, but was made by the society and the underlying problems that are unaddressed.

The best thing to do is to reform a criminal, unless you give a better environment and a hope that society accepts him after his tenure of punishment, a criminal have no reason to reform. In most of the times an act of crimes are impulsive and done in the spur of the moment without pre

meditation or sometimes an act of negligence and accidents. Naturally the criminal develops a guilt for the acts he/ she have done once he regains the consciousness.

Not only poor but the affluent also makes the crimes, if a starving adult stealing bread on contrast a rich man doing white collar crimes. There are many unsolved problems, we have crossed the age of survival instinct for the food. Now all our battles are psychological mostly, ego, pride, greed, anger mostly all software issues of a human being. In simple a VIRUS, these can be scanned and removed by a Antivirus, no need break the hardware.

As many as 57 people have been executed in a death sentence, still there are gruesome and heinous crimes that puts our heads to shame. We are not addressing the root issues, so the problems still persists and will persists. A criminal may be on bail, an innocent may be behind bars as under trial detainee for years. Neither the holy books nor the fear of god, neither heaven nor death sentences are bringing a change in the society. But there is really a choice to every individual to choose between Right and Wrong. In the times of crisis or great depressions it may feel ok to grab others bread due to starvation and pain of hunger, but exploiting others even when you are full is something we really need to look into.

Even if you hold a lion in cage for a year, once you release it is still a lion, it starts hunting once it gains strength. Holding a criminal in a prison without a reformative approach doesn't yield any result. We have seen tamed lions as calm as cow and Raging cows as fierce as a lion. No one is every same and not all circumstances doesn't make you to be as ideally as Buddha. But my point is even a lion may be tamed with little care and cuddle and showing a very less violent way of living, it only happens by taming not by holding behind bars. This principle is true with convicts, putting them in a rat hole without any hope to transform their lives will be as rotten as ever before. History suggests that the buried holes doesn't bring a beautiful rat. A rat it itself believes that it doesn't need a hole once it sees a transformation within the cat and living under the shade of the sun is better than under world hole. We have special Acts, we have fast track courts, we have correction homes yet there are exponential rise cases of crimes registering every year. We cannot blame judiciary, legislative and executive in curb down crime, it has to start from every home. A seed of violence sprouts in every child who is witnessing domestic violence that creates a precedent that exploiting other may be fun and right, duty

of the parents doesn't end by sending them to good school and leaving all their wealth but raising them with morals. No system ideal, no law is perfect, but for a betterment of society my work can be compared to a squirrel striving to built Rama-setu to uphold Dharma. Even a iota of positivity can transform a criminal and upholds faith in Justice. A innocent should be protected, a criminal should be punished and the prisons have the role to transform lives of convict by bringing reforms.

I end with we all need to hear "A voice that being held in a cell, not a ear to hear but needs a heart which understand the pain under their scream. "

A joy of light is better than fear of darkness.

ॐ असतो मा सद्गमय | Om Asato Maa Sad-Gamaya |  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय | Tamaso Maa Jyotir-Gamaya |  
मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय | Mrtyor-Maa Amrtam Gamaya |  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥ Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ॥

Lead me from illusion to truth, from darkness to light, and from death to immortality.