

## **“The World Without War” As Envisioned By Vethathiri Maharishi**

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### **Abstract**

*Born in a poor family, Vethathiri Maharishi, a philosopher of the common man, spent most his time in finding a solution to the miseries of mankind. Due to the impact of world wars, as a responsible spiritual leader, Maharishi thought of a World without War. He decided to spread the tenets of World Peace. He formulated comprehensive plans to annihilate the devastating wars from the planet. He wrote several books and had given several lectures explaining his modules of new world order. His blue print for the world peace is easily executable. World political leaders need only the courage to implement the peace plan suggested by him. His interim plan elaborates on the restructure of the present United Nations Organisation and the ultimate plan advocates the Supreme World Government. He wished that the Intellectuals, Spiritual Leaders, Wise Men, Social thinkers should come forward to take the plan ahead. He also believed that the individuals should attain peace and realise self-consciousness in order to achieve the goal of world peace.*

**Key Words:** Vethathiri Maharishi, Simplified Kundalini Yoga, Self-Consciousness, World peace, Supreme World Government, Interim plan, Ultimate Plan

### **Introduction**

Right from the inception of the community living, man confronted with the conflicts aroused between groups. Of late, communities and groups transformed into nations with borders drawn on the planet. The major goal of the present governments is to safeguard their borders from their neighbours. Disputes with respect to the boundaries led to wars between nations. Racial, economic and ethnic problems were the other the reasons for the

wars. Frustrated by the outcome of the wars, Vethathiri Maharishi, a saint from South India, strongly raised his voice for a permanent peace in the world and prescribed a practical plan to achieve this goal. This article elaborately deals with the outlines of Swami Vethathiri Maharishi's plan for a peaceful and prosperous world without war.

## Vethathiri Maharishi

Yogiraj Vethathiri Maharishi was born in the year 1911 in a village near Chennai. He served mankind for over 55 years in the cause of world peace. According to Maharishi, the world peace can only originate from individual peace. To enrich the individuals with peace and prosperity, he had simplified the yogic practice and formulated '*Simplified Kundalini Yoga*', known as '*Manavalakkalai*' in Tamil. He believed that an individual shall attain peacefulness only when he realises the value of self and learns to preserve harmony with the society and the nature. On the other hand, Maharishi advocated world peace for which he placed feasible proposals before the political and spiritual leaders of the World. Maharishi makes out a strong case for the initiative of World Peace to be wrested by the people, especially by the socially responsible intellectuals. Thanks to the decades of research and meditation, he could unfold a concrete, practical plan for world peace. He founded a social service organisation in the year 1958 known as World Community Service Centre (WCSC) with a view to bring world peace. He dreamed and worked for a prosperous world without the devastating war.

## The War and its Effects

Every human being would like to live. Life and death have been given for all by the divine. Land, Earth, Water, Light, are the natural resources gifted by the Almighty for the enjoyment of the living beings. Man has not created even a single one of these precious resources. Everyone has equal right for proper enjoyment of the natural resources. Every man is a member of the world community. The space available for our living is huge. And we have enough food, cloth, shelters, different modes of transport, communication facilities etc. Tremendous growth in the technology brought the world under one roof. Instead of living a peaceful and harmonious life on the planet, man indulges in the accrual of wealth for himself and his generations to come. This increases the inequality in a society. Nations invade into other countries to capture the power and take illegal possession of the latter's wealth. This

leads to conflicts and finally ends in war. The heinous crime of killing or massacre by individuals or groups out of antagonism developed by one man with another is called war.

The world has seen innumerable wars and still continuing in borders. Among the wars in the world, the most devastating one was the second world war that took place between the years 1939 AD and 1945 AD. The nations including the great powers eventually formed two opposing military alliances and fought each other. The damages caused to the lives and properties, due to this war, were more than that of the total of all the previous wars. The losses inflicted by the wars could never be compensated in any way. Generally, a war destroys the communities and families and also disrupts the social fabric of the nations. The post war effects include long term physical and psychological harm to the children and adults. It also destroys the valuable material and human capitals of the warring nations. The war makes the soldiers handicap with loss of limbs. Diseases are spread in and around the war zones. Common people are dislocated leaving away their homes, land, and cattle. The education of the students are affected. The environment is polluted. In addition to the human sufferings, the trade within and between the countries is badly affected.

### **Self-Consciousness**

According to Vethathiri Maharishi, the consciousness is the Static-State, the Almighty, which is omnipresent through out the Universe. The very same is the infinite state of mind for all people. In fact, the mind is the peripheral function of the Consciousness. The life force in the living beings is the localised field for the function of consciousness and the physical body is the carrier of life force. Unfortunately, this divine truth has not been realised by the majority of people on the earth. Therefore, the basic natural fact that only one phenomenon, consciousness, exists in the universe, as static in the universal magnetic field and as bio magnetic field in the organisms is forgotten and all individuals think that they are separate and distinct from others. Only due to this illusion, man separates himself from others by race, caste, religion, language and nation. As a result, all kinds of conflicts, hatred, torture and war emerged and continue in human society. Now by the advancement of sciences and development of knowledge, in the spiritual enlightenment, the greatness of the subjective phenomenon, the Consciousness, is being understood by a few enlightened men in the world. One among such enlightened men, Vethathiri Maharishi, has convinced that only the

realisation of self-consciousness by every individual will lead to the individual peace and ultimately the world peace.

## World peace through Individual Peace

The theory of world peace is vital in the Yogic philosophy. World peace occupies a significant place as self-realisation occupies a key role in the entire Yoga system. Peace is the basis for the realisation. Bhagavat Gita says that peace is the result of sacrifice and everything is after the peace. This idea of peace playing a key role in the Yogic science and social life. This is very much acknowledged by Vethathiri Maharishi through the peace at the levels of individual, family, society and the world. The individual peace is the foundation for the world peace. Maharishi's philosophy, with its social attitudes as well as its spirituality, constitute a new and genuine humanism on a world scale. The Vethathirian idea of achieving world peace through individual peace forced Maharishi to formulate the *manavalakkalai yogawhich* is aimed at developing good physical and mental health of an individual. Though it will take several years to achieve world peace, it is very sacred activity to understand the universe and the bio diversity as the self-transformation of the absolute space. The concept of world peace is more important to lay stress on oneness of humanity and removal of differences in the human groups. One who builds holistic relationship between body and mind, self and nature, is known as 'enlightened'. The knowledge on journey of consciousness to be acquired by every individuals of the world is the vital thing to achieve world peace. Maharishi advocated that every individual should maintain harmony between body and life; between wisdom and habits; between self and society; between the purpose of life and the method of living; between will and nature for attaining individual peace and thereby world peace ultimately.

## One World Government

Science and technology have advanced to a great extent and done marvellous things for the benefit of mankind in almost all fields. For all the people on the earth to enjoy these benefits and to restrict any individual or group from using scientific technologies against another man or group, a world-wide agreement and arrangement is absolutely necessary. Maharishi had written "*This beautiful world designed by the Almighty is currently evolved by the innumerable generations of people, in the course of millions of years. No one has the right to destroy it. Let us preserve it for our enjoyment and for future generations.*" For war and its

preparations and for maintaining defence forces even in peace time, a huge amount of wealth is spent by every nation. Global expenditure on arms and armies is going up and up every year. To stop war permanently on the earth and rather utilise all its expenses for the welfare of people in all fields of life, a powerful world order is needed, Maharishi felt. The major portion of the world is linked economically. Until it is linked politically, there will be inevitable conflicts and disturbances to peace. Based on this vital need, Maharishi emphasised the One World Government. The functions of the World Government are elaborately discussed by him in his ultimate plan for the world peace.

### **Restructuring the present UNO**

A common forum for all countries with equal representational right to participate is necessary. For this purpose, the United Nations Organisation can be used. But the present form of the UNO is not suitable for the same. It has flaws in its organisational structure and lack of equilibrium in power between the member nations. All the countries are not members of the present organisation. So, it is not a world common forum in spirit and fact. Its member countries do not have representative rights according to their population. A few countries have Veto power thereby making the UNO, a handmaiden of the mighty nations of the world. The present organisation has no force on its own which results in its inability to enforce its decisions against any country which refuses to abide by its orders or violates its rules. Unless all these flaws are rectified, the UNO can not do justice to its stature and succeed in its goal of creating a new world without war. Vethathiri Maharishi says that it is not too difficult to rectify the defects and convert the same UNO into a strong World Common Forum. The very same UNO can be made as the World Supreme Legislative Assembly and World Supreme Government, provided the above-mentioned defects are rectified.

### **Interim Plan**

Maharishi has given two plans for the world without war. These plans will restructure the UNO and ensure the world peace. The first one is the interim plan which needs to be implemented on top priority in a short term. In this plan, Maharishi narrates that the war should be outlawed from the world. All nations should accept the UNO as the guardian of peace in the world and for this purpose, the UNO will be vested with full powers for a period of five years as an experimental measure. All nations shall hand over all kinds of their defence and atomic

establishments to UNO. The expenditure involved in the maintenance of the said establishments will be borne by their respective countries. This arrangement will also be tried as an experiment for a period of five years. The UNO will prepare a five-year plan for the development of all backward countries and communities throughout the world. For this, the UNO will utilise the defence establishments. The borders of all the countries shall be maintained as at present and the UNO will be fully responsible for safeguarding them.

The conflicts, if any, on the borders will be settled by the UNO by way of negotiations. A committee comprising of two members from the concerned countries and a presiding Judge nominated by the UNO shall enquire on the conflicts and submit its report to the General Assembly which will vote on it. The decision of the General Assembly will be final the parties of the conflict should accept it. No Nation shall have the veto power to supersede the decisions of the General Assembly. The sovereignty of all nations shall be respected and will continue to be as at present. If there is a civil war or revolution in any country, the UNO will take over the administration of that country as a Trustee and establish a new Government through democratic means. After this plan is tried for a period of five years, the modifications considered necessary on the basis of experience gained, shall be carried out and the trial period extended for another five years. If need be, the plan can be continued as an experimental measure for a third term of five years. When nations discover the benefits of the interim plan and when mutual trust and amity is established, the plan can be made permanent. A World University of Technology and Culture shall be established under the auspices and guidance of the UNO so that all under-developed countries can have the benefits of advanced scientific knowledge for developing their countries. Thereby unhealthy competition between countries and exploitation of one by another could be ended. This plan is really a practical one although it may appear utopian at first glance. Courage alone is needed to accept it. Any nation that is convinced about the practical possibilities of this plan, can sponsor it to the UNO, and then leave it to the experts to draw up a detailed workable charter on the basis of its merits.

## **Ultimate Plan**

For the ultimate plan, a constitution of World Human Rights should be formed and passed by common consensus of all countries. Maharishi, after in-depth research on the life of mankind and with all responsibility and sincerity has drafted the Constitution of World Human Rights. One Supreme World Government having supervisory and controlling power over all

National Governments in the world may be established on democratic method giving equal rights and representations to all the people in the world. The World Government will have a Supreme World Legislative Assembly, consisting of representative members elected and selected by the National Governments at one representative per 10 million of their population. The birthrights and freedom of life for all the citizens will be secured by the World Government and protected any exploitation by an individual, society, or National Government. The availability of the basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, employment, marriage and research facilities will be ensured to all the World Citizens by the World Government. Women will be given equal rights as well as special privileges and facilities to meet their natural physical needs. All people of the world will have equal rights to travel or migrate into any country unless restricted by the World Government for the reasons of good health, comfort and happy life. If any National Government is found to be inefficient, the World Government will take over the administration of that country and act as trustee as necessary. War will be outlawed in the world. Armies, ammunition factories and scientific research institutions in the world will come under the control and administration of the World Government. And these establishments will be utilised only for the welfare of the mankind. There will be an International Social Service Organisation under the World Government, to serve the needy by all means and to uplift the backward countries in the world and to reform the man's life.

## **Conclusion**

Maharishi has appealed to the wise men and various experts of the world to discuss through seminars and conferences the said plans for the world peace and also to annihilate the war from the world. A select committee of experts should then meet all the heads of nations and the Secretary General of UNO and submit this plan. With their support and cooperation all should then take necessary steps to achieve the goal. Maharishi emphasised that it is the right time that all people of the world should know and acknowledge the fact that without establishing One World Government, war can not be stopped. Unless war is put to an end, mankind can not live happily and peacefully, and even survival is doubtful. Maharishi sincerely appealed to the mankind: "Oh Brothers and Sisters of the World! Wake up! If we do not strive to establish the Supreme World Government by democratic method giving equal rights and

representations to all individuals and nations, it will blossom in another way. It will certainly be established by one nation or by a group by force and by war. Many governments have merged into one by force or war. That way is not good for the present situation and for the establishment of the World Government". Maharishi reiterate that the world has to avoid such a dangerous and unwanted situation. He felt that mankind should not see the devastating wars on the planet anymore. Hence, he presented a comprehensive, constructive and easily executable plan for the world without war.

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