2
ON VIOLENCE

There is a great deal of **violence** in the world. There is physical violence and also inward violence. Physical violence is to kill another, to hurt other people consciously, **deliberately**, or without thought, to say cruel things, full of **antagonism** and hate, and inwardly, inside the skin, to dislike people, to hate people, to criticise people. Inwardly, we are always quarrelling, battling, not only with others, but with ourselves. We want people to change; we want to force them to our way of thinking.

In the world, as we grow up, we see a great deal of violence, at all levels of human existence. The **ultimate** violence is war- the killing for ideas, for so called religious principles, for nationalities, the killing to preserve a little piece of land. To do that, man will kill, destroy, **maim** and also be killed himself. There is enormous violence in the world, the rich wanting to keep people poor and the poor wanting to get rich and in the process hating the rich. And you, being caught in society, are also going to contribute to this.

There is violence between husband, wife and children. There is violence, antagonism, hate, cruelty, ugly criticism, anger -all this is **inherent** in man, inherent in each human being. It is inherent in you. And education is supposed to help you to go beyond all that, not merely to pass an examination and get a job. You have to be educated so that you become a really beautiful, healthy, sane, **rational** human being, not a **brutal** man with a very clever brain who can argue and defend his brutality. You are going to face all this violence as you grow up. You will forget all that you have heard here, and will be caught in the stream of society. You will become like the rest of the cruel, hard, bitter, angry violent world and you will not help to bring about a new society, a new world.

But a new world is necessary. A new culture is necessary. The old culture is dead, buried, burnt, exploded, **vapourised**. You have to create a new culture. A new

culture cannot be based on violence. The new culture depends on you because the older generation has built a society based on violence, based on aggressiveness and it is this that has caused all the confusion, all the misery. The older generations have produced this world and you have to change it. You cannot just sit back and say, "I will follow the rest of the people and seek success and position." If you do, your children are going to suffer. You may have a good time, but your children are going to pay for it. So, you have to take all that into account, the outward cruelty of man to man in the name of god, in the name of religion, in the name of self-importance, in the name of the security of the family. You will have to consider the outward cruelty and violence, and the inward violence which you do not yet know.

You are still young but as you grow older you will realise how inwardly man goes through hell, goes through great misery, because he is in constant battle with himself, with his wife, with his children, with his neighbours, with his gods. He is in sorrow and confusion and there is no love, no kindliness, no **generosity**, and no charity. And a person may have a Ph.D. after his name or he may become a businessman with houses and cars but if he has no love, no affection, kindliness, no consideration, he is really worse than an animal because he contributes to a world that is destructive.

So, while you are young, you have to know all these things. You have to be shown all these things. You have to be exposed to all these things so that your mind begins to think. Otherwise you will become like the rest of the world. And without love, without affection, without charity and generosity, life becomes a terrible business. That is why one has to look into all these problems of violence. Not to understand violence is to be really ignorant, is to be without intelligence and without culture. Life is something enormous, and merely to **carve out** a little hole for oneself and remain in that little hole, fighting off everybody, is not to live. It is up to you. From now on you have to know about all these things. You have to choose deliberately to go the way of violence or to stand up against society.

Be free, live happily, joyously, without any antagonism, without any hate. Then life becomes something quite different. Then life has a meaning, is full of joy and clarity.

When you woke up this morning, did you look out of the window? You would

have seen those hills become saffron as the sun rose against that lovely blue sky. And as the birds began to sing and the early morning cuckoo cooed, there was a deep silence all around, a sense of great beauty and loneliness, and if one is not aware of all that, one might just as well be dead. But only a very few people are aware. You can be aware of it only when your mind and heart are open, when you are not frightened, when you are no longer violent. Then there is joy, there is an extraordinary **bliss** of which very few people know, and it is part of education to bring about that state in the human mind.

J. Krishnamurti

About the Author

J. Krishnamurti is a reputed writer and an educationist. Like Bertrand Russel, his mind was full of revolutionary ideas to change the old fashioned world. There is a tinge of ethical values in his writings. His contribution in the field of education is remarkable. Under Krishnamurti Foundation many educational institutions are functioning which are devoted to build up a generation of brilliant students and academicians.

About the Text

In the present article Krishnamurti points out the dangers of violence which is a matter of global concern. There is a need to develop a new culture inclusive of love, pity, patience and generosity. Education can be a good tool to curb violence.

GLOSSARY

violence (n)	:	act of showing force
consciously(adv)	:	knowingly
deliberately (adv)	:	intentionally
antagonism (n)	:	aggressive opposition
ultimate (adj)	:	final, last stage
maim (v)	:	cause injury
enormous (adj)	:	immense, very large

inherent (adj)	:	inborn, natural
rational (adj)	:	wise
brutal (adj)	:	violent and cruel
vapourised (adj)	:	disappeared like vapour
generosity (n)	:	kindness
carve out (v)	:	develop, make
bliss (n)	:	supreme joy

ACTIVITY - I : COMPEREHENSION

A. Choose the correct alternative :

1. Physical violence kills people :

   (a) incidently (b) willingly

   (c) unwillingly (d) none

2. Violence in individuals comes :

   (a) by birth (b) after birth

   (c) through education (d) none.

3. While showing violence to others, man is

   (a) very thoughtful about his own safety

   (b) not very much cruel

   (c) conscious about his family

   (d) even ready to be killed

4. A person without the sense of love is

   (a) better than animals

   (b) worse than animals

   (c) equal to animals

   (d) worse than snakes

5. The state of bliss in human mind may be generated by

   (a) violence (b) mercy

   (c) education (d) destruction

B. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each :

1. What are the characteristics of physical violence ?

2. What are the characterstics of inward violence ?

3. What is more important than having a Ph.D degree ?

4. How can a person become rational ?

5. What does man realise in older age ?

6. When does human life become full of joy ?

C. Answer the following questions in about 60 words each :

1. How does education contribute to overpower violence ?

2. What are the author's views about the old and the new cultures ?

3. How can the world of Nature be best enjoyed ?

4. When does life become a terrible bussiness ?

5. How does J. Krishnamurti point out the dangers of violence ?

ACTIVITY - 2 : VOCABULARY

A. Given below is the list of a few affixes and a few words. Form new words by putting suitable affixes before the given words :

affixes : mis, dis, in, ir, il, im

words : advantage, legal, possible, rational, sane, behave, like, satisfaction, security, constant

Example : Irrational behaviour is a negative attribute.

B. Given below is the list of a few suffixes and a few words. Form new words by adding suitable suffixes after the given words :

suffixes : ness, ty, ity, ation, y, ment, ful

words : develop, cruel, health, consider, brutal, dust, happy, care, bliss conscious, constant

Example : A regular exercise keeps us healthy.

C. Complete the following table by forming words :

	Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adverb
1.	violent	Violence	_____	violently
2.	consious		_____	
3.	_____		criticise	
4.	enormous		_____	
5.	sane		_____	
6.	rational			
7.	brutal			
8.		generosity	_____	
9.		consideration		
10.			_____	happily

D. Fill in the blanks with synonyms of words given in the brackets :

1. The world is full of _____ violence. (very large)
2. Unfortunately people are motivated by _____ . (opposition and hatred)
3. Nowadays _____ has become a rare virture. (kindness)
4. The state of _____ can only be felt when violence is out of mind. (perfect happiness)
5. Violence and anger are _____ in man. (natural)

E. Fill in the blanks with antonyms of words given in the brackets :

1. In the _____ mind only negative thoughts enter. (sane)
2. _____ behaviour in human beings is intolerable. (rational)
3. A peaceful mind can observe the _____ of nature. (ugliness)
4. A positive attitude is always _____ . (criticised)
5. A true _____ of past and present is desirable. (ignorance)

ACTIVITY 3 : GRAMMAR :

1. Simple Past Tense:

Study the following sentences:

(i) He wrote a letter.

(ii) He did not write a letter.

(iii) Did he write a letter?

(iv) Did he not write a letter? Or Didn't he write a letter?

The above examples show an activity completed in the past. These are said to be in the **Simple Past form** : (i) is an affirmative using the past form of the verb, (ii) is negative using did not + present form of the verb, (iii) is interrogative using 'did' before the subject and the present form of the verb and a question mark at the end, and (iv) is negative interrogative.

The Simple Past tense is used for an action which took place in the past and is completed by the time of speaking. The following adverbs are normally used in this tense:

yesterday, last night /week/ year, just now, a few minutes ago, three months ago etc.

EXERCISE

Put in the blanks the correct form of the verbs given in brackets:

1. Columbus _____ America. (discover)
2. He _____ favourably from eight institutions. (hear)
3. She _____ from Agra on last Monday. (return)
4. When _____ you last _____ your father? (see)
5. It is exactly five years ago today that we _____ married. (get)
6. The Police _____ the thief yesterday. (catch)
7. He suddenly _____ that he was travelling in wrong direction. (realize)
8. He _____ me up just now. (ring)
9. I _____ a letter from my wife last week. (have)
10. The thief had escaped before he _____ into the room. (come)

2. Past Progressive / Continuous Tense:

Study the following sentences carefully:

1. Rahim was playing tennis at that time.
2. Was it raining at that time?
3. It was not getting dark at that time.
4. Was she not writing at that time?

The above sentences indicate the continuation of an activity in the past. This form is called Past Continuous or Past Progressive. This tense is used for continuous actions in the past about whose beginning and end we are not concerned. It is most often found in compound sentences with another verb in the Simple Past Tense to describe the background against which the Simple Past Tense took place:

I was reading a book **when** you came in.

It is often found with adverb clauses beginning with **while** and **when** and other adverbs which show the duration of the action:

all last week, all yesterday, all last night.

EXERCISE

Complete the following sentences using Past Continuous or Past Simple:

1. I _____ (wash) my hands when the telephone _____ (ring).
2. They all _____ (have) breakfast when I got up.
3. The door bell _____ (ring) while she was reading.
4. My aunt _____ (walk) in the park when I met her.
5. She _____ (talk) to her neighbours when the baby began to cry.
6. He suddenly _____ (realize) that he _____ (travel) in the wrong direction.
7. As I _____ (cross) the road I _____ (step) on a banana skin and _____ (fall) heavily.
8. He _____ (leave) the blind school and _____ (enroll) at another school.
9. The Hartmans _____ (feel) David _____ (head) for grief.
10. I was thinking about the problem at night, but I never _____ (find) the answer.

3. Past Perfect Tense:

Study the following sentences carefully:

(i) The patient **had died** before the doctor came.

(ii) When I entered the room the thief **had** already **escaped.**

In both the examples two actions happened, both in the past. For former action we use Past Perfect and for the latter action Simple Past.

Past Perfect tense is used to indicate that an action was completed at some point of time before another action took place in the past.

Past Perfect tense is generally found:

(i) In indirect speech-

"I have finished my work."

He said that he had finished his work.

(ii) In compound sentences in the past with clauses of time introduced by such words as:

After, before, when, until, as soon as etc.

E.g. His finger began to bleed as soon as he had cut himself.

When we got home, night had already fallen.

EXERCISE

Put the verbs given in brackets in the correct forms, using Past perfect (had + past participle form) or Past Simple :

1. He said he _____ (be + not) present at the meeting.
2. John wanted to know why Mary _____ (come) home late.
3. Until he _____ (explain), the students _____ (not understand).
4. He _____ (go) blind before he _____ (be) nine years of age.
5. The fire _____ (burn) for three hours when the firemen _____ (arrive).
6. His neighbours _____ (will) not speak to him until he _____ (apologize)

7. The workers _____ (will) not call off the strike unless their demands (accept).

8. He told me that he never _____ (meet) you.

ACTIVITY 4 : SPEECH ACTIVITY

Suppose some students of your school went on strike last Monday, demanding for library books. Some students expressed their anger before the principal, who accepted the demands of the students and gave them a moral lesson. Now create a dialogue between the students and the principal :

The Principal : You should daily reach school in time.

The Students : We daily come to school in time, sir.

The Principal : I see some of you have not worn the school uniform.

The Students : We are sorry sir. In future we shall always come in the uniforms.

Complete the dialogue.

ACTIVITY - 5 : COMPOSITION

1. Write a paragraph in about 100 words describing the advantages of non violence.

2. Write a paragraph in about 100 words describing how you behave with your teachers. You may include the following points :

   (i) Regular in the class / showing respect

   (ii) Punctuality of time

   (iii) The school uniform

   (iv) Showing homework

   (v) Participation in games and sports