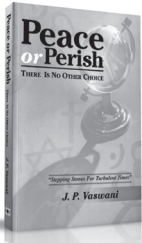


REVIEWS

For review in PRABUDDHA BHARATA,
publishers need to send **two** copies of their latest publications.



Peace or Perish: There Is No Other Choice

J P Vaswani

Gita Publishing House, 10 Sadhu
Vaswani Path, Pune 411 001. 2007.
xii + 201 pp. Rs 250.

Twin Towers destroyed in New York. Blasts in Mumbai and a luxury hotel put under siege. Suicide attacks in London, Kabul, Peshawar, Colombo, and Jakarta. Danger lurking everywhere; danger with no face. Where are we heading to? Are we safe? Is peace within our reach? Can we live peaceful lives, within and without? These are questions bothering everyone everywhere. For a generation which has almost lost hope of peace, the present book offers a possibility.

This is a timely work authored by Dada Vaswani, who has always worked for better understanding and peace among fellow human beings. As the subtitle rightly says, we have no choice other than to adopt a peaceful attitude towards ourselves as well as others. In his characteristic anecdotal style, Dada Vaswani portrays the various challenges of life and reminds us that troubles were always part of human life and that present times are not very different.

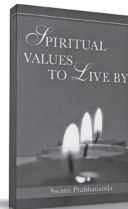
We are shown three dimensions of peace—peace within, peace between nations, and peace with nature. The author outlines a new eightfold path to attain inner peace. For peace between nations, universal brotherhood and the spirit of service are stressed upon. Often, human development takes place at the cost of violence to nature. Dada Vaswani tells us that we are at war not only amongst ourselves but also with nature. He urges us to adopt an attitude of reverence towards nature and protect it. This will ensure that a peaceful and harmonious relation is maintained between human beings and their surroundings. Development ought to be holistic and not at the cost of nature, the very source of our sustenance.

Through a journey from the individual to the collective, we are told that peace is indeed possible, we

only need to be more alert and also willing to achieve it. Giving a hope of a glorious future, the author says poetically: 'All around us, today, is a ring of darkness. But darkness cannot stay forever. When I look into the future, it is so bright, it burns my eyes. It is up to each one of us to make this future a reality.' Indeed, each one of us must play our part to make this future possible.

With a foreword by Shashi Tharoor, an acclaimed writer and former under-secretary general of the United Nations, this book has been appreciated by many thinkers and spiritual leaders, including the Dalai Lama. Elegantly produced and easily read, this volume is a significant guide to a peaceful life and society.

Swami Narasimhananda
Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata



Spiritual Values to Live by Swami Prabhānanda

Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture,
Gol Park, Kolkata 700 029. E-mail:
rmic@vsnl.com. 2007. x + 82 pp. Rs 35.

Striking a balance between lofty metaphysical ideals and mundane life is always difficult. Swami Prabhānanda, well known for his researches and writings on the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda tradition, has accomplished this difficult task in his small collection of thirty-seven articles, which were initially published under the title 'Observations' in the *Bulletin of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture*. These articles cover the problems of human life, in both its exterior and interior aspects, and seek solutions in the eternal values that sustain humans and their universe. Although each observation can be read in a few minutes, they inspire a serious reflection on life and our responsibility towards ourselves.

The author's style is that of a psychologist—relating the intricate problems of life directly to the complications of our thought processes—and yet it has