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The daring and the cautious : kairos in war times : case study on Israel-Gaza

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The Daring and the Cautious: Kairos in War Times

Case Study on Israel-Gaza by Professor of Social
Ethics from Bangalore (India)

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Keywords

Daring, Caution, Maximisation of social stability and security, Israel-Gaza crisis, Kairos, Edward Said.

Abstract

Ongoing blockade of Gaza has not always found much concern among many distant witnesses, who know very superficially the context of the opposition between Israel's traditional technological and military superiority, and its neighbours in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. At least this was the case before the Black Saturday of the 7th October 2023. Since then, things changed, the State of Israel engaged in the architecture of destruction on the ground of a cautious reaction to the risks and damages, forces our attention to this region of the world.

As poets always tried to make sense of the tragic of existence, we learn from the great myth of the Ragnarök, that peace might be found at a very high price with the strategic overcoming of great oppositions, as a political response outside ethics – Of course, this seems unacceptable, and it becomes urgent to defend what remains after opposing communities has lost so many precious lives, but conflicts are not only real conflicts they are also conflicts of images.

1. Daring and Militant Outfits

Never in recent history have heard or witnessed on visual media such precision, well-planned, and coordinated attack against a country known for its high levels of security and safety. Israel known for its technological and military superiority, has been under the impression when compared to its neighbors is far above and ahead in arms and ammunitions, military intelligence—having superior strike rates. With all these in mind, the State of Israel under the leadership of far-right Israeli PM Netanyahu went ahead in settling Jews in the occupied areas such as West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza – all at the cost of Palestinians.

All the negotiations at the international levels over 7-decades have failed including two-state formula. Over and above, the State of Israel has a huge support and permanent friend—the United States for other considerations including vote bank politics is compelled to support Israel to the extent of supplying all kinds of war machinery including that runs to billions every year thwarts the will and resolute of the Palestinians. In such lopsided power equation, the powerless Palestinians live without human dignity, freedom, and basic rights. In their own domiciles they are treated like slaves without any entitlements. It has been shown that Palestine was in mode of waiting for decades, that even more, “the fulcrum of Palestinian identity” has been in the suspension of time (Singh, 2019). What then is the way out?

Only in such contexts help will come in the form of ‘daring’ and ‘militant outfits’ – in this case Hamas came in support of the Palestinians’ cause. Hamas and Hezbollah have been branded as the terrorist and militant organizations by most of the countries of the world and so do not enjoy any legal status or acceptance. As against the background, the unprecedented assaults on Israel by Hamas on land, water, and air on Saturday, the 7th October, 2023, could perhaps be described as ‘Black Saturday’ by Israel, but for Palestinians and its supporters—a day of reckoning. What really had happened on 7th October was just unbelievable and totally mind-boggling.

It has been unprecedented, swift and sudden on Israel by Hamas in the southern part, sending shock waves across the world. The images were

striking as Hamas gunmen bringing seized soldiers and civilians into Gaza on motorbikes and parading the captured Israeli military vehicles through the streets tantamount to far-wider escalation in the conflict in due course. The surprise attack began around 6.30 am with thousands of rockets aimed as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem hitting buildings. Hamas fighters—travelling in pick-up trucks, speed boats and even using motorized paragliders attacked Israeli towns and military posts sparking gunbattles as panicked residents hit out in bunkers. Hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians were killed.

2. Kairos in war times

If we look at the footages, images, and snapshots of Israel-Palestine war—nerve-chilling and mind-boggling. A question that arises is that after all these attacks and bombardments, has Israel achieved its objective? For Israel, ‘end Hamas’/‘destroy Hamas completely’ has been Israel’s foremost agenda and narrative that includes its allies right from day one—since the 7th of October, 2023. However, we should reckon with a fact that Hamas is part of the Palestinian society, and so, destroying or marginalizing Hamas in toto for Israel is a remote possibility. Further, separating the civilians from Hamas from densely populated Gaza for the Israeli army could result in not just collateral damage, but beyond.

Killing more than 8000 children, destroying lakhs of housing, units decimating the infrastructure, hospitals, and other public utilities of the Gazans have led to unprecedented human catastrophe that the Palestinians are facing currently. The end goal of this war on which PM Netanyahu of Israel, President Joe Biden and those countries in EU coming together is waning. Do they have any answer as to Israel’s indiscriminate pounding in Gaza? Lives are lost and rising to appalling numbers. Israel is yet to achieve its end-goal. As of now the State of Israel is engaged in killing and destroying the innocent children, women, and others, and not yet to strike Hamas.

It has been well documented over years that Israel is an “apartheid state” and racist in nature and manifestation (Amnesty International Report, 2022). Its architecture of occupation is purely built around the safety and security of Israeli people in order to control, monitor, and surveille the Palestinians. All

these are visible the ways with which Israelis have constructed their residential complexes, the landscape on which they have been raised as against the Palestinians landscape where their structures portray packed multistoried tenements standing in close proximity with narrow roads and by-lanes. Israel army can barge into any Palestinian home without search warrant and arrest anyone. If the army or police come across during their search Palestinians houses are locked, they break open and ransack everything.

The apartheid runs parallel separating the Israelis from the Palestinians (Amnesty Intern.). Huge walls and barbed wires manifests clearly demarcated landscapes—Israeli landscape on elevated ground to surveille the Palestinians. Architecture of power revolves around the Israelis wherein Israelis have absolute control over Palestinians be it public or private space as their movements are monitored and surveilled. Crossing from one point to another they are supposed go through stringent checks that involves multiple contacts of body parts of Palestinians. All these came to a naught when the indigenous architecture of Hamas slipped through the sophisticated architecture of Israel's surveillance and warning systems; surprising air, water, and ground forces of Israel.

Israel along those attacks on all fronts is simultaneously employing the architecture of starvation. 2.4 million of Gazans are living in hunger and starvation. With great difficulty for the last UN got the permission on which Israel allowed which would not suit the scale of population living in Gaza. The governments of Israel, United States and those countries that supports Israel in EU are responsible using starvation as weapon of war which is antithetical to humanitarian laws that fall under UN convention. It is 'genocidal' and certainly comes under war crimes. Further, by not allowing medical supplies to the hospitals and shutting power and energy tantamount to mass killing of human lives that include children, women and others

3. Cautious reaction: virtue or hybris?

Having lost its goal of the 'war', the State of Israel is engaged in the architecture of destruction on the ground of a cautious reaction to the risks and damages. Israel as of now has not achieved its desired goal. It is engaged

only in the demolition mode of Palestinians lives and their domiciles, and not Hamas. American establishment is embarrassed as mounting pressure keep growing from within and outside. Israeli forces have thus far, by the end of first week of December, killed more than 18000 people, 70% women, children and adults between 18-35 in the occupied West Bank more than 2,000 people have been arrested. Raids are taking place almost every night. More and more Palestinians have been arrested in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem as well. Tens of thousands of Palestinians are getting injured in the past two months. Under these circumstances, it is important to note that in the UN the narratives changed—calling for ‘immediate ceasefire’. “World and History is watching us. It’s time to act”. Architecture of domination and occupation be countered by resistance. It has begun.

7th of October, 2023, for Israel the most dreadful and devastating day. It could perhaps be considered on par with 9/11 when the terrorists struck the United States in 2001. Both the countries were living under an illusion that none could attack them from within. Their confidence was totally dependent on high levels of technology, surveillance, intelligence, superior and sophisticated naval, air, and ground power. The United States at last realized that it was possible from within and Israel came to its senses that with all these paraphernalia it was still vulnerable. Hamas had totally de-constructed Israeli’s over-confidence and unbridled-dependence on its ‘security’ was just an illusion and be de-mythologized and de-constructed.

Thoroughly shaken and humiliated, Israel’s PM Benjamin said that ‘We are at war’. Netanyahu’s usage of a word ‘war’ repeatedly shows that he is under pressure from inside i.e., Israelis as well as outside. Nonetheless, rationale of using this term ‘war’ fails to justify because it was Hamas according to Israel and other countries as ‘terrorist’ organization which was responsible to killing and abducting Israelis and others. It is not Palestinian authority that was involved in the killing and abduction. And so, the State of Israel should attack Hamas. PM Netanyahu keep showing his rage and anger by attacking Gaza where more than 2.4 million Palestinians live in the world’s most densely populated open prison within a limited land space.

Hamas a militant movement may not be having more than a lakh within its fold in Gaza. To wipe out Hamas from the ‘face of this earth’, the Government of Israel in the last few weeks used all its arsenals, heavy artilleries and batteries of arms and armaments decimating many residential areas, demolishing hospitals, churches and mosques, killing more than five thousand innocent Palestinians, out of which one-third happened to children. Over and above, Israel went ahead disconnecting water supplies, gas, electricity, and essential commodities. How could Israel’s indiscriminate shelling of bombs in Gaza against the Palestinians be justified?

If Israel says that it is ‘collateral’, then it ought to be between the Israel and Hamas, and not against the Palestinians. If Israel government continues its attack causing insurmountable suffering and colossal damage to the Palestinians living in Gaza under the garb of attacking Hamas, then it tantamount to ‘collective impunity’ Israel wants to vacate about 2.4 million Palestinians living in Gaza in 24 hours and simultaneously bombarding Gazans subtly creating fear to leave from their locales. Hamas have dug tunnels running to several hundred kilometers. The State of Israel has always been an occupying power and thus believes in expansionism. For Israel it is *Kairos* – an opportune time--it wants to optimize.

Rhetoric and narratives that we hear and going around is that since Hamas has started this war, it is Israel which should end. The means that Israel is using ‘indiscriminate killing’ and shutting down all the exiting points. In the meantime, forcing the Gazans to vacate by not supplying the survival needs are against the international conventions. Government of Israel is employing all kinds of war strategies, but not abiding by the principles of war – ‘just war’, when countries ought to follow while at war. Israel has totally abrogated as well as disregarded the UN conventions and articles for which it is also a signatory displaying its impunity in going ahead with carpet bombing on Palestinians in Gaza.

4. Cautious further grounds for incautious decisions

Since, the United States and EU have been backing Israel under the guise of Israel’s ‘security’ and ‘right to defend’, the state of Israel is taking advantage and thus using this conflict to its advantage. Israel is under the impression that ‘it’s now or never’, and so, is going on in full blast as it is assured of weapon supplies and billion as aid from the United States and EU. PM Netanyahu is under severe criticism from the Israeli citizens that he failed in ensuring safety and security. And so, he keeps exhorting: ‘Israel is at war’ to appease the Israelis. For his political survival he is bent upon decimating Gaza. This is why Netanyahu is going all out to prove to his people, opposition and his allies that he is right in destroying Palestinians.

The means that Israel’s PM Netanyahu is using the power of arms and ammunitions to realize the ends—decimating Hamas and occupation of Gaza. Those who believe in Zionism and proud of Israel’s race as ‘superior’ have been totally dismayed and pulverized by the Hamas’s attack. They will and cannot come to terms unless and until Hamas is annihilated and eventually be wiped-out. With this objective, Israel is currently engaged in warfare against Hamas and Palestinians. Israel is colonial settlers State. Israelis’ policies have always been directed against to driving out Palestinians. In the process Israel is ghettoizing and thus throttling the rights of the Palestinians. Israel is employing ‘I-You’, ‘We-they’ binaries have brought to the fore the socio-economic, religio-cultural and political contradictions, controversies and perversions.

In multiple ways Israel exerts racist connotations and thus be designated as an apartheid state. It manifests in appalling ways and structurally insulated. The government of Israel especially the far-right ideologue PM Netanyahu is involved in social engineering by settling Jews in the locales where Palestinians live. Israelis’ settlements in the terrains of Palestinians have substantially increased during the tenure of PM Netanyahu. Palestinians are subjected to torture, oppression, and racist overtones by those Jews having corroded mind-sets occupied with an ideology premised on Jewish

nationalism. Those supporting and showing solidarity and siding Israel's punitive actions against the Palestinians—the West and EU are hypocrites and turning a blind eye to the vicious cycle of violence perpetuated by the Israelis.

The cycle of violence is on the increase and therefore support to Israel is an endorsement to injustice and inhumanity. It is bewildering how come those who talk about humanity and against injustices, subjugation, apartheid, oppression, and indignity support Israel, which is an apartheid state. Hamas is the creation of Israel. The world in which we live is in a terrible situation. Israel is increasingly getting militarized, and in the process, weaponizing the Israeli civilians invoking 'nationalism' and 'home land'. If Israel wants to wipe-out 'terror', it should go after Hamas. If Israel claims as the victim, then whoever responsible then the target is different, and not the Palestinians. Hence, Israel's claimant that it is at war which is right goes well as it is planning to annex Gaza.

The State of Israel believe in 'Greater Israel and wants Jerusalem as its united capital. Its expansionist strategy is meant to expand, and keep expanding the old as well new settlements. President Biden has given a free hand to Netanyahu. West and the United States are funding the war in support of Israel West is cluttering on it and so it is a collective attack. West has lost its moral credibility and authority. Global majority has lost its confidence on those countries that sides with the Israel for all its actions. Hamas used paragliders. It dared the Israel for which Israel has started to pulverize Gaza with its war weapons using air, on water, and surface.

The Mother of carnage: from past ongoing blockades to the current systematic pulverization of Gaza

The war that is going on in Gaza can be called as the 'Mother of Carnage'. More than one-third killed were children. Israel was expecting a mass exodus like previous conflict wherein thousand and lakhs of Palestinians fled to Egypt and Jordan as refugees who never turned back. Israel thought even this time the same formula would work, but the neighboring Arab countries refused to open their doors. Over and above, this time Arab, Islamic, and

many other countries keep showing their solidarity and support to the Palestinians.

Israel’s grand plan is first to destroy, then to occupy, and to expand. It posits that Jews do not want co-exist with Christians, Muslims, and others. Jews think that they are pure and chosen race and so shall never and do not mix and co-exist with others. Though Israel and its allies attack Gaza by land, air, and sea and United State sending two air-craft carriers as a deterrent, if civilian suffering in Gaza is not reversed, chances of a wider Middle East conflict cannot be evaded even Antony Blinken makes multiple trips tours in the region. It is ironic that Foreign Secretary of USA Antony Blinken is a Jew says: “The way Israel does this matter. The way any democracy must deal with such a situation matters.” What else one can expect from him?

It is Israel war on Gaza, not what Israel calls Israel-Gaza war. The nomenclature Israel uses is to be de-constructed because the state of Israel is pushing subtly Israel-Gaza war which need de-construction. Earlier ‘the notion of ‘war’ has been de-constructed and so Israel has floated a ‘Fog of War’ and amidst a fog it pushes us to live through. As days and weeks go by, we have come to recognize the factors that undergirds is happening on the surface. There is looming genocide as the Israeli ground forces start moving into Gaza. In the pretext of eliminating Hamas, we may witness more Palestinians getting killed. The West is fueling fire to the existing inferno. Let us not forget West’s intervention in Afghanistan, Iraq and many others.

Israel’s narrative along with the West shows false narratives and they use digital media and TV channels to prove their points. Fake news and messages keep floating. Israel is known for its twisting and fabricating mechanisms to suit its narratives—a part of its agenda. Given the history and reality, Israel and the West keep misleading the journalists and the viewers with fake news and false narratives. Israel has ‘normalized ethnic cleansing’ and now become a regular feature. Jews were the victims of the genocide of Nazi Germany. And now the state of Israel is repeating the genocidal act against the Palestinians. It is indeed a war in the Holy Land where all the major players have their origin, shrines, and worshippers right across.

Gaza, West Bank, and East Jerusalem are the real hell on this earth. In these locales more than 90 percent of Palestinians live that are under occupation and siege. Every 16 minutes a Palestinian child is killed in one way or other. Israel is engaged in revenge game. Israel wants to take over Gaza. It is involved in ‘collective punishment’ that includes innocent Palestinians. Israel, a sanctuary state for Jews, was envisaged as a democracy, upholding freedom, basic human right and rule of law candidly affirming that not a place where non-Jews would be subjugated. Israel is becoming a Zionist and theocratic state.

Palestinians subsist as second-class citizens – eventually stateless for more than 75-years. The only country where apartheid exists. Whatever support one may give and justifications many make in favor of Israel and Israelis, For the last 75-years and more specifically in the past 17-years of Palestinians existence has been living in ‘hell’ experiencing inhumanity who have been treated as sub-humans. On these grounds Israel as a nation, Jews as a community, and many of us tends to use as ‘chosen race’ and as ‘God’s people’ should be forfeited.

“This is a moment of truth. History will judge us all”

United Nations General Assembly adopts a resolution for a humanitarian ceasefire. 153 out of 193 member-states voted in support of the resolution, 21 more than the previous one, 10 voted against and 23 abstained from voting. The voting pattern candidly shows the changing contours of global politics and shifting position of countries since October 7th, 2023. As the deliberations were going on in the United Nations, New York, Israel did intensify and has expanded its aerial bombardments by pounding Gaza with ferocity than previous nights. The ground forces have penetrated into various points of Gaza in search of Hamas’s hideouts. In the meantime, internet and other communications facilities have been shut seem to be a usual procedure any occupying country follows. In the wake of UN resolution for truce, Israel will intensify its attacks in comprehensive manner.

A clarion call came from the UN Secretary-General, Antino Gutierrez saying: *“I repeat my call for humanitarian ceasefire in Middle East. This is a moment*

of truth. History will judge us all.” Undoubtedly all of us and the entire world are caught and plunged in such volatile scenario that warrants us to responsibly reflect and respond. In such gloom, we are confronted with questions: what is the Israel’s objective end-game? If the end-game is totally wiping out or decimating Hamas from the face of earth, is it possible or feasible? Israel is acting on ‘revenge mode’ by destroying thousands of innocent lives. Has Israel as of now realised its stated goals? Nations vociferously arguing in support of Israel, have started to change their positions as the ground reality opened up and thus voted for a humanitarian true.

The United States of America and Israel supposedly considered as the most powerful countries militarily, having sophisticated intelligence and detecting systems, so that their populations would be protected within. Their dependence on their detecting and surveillance systems is so intense that boosted their confidence supremely. Over and above, both these countries were living in comfort zones with confidence and arrogance that no force on earth could attack them from inside. Of course, when it comes to external aggression their reliance on air, naval and ground superiority adds more confidence and fillip. Unflinching faith on these paraphernalia pushed them to another level. Their inter-dependency has grown so much over the years.

Americans and Jews did live in their own worlds with utmost confidence and unquenchable arrogance with an assumption that none would dare to attack them. Their assumptions and comfort zones on which they lived came to grinding halts when Al-Qaida demolished the Twin Towers in New York on the 11th of September, 2001, symbolized America’s economic power; planes crashed near Pentagon and Washington respectively – known for military intelligence and political dominance. After two decades—on the 7th of October, 2023, Hamas shook the entire world by infiltrating into Israel on sea, air, and road killing more than one thousand two hundred Israelis’ civilians, police and military personnel and has taken two hundreds forty of hostages.

Popularly known as 9/11 and the recent incident could be called as 10/7—7th of October, 2023, conveys clear messages to the entire world that we should reckon with the very fact that countervailing powers all of a sudden do sprout-

up from unknown and in unpredictable ways demolishing the dominant power equations and thus shifts the power equations. We live in fragile world in which there is no more unipolar or bipolar world, but multi-polar power blocks exerting its influence subtle ways. In the midst, we see expansionistic, empire-building, and neo-colonial tendencies subtly operating in a world we live. Power dynamics and power equations swirls on the basis of political, military, and economic clouts a nation wields.

Fragile dialogue between Israel and some Arab nations has been underestimating the main parties and existing denial of rights

Nahun Barnea, a veteran *Yediot* newspaper columnist said on Hamas attack on Israel “This is the worst day that I can remember in military terms in the history of Israel, including the blunder of Yom Kippur war, which was terrible.” At that time, in 1973 Israel was attacked by the biggest Arab army, Egypt. This time in 2023, Israel was invaded in 22 locations outside the Gaza strip including communities as far as 15 miles inside Israel. A tiny force not only invaded Israel, overwhelmed Israeli border troops; it took Israeli hostages back to Gaza across that same border—a border where Israel had spent about \$1 billion erecting a barrier supposed to be Hamas was not only able to cross into Israel and attack Israeli communities and army bases, but it was able to kidnap a number of Israelis—which Israelis would not have ever dreamt.

Israelis reading of Hamas proved totally wrong and now wants to take a revenge by inflicting hard blows. We can only remind the short Confucian wisdom: “When you begin a journey of revenge, start by digging two graves: one for your enemy, and one for yourself.” Israelis anger is such that they want to crush and erase Hamas from the face of this earth. Israel is now in full battle mode, taking the fight back to Hamas. Israeli jets pounding Hamas-linked targets in the Palestinian enclave and in the melee killing hundreds of innocent civilians; shutting the supply of water, gas, electricity, and essential supplies. In its anger to wipe out Hamas, many innocent lives would be lost—a bad and negative optic in the long-run. Further, conflating Palestinians in Gaza with Hamas helps the narrative of Israel’s enemies.

Hamas’s selective objectives were fulfilled. The ongoing reproachment between Israel and some Arab nations—to be shelved or stalled including Abraham accords. If Israel goes on in full throttle to destroy and annex Gaza, the sympathy and affinity of Arab nations gets stronger towards the Palestinians that would be detrimental to Israel. American presence with war ships and host of other would further escalate the deep-seated anger amongst the middle-east nations. With Iran aligning with Russia in Ukraine, the Israel-Palestine conflict could open up another combination—Russia-Iran-China trio against the West. Hamas has shown to the world how vulnerable is Israel. Hamas has totally ripped-off Israel’s pride and arrogance. Israel’s military superiority has ended. Israel is no more invincible and should wake-up from its slumber.

American and Israeli’s fallacies—double standards have now come to the open—blaming Hamas and keeping silent on Israeli occupation. Americans wishy-washy flash points have now become the talking points. America went all out for Israel-Saudi normalization deal as part of Biden’s move for his election vote bank politics will be now be under serious consideration. Almost all the Western nations came to the rescue and support of Israel. Most of these nation-states’ once upon a time were colonial, imperial, and expansionist. Israel has always been an occupying force and has shown its tendency occupying the lands belonging to the Palestinians and settling those with Israelis. Since the United States is on the side of Israel offering all kinds of support including money Israel thought that no force on earth could shake.

Hamas a tiny outfit decimated, devastated, and pulverized the Israelis. The Zionists think that they are the power to reckon with in the middle-east and gradually on the upbeat with an assumption that they are important players in the world politics and so have started to undermine other religious communities such as Christians and others. Prior to the incident Aljazeera showed visuals of the skull-capped Jews spitting on the floor wherever they saw Christians standing who happened to be the settlers near Al Aqsa Mosque. Gaza is considered to be the world’s largest open prison—more than 2.4 million Palestinians exist under siege for about 17 years, which is indeed a gross violation of basic fundamental rights of humans. In a cage a mass living on their own land living in deplorable conditions should be condemned.

Still the rich and powerful countries continue to stop aids; imposing economic embargos; threatening to send air-craft carriers and submarines and host of others shall never deter those who are struggling for freedom, justice, liberation, and human dignity. Countries like Germany abruptly stopped its aid thus shows their guilt, and in the process, falling into the same trap. Zionism is also operating helped by the “never-ending-guilt trip” (Abed-Rabbo, 2023). Far-right adherents like PM Benjamin Netanyahu are there ruling across the world. Leaders should never use religion to their advantage inciting fanaticism and polarization. US-based Palestinian literary critic of Orientalism and advocate of the Palestinian cause Edward Saïd (1935-2003) has deconstructed the false narrative nesting orientalism and lack of consideration and respect for Palestinians in East-Jerusalem and elsewhere in occupied territories (See Saïd, 2000; also his excellent Arab Studies Quarterly). Increasingly we have been witnessing far-right political ideologies taking over the governments of many countries such as Argentina, Italy, India, Iran, England, and also some of the of the countries that claim as democracies such as the United States, Germany, and host of others though talks about democratic principles, in their governance do not practices what they speak.

One child is killed every 10 minutes and many children in hundreds died caught in the rubbles. Many children’s limbs and hands had to be amputated and other children are dying of de-hydration, anxieties nightmare, going living through anxious moments. Young minds cannot absorb constant bombing and see from their own eyes falling of building, deaths of their kith and kins and neighbors, in the process have internalized everything in their sub-conscience leading to rigors. All these have long-lasting effects on these children as they grow.

When Israel says ‘it’s fighting a just war’, a few questions arise: Has the State of Israel followed the principles of Just War? As a signatory of UN’s covenants and other declarations, has the State of Israel complied especially during war duly complying with humanitarian and legal provisions that safeguards unarmed civilians especially children and women? Israel is waging war against Hamas, if this is so, why is it destroying Palestinian livelihood and dwellings and killing thousands of innocent people? What is

Israel’s end-game and post-war plans? Israel’s attacks posit genocide and massacres. Just-war warrants proportionate attacks not harming the civilians and vital facilities. It has flouted UN conventions and saying it’s fighting a ‘just war’.

Disproportionate shelling of bombs on residential areas of Palestinians, especially where Gazans live, hospitals, schools, public utilities, and killing children and women on massive scales day-after-day fails to match Israel’s claims and conception of ‘just war’. Scales of destruction unleashed on Gazans and Palestinians living around is not indicative and so falls short of the mandates envisioned in the international covenants and ordinances. Comity of nations especially the UN Security Council should act immediately to prevent the genocidal acts of Israel. It is undoubtedly an unjust war that posits immorality and illegality on the part of the State of Israel.

Peace after dark times? What can be learnt from the Great Myth of the Ragnarök and the strategic overcoming of great oppositions

Benjamin Netanyahu employs Zionism, and emphasizes that Jews are God’s chosen people; while others use others conceptions for their politics that are detrimental to the present and future generations. Leaders use symbols, rhetoric, narratives, and examples in support of their ‘majoritarian’ vote-bank politics. Our world is shrinking and getting subsumed by religious fanaticism and fundamentalism. Israeli war pm Gaza war is one such example. Freedom, justice, equality, and mutual respect by all means ought to be upheld. Any country/society that tramples these basic principles essential for human existence should certainly be countered. The root cause for all these are injustices, oppression and exploitation.

Narratives and rhetoric that the ruling dispensation and its supporters use are entwined with arrogance, anger, retaliation. Israel in its war against Palestinians broken the mandates and covenants of its international obligations—humanitarian and legal obligations. Across the globe civil society and its organizations in millions keep shouting slogans and carrying placards—stop this absurdity, stop this war, and strive for peace and justice. The yoke of occupation that the State of Israel is continuing and furthering

for decades are immoral and unethical that goes against the precepts of Torah. Antino Gutierrez called for a ceasefire and urged the comity of nations to see through and listen to the moment of truth. He categorically said that “History will judge us all.” But narratives about history comes from other narratives, therefor even fables and myths have their place and importance in times of great oppositions. During his German Peace Prize speech, Salman Rushdie compared the Israel-Gaza conflict to a long dark path before peace, referring to several great myths, as the Panchatantra’s third book on War and Peace, and the Germanic mythological vision that peace comes at a bloody price: “peace comes after the Ragnarök, the twilight of the gods, when the gods destroy their traditional foes but are also destroyed by them”.

We as rational human beings should not be blinded by lies and false narratives. We live this at this historical moment and movement of history, seeking truth. As Homo sapiens we ought to address the most important problem of the Palestine, set right the wrong, and resolve. It is our moral duty and ethical imperative. As said by the Secretary General of UN, “It did not fall from somewhere ... there has been a vacuum.” We know that there has been a vacuum, which the world failed to address. Once again if the world at large fails to address more such incidents of this sort are bound to happen. By then it will too late. Strive for justice and seek truth and pursue peace.

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6. A Short biography

Professor Indukuri John Mohan Razu is activist ethicist who has written extensively on theology, ethics, politics, economics, and problems that the poor and vulnerable confront day-in and day-out. A writer and columnist who has authored and edited several books and articles. Taught in theological Colleges, presently serves as Consultant and Research Fellow for Academy of Higher Education (ACTS), Bangalore.

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