

My declaration of human rights consists of ten fundamental things.

The first is life.

Man has a right to dignity, to health and a right to grow so that he can blossom in his ultimate flowering. This ultimate flowering is his right. He is born with the seeds but the society does not provide him the soil, the right caring, the loving atmosphere. When I say life is a fundamental right I mean a life of songs and dances, a life of joy and blessings.

My second consideration is for love.

Love should be accepted as one of the most fundamental human rights--and all societies have destroyed it. They have destroyed it by creating marriage. Marriage is a false substitute for love. If two people want to live together they don't need any permission from any priest or any government. They need the permission of their hearts. And the day they feel that the time has come to part, again they don't need anybody's permission. They can part as friends, with beautiful memories of their loving days. Love should be the only way for men and women to live together. No other ritual is needed.

Children should not be accepted as their parents' property; they belong to the whole humanity. You should not possess your children. You can love them, you can bless them, but you cannot possess. They belong to the whole humanity. Once love is free it will prepare the ground for other fundamental rights.

The third most fundamental right...because these are the three most important things in life: life, love and death. Everybody should be given the fundamental right that after a certain age, when he has lived enough and does not want to go on dragging unnecessarily.... Because tomorrow will be again just a repetition; he has lost all curiosity about tomorrow. He has every right to leave the body. It is his fundamental right.

It is his life. If he does not want to continue nobody should prevent him. In fact, every hospital should have a special ward where people who want to die can enter one month before. They can relax and enjoy all the things that they have been thinking about their whole life but could not manage--music, literature... if they wanted to paint or sculpt.... And the doctors should take care to teach them how to relax. Up to now death has been almost ugly. Man has been a victim, but it is our fault.

Death can be made a celebration; you just have to learn how to welcome it relaxed and peaceful.

After these three comes the fourth: The search for truth.

Nobody should be conditioned in their childhood in any religion, any philosophy or any theology, because you are destroying his freedom of search. Help him to be strong . Help him to be strong enough to doubt, to be skeptical about all that is believed all around him. Help him never to believe but to insist on knowing. And whatever it takes, however long it takes, to go on a pilgrimage alone, on his own, because there is no other way to find the truth.

Fifth: To find the truth all education systems from the kindergarden to the university will create a certain atmosphere for meditation. Meditation does not belong to any religion.

Meditation is not a belief; it is a pure science of the inner. Learning to be silent, learning to be watchful, learning to be a witness; learning that you are not the mind but something beyond--consciousness--will prepare you to receive truth.

It is truth that has been called "God" by many people, "nirvana" by others. Other names have been given to it by others but it is a nameless silence, serenity and peace. The first thing in life is to know who you are and where you are. Then everything in your life starts settling down and moving in the right direction.

The sixth: Freedom in all dimensions.

Freedom in all dimensions means that man, wherever he is born, is part of one humanity. Nations should dissolve and religions should dissolve because they are all creating bondages. There should be no nations and no national boundaries. There should be no religions. Man should be taken as man. Why confine him with so many adjectives? Right now he is not free in any way. Man's basic right is to be himself.

Seventh: One earth, one humanity.

I don't see any reason at all why there should be so many nations. Why should there be so many lines on the map? And they are only on the map, remember. They are not on the earth, nor are they in the sky. And the map is man-made. Existence has not created this earth in fragments.

Start from anywhere; just let the whole of humanity be one and the nations will disappear, the lines will disappear.

Eighth: The uniqueness of every individual.

I teach not equality, not inequality--I teach uniqueness. Every individual is unique and needs to be respected in his uniqueness. Because every individual is unique their birthright should be equal opportunity for their growth of uniqueness.

Ninth: A world government.

I am absolutely against governments. I am for one government for the whole world. That means no war will be possible; that means there will be no need to keep millions of people unnecessarily in armies. They can be productive, they can be helpful, and if they are merged in humanity all poverty will disappear. One world government means a tremendous change, a revolution. The whole earth will be benefited by it.

And tenth: Meritocracy. Democracy has failed. A new kind of system is needed, based on merit. Meritocracy means that only people who are educated in a certain area should be able to vote in that area. For every post, the person who is chosen should be chosen by experts. This idea I call a meritocracy.

Up to now, whatever has happened has been accidental. Our history up to now is nothing but a history of accidents.

We have to stop this. Now we have to decide that the future is not going to be accidental. It will be created by us; and to create our world can be the greatest creation possible. Sermons in Stones