

Interview of Member of Nepal's Parliament Chitra Lekha Yadav

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Question: Please tell me your impression of the conference so far.

The conference is very useful and fruitful because of the way it talks about peace and love, faith and hope. I think it is very encouraging and inspiring for all of us, because what we know and what is a fact is that without peace, no development can take place. So, peace is very important and it is very urgent to all of us, so it is very fantastic and wonderful.

Question: As a member of parliament, how useful is it to you to meet people from such diverse backgrounds?

The responsibility of parliamentarians is to address these problems of the people and the nation and the globe as well if possible. If we can coordinate and cooperate with all. So in that sense, to meet and have interaction with parliamentarians from more than eighty-seven nations is itself a very meaningful and my opinion is the way we talk about the responsibility of parliamentarians regarding peace and development, I think the first and foremost thing is that every parliamentarian should be able to irrigate themselves with the special feeling we call spirituality and morality. Many of the friends yesterday were talking about theology. Here, I would like to say that every religion has two parts: one is theology and the other is spirituality. Theology may differ from religion to religion, but spirituality is the same and the central part is humanity -- to be human. All of us if we just start living for the sake of others... Humanity means not living for the sake of yourself. Parliamentarians, when they are elected, when they campaign, they always say, We don't stand for ourselves; we stand for the people. Whatever hardships the people are facing, that's the core responsibility of the parliament to address. Here, at this conference, regarding the responsibility of parliamentarians, I think, the way we discuss and learn has been very fruitful for the members of parliament.

Question: The Korean North–South relationship is an extreme case of social disunity can you speak to efforts by parliamentarians to instill respect for human values and safeguard national and social beliefs?

I appreciate the endeavors of UPF to solve the problems of North Korea and South Korea. I have been coming to Korea for a long time and talking to people of North Korea and South Korea. I have the feeling that all of the people feel love and care for one another, but since the problem is still there, I think the role

of parliamentarians should be considering how to unite them. Always, the responsibility of parliamentarians is to regard and consider the demands of the people. The demand of the people is, We waiting for the day when they will come together, when together. This is the feeling. At this conference, we have been discussing a lot about the conflict and how to resolve the conflict, how to reconcile. It has been one of the founding principles of the Universal Peace Federation, so stance taken by UPF is very much appreciated and I hope in the near future with the efforts of this kind of conference, not just people from political life, but people from all walks of life participating in this type of august conference all of us together will be able to address the hopes of the North and South Korean people.

Question: Could you speak a bit about the work of UPF in your country, Nepal?

UPF has been doing a lot of work to address the problems of the people. These days, we see that people everywhere say they want peace; they also say they want to live in peace. UPF is doing a lot of activities generating hope within the people regarding peace, but it doesn't mean that just by listening, just by learning you are going to have peace. You need to practice peace yourself. You need to care for the feelings of others. You have to think if your words are going to hurt the person sitting beside you if so your activities will not bring peace. The very aim of UPF is to bring lasting peace throughout the globe. Nepal UPF is doing a wonderful job

Lastly, I will tell you a small story that will reveal the work of UPF. Four candles were burning in a room. They were talking. The first candle said, "I am peace, but now I find people are full of anger and fighting everywhere, so it doesn't make sense for me to keep lit here so now I am going out." By saying this, the flame of peace went out completely.

The second candle said, "I am faith. I am no longer indispensable, so it is better that I go out, and then the flame of faith went out completely.

The third candle said, "I am love but from what I see people are not practicing pure love. They are very selfish; they are not practicing selfless love. It is better that I go out." The light of the third flame, the light of love, then went out completely.

The fourth candle was burning when a little child came into the room. When the child saw that only one candle was burning, he cried and he said, "You were all supposed to stay lit until the end. Why is only one candle burning?"

Then the last candle said, "I am hope. Don't worry. You can light all three candles with me." The little child lit the three candles and four candles were burning. Then, the fourth candle said, "Look, if there is hope -- with hope -- love, faith and peace can be revived.

So the important thing is that: Let us have a positive attitude and let's work together. Never lose hope. If we lose hope, everything will be lost. In Nepal, what we see is that UPF is generating hope in the minds and hearts of people. Through that hope, We have been able to revive many things in Nepal—peace, faith and love. Thank you.