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Welcome Revolution

Revolution means a drastic and sudden change in the order of things. The Russian revolution of 1917 brought in communism and a communist form of government with Stalin at its head. Then there was Chinese revolution of 1949 in which communist form of government was established and the nationalists were driven away. Earlier, there was French Revolution which ended monarchy and established democracy. The American revolution ushered in American Independence. There are so many other revolutions in the history of the world. Most of them, however, were violent and bloody revolutions. But there are other revolutions as well which need not be violent or bloody. Mahatma Gandhi and earlier Swami Vivekanand and Dayanand Saraswati brought about moral or spiritual revolutions. They were in fact revolutions of ideas or of values. When the value system of a society undergoes a sudden and drastic change, it is said to be a revolution. In such revolutions no blood is shed, no bullet is fired. They are peaceful revolutions which bring about drastic transformation in the psyche of human beings. Our present society also needs a revolution, revolution of ideas, of values, of ethical standards. There is need of a revolution which may make the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity a palpable reality. It is incumbent on us to welcome such a revolution, the sooner, the better, for bringing about a near-total transformation in our lives.

Aggressive leaders often talk of revolutions. Whenever we talk of or hear of a revolution, we generally mean a violent or a bloody revolution. When a leader gives slogan of revolution—long live revolution, etc. the Russian Revolution of 1917 A.D. is at the back of his mind. Russian Revolution is often a reminder to the proletariat class that if united they stand, they can achieve political power. While talking of bringing about a revolution, people miss the point that revolutions were always rapid and that you can not make a revolution with silk gloves. Edmund Burke gave the same advice to the revolutionaries that “make the Revolution a settlement and not a nursing of future revolutions.” But the matter of fact is, as Chateaubriand says, that “Every revolution is the consequence of one revolution and the beginning of another.” Having seen the iron-curtain of Stalin after the 1917 Revolution, the great English dramatist G. B. Shaw gave this lucid comment that “Revolutions have never lightened the burden of tyranny, they have only shifted it to another shoulder.” Be as it may, but the reality is revolution has been described as any fundamental change or reversal of conditions, a sudden radical or complete change. A common man generally thinks in terms of measures which would bring about political change. But we are here to consider about transformation and revolution of the individual at the individual level, transformation in one's psyche, in one's whole being, which actually is

the source, the fountain-head of the outer revolution.

Man by nature wants to be free, wants to soar high, wants to break open to see light. He is disturbed with the present circumstances and so wants to bring about drastic change within, which would be a source of change of outside so the moment of transformation within, is revolution. This realisation can dawn upon an individual only when he is seriously concerned about it. Archimedes had been working on a problem for several days. So he was prepared to cry eureka, eureka—I have found it, I have found it. Every moment in life provides an opportunity to proceed on this path. Therefore, the essence of revolution is in concentrated form within. It is rightly said that visionaries bring about revolutions, because they are able to perceive the whole picture in totality. Vision does not come in pieces or fragments. It comes like a flash of lightning and one sees and perceives the whole gamut of scenario in the completeness. The key to development is transformation, complete change. Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi was altogether a different person after reading Ruskin's book 'Unto This Last.' He had undergone an inner revolution. But we are generally not ready for a drastic change. We are afraid of new changes because they may land us in strange and unfamiliar circumstances. That is why we do not want to explore the mysteries hidden within our own hearts.