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William Shakespeare in his play *'Measure for Measure'* bemoans the tendency of man, having a transient existence in this world, to be proud, vane and arrogant. The proud man does so on account of his ignorance of the fact that he has only a short-lived sojourn on this planet. It is pathetic indeed that, more often than not, man succumbs to the enticement of pride, vanity and arrogance. History is witness to the fact that those who indulged in inglorious acts of harming and conquering others ultimately licked the dust. The demon Ravan met the same fate; Kansa was finished by Krishna, Hirnyakashyap was killed by Lord Narsingh. Not to speak of mythology, even in this material world we meet arrogant people who go to rack and ruin, devastation and death in spite of possessing immense power. Hitler, Napoleon and a host of other potentates around the world met a sad end.

What is true of individuals is true also of nations. The fall of powerful nations and their wide spread empires through various phases of history tell us how pride, vanity and arrogance became the cause of their downfall. It is a sad irony indeed that people and nations do not draw lessons from these hard facts of life. Presently our neighbour China (Dragon) is committing the same mistake. Right since the Communist Party of China came into power, China has been playing an undesirable game of trying to harass its neighbours, particularly the peace loving India. Flushed with financial prowess and the accompanying military power, it is indulging in expansionist policies. Besides indulging in territorial expansionism, it is trying unashamedly to create spheres of influence around a large part of the world. It has already entrapped most

of its neighbours like Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and a few others in its nefarious debt trap. A host of African countries have also fallen into its debt trap.

But most of all, it is India which is the greatest victim. Day in and day out it goes on making claims on one part or another of the territory of India. It has already gobbled up a sizable part of Indian territory along our northern borders, particularly the areas in the proximity of Ladakh. It stakes its claim on the territory of Arunachal Pradesh and some Indian territory bordering our friendly country Bhutan. Browbeating India in one way or another and behaving in an arrogant manner with a great nation like India have become a part of its habit. It underestimates the military power of India and mocks at its economic potential. Inebriated with such arrogance it continues creating trouble all along our northern borders. Sometime back, it was Doklam, our territory bordering Bhutan, where it amassed its troops and the stand off with India continued for a pretty long time until it had to recede following tough stance demonstrated by India.