

Inner Before Outer Environment

"The end of the world is here!" screamed the placards during public rallies to shock everyone about looming disasters for over 50 years. These protests started in the Fifties after the Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and continued as more and more lethal atomic and nuclear weapons were tested, developed and stockpiled.

With the end of the Cold War, and 60 years of not using the nuclear weapons despite many crises, the protests against nuclear weapons have subsided these days.

Now a more dangerous threat is facing man and the earth: our depleting environment. The alarm sirens have been strident in the past years as we suffer from heat waves, tornadoes, advancing deserts, melting polar caps and suffocating pollution, among other hazards. At the same time, an increasing number of animals, plants and marine species are decimated. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the fruits, vegetables and meat we eat are polluted, if not poisonous. All these horrors that we have inflicted upon ourselves by abusing this earth are now threatening our lives on this planet.

Who is to blame? The unlimited greed of man. Cutting down forests,

polluting water bodies, poisoning air and generally damaging eco-systems is the work of individuals, cartels or corporations in their pursuit of money. Why are they so destructive for the environment? Because their inner environment is disturbed with greed. First, our inner environment needs to be changed so that we can look after our outer – or physical – environment. Once we connect with our inner environment, we can connect better with our outer environment as we become whole with nature, and indeed the universe. And how can we connect and improve our inner environment? By meditation.

Osho warned about environmental dangers a quarter century ago but did we listen? In fact, our physical environment has degraded much faster since then. Osho says, "It should be a determination

in every intelligent being that we are not going to allow any vested interest to destroy this planet. This planet has to remain. And there is a golden future just ahead on the horizon -- but we must cut the roots, whatever the cost. This is the only revolt I teach."

To protect and preserve the outer environment, let us improve our inner environment first.

-Swami Kul Bhushan.

