

## "HANDS THAT ROCK THE CRADLE RULE THE WORLD"

"Your child is dumb. He is very weak in studies and may have a negative influence on other students in the class. Kindly don't send him to school and teach him at home." These are the words of a letter written to a mother by the principal of the school. Reading the letter, the mother started crying. The kid asked-"Why are you crying mother?". The mother somehow controlled her emotions and said that-"Your principal has said that your child is very intelligent. We do not have teachers who can teach him and satisfy his curiosity. Kindly teach him at home."

Listening to the above words, the kid was filled with pride and smile. From then onwards, the mother taught him with curiosity and filled him with confidence. Later, that kid became one of the greatest scientists of all time-Sir Albert Einstein. This real life story of such a great scientist shows how her mother rocked the cradle of his child and filled him with curiosity. She indirectly ruled the world of science as Albert Einstein gave theories of relativity and gravitational waves. It shows the immense impact a mother has on the child.

There are many hands which rock the cradle. It can be of mother, father, teacher or even Parliament. Similarly, the cradle can be of a child, nation or an idea. These hands have deep influence on the child because they shape their value system and build character. They have high emotional engagement with the child and thus have a profound impact on them. Let us look how these hands which rock the cradle rule the world.

As we talked about Albert Einstein and his achievements, we also have to give credit to the research ecosystem provided by America. It was here where his research went on with a blind date with knowledge. We also can't forget the American Revolution which gave concepts of liberty, equality and separation of powers. America is often said to be the cradle of modern democracy. It tried to spread democracy to different parts of the world and rocked this cradle. For years, it maintained hegemony on global order and ruled the world. The reason America ruled the world was not just because of technological and economic prowess, but it was also the democracy which helped it.

Rightfully, post world wars, America decided to have a system of human rights for everyone. The drafting of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) began which is said to be the cradle of human rights. The Article 1 of UDHR said-"All men are born equal and free" The members agreed. However, there was an objection from an Indian delegate Dr Hansa Mehta. She said that Declaration was gender insensitive and supports patriarchy. The Declaration was re drafted and it said -"All humans are born free and equal ". Thus, she rocked the cradle of human rights by making it inclusive and gender sensitive. Even today, she rules the hearts of United Nations. Ex Secretary General Banki Moon said that-"The world can thank the daughter of India for making UN inclusive and gender neutral".

Similarly, in our country, Parliament and judiciary helps in safeguarding human rights. Parliament rocks the cradle of laws and has deep impact on our society and nation. Thus it rules the citizens of India in democratic and constitutional spirit.

Likewise, Gandhiji rocked the cradle of our independence movement through idea of non violence. Even today, his ideas shape India's policies. Thus he rules our hearts and is respected in not just India but across Europe and Africa too.

However, do hands that rock the cradle really rules the world? There is a strange disagreement.

The recent National Family Health Survey 5 noted that 58% of women in reproductive age are anaemic and suffer from malnutrition. Iron and zinc tablets can help in this regard but with such poor health how can they rule the world.

Similarly, nurses and paramedical staff are the ones who literally rock the cradle of a child. Sadly, they are overburdened at a time when Covid 19 is ruling the world.

Likewise, a teacher rocks the cradle of curiosity in a child. With poor infrastructure in schools and burden of administrative duties, how can they rule the world?

In a similar manner, it is the farmers who rock the cradle of food security. However it is sad that they themselves are impoverished and need food security.

Such instances show that hands that rock the cradle may not always rule the world. Such important hands must be strengthened through education and health. However, there are other hands too. Who are those hands who build the cradle, clean the cradle and keep it safe. Possibly, it is the hand of construction labourers who build our cradle, our sanitation workers who clean our cradle and our armed forces who keep our cradle safe. We must respect these hands too because they too play an important role in shaping our society and nation.

Now the question arises, who actually rules the world? However, in my opinion, more than who it is, the how one should rule which matters more. Any rule must be guided by values of justice and compassion. The great sage Pundranar wrote in 6th BCE - "Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir "

It means - "I am a citizen of this universe and everyone is my kin".

With such values of universal brotherhood and tolerance, any rule will lead to peace and development. As a citizen of universe, it is my duty to promote values of compassion and equality.

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhine

May all be happy and prosperous.