

## Our take on Nationalism

We are all interrelated, interconnected comprising one existence. The scientists have observed a dynamical situation called “Butterfly Effect” that suggests that a flapping pair of wings of a butterfly somewhere in the world might create a tornado somewhere near or afar vindicating total connectedness of our universe. We are connected; we are one with one destiny.

In a nationalistic framework, my country, my civilization, my religion, my upbringing, my language, my heritage, my tradition take the center stage with an implicit assertion that this vector that one proposes as the focus object with the possessive noun “my” or “mine” as one’s identity are posited “better” than most others, if not the “best” already. If all of us are equally engaged in this mindless game, we’d all live as islands with little interaction among us. We’d be divided, each trumpeting our own individual agenda as the only viable choice. As we remain divided on this core issue of existence, we’d each seek violence to attempt to resolve it to our own personal narrow advantage. In this manner, we remain locked in our violence; some of us would become terrorists, and some of us would champion fascism as the way to go perpetuating this absurd division even further. Nationalism and fascism fragment existence that by definition cannot be fragmented. In the claim “Satchitananda”, “Sat” is the totality of existence without fragmentation, without division. In Sat, we are one, never two and never a many.

We have produced “global warming” and our solution to this serious issue is a joint approach to it as one existence that would either suffer (if we fail to do anything) or survive. This earth is part of me; the air that I breathe and the water that I take all are part of me. The world around me is me, with all its tears, cries of neglect, the unending brutality that it receives from fellow men. If the world ignores Darfur, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia the world will be the ultimate loser. If we ignore our dalits, our adibasis, our other backward classes based on our traditions and our sense of high-caste superiority, we’d be the ultimate loser. If we fragment our existence as Tamils, Maharashtrians, as Keralites or Biharis, we’d never be one blossoming flower with infinite potentiality TO BE.

We can live as isolated islands, or we can live together as one world. It’s up to us. If we are truly aware of the problem that division creates we’d never become divided. With our “nationalism” as our *locus standi* we can increase our adrenal flow for a while, through chest-thumping and our violent means to keep the “others in their place” we may temporarily create a reign of terror alive for a while, but sooner or later existence compels us to return to its fold with a payback. *Imperial Rome* didn’t last forever, the *Third Reich* didn’t last more than a decade; the *Fascist Italy* sank to a quagmire only to be rescued by a Marshall Plan. Even the superpowers of yesteryear are becoming increasingly irrelevant today.

To survive meaningfully, we need each other. If you hate me, your hate would propagate through corridors of interactions to others part of existence creating violent swings which

you may not be able to control when push comes to shove. If you are, on the other hand, “enlightened”, your enlightenment might induce me to discover myself “how to live” without nationalism, without violence, without props like superiority. If you “love unconditionally”, it would show me an alternate way to be: Perhaps, it’d be something that might invite me to a different plateau man has never been in its entire history of evolutionary existence.

Of course, if we simply say let’s get out of nationalism and embrace X or Y instead; it’d be a folly. To be totally free of anything that fragments, I need to burst through all those dualities like my religion, my politics, my country, my tradition, my upbringing, etc. Unless we personally see and discover the danger of “nationalism”, we’d never be steadfast on our claim – we would be wishy-washy. Do we really see the danger of nationalism, danger of existing divided? Is that our own personal knowledge that we could die for? Have we personalized it in our psyche?

**Have we really seen the danger of isolated living?**