

THE RACING HUMAN RACE. By J.N. Singh. Delhi : Jai Publications, 1997. Pp. 177, Rs 300/-.

The human race which is racing on, beyond, with and without the planet earth, traversing through the infinite cosmic field, needs to get the right track, posture, condition and direction to reach and achieve the necessary goal, destination and objective. Therefore, it requires a lot of advancing, accelerating, speeding, manoeuvring, stopping, retreating, changing, deviating, narrowing and broadening in its thinking, attitude, policy and behaviour. This is the central thesis of the present work.

The book under review 'The Racing Human Race' contains fifteen chapters apart from introduction and conclusion. The book views at the different aspects of the life.

The first chapter is about existential reality of human beings. According to author, every living being must ensure its existence. The author attacks the human being by stating that man has proved himself to be the wildest of all the living beings on the Earth by unintelligently manufacturing and stockpiling nuclear weapons and by spreading a new fatal disease AIDS which is incurable and has already claimed many lives the world wide.

The second chapter discusses about planetary indispensability. The author suggests that we need a substantial change in our emphasis from the human oriented to the Earth-oriented planning and programmes of action to ensure the long-term interest of the humanity. In the third chapter, author warns against the inhumane use of science and technology.

The fourth chapter is devoted to religious alignments. The author discusses various aspect of religion and expresses doubts about the existence of the 'Supreme being' known by different names such as God, Ishwar, Bhagwan, Allah etc. The author also discusses critically the concepts of revelation of religious scriptures, cosmos, creation of man and woman, body and soul, illusion/*maya*, *mahapralaya*, reward and punishment, heaven and hell, salvation, standards of behaviour. According to author, religion is created, nourished, sustained, developed and strengthened by man only and it needs to be treated as a discipline. Religious scriptures need to be read in the context of time, place and circumstances in which they were written and also the purposes which were intended to be served.

In the fifth chapter, the author suggests that the undesirable and unwanted part of the past must not be permitted to hang on. By learning from our past

experiences, we must try to improve our present and future.

In the sixth chapter, the author suggests to avoid ideological confrontation in the world. In the seventh chapter which is about political accommodation and management, the author expresses that political accommodation and balance is needed not only between the governments of different countries but also between the people and their respective governments.

The eighth chapter is related to territorial adjustment and settlement. According to author, the threat to unity and integrity of states is not only through external aggression but also because of secessionism on the part of certain sections of the people within the state. The author has also emphasised the need of self-determination in the nature of holding of referendum in those cases where the governments do not really represent the wishes of the people.

In chapters nine and ten which deal with 'Upwards Global Economic Balance' and 'Downwards Global Human Balance', the author states that the widening gap between the economic development of developed and developing countries should be reduced substantially. He says further that since the colonial relationship has enriched the North and severely degraded the natural resource base of the South, the former is obliged to do the needful for the upliftment of the later. The author has also emphasised the need of controlling global population.

In chapter eleven, the author suggests to have social, cultural and communicational interaction among human beings as there is basic oneness, unity, uniformity, equality and homogeneity among them around the globe. In chapter twelve, the author has appealed to the human beings to practise values in the form of justice, freedom, equality, peace and development etc. and ensure to the maximum.

In chapter thirteen, which deals with cosmo-global consciousness, the author tells the readers that man can not be absorbed into limited identities. The global identity of man is not the whole. His fundamental identity is cosmic. Therefore, intellectuals, reflecting the very essence of humanity, need to come forward and discharge their essential social, international and cosmo-global responsibilities. Chapter fourteen deals with cosmo-global legal system in which the author suggests that 'law of nations', 'international law' or 'global law' should be replaced by 'cosmo-global law' and the cosmo-global legal system, besides primarily having legal dimension, also needs to have non-legal, non-human, non-formal and non-governmental extension. The main emphasis of this system must be on the achievement of objectives and not on the legalism.

In the last chapter which is about cosmo-global civilization, the author says that ours is a cosmo-global civilization which is not only confined to Earth. The author raises many questions about human life and the cosmos which generally come in the minds of each one of us such as the mystery of birth and death; evolving, growing, developing, decaying, ageing and dying process; the purpose, object and necessity of the existence of the human race; the ultimate purpose of the existence of the cosmos etc. The author, therefore, stresses the need of having a sustainable and enduring, value-oriented, nature-oriented and knowledge-oriented cosmo-global civilization.

The author concludes his work by saying that human race must not conclude its race before the time it gets cosmically terminated. It must recognize the reality that mutual survival, co-existence and interdependence have relevance beyond state to state and man to man relationship.

The book is multidisciplinary in character and covers important areas including the survival of the human race and of the planet Earth and its essential system, environment, science and technology, religion, ideology, history, political settlement, territorial integrity, self-determination, world economy, human rights, culture, communication, international legal system and human civilization.

The author has not acknowledged the sources nor has he given the bibliography. The book is otherwise interesting and written in simple language. Being multidisciplinary in character, the book is worth keeping in all the libraries. The book has reasonably been priced at Rs. 300/- in these days of high prices. The reviewer congratulates the Jai Publications, Delhi for having beautifully published the book.

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