



EAS Bokhari

QUEENZOO ZOHUS

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Einstein and peace *Science*

Yet a deeper analysis of this remarkable scientist and his work points to the fact that he was a stark pacifist

agrees totally with Carl Jung who said ".... The only thing we have to fear on the planet is Man." Einstein's dialogue with the famous photographer Phillipse Halsman is interesting. Here it is:

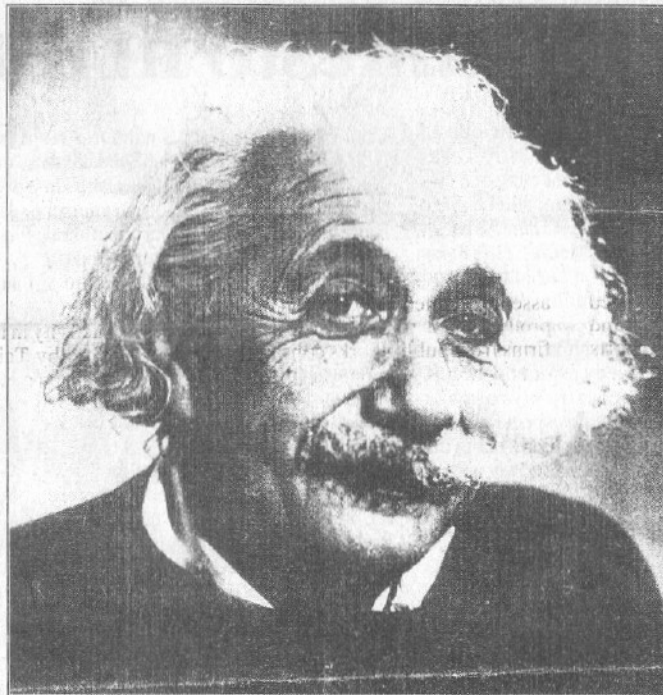
—Phillipse Halsman: So you don't believe that there will ever be peace.."

— Dr Albert Einstein: No, - as long as there will be Man, there will be war.."

Real peace is a difficult environment - and is perhaps only achievable at the journalist's typewriter, as it implies a total absence of conflict and friction. And then conflict can be many faceted - its basic ingredient being incompatibility. A conflict could be endogenous or it could be exogenous - symmetric/asymmetric or perhaps issue oriented or even structure oriented. It could be violent or even non-violent. Since 1945 there have been at least over 100 conflicts which could be termed as war (at least regional if not world wars.)

As pointed out earlier on - Einstein work is a landmark in the correct understanding of such baffling concepts as space, time, mat-

ter, energy and gravitation. These in fact are the riddle of universe, and have defied proper understanding since time immemorial.



Dr Albert Einstein

By partially debunking the Euclidian and Newtonian concepts of universe, Einstein has provided us rare insight in the understanding of universe. Einstein I should think has completely rationalised physics and cosmology. Till about the last day of his life he busied himself with physics. His last major work was the incomplete 'unified field theory' - which in fact was a single edifice of physical laws to encompass both the phenomena of atom and outer space!

Our Nobel Laureate late Dr Salam should get some credit for working on the unified field theory and completing it some extent - though yet not providing a single simple equation as Einstein had envisaged and hoped to work out to explain the phenomenon.

Notwithstanding his work in connection with the bomb - Einstein's devotion to peace could be well gauged from one of the observations of Lord Bertrand Russell. He said "....Einstein was not only a great scientist, he was

a great man. He stood for peace in a world drifting towards war. He remained sane in a mad world, and a liberal in a world of

fanatics.

Here is yet another quotation about his sanity and dedication to truth. "... Truth independent of man, independent of consciousness, independent of sense experience, independent of morality - this is Einstein's religion..."

Einstein was essentially a pacifist - till such time Hitler's Germany posed a threat to civilisation - when he was forced to temporarily advocate rearmament - but after the war, he developed a fundamental commitment to disarmament until his death. Just a few days before his death he was to subscribe to an anti-war statement prepared by Lord Russell. This was also signed by a number of other eminent scientists.

While addressing a pacifist rally on the floor of Reichstag after the World War I he said "...First, we might ask ourselves in what sense the problem of international affairs require today an approach quite different from that of the past - not just recent past, but the past half century. To me, the answer is quite simple: Due to technological developments, the distances throughout the world have shrunk to one-tenth of their former size... I believe the condition in which the world finds itself today makes it not only a matter of idealism but one of dire necessity to create unity and intellectual cooperation among nations... we should ask. What must our community do to lay the ground work for a larger world community."

In the post war years Einstein joined the league of Nations Committee on Intellectual Cooperation - but later resigned (within a year) because the League was functioning "as a tool of those nations which at this stage of history, happened to be dominant powers..." From now onwards he was an active pacifist throughout for the rest of his life.

(to be concluded)