



A talk by His Holiness the Dalai Lama  
The inaugural session  
Vidyaloke

On the 5th of February, 2017 Vidyaloke organised the inaugural session of a series of talks in an attempt to revive Ancient Indian wisdom in a modern scenario. The guest speaker for the session was His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

His infectious laughter, warm aura and happy demeanour enraptured the audience. The atmosphere of the stadium resonated peace, spirituality and one-ness. His Holiness believes that true independence in the world is an illusion, but rather every little facet of life is interdependent. This interdependence is based on the desire to be loved and to spread love. The meaning of life is happiness, and thus we strive to achieve things that make us most happy. For the world, according to His Holiness, the need to forget the boundaries created by nationality, religion, sex, colour and forge bonds to create a global identity was rudimentary.

Imminent, pressing matters such as global warming, the global economy crises etc can only be solved when the world chooses to work together as brothers and sisters. His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed his concern regarding the rampant terrorism and mass killings that have become the new normal in the news in the 21st century. He advocated above all, education, awareness, knowledge of tradition and training the mind to think analytically as a way to be happy, make others happy and solve seemingly impossible problems.

His Holiness commended India for its secular philosophy. To him, whether one is a believer or a non-believer, compassion is a central part of being human. Believing in a single creator and following religion whole heartedly was not the path to inner peace. Rather, meditation and knowledge were the key guides in the journey to happiness. He gave examples of Buddhist and Jain schools of thought to show the audience different perspectives. These perspectives are instrumental in dealing with problems as His Holiness suggested.

Lastly, His Holiness the Dalai Lama stressed on the key importance of developing the education system to defeat ignorance. Ignorance is the root cause of personal and public issues that plague our lives and it will continue to do so unless we help ourselves.

The impact of his words was all the more lasting when interspersed with his personal examples and humorous quips. As an individual, one had much to think about and much more to question. His Holiness, by gracing us with his presence and teaching us what he learnt imparted the necessary tools to be wiser and more honest individuals in the 21st century.

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