

The Killing, Wounding, and Starving

of Men, Women, and Children, whether called War or any any other name, are always accompanied by Deceit and Lying, Destruction and Stealing, to mislead and defeat the enemy.

If you approve of War, are you prepared to Lie and Steal, Deceive and Destroy, either of your own will or at the command of another person?

All those deeds cause misery and evil, and should be stopped at once without delay, whatever be the consequences.

Just as a Righteous Man will advise the Liar to cease Lying, and the Thief to cease Stealing immediately at all risks, so we should do with **Killing, Wounding, and Starving.**

And the only way to prevent or stop those and all other Evils is by **Love, Forgiveness, Kindness.**

Not Hate, Revenge, Retaliation, Punishment, which in reality aggravate and increase the Wrongdoings and Injuries.

Give these Remedies (Love, Forgiveness, Kindness) a fair trial, and mark their effect in Life.

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The Remedies proposed of Love (as expressed in) Forgiveness and Kindness are moral principles affecting every human being. They are based on the nature of man. The human heart responds more readily to them. Their tendency is to change, melt, soften the heart of the wrongdoer. Doubtless, they may sometimes fail, as all right living sometimes does. But they are the stronger, and most effectual for good. Wrongdoing of whatever kind, from the pettiest to the greatest, is more effectually stopped by those than by hate, revenge, retaliation, punishment. To forgive is the hardest of all tasks for the human mind. But mankind will never be elevated and purified till such and the principles of not resisting by violence are practised.

In the letter of Paul "to all that are in Rome called saints" (chap. xii. 20) he writes: "If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head." (A metaphor taken from the practice of melting metals by throwing burning coal on them.) That repeats Proverbs xxv. 21, 22. They are the same Greek words and in the same order as in Romans, so that Paul must have had at his elbow the Septuagint—the Greek translation from the Hebrew of the Old Testament—or had a very good memory. The great truth must have been recognised far back in Hebrew, perhaps Semitic, life. Probably extensively known all over the East, but crushed and obliterated by revenge and wars.

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