

Hurricane Katrina 2005#

Nature's Fury Defies Human Endeavour

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As misfortune would have it, among the sufferers of the Katrina calamity was the distinguished scientist and scholar Dr. Jasjit Singh Walia, of the University of New Orleans, Deptt. of Chemistry, who has contributed to SR dozens of articles on Gurmat. With Satguru's Grace, he is recovering from the calamity.

- Ed. SR

Nature's forces once again strike and prove their strength against the human endeavour. Over centuries natural calamities have been responsible for thousands of deaths with varied effects on geological features, incalculable amount of damage to property, man made structures, environment and impact on life.

In recent years nature's forces have been constantly striking our planet through floods, earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, drought, famine and diseases with no medical cure, forcing the human race to helplessly surrender and kneel down to the forces of nature.

Nature then becomes the master of human destiny as we merely become observers to a tragedy over which we have no control. The divine care of man and the universe is felt and experienced in moments of need and crises when astonishing events occur with such an overwhelming force that it is as if they address their victim by delivering a message to him. Bizarre, mysterious and unbelievable occurrences and happenings in this world become specified as Godly phenomena when they express - or signify - a reality however defined as a supernatural miracle beyond the human understanding and knowledge.

Nature inspired forces are a power to reckon with on this planet and an embarrassment to modern technology used in developing nuclear powered weapons of mass destruction as they are mere toys against the forces of mother Nature. It is a pity that modern science has developed no such technology to combat - or stop - nature's phenomena from following its natural course of destruction.

Over 15 months ago, the devastation caused by hurricane Katrina and the subsequent mayhem that ensued along the Gulf Coast in America dominated global news. Hurricane Katrina was an uncontrollable natural disaster which buried an entire city of New Orleans beneath water when the 17th street canal levee (which was engineered to withstand a category 3 hurricane) burst. This human catastrophe is classified as America's worst natural disaster and a sad chapter in US history. The humane approach and sympathy expressed by the human race towards the tragic loss of life, displaced victims and the bereaved families in effected areas signifies that an element of humanity and wisdom is still visible in our human society. Those who refused to evacuate had to live dangerously in flooded areas, with decomposed bloated corpses and inexorably contaminated toxic waste. Relief operations pumped and dumped contaminated toxic stew into Lake Ponchartrain and the Mississippi river. The adverse effects this polluted water will have on marine life and the environment could give you a myopic view of future unforeseen crises.

New Orleans has a population of almost 70% black Americans who are embarrassingly poor and are residents of the earth's most powerful and richest nation. It is beyond doubt that America, with all its modern technology and resources at its disposal, was helpless and failed to respond in time of need. As emotions ran high and the horrific story unfolded the Americans were appalled to find out the harsh reality. This horrific experience was evil, and unethical, for if you forget how to treat people as human beings whose humanity is in

question? Absolute truth is a very rare commodity, but this issue remains exceedingly contentious, for we can certainly not pretend that we are blind and do not exist, or is Americas generosity colour-blind and questionable? Americans will surely want to hear honest answers to tough question for all hearts to answer.

How sad is it to witness fellow humans in pursuit of political advantage or monetary gains are enticed to the devastated areas to make their cosmetic presence felt amongst ruins and to cash in on the tragic aftermath of hurricane Katrina!

As time enters the search for the timeless, and history bears witness to the atrocities, massacres and genocide committed by the human race against fellow humans we tend to forget. In order to gain supremacy on planet earth, the human race is bent upon exterminating fellow humans and forcefully turning this beautiful planet into a horror house. Surely, the Creator, through his strange ways and forces, punishes the human race who are bent upon destroying God's creation. One of the major issues the global media covers without fail on daily basis is the endless disputes and blood shed over terrorism, religious supremacy and territorial boundaries.

Quoting Guru Nanak "to save the face of the human race on this planet we, as humans, should all value life by creating peace, equality, tolerance and harmony against religious and communal frenzy." "Live and let live" ought to be preached globally by all religious institutions so as to foster a sense of human acceptance and tolerance amongst the egoistic human race. We should focus our resources and energy on the teachings of the divine Creator irrespective to our religious following so as to embrace nature which has nurtured endless human civilizations on this planet.

The miraculous powers of the divine Creator have been described in various religious scriptures and because of God's timeless character everything He prophesies is a message for the human race. Strange are the ways of God, in dealing with the destinies which He has carved for men, yet the human race fails to accept that Truth remains forever unchanged. Human race is certainly walking on thin ice on this planet. It is a pity that the human race does not have the muscle, nor the power, to produce Nature to stand trial before an International Tribunal for Welfare of Humanity.

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