

Love and Peace – A Musical Journey

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What this session was about:

This session's main aim was to make us realise the inefficiencies and casualties of war, and the pointlessness behind blind, untamed hatred, while also simultaneously encouraging brotherhood and peace through the language of festivals and music.

What I liked about the session:

- The anecdotes and pieces of music used were very apt and conveyed exactly what they were meant to convey.
- Sir translated anything we found difficult to understand/couldn't understand, which was the case for me, as I do not understand the languages used in the session (Like Punjabi). I was incredibly grateful for this.

What I didn't like about the session:

- Could have been organised a little better, to avoid technical difficulties at the beginning of the session.
- Random muting of people and professors, which could be solved by making people attendees instead of giving permissions.

My takeaways from the session:

We all share the same planet, the same sky, the same Sun, the same world, so why must we continue to harbour so much spite and hatred for people of our own kind? This session emphasised on the differences in cultures of various places and people, and showed how they could mingle peacefully, instead of fighting each other and trying to prove which should be followed and considered more important as the very notion of “better” doesn’t make sense here. Cultures vary wildly, but people can learn from all the diverse cultures which would make them understand other people’s point of view too. So much can be expressed in the forms of festivals and music, and this session showed me that. The session was composed entirely of various anecdotes and musical pieces that brought the ideas of people celebrating brotherhood and peace instead of continuing to follow the path laden with wars. Festivals like Basant Panchami and Lohri are celebrated by people of both countries, India and Pakistan. They are celebrated in different manners, but is that a reason to fight? We must accept these differences gracefully and welcome them with joy and grace. Sir then talked about blind patriotism and true patriotism, which is a notion I fully agree with. Blind patriotism is not what our nation, or the world for that matter, needs now. We do not need unjustified hatred between people just because it has been passed down for generations. We must break free from that endless vicious cycle and try our best to work together while being respectful of each other’s cultures, or maybe even adopting certain things from other cultures too. War will not lead us anywhere we like, and we need to understand that. All it breeds is suffering and causes more scars. We must not forget that we aren’t in a race with each other, but that we are all humans, and that our main goal is to advance and improve as a species. We must use technology to spread this idea, instead of spreading hatred and fostering more hate. The gross misuse of technology must be stopped, as it is an enormously powerful tool that can help us a lot if used correctly. Patriotism can mean love for one’s nation, but it most definitely does not mean hating other cultures and nations. This is what I learnt from the session.