



#### INTRICACY OF BEING: BOUNDARIES AND BEYOND

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Eons ago this world came into being an apocalyptic evolution; later the human race ruled the planet changing and molding it into towns and creating boundaries; keeping others of the same kind out and binding themselves into a solitude of pride. Nationalism is the name given to these boundaries, differentiating people on the basis of land expanses and cultures and ways of living. Nationalism is the sense of oneness against that of the otherness that threatens change and encroachment; it is the sense of security, community and belonging. Humans by nature are social animals longing for companionship and a home and nationalism is the sense of knowing their home and an emphasis on their identity and duty towards their nation. A tree can survive only if it holds firm to its

roots and origins. In a wider space of the world at large, nationalism is an individual's grasp on their identity; it's the sense of knowing and belonging, it's an individual's hold on their own identity. The grasp that an individual holds on this sense of belonging can become consuming and caging, trapping them in an elaborate web of self-righteousness, spun by those in power. Nationalism takes the form of a rigid normative and oftentimes suffocating structure rather than being a subjective art form painted with the brushes of history with the colors of the present to represent the strokes of the future. A tree which holds only to its origins dies of self-suffocation like a sapling curled into its seed refusing to come out.

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Globalization is the knife that cuts through the thick fog of self-implicated isolation which was as much a self-sabotage as it was a form of self-defense. Globalization is accessibility, outreach and acceptance. It is the exchange of cultures, ideas and the way of being. Opening old doors which were closed due to the past transgressions caused by globalization fueled by the want of human nature, the modern aspect of globalization guarantees new prospects and opportunities towards exploration and adventure. Fueling individuality and granting an individual a wider spectrum of discovery towards their own thoughts and ideologies, opening new norms which

diverge from the ones that an individual is conditioned to grow in Globalization introduces paths and practices which offer a new perspective towards the gray workings of the world rather than the presented black and white shrouding some with confusion and unease while some with liberation and new skies to soar in. The gray is murky and has an individual look through a lens that paints a few parts in a lighter shade detangling them from their belief system discarding it for something seemingly better. A tree whose roots don't hold strong thus washes away.

The consequence of these opposing perspectives offered by nationalism and globalization is not on



internal strife but also an imbalance in the delicate area of geopolitics. Geopolitics is using geographical structures as leverage to exert power. Geopolitics is using globalization as a shield and a tool for protecting nationalist ideals. Geopolitics is the gray area that globalization turns the masses attention towards and nationalism is the perspective adapted by the masses-supplied

by those in power- to perceive the struggles caused, the consequences are the horrors created by the lack morality as an act of self-preservation. Geopolitics is the lashing out of an animal in the wild due to survival instincts and another animal lashing out just as defensively for the preservation of their and theirs , an example would be the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine the roles of the preserver and defender depending of the lens adapted by the onlooker. The branches of the tree rub against itself creating embers that turn into consuming flames.

Pertaining to the ideas of preservation of oneself and the duty of an individual as a citizen and as an individual, two great thinkers come to mind: Martin Heidegger and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Two individuals with perspectives ironically parallel to one another. Heidegger was an irony switching from an anti-semantic mindset to that of an philosopher pondering the vastness of being whereas Gandhi was a paradox using modern means to spread an anti-modern message

asking the masses to face the truth while painting an idealistic picture of a righteous civilization. The essence of Heidegger's philosophy states that humans have lived lives centered around themselves viewing themselves as an island whereas perceiving others as separate , themselves unique and wanting to be untouched by this 'otherness' . In the context of nationalism, globalization is the feared and unwanted 'otherness' beginning of which was fuelled by the misplaced sense of superiority of their own nation and

values, values which lead the pilgrims to convert the natives and then the government to seize control and colonize. The human flaw lays in viewing the inhabitants around them as means thus tools and not as ends. Gandhi who was one of the many victims of the west's lens of 'otherness' thus held close his views of us and them , distinguishing the western civilization as the 'Modern' and ignorant counterpart of the 'Ancient' Indian civilization. Gandhi was steadfast in adhering to the scripture prescribes dharma as a means to invoke patriotism, as a reminder of their 'Bharatiya' roots the identity of the nation before being coined as India by the west even before being coined as Hindustan by the Mughals. He emphasized on 'Swaraj' the rule of oneself on oneself which held the sense of self of an individual to the highest of regards.

Although ironically different, the paths that are taken by Heidegger and Gandhi are parallel, providing a firm stepping stone towards global amiability and resolution to geopolitical conflicts. Gandhi's strength lay in the correct utilization of the most powerful resource-human resources. He achieved his goals of nationalism through mass mobilization and making the citizens realize their own power and through the utilization of this power great leaps can be taken towards the betterment of the world as a whole. The ones in power are in power because the citizens of a nation have allowed them to be in power but due to the lack of awareness on the citizens part their complacency has increased making them the tools for fueling the agendas of those in power and exercising their power and right will place the nation on the correct path internally but the knowledge of this power will set in motion prosperity. Heidegger's power lay in breaking the barriers between oneself and others. Geopolitical conflicts are power struggles to ensure that the 'others' don't encroach on what is one's 'own' ,its self-preservation as well as self-defense. Humans aren't an island and thus by extension the nations aren't either.



One needs the other not only to survive but also to thrive especially in the face of a crisis like global warming threatening the existence of the human race itself. It is thus important to look at everyone as they are- beings. Beings made of the same flesh, beings that bleed red. The core of humanity and the survival of

the human race depends on empathy towards one another and to exist like an ecosystem in a glass jar, with mutual respect, dignity and healthy codependency; for a tree that holds firm to its roots while furthering towards the pursuit of more thrives.

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