

# Peace Begins With Me

Through working hard in accomplishing little steps that will lead to the ultimate goal and being determined in what you are doing, peace can be accomplished and it can start with any one of us, you or me. If we all make it our mission to be a peacekeeper within our community, we will achieve global peace.

We have no control of the past, but we do have control of the present and the future. We are the future. Every future event, catastrophe and victory is in our hands. In order to achieve peace and harmony, we must act now because it is not something that can be accomplished overnight. Confucius, a Chinese philosopher, once said a journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. Let us make our step by becoming a peacekeeper here, at home. Stopping the violence in schools and eliminating abuse is one step closer to obtaining universal peace. If we join hands, we can accomplish so much. One voice can speak but a million voices can roar. If we combine our efforts we can achieve peace. It can be initiated by any one of us, your or me. *I* can start a petition to stop child slavery and *you* can sign it. Or *you* can start a peaceful protest eliminating gang violence and *I* can rally. Perhaps we are not famous or rich, but if we can touch the people that do have the power to influence laws and such, we can change the world. We can save lives not only here at home, but millions of miles away. A single person can create peace, either with a signature or a voice. Peace begins now, not later.

Most importantly, it is our determination that will lead us to peace. If we make it at the bottom of our priority list, it will be the last thing we will ever get around to do. If we maintain our current mindset, and believe that it is the sole responsibility of world leaders to achieve peace, we will not achieve it. In Canada, and other democratic countries, we are not controlled by our national leader; we control them because we have the power to vote on decisions. Our leader is obliged to listen to our voice, so instead of being ignorant to this blessing, let us make use of it. Peace begins with me. I have the power to make my voice heard and so do you. If we keep procrastinating and diverting our efforts elsewhere, we are costing even more lives, even more violence and even more grief. Peace is not just a word. It is a notion that will make the world a happier and safer place for every single one of us.

Every action has a consequence. A positive action will have a positive consequence whereas a negative action will yield a negative one. How can the world obtain peace? Firstly, we must thank our peacekeepers for shedding light in the dark places around the world. If each of us sheds some light, can we not eliminate the dark places in its entirety? When we all begin to take action towards the common goal, peace will be attained. Peace begins with me. No, I am not a political leader or a person with any star power whatsoever. I am an ordinary person, who, like everyone else, wants to live in a peaceful world. I am a person who wants child warfare to stop. I am a person who wants everyone to live in a society where they do not have to be terrified of finding their mother dead or their father imprisoned. I am a person who is sick and tired to seeing devastating images on television and wondering when it will all stop, or if it ever will. I am a person who wants peace. It is more than a desire; it is my life mission that will be accomplished.

*Preeti*