Dignity Of Life

By Hritwik Sarangi, 12-B

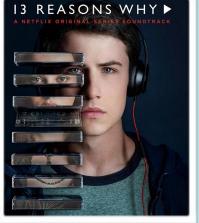
"While the western world finds itself at logger heads with inevitability of diversity that comes from multiculturalism, we in India had adopted it a millennium ago."

Three scores and ten years ago, this motherland of ours broke the chains that had bound her hands for the past two centuries. The chains that had tamed development and rationalism in the past had instead spurted enmity. Yet, have the goals of 'equality and freedom' and 'dissimilar yet interdependent' been achieved yet? Have we successfully embossed Gandhiji's dream of 'Ram Rajya' in the real world? Or has India still not recovered from the horrors of its past? While the western world finds itself at logger heads with inevitability of diversity that comes with multiculturalism, we in India had adopted it a millennium ago. However, the need and absence of gender equality fuel the burning question of whether this mother of ours is after all, free from female infanticide, domestic violence and the dark clouds that loom over the serene blue sky of Indian democracy? Are we to loiter behind in terms of social standards? It comes down to the brothers of this land, who should stand in front of, rather than beside, our very own sisters and strangle any impudence against them.

The great philosopher, Jean-Jacques Rousseau once very famously said, "Man is born free, but everywhere else he is in chains!"

At this juncture, I wonder whether that applies aptly to the daughters of this mother - our India.

Review it



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Written in a dual point of view, Asher's book revolves around actions and their consequential reactions. Hannah Baker, a lively girl, is subjected to depression and commits suicide. Now it's upon Clay Jensen, a studious pupil with a spotless reputation to listen to her tapes and figure out the reason behind her suicide.

The element in which Hannah still exists posthumously makes Thirteen Reasons Why a mystifying thriller - both as a novel and a web series.

Insight

Akshat Pandey, X-H: The boy who wrote a book (The Unholy Intervention) at the age of 15

What kept you inspired and motivated to write the book and make it happen?

My interest in different mythological gods and demons kept me motivated, especially Greek and Egyptian. I actually had the book theme thoughts since the annual exams of my previous class, so I just started writing it down and was able to finish my book in a fortnight. My thoughts of becoming a best seller kept me motivated.

What is your book about?

My book is about a fight between Gods and demons on the judgement day i.e. the last day of the universe. Jason, the protagonist wishes to avert the end of the universe on the scenario of the demons triumphing.

What else do you like to do for fun?

Well, I listen to English songs, usually metal and hard rock. Also, whenever I listen to a new song I try to get it right on my synthesiser. I also like to read sci-fi books and play computer games.



The Favourite Box <u>Book:</u> 'And Then There Were None' by Agatha Christie. <u>Movie:</u> Interstellar

<u>Song:</u> 'Across the line' by Linkin Park.

Global Citizens

With lush green landscapes, stunning beaches, scenic backwaters and mountain treks, Kerala is a tourist's paradise. However, there's trouble brewing in the paradise with Padanna in its thick. Padanna, a hamlet in the Kasagrode district in the Northern part of Kerala has gained notoriety in the last few years for sending young men and women to join the Islamic State (IS). The IS may be on the retreat in Iraq and Syria, but its virulent ideology still poses a threat; it's not yet the end of the line for IS - something which is premature to assume.

"In my world there are no bad kids, just impressionable and conflicted young people wrestling with their emotions and impulses, trying to communicate their feelings and needing the only way they know of."



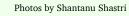
There have been claims suggesting that those who allegedly joined IS ranks might have desired to practise the doctrine of Salafism voluntarily, rather than being coerced. Since the number of Indians who might have joined the IS is fewer than 100, in absolute terms and percentage their number is minuscule. Yet, they pose a security threat especially for India, which is already receiving cross border terrorism, and IS recruitment only augments national woes. Most of the of IS recruits come

Source: Internet from Kerala, and according to some reports, Indian intelligence agencies have traced some of them to Afghanistan's Eastern province of Nangarhar, bordering Pakistan. One of the 21 missing youngsters from Kerala who had joined the IS was killed in an airstrike conducted by the US in the Nangarhar province. MOAB (Massive Ordnance Air Blast) – a non nuclear bomb which also goes by the nickname 'mother of all bombs' was the payload to deliver on 13 April for the US military. However, the airstrike seems to be a temporary solution and it is the need of the hour for us to find a real solution to prevent our motherland from degrading down to a country associated with terrorism.

Wallflowers of the School Staff

Out of all the new additions and changes that have been taking place, our senior school's garden next to the basketball and tennis courts is one to look out for. All the hard work and effort put in by various school authorities and the workers seem to have finally paid off. Following a brief talk with the gardeners, we grasped that the junior ones learnt the art of gardening from the senior mali and all three of them were really passionate about their work. (If you happen to meet junior mali bhaiya, don't forget to wish him for he recently got married!). Here's what the senior mali had to say:





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"There are about 25 varieties of flowers in all, and I believe onlookers like seeing the rose plants the most. I think having 'green fingers' is a blessing from the creator. Gardening and nature are a part of my soul. When it comes to children plucking the flowers, I feel devastated, but the smiles on their faces lift my mood up."