

Surely We Can Talk Again

Anthology of Pakistani writing on Peace

Edited by

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PAKISTAN



INDIA

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SHOULD PAKISTAN AND INDIA BURY THE HATCHET?

still carrying our hatchet? Our undeclared state of war only brainwashes us, makes more of us unemployed, and condemns us to ignorance and poverty while the rest of the world moves on.

From our side, let's put an end to our confrontation with India. If the Indians reciprocate, wonderful. But even if they don't, even if they continue to growl from across the border, we will still be better off than we are today, because at least we will have begun to move away from a self-destructive value system which places killers at its apex and teachers and doctors at its feet.

It is time we recognized that our conflict with India distorts the very nature of our society. It, for one, would rather belong to a people known for their determination to live well, not for their determination to die well.

Let's bury our hatchet and plant a mango tree on top of it.

Basit Haqqani

Author of Pappio

We have been brought up, like bonsai trees — cut, pruned and forced to grow in one direction, prevented from growing in another. Those who control our destiny call this directed development “nation building”. They deny that nations grow through an autonomous process, nurtured by the nutrients absorbed by the roots, down below, from the soil. They regard nationalism as a top-down process, fed by airy stuff gathered by the canopy. That also explains our fascination with, and unquestioning subordination to, ideology.