

# The Hydrogen Bomb

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The dominant fact of the modern world is atomic energy and its dreadful symbols - the atomic bomb and the hydrogen bomb. If these terrible weapons are let loose on humanity, all our hopes are dashed to pieces and humanity perishes. We have protested against war and against the production and experimentation of these weapons. It must be remembered that even without war, if these experiments of explosions of the hydrogen bomb go on, eminent scientists tell us that the future of humanity is imperilled. And yet we have recently had such an experiment in the Soviet Union and we are told that there is going to be another experiment in the Pacific areas. All this is of tremendous practical importance to every human-being and it raises moral issues of great significance.

We have talked of peace and followed a policy of peace in our external relations. We have put forward the Panchsheela or the Five Principles and spoken of peaceful co-existence. All this has no meaning if the hydrogen bomb pursues its triumphant and malevolent career.

This year, we celebrate an event of high significance - the two thousand five hundredth anniversary of the Buddha. Let us remember the message of this greatest son of India whose light has illuminated not only our country but the world for these thousands of years. That message was inscribed later by the great Ashoka on rock and stone which stand today to bear witness to the truth that has guided India through the ages. It is only by the recognition of this great truth that our country and the world will prosper. If the world denies and repudiates it and goes along its violent courses, it will perish.

*From a Broadcast message, 16 January 1956.*