Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves.” — Dalai Lama. What does this quotation mean to you?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Inner peace, self-awareness, emotional balance, compassion, self-discipline, conflict resolution, non-violence, ethical leadership, emotional intelligence, social harmony

Model Answer

Meaning of the Quotation

The quotation suggests that external peace is closely connected with inner tranquillity. Individuals overwhelmed by anger, greed, fear or prejudice may transfer these emotions into relationships and institutions. Inner peace helps cultivate balanced and constructive behaviour.

Ethical Significance

- **Self-awareness:** Understanding one's emotions and biases reduces impulsive decisions.
- **Emotional regulation:** Calm individuals are better able to resolve disagreements without hostility.
- **Compassion:** Inner stability makes it easier to understand others' suffering and respect different perspectives.
- **Non-violence:** Peaceful attitudes encourage dialogue rather than aggression.
- **Ethical leadership:** A composed leader can handle criticism, pressure and crises without resorting to retaliation or unfairness.

Illustration

During a communal disturbance, an emotionally balanced district magistrate can resist inflammatory rhetoric, verify information, communicate calmly with communities and enforce the law impartially. Such conduct can help restore public confidence and prevent escalation.

Broader Application

Inner peace alone cannot eliminate structural injustice or political conflict. Peace also requires fair institutions, accountability and protection of rights. Personal calm must therefore be translated into just action.

Conclusion

The quotation highlights the relationship between personal ethics and collective harmony. Inner peace does not mean passivity; it provides the emotional stability needed to confront injustice rationally, compassionately and courageously.

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