

CONFLICTS WITHIN & CONFLICTS WITHOUT-5

[We would like to start this segment of the series by noting an observation Buddha, himself, is said to have expressed on false speech.]

Herein one avoids lying, abstains from falsehood. He speaks the truth, is devoted to the truth, reliable, trustable, never deceiving any one. Being at a meeting, among family, in society, or in the court called upon and asked as witness to tell what he knows, he answers if he knows nothing: I know nothing; & if he knows, he answers: I know! If he has seen nothing, he answers, he answers: I have seen nothing & if he has seen something, he answers: I have seen this and that. Thus he never deliberately speaks a lie, neither for his own advantage, nor for the advantage of others, nor for the sake of any trivial gain whatsoever.

[Since reading some of Ven. Buddhadasa Thero's translations we came to the conclusion that our effort to interpret the Buddha word is not necessary. Even in translations, his observations are equally relevant today, as it was in his day. We humbly insert other observations of the Buddha on MUSAVADA.]

He avoids divisive speech, spreading rumors, tale bearing, and gossip What he has heard here he does not repeat there wishing to cause dissension thereby splitting those united. What he has heard there, he does not tell here so as to cause conflict by splitting friends here. Rather, he unites those who are divided; and those who are united, he encourages. Harmony, peace, agreement and concord gladden him. He delights and rejoices in Harmony. He speaks and grows Harmony!

He avoids vain talk, empty and small talk, void speech and idle prattle! He abstains from all babble, chitchat, tittle-tattle and evil hearsay. He speaks at the right time, in accordance with facts, speaks what is useful, speaks about the Dhamma and the Discipline; his speech is like a precious treasure, well-timed, always reasoned by arguments, moderated, well-formulated, and full of sound reason and common sense. In this – for all – very good way, is purity of verbal action, fourfold.