

The Himalayan Tsunami

- A poem by Sachin bhai

The devastating Floods,
The ghastly land-slides,
The inclement climate,
The overpowering cloud-burst,

Ah! What Spectacle! What drama!
The Sky is rent with cries, shouts, pain, agony, misery....

The bridges overthrown,
The roads all covered with boulders,
The houses all destroyed,
The vehicles smashed to bits,
The trees fell down,
The villages everywhere blanketed with debris,
Dead bodies afloat rivers,
Animals lost or dead,
All engulfed by the raging Nature & its angst-ridden fury
unabated.....

O! What Scene! What Destruction!
The land of God-Uttarakhand, the four holy shrines,
The sacrosanct places & the divine pilgrimage –
All turned into the land of Ruins & ghosts!

The Ravaging menace of Flash-floods & rock-falls,
The sinister brimming doom drowning all & sundry,
And the divine wrath sparing none...

Oh! Such never-seen-before tragedy & unprecedented misery!

What language, what assembly of words can paint this horrific Dance of Nature?

The swelling rivers pouring pain & misery drowned all lives unabashedly
And the mortal beings were left blubbering,
Those killed were washed away & some were strewn in the holy shrines as decomposing carcasses,
Those alive were stranded atop treacherous mountains & shaky land-days after days without food, water, relief....only fear-stricken hearts, sobs & mental turmoil...

The nature's fury knew no bounds,
Death toll kept swelling,
And the actual figures are exceedingly fatter than those displayed...

The villages after villages disappeared,
Unnumbered lives lost,
Thousands still missing,
Countless injured,
And almost all benumbed.

The survivors recount the horror stories that makes one's hair stand on end,
The grief-stricken pilgrims are haunted by night-mares of those indescribable moments,

Their thumping hearts & fast pulses are tell-tale signs
Of the tragedy experienced...

Many relatives are still searching their near & dear ones
And are in state of irreversible shock,
The walls are all plastered with photos & cell numbers of
missing parents, brothers, sisters, kids, grandpas &
grannies...
All enquires futile, all help lines tried,
No rest...no relief...no peace...
Rising of hopes with every novel bus coming to ISBT, with
every chopper landing in helipad,
And then insurmountable heart-pangs when eyes see all
strangers...

More than 10 days now after the calamity,
The rescue operation still on,
Thousands have been evacuated,
Three cheers to all those gallant & chivalrous officers who
risked their own lives to save those flood-hit souls,
We salute all Jawans of NDRF, Army, Navy, Air force,
ITBP, Police...!!!
Oh! What courage! What display of valor at such time!

Such tireless service of humanity has made them the
“Living Angels” for all those worst-hit beings!
We hear the sounds of choppers ceaselessly,
We see them flying non-stop,
We behold their valor all the time,

The whole nation is indebted to them...None can forget their pains-taking efforts & sacrifice.

Also we see at **Relief Camps** such a united India, India-the land of Divinity & diversity-stood as one body! All people, all religions, all castes, all sects, all states & organizations-**All Bharatwasis become one & stepped forwards to champion the cause of afflicted Uttarakhand...**

All free for all,
Food, water, clothes, Medical Aids, phone calls, recharges,
& what not ...!

O what love! What unity!
Everyone extending hand of help,
A word of comfort,
A smile that reaches the heart,
A touch that relieves the heart-woes &
The charity that emanates from the core...

But **the horrendous calamity brings out the worst along with the best of Human nature,**
Whereas on one side there is extreme selflessness,
empathy, feeling of universal brotherhood,
At the same time polarized selfishness, overpowering
avarice, unbridled lust also emerge from the Human heart!!

The survivors who were stranded amid those holy shrines,
now in ruins, were plundered by the locals,

The cash & the jewellery looted,
The food & water were sold at exorbitant prices,
The valuables were burgled,
Even the dead were not spared...

On one side, there was formidable devastation & on the other the unthinkable worst phase of human behavior.
What can add more to the misery of those stranded!!

Near ones lost or dead, valuables stolen, bag & baggage washed away-Ah! Such pain!

Some injured grievously, some sustained minor injuries-
But all hearts sank in the flood of gloom, in the deluge of helplessness...

All hopes inundated, all souls shrunken, all eyes benumbed with surpassing distress....

And what about the **local inmates**?

Whilst all helping eyes were zeroed in on tourists & pilgrims, the local residents were totally left to their own fate,

They lost their all-near & dear ones, cattle, fields, houses, belongings....None to reach them, none to comfort them, Inaccessible areas, remote villages, far-flung fields....

And what is **Government** doing?

Caught in the intricate inter-party rivalry none left any stone unturned to feast on people's misery,
Funds poured,

Aids given,
To malign each other many tricks tried...the vested
interests came to the fore, fiery speeches delivered,
Aerial surveys done, newspapers headlines filled their
glories,
But what to that to those afflicted?

And now almost all the stranded survivors evacuated,
Medical aid given, the slow process of psycho-social
rehabilitation would begin soon...

The utterly ravaged physical infrastructure, hovering
gloom, the fear of epidemic, the early decomposition &
decay of carcasses, the identification & the cremation of
the corpses – All still remains on the anvil !

**The reconstruction of Uttarakhand is now an uphill
task!**

The Agricultural land, shops, roads, power lines, bridges,
Houses, live-stock- All reduced to zero....

The process of temple purification, future planning of
pilgrimages, the installation of weather forecasting devices,
rebuilding of houses, drainage system- Much more to be
done !

Hospital are chock-a block with victims,
Many not yet recovered from the nightmares of the
witnessed destruction & looming fears of disease epidemic!
And migration to relatives in plains & cities has already
begun...

And now as almost all the rescue operations are towards the flag end,

We also contributed an iota & did our job:

Of relieving the misery of the afflicted,

Of giving a slight relief from physical ailment,

Of giving pure vibrations of peace & happiness & love

Of comforting the distressed,

Of sharing the sorrow....

And today we are going back to our home –Abu!

The only way we shall help them from now onwards is through “**Sakash-Pure vibrations**”...What more can we really do?

All our help seems to be but a drop in the Ocean!!

At last we only pray to the Good Lord:

“May all be happy! May all be healthy!

May all experience prosperity in everything!

May all be free from suffering!!”

Disaster Relief Team,
GHRC, Mount Abu

(From Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, 28th June 2013)