

Preview of *The Price of Silence: Muslim-Buddhist War of Bangladesh and Myanmar* by Shwe Lu Maung *alias* Shahnawaz Khan, published by DewDrop Arts & Technology, USA. ISBN 1-928840-03-5.  
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For more information contact email: [dewdrop@shwelumaung.org](mailto:dewdrop@shwelumaung.org).

## Epilogue

If Socrates were a man of our time he could have been detained without any formal charges, and tortured to death, being suspected as a communist, a reactionary, or a terrorist, under a variety of national security acts. A journey of 2,500 years has not made us better humans than those Athenians. As a man of science, Charles Darwin would be disappointed to know that many schools and universities across the world do not teach the evolutionary principles that he so methodically outlined in his book *Origin of Species*. To billions, he is just another atheist. Inspired by John Lennon, one may be able to imagine ‘there is no heaven, no hell below us, no religion’, or ‘all the people living life in peace’, but one will simply be discredited as a counter-culturist. Everyone has a dream that he or she would like to realize. Carl Sandburg made it worthwhile saying, “Nothing happens unless first a dream”. It may be beautiful, but in reality it may just be another Shakespearean *midsummer night dream*.

Although we hold that ‘all men are created equal’, as inscribed in the US Declaration of Independence, there always exists a privileged class of human. This has led to hatred, conflicts, and wars. In Gettysburg, 1863, when “we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth” Abraham Lincoln laid down the principle of a universal reason to kill and to die for.

For an ordinary person, the bitter reality of Niccolo Machiavelli’s *The Prince* is very hard to bear. Helpless in the deep sea of anguish, I may just join Rabindranath Tagore in his silent prayer.

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What is *the silent prayer* of Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), the winner of the 1913 Nobel literature prize?  
What will be the impact of his prayer on the Muslim-Buddhist war of Bangladesh and Myanmar?  
The answer is in my book. You can read it.



SLM(SK)  
A Social Darwinist