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We might say that attachment involves clinging to what we perceive as desirable; aversion is doing all it takes to avoid what we perceive as undesirable. We want the positive people or pleasure in our lives to continue; the painful or hurtful experiences or people to end.

It is not just the

extremes of aversion like rage that may prompt one to harm or take the life of another, or even of oneself, in order to get rid of or escape what one hates so much, that we must pay attention to. There are everyday aversions that eat away at us, from those that mildly annoy and disturb us, to those that drive us crazy, and end up occupying way too much time and space in our hearts and minds.

Things 'as-they-are' make us wish they were not. Think of the displeasure we feel around unpleasant weather -- it's too hot, too humid, too cold; or the discomfort of minor physical pain of a twisted ankle and wishing that it goes away. What about condemning or avoiding others for their perceived flaws? Or the hurt when a person points out your wrongdoings; cutting them off is our solution. If you grumble a lot over how things are, chances are you are a prime avoider.

Marguerite Theophil

■ **OMKAR DATTATRAY**

Better late than never and this postulate is appropriate so far as the repeal of the farm laws is concerned. Finally the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the right decision of the repeal of the farm laws on the eve of the birth anniversary of the Guru Nanak. The decision to repeal the three farm laws has been taken a bit late but it is a welcome decision. The decision shows that the governments have to bow before the agitating people and in the present case before the agitating farmers in a democracy. The farmers were agitating for the last over one year and were demanding the repeal of the three controversial farm laws as they thought these against the interests of the farming community and hence were demanding the cancellation of the farm laws. During the one year long protests the farmers had talks with the government on various occasions but the talks were futile and fruitless as the government of NDA was not agreeing to repeal the farm laws while the agitating farmers were demanding the dropping of the controversial three farm laws. Many farmers sacrificed their precious lives during over one year long agitation however their sacrifices will not go waste. But now, NDA Government headed by the BJP has acceded to the demands of the protesting farmers and have repealed the three farmer laws in the interests of the country. The decision of the cancellation of the farm laws has been welcomed by the farmers and the different political parties and the happiness of the farming community knew no bounds. The repeal

of the farm laws showed that the government was forced to bow before the agitating farmers as the people are the real masters in a democracy and the government has finally accepted the demands of the protesting farmers. The Prime Minister has taken this bold decision because of the political compulsion as the elections in the five states are round the corner. The people and the political pundits say that the decision to repeal the farm laws has been taken by the Prime Minister because the elections are nearing in the five states. It was perceived by the people that the three farm laws and their continuance will have greater ramifications on the upcoming elections in the five states and hence the Prime Minister has cancelled the three farm laws which were the bone of discord and contention between the government and the protesting farmers. The three farm laws were the point of ego between the government and the farmers and finally the centre government has rescinded the controversial farm laws in the interest of the country. In a democracy everything is weighed by the political parties and the governments on the touchstone of vote bank politics and hence the annulling of the farm laws has been done because of the political compulsion. The Prime Minister in the address to the nation on the eve of the Gurpurab has said that the government has failed to convince the farmers about the benefits of the farm laws and hence the centre government is now annulling the controversial laws in the interest of the nation. The annulling of the farm laws has been welcomed by the farm community by and large. The

Prime Minister has appealed the agitating farmers to return to their homes and farms since their demand has been accepted by the government. The Modi government has now shown flexibility and has repealed the farm laws and has given the impression that the centre is working in the interest of the farmers particularly the small farmers. Now that the demands of the farmers have been accepted by the Prime Minister and so farmers' leaders should end their protest and return to their homes. There is no point in continuing the strike as the demands of the farmers have been agreed by the Prime Minister and the one year long protest should now end and pave way for the cordial relations between the government and the farming community. The centre government has acceded to the demands of the agitating farmers and now it is the turn of the farmers to end their one year long agitation. But, Rakesh Tikait the farmers leader who is spearheading the agitation has said that the farmers will not end their agitation till the three farm laws will not be rescinded by the due process of law in the countries parliament. However there is no point in the continuance of the agitation as the Prime Minister has made it clear that the three farm laws will be rescinded by the due process of law in the winter session of the parliament. Thus the farmers should end their strike and return to their normal work. Since the demand of the farmers has been accepted by the powers and the protesting farmers should call off their one year long strike in the interest of the nation as there is no fun in the continuance of the agitation.

Since the government has shunned its ego and now it is the turn of the farmers' leaders to shun their ego and call off their protest and return to their normal work. However the farmers are not going to end their strike as of now as the farmers' leaders have said that the strike will continue till the farm laws will not be cancelled in the parliament of the country. Since the Prime Minister has said that the rescinding of farm laws will be vetted by the due process of the law in the august parliament and hence the farmers should end their strike and return to their homes. The farmer leaders should show magnanimity and welcome the bold decision of the Prime Minister of rescinding of the three farm laws. Finally the government was compelled to annul the controversial laws in the interest of the nation and the farmer leaders should accept the decision of the cancellation of the laws by the Prime Minister and the farmers should return to their homes and start the normal work. In brief there is no point in continuing the protest when the demands of the farmers have been accepted by the powers. However the government should come clean on the demand of the guarantee of the minimum support price-MSP of the farm produce and should guarantee the same if it is interested in the welfare of the farming community. Since the Modi government has accepted the main demand of the protesting farmers and it is now turn of the farmers leaders to call off their strike in the interest of the nation.

(The author is a columnist and
social activist).

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