

facing turmoil with violence, there lies a strong need to bring up children in an environment promoting peace and to create a healing approach so as to not restrict the next generation by the complexity of the global society. The book shares insights on family values like cohesion and equality for the good of the children. Divided into six chapters, the book uncovers the many ways of minimizing emotional strain in family members due to the changes that take place in whirlwind speed.

In the first chapter titled 'Nurture', Joan Haliburn looks at the influence of family in one's life. Many events in a person's life like parenting techniques, violence, abuse, marriage or divorce can make or break him/her. It talks about the attachment theory, highlighting the importance of a nurturing relationship between the mother and her child for its emotional development. The chapter discusses the importance of nurturing, parenting methods and their transfer from one generation to the other, mental health and the concept of identity that constitutes towards the behavioural development of individuals, especially during their adolescence years. Haliburn also touches upon the topics of attachment trauma involving families and societies with the aid of the research conducted in these fields.

The second chapter by Victoria W. Thoreson titled 'Polishing the jewels of humanity: sharing responsibility for children' highlights the role of the society in shaping the personality of young minds. According to Thoreson, it is the responsibility of the society to nurture a global civic spirit and a culture of caring for children to grow up in. The third chapter by Sami Timimi looks at the consequences of globalization in both developed and developing nations on the minds and the emotional well-being of children. Today's globalized economy is not just limited to exchange of ideas, but also ideas and values that result in new social and cultural challenges. It underlines how shifting of one's focus away from the family towards an individualistic approach has the potential to give rise to unhappy childhood and related behavioural problems.

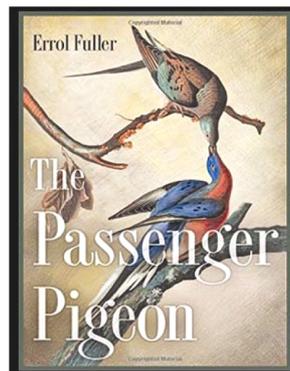
In 'Intimacy: stabilizing and strengthening family life', Beverly Musgrave explores the role of intimacy and empathy in a relation matrix. She also defines the role of culture, religion, gender per-

spectives, values and beliefs that shape the developmental process of a family for many generations. In chapter 5, John Shea touches upon the topics of honour and empathy as the essence for mutual development. He talks about social justice, spirituality and the power of the individual in building a culture of peace. The book concludes with the chapter 'Future of the family and family of the future: the unity based family and the advent of a civilization of peace' by H. B. Danesh. This chapter reviews the essential and irreplaceable functions that occur within a family. The author also describes the different categories families fall into and the relative contribution and participation of its members. Danesh recommends creating unity-based families which give priority to issues like equality and peace.

This book is highly recommended for students and professionals interested in family studies and human development. It would also prove to be useful to people involved in social and community work to help understand the importance of good family nurturing in order to create a culture that promotes peace.

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The Passenger Pigeon. Errol Fuller. Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, USA. 2014. 184 pp. Price: US\$ 29.95.

And then there were none...

This book marks the 100th year of the extinction of the passenger pigeon from

its habitat in North America. Found in large flocks, their numbers tumbled down towards extinction with the arrival of colonizers on the continent. Drawing from historical notes and records, the author Errol Fuller narrates the story of the passenger pigeon with the help of beautiful illustrations and archived photographs.

Since the arrival of the Europeans into the new found lands of the North American continent, species like the ivory billed woodpecker and the passenger pigeon have gone extinct due to rapid hunting and colonization. Each species has its own tragic tale on how it went extinct. The passenger pigeon gets its name from the French word 'Passanger' meaning passing by. A slender bird with long wings and a long tail, it was known for flying long distances in search of food. Found in large flocks, their numbers were estimated to be around 3–5 million during the early 19th century. The well-known American literary writer Mark Twain in his biographies wrote on the passenger pigeon:

'I remember the pigeon seasons, when the birds would come in millions and cover the trees and by their weight break down branches.'

Fuller is an acclaimed artist and has authored books like the *Dodo*, *The Lost Birds of Paradise* and has co-authored *Drawn from Paradise* with Sir David Attenborough. In this book he describes different aspects of the passenger pigeon in nine chapters. Fuller also dwells on the reasons the passenger pigeon did not survive the 20th century while many other birds like the Kakapo parrot in New Zealand did despite being heavily hunted. Over-hunting and destruction of the beech and chestnut forests which the pigeons were highly dependent upon were the main reasons behind the extinction of the species. Added to this was the fact that the passenger pigeon was evolutionarily adapted to survive in large groups. With the rapid destruction of woodlands for agriculture and development, areas that were vast enough to support large flocks of passenger pigeons were no longer available. Also, birds in such large flocks were an easy target for hunters. Initially the pigeons were hunted to provide cheap meals for the slaves. This later turned commercial and eventually ended up as a ritualistic sport with

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competitors aiming to bag the maximum number of individuals. Apart from shooting, the pigeons were trapped in hundreds using large nets and captive passenger pigeons were used as decoys. It is mentioned in the book that markets in Chicago were so over stocked with the pigeons that their prices dropped to 55 cents per barrel and they still had no takers and were left to decompose and rot. In 1880s though laws were drawn up to stop such large-scale slaughter, but hunting continued and their numbers also dwindled. Soon came the day during the 1890s when the only birds that survived were the ones in captivity. Passenger pigeons survived in captivity for over 14 years in different zoos and with collectors, but they were not able to breed successfully. Fuller explains that this might have happened as they were a species adapted to living in large groups; he hypothesizes that the captive individuals were not able to breed successfully due to the sudden change the social behaviour of the species. In any species, adaptation of social behaviour is an evolutionary process and spans across many

generations. Therefore, changes in the environment that happen over a very short period of time are not reflected by a change in the behaviour of a species towards its surroundings. Eventually only Martha, the last passenger pigeon survived. When Martha died on 1 September 1914, her body was frozen into a block of ice and transported from Cincinnati zoo where she lived to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington to be stuffed and preserved. Included in the book are the famous art works depicting the passenger pigeon by John James Audubon, William Pope, Alexander Wilson and Pauline Courcelles. Fuller has also mentioned a few books that published the little information ever collected on the species like Arlie Schorger's book, *The Passenger Pigeon* published in 1955, which is considered as one of the most comprehensive account of the bird, to the more recently published book *A Feathered River Across the Sky* by Joel Greenberg in early 2014 to mark the centenary of Martha's death.

Since her death in 1914, Martha has been a representative of her own species

and others that share a similar fate. Though the extinction of the passenger pigeon has aroused a sense of conservation in people, it is still not enough. This book provides an account of a unique species that unfortunately did not survive for the world today to see, a reminder of how our actions have resulted in the extinction of a bird in a short span of time. Though hunting of any species with such intensity does not occur anymore, many species across the globe share a fate similar to that of the passenger pigeon. The Yangtze dolphin went extinct in 2007 and many more species will follow suit if concrete steps are not taken to save them. The author needs to be commended for his effective compilation and portrayal of the species in addition to driving home the message of conservation amongst the readers. There is from this book a lesson to be learnt and a message to be passed on to the future generations.

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