

Live with your sweat money - Don't sweat to make money

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“Live with your sweat money” is Gandhiji’s oft repeated quote. This has to be read along with the “Talisman Test” (see ‘Swaraj’ page 7 in this issue) that Gandhiji has given as guide line for every one before deciding what type of work he or she should do. Let us analyze how these two cardinal principles of Gandhiji will bring good governance at every point of action and activities of the individual, a natural corollary of which will be happy life.

From birth to death the basic objective of life is to be happy. From the moment of the new born sucking the nipple of its mother, to the moment of getting the last sip of water before departure of the soul from the body, it is happiness that matters. Everyone does everything for that. But we forget what Krishna told Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita - “Yogakshemam Vahamyama” (my survival depends on the welfare of every one). We also forget Gandhiji's Talisman test.

Today unfortunately greed for money and power has become the essence of life. This leads to activate the left brain (said to be the citadel of creative thinking) to constantly bring out ideas that can generate money irrespective of the hurt that it may inflict on others, whether siblings, family members, society or the nation. This leads to corruption and bad governance. It is perhaps time we stop focusing so much on positive sides of life actions, instead bring out the horrors of the negative side or the greed. “Nirbhayathwam” (freedom from fear) is what our saints have exhorted but it is ‘bhaya’ or fear of the worst consequences to self that prevents ordinary from doing wrong things

Let us take it from the baby sitting stage. Parents should realize that it is not the high marks or grades that the child secures in the academic examinations alone that makes it successful in life or great. No doubt such persons get great media exposures such as the Topper of the school/college or State or top ranks in the Professional/Civil service examinations. Such people may reach the top in various fields including politics. But sans the “Yogakshemam” and 'Talisman Test' they may end up making money with all the worries that money more than what one requires, bring.

No doubt money can bring power, high society status and ego satiation. Money can help us to go to Seven Star hotels and indulge in tastiest drinks and food, high profile company, black cat personal securities, costliest cars to travel that will be the ‘envy of the neighbour's eye’, big bungalow or exclusive multi storied apartment with the best comforts in the world where a helicopter can land on the terrace, innumerable servants at the beg and call and so many such other things. But the truth is that all these things cannot bring health, sleep, peace of mind and happiness.

This writer has a noting taken from the speech of Dr.Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, then Vice-President of India, 50 years back. The noting goes like this “Every saint has got a past, every sinner has got a future. “Also another noting from Swami Ranganathananda’s speech at Bangalore 20 years back inaugurating the installation of an advanced heart operation equipment at a leading Nursing Home in the city. He said “India has got best hospitals and best doctors who can revive the heart or brain that has stopped functioning, but what India needs today is hospitals and doctors who can revive the dying soul of India.”

When we talk of good governance let us think of what Dr. Radhakrishnan and Swami Ranganathananada have said. Let everyone who wants happy life spread the rays of positive vibrations on the benefit of holding ethics and morality in every action that can bring happiness to self and others in the community as a whole along with the horrors that absence of it can bring. Let everyone wipe out the sins that we might have committed knowingly or unknowingly and resolve to open a new chapter in our life not to violate the code of ethics and morality of civil life. Let ‘yogakshemam’ and ‘talisman test’ be the constant barometer in measuring our day to day activities. Let us fear God and the horrors that absence of ethics and morality can bring to our personal life. That will automatically bring good governance at every point of life from home to Parliament.

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