

|| From the mighty pen of Sanjay ||



POLITICS AND POLITICIANS – THEIR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES



The statecraft and statesmen are the sine qua non of a civilized society. There is, however, need for raising the moral standards. Then only the eventuality of the whole class getting defamed because of the criminal acts of some politicians can be stopped and the slander by the media will cease. There is no other method of cleansing the public life except through the recourse to Values and Meditation.

Great responsibilities of politicians

The role of politicians is crucial to the job of conducting the affairs of the State or for running the government and for ministering the polity. There is no alternative to it in a democracy. Democracy in India, as Jawaharlal Nehru said, in 1952, while addressing the college students and the intelligentsia at Gwalior, is not the best form of government but best available form of government. In this form of government, the representatives of the people have to do so many things. They have (i) to make laws, (ii) run the internal affairs of a State according to the will of the people, (iii) devise and enact the State-policy with regard to Education, Human Resource Development, Social Welfare, Commerce, Trade & Industry, Environment, Rural & Urban Development, Transport, Communications, Health, Multi-Media, Promotion of Arts, Culture, Science & Technology, Agriculture, Natural Sciences, National Economy or Finance, Accounts, Excise & Taxation, etc., (iv) plan and assure Defence of the country against external aggression and security against internal criminal elements and internal in surgery, (v) safeguard the interests of the country, vis-a-vis other countries, (vi) regulate the relationships of the State with other States, (vii) maintain law & order, national solidarity and public peace, (viii) look after matters relating to the interest of various sections of the society such as the Youth, the Women and the Sportspersons, (ix) Family planning and Population-growth, (x) Employment, (xi) Housing, (xii) Energy, (xiii) Water-management, (xiv) to provide for the Aged and the retired, the

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EASY RAJYOGA FOR A HEALTHY & HAPPY SOCIETY

Facets of the 21st Century

The human race is continually going through a lot of changes, and it could be said that there is something elusive happening at every second. New inventions, new gadgets, new mobiles, new fashion and much more are the rage of the day; however they seemingly do not have the ability to release any inner and real happiness. Rather, the extensive research being done in the field of medicine and mental health shows us that day by day along with the other kinds of 'newness' listed above, there are various kinds of psychosomatic diseases on the increase. Moreover, the good old days of joint family system are nearing extinction; selfishness, ego and negative attitude are resulting in too many unpleasant and bad incidents in society. Environmentalists continually remind us of human beings' role in destroying nature and aggravating climate change. Yet the common person doesn't make time to think about the reasons behind erratic weather patterns, scorching temperatures, devastating natural calamities etc. In recent

months, so many places all over the globe have been going through a lot of physical upheaval. In particular, the north of Chile, home to the driest desert in the world was subjected to floods that drowned the towns and cities built on the beds of the dried up river; simultaneously, the south of Chile which receives rain nearly 300 days a year was on fire with thousands of hectares burning; then the Volcano Villarrica exploded...

Just as unexpectedly, Nepal and parts of Asia experienced a horrific earthquake of intensity 7.9 on the Richter Scale, the first in 80 years, on 25th April 2015. According to the United States Geological Survey, the temblor was caused by a sudden release of built-up stress, along the major fault line where the Indian Plate carrying India, is slowly diving underneath the Eurasian Plate, carrying much of Europe and Asia. The scriptures talk about a time when the entire world enjoyed 'normal' seasons, especially in India where we experience 6 kinds of weather every 2 months. However that

has become a distant dream now.

Finding Solutions

Within all these compelling scenarios, the hopeful continue to search for some source of happiness... Humanity has a distinct level of resilience power that can rise again with courage, and help us continue on the journey because life is so precious.

When we reflect on and explore the reasons why things have become so pitiful that we are unable to enjoy good weather or optimal health, some would blame it on modernization, excessive use of technology, uninhibited and often disrespectful use of money and resources, while others would just say it's God's act. However we have to remember that nature is all-giving and meant to sustain humanity. This fact had been visualized centuries ago when our elders taught us that we should revere nature, so that it doesn't react or retaliate. But the rising numbers of human beings have meant a subtle current of positivity on one side, and yet negativity all around.

Reviving Spiritual Wisdom

Time is asking us now to recall what we have learnt from our Supreme Father-cum-Teacher-Preceptor, and that is there are three eternal entities: **the Divine Being (God), Soul and Nature (Elements), and**



we have to understand and respect the power generated through the interplay of the three. Had we lived as one family of God, perhaps so much disease, depravity and disease would not have occurred. As in the past, it is time again for members of the human race to look up to the highest Divine Being for guidance to be able to enjoy peace and happiness in life. When human beings are in harmony and peace with each other, progress and sustainable development takes place internally and externally in nature too.

Many philosophers and thinkers have written volumes of books, advising everyone not to hoard or covet possessions as they cannot and will not provide lasting happiness. The Divine Being at present is teaching us to lead a moderate lifestyle. Most individuals aim to finish their education, build up a career, find a partner, get married perhaps, and then subsequently start thinking about raising a family. However with their attention and time split in many directions and in pursuing unlimited desires, most people are not able to balance out priorities such a looking after one's emotional, physical and spiritual well-being, caring for parents and nurturing their kids... The clear, effective

methods to a good life stem from a strong foundation in moral and spiritual values, and in living out simple principles which we've been exposed to since childhood, such as '*simple living and high thinking*', '*early to bed, early to rise*', '*treat others the way you would like to be treated...*' and more. We understand the logic and truth behind these gems of wisdom, but at crucial moments of making decisions, people easily fall into the trap of creating excuses for not following the righteous way, because it takes them out of their comfort zones. However, life and all its test-papers are showing us that if we want to thrive, and bloom, and spread peace and happiness all around, **we have to make time to refine these principles, use our innate virtues regularly and practise returning to our original state of Self- and God-awareness.** On one side, the human soul is the embodiment of peace, but one needs to remain attuned to that consciousness. Whichever profession or background or lifestyle one is associated with, if we start to listen to our inner voice before deciding on our actions, we can easily succeed in overcoming weaknesses and difficulties, and the drama of life will provide more and more

beautiful opportunities to enhance lives of self-service and service of others.

Acting responsibly towards Self, Family & Social Network

We possess a spiritual mine of remarkable principles learnt from the Religious Founders and of course the Incorporeal Being, Supreme Father God Shiva, which can be re-applied in our practical lives:

- 1) Those who awaken early in the mornings experience the treasure-store of Spiritual Powers, and can strengthen their bond with the Divine Being.
- 2) Positivity is the very nature of the soul, and so we should be positive at every step of life.
- 3) Instead of being a lecturer, it's better to become a listener while speaking with elders or children. The more you remain introverted, the more you experience soul-consciousness, which automatically helps beautify the soul.
- 4) Being in silence or being peaceful is not a matter of a few seconds or days which is the common belief these days. Every human soul has the ability to be consciously peaceful. When a person practises returning to inner silence at regular intervals



during the day, one can generate very positive and soothing vibrations that help the mind, heart and relationships.

There is a need in every household for a very positive, secure environment so that a family can stay together, dream together, eat together, and live together in happiness. To lead a virtuous life, one should understand the necessity and importance of inner cleanliness and steadfastness. People would comment that we are in Kaliyug: the extremities of darkness, ignorance and sorrow all around so how we can remain safe from it? But those who keep courage can remain determined, and invest genuine and regular efforts in self-transformation. This undoubtedly will lead to success. After all, before you think of making your personal work place, home and relationships fruitful and happy, you yourself should be in that happy state of mind and positive attitude!

On the social level, there are

many small ways in which all of us can contribute that will give pleasure and satisfaction. For example, the latest Campaigns on Cleanliness, providing better Sanitation, Education for the Girl Child etc. have been accepted lovingly, and in time surely people will participate more enthusiastically. We are all eternal actors in this world drama, and each one has a particular role to execute that is, and always will be, different from the other. This positive acceptance and regard make it easy to adjust with others and live harmoniously within society.

Aligning oneself with the Divine Being's task

It is most fortunate that humankind has been blessed by the reincarnation of the Supreme Father, Incorporeal God Shiva, who has revealed the Truth about the Laws of Life & the Universe, and is remembered in the scriptures as Creator, Director, Principal Actor, Supreme Teacher and *Satguru*. God's task of transformation begins with the sharing of

spiritual wisdom, *gyan*, and philosophy of *Rajyoga* that enables any aspirant to first achieve inner peace and happiness, and then become God's instrument to spread the same.

Sisters and brothers, following these spiritual aims and lifestyle of the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya are dedicated in spirit, and continue to be faithful to the task of providing such service to one and all. The message should reach every seeker on earth and definitely will. Where there is value for living beings, including human life, there is respect for each one's role and an interest in helping others fulfill their pure desire for spiritual progress; where is unity of thought in this way, there is peace; where is piety, there is peace; where there is feeling of benevolence towards others, there is peace.

May all of us crystallize this pure wish of leading ever-peaceful, every healthy and every happy lives!

– *B.K. Nirwair*

GREETINGS OF PEACE!

On behalf of the Editorial Team, we extend our heart-felt condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the earthquake that hit Nepal, northern India and China on 25th April 2015, as well as good wishes in our beloved Almighty Father's remembrance to the thousands who have been injured. Vibrations of peace and spiritual love are reaching all of you from different corners of the world, and this will definitely act as a soothing, healing balm to the fractured hearts. May the Divine Being's hand of protection and sustenance continue to give you the will-power to face these challenging times! **OM SHANTI**

AM I SMILING INSIDE?

– Rajyogini Dadi Janki,
The Chief of Brahma Kumaris, Shantivan

It is not necessary to get lost in thought on any subject. The things that need to remain in our awareness now are:- 1) Who am I? 2) Who is mine? 3) What do I need to do now? The soul is very tiny. The soul is light. However, thinking a lot makes the soul heavy. We have to create such beautiful and subtle vibrations that they reach others. We are hearing the news of one soul or another leaving the body nearly every day. Even if someone is unconscious in hospital, my work is to create such vibrations that reach that soul... Today one may be sitting in his or her body but tomorrow...? There is no guarantee for tomorrow. At present we are here, present on Godly service but tomorrow what happens, no one knows. The sister whom we called 'Queen Mother' (Mother of Didi Manmohini) left the body very quickly, without any pangs, without even changing her expression. So one must perform as many elevated actions as one wishes to. These have to be

performed through one's thoughts, words and actions. Anyway, we have to perform activity in life so our focus should be to make those actions beneficial.



I cannot live without seeing through these eyes, but how is my spiritual gaze (*drishti*)? In what way am I seeing and thinking about people and situations? There should be love and peace in my thoughts. If I want to speak, what should I speak about? What I think and do, affects myself and all others. I have to become a swan, which only picks up what is good. I have to imbibe only what is good. Then only I will be spreading good vibrations.

Three types of awareness make us smile internally and are revealed on the face. Firstly, it

is the smile of the one who is soul-conscious, without a trace of body consciousness. Secondly, the smile that comes on one's face when thinking of Shiv Baba – knowing Him as the Supreme authority one belongs to. Third is the smile that comes from inside when one uses the knowledge of drama – understanding that everything is good and accurate and that no-one is to be blamed. Blaming others wipes away one's happiness in a second. One should remember that there is no need to try to prove anything – truth is automatically revealed. So one needs to think of what one has to do now. Let's leave the support of human beings and take the true and constant support of God Shiva, i.e. Shiv Baba. We have three immortal thrones to sit on; the throne of the forehead on which the soul is sparkling, the heart-throne of God Shiva and also the throne of the future kingdom. All the knowledge we have been given is for us to use, not just to listen to or to speak on. Previously we were stumbling; now we have found the path. We are surrendered; we don't have anything of our own. We have to simply lead our lives whilst remaining truthful, blissful, love-full and peaceful. In this way, we

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JAGDISH CHANDER HASSIJA

– An Embodiment of Detachment and Eternity

– B.K. Valeri Dobrov

TV Film Director, Lecturer, TV&Radio Broadcasting Institute, **Moscow**,
Former TV Director, First Channel of Russia.



Valeri Dobrov

It was B.K. Jagdish Chander Hassija, who surprised everyone by his wisdom, his depth of knowing the most hidden secrets of the Universe, his power of spirit, his charm, a wonderful sense of humour and charisma. Even with all things considered, he had tremendous humility and deep, sincere respect for others.

Once I thought about how difficult it was and sometimes connected with incredible obstacles – to work the way out for something new in the history of humanity. It is really a heroic act to walk on an unknown path first. Jagdish Chander Hassija had the fortune to be in close proximity of Brahma Baba, the founder of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University and that defined the beauty and uniqueness of his role in this World Drama. He was chosen by God Himself to systematize and structure the divine knowledge and substantiate the spiritual truths present in various scriptures. He played one of the key roles in making the global community familiar with the Godly knowledge.

I was lucky to speak to him

personally, face to face, a few months before he left his mortal coil. A group of Brahma Kumaris students from Russia were in Delhi. Though he was seriously diseased, he wanted to meet each of Russian students individually. He was lying in the bed in his room. Each student took a seat on the chair next to him and had a short talk. When my turn came, our eyes met and I felt a lot of fatherly love in his eyes. I held out a symbolic Russian souvenir to him as a sign of respect. He said “Thank you”. And in that “Thank you” there was so much respect for me, so much gratitude, as if I had given him something very precious, as if he could read my feelings of deep gratitude and respect for him. He said just a few words. However, those words encouraged me greatly in life. They helped me to build up



B.K. Jagdish Chander Hassija

my spiritual path in a wiser and more accurate way. Moreover, when some thoughts of doubt arise in the self, I remember his vision, those words of him, and deep spiritual power fills me again. I get motivated and energized to move forward with peace and self-confidence.

A few weeks before his worldly departure, I saw a photo where he was lying in hospital. I was struck by his vision. It was the same person who had written over 200 books on spirituality, who was at the roots of many various activities of the Brahma Kumaris organisation, who had done so much – seemingly impossible within a human life. Now he was leaving. I watched his photo and tried to understand whether he was remembering all his benevolent and important deeds, done by him. However, I could not see anything except detachment and absorption in contemplations on God, eternity, and unearthy matters. Not a single sign of pride for what he had done, only detachment in life. I have been lucky to meet many very famous representatives of

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OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIFE



– B.K. Surendran, Bangalore

Our life is a conglomeration of contributions from the parents, family members, society and the world. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the house we stay in, the conveyance we use, the entertainment we enjoy are all contributed by scores of people. Normally, we do not care to look into the various sources of comforts and conveniences we have been enjoying in life. Many people keep moaning and complaining that the world has not been fair or just to them. But, had we cared to look into the sources and the efforts that are put to provide us with all these facilities, conveniences and comforts, we would have been thankful and grateful not only to God, but also to all fellow beings, other creatures and mother earth. In that case, we would be enjoying life; rejoicing and celebrating it. Hence we must be grateful for others' contributions and should also contribute equally or more to the welfare of the world.

We should ensure that we give more than what we take

from this world. We should decide what we want in life. We want that all our physical, mental and emotional needs are fulfilled. Again we want peace, purity and sound health. Some of our wants are materialistic and some are spiritual. The simple formula is to give what we want in life. Unless we give, we cannot get it.

Each one of us has expectations, aspirations, desires and wants. Everybody wants to be recognised, appreciated, served or provided with help in times of need. We should remember that others have also got similar expectations, desires and aspirations. So we should help others to fulfil their desires, wants and aspirations wherever possible. Also, one should have patience and take each day as it comes without worrying or doubting. One should know that efforts must precede results. It is possible that some efforts will bring in results immediately while some others may take more time. In this world everything has a gestation period. Our efforts will never go waste. Sincere,

honest and dedicated efforts will definitely yield better results. One should take the responsibility of making oneself happy. Complaints and blames will not make one happy but one should have the faith that things will eventually work out the way they are meant to be. One should trust one's abilities, work hard and leave the rest to destiny. No one gets a sudden rise, not even the sun. It takes time to rise to the peak of success. One should just keep doing the efforts with a positive mental attitude and keep providing one's contributions constantly

The responsibility of each of the family members is to extend mutual help and see that harmonious atmosphere is maintained in the family. Each member of the family should sustain and contribute the values of faith, love, care, empathy, forgiveness, sacrifice and service. Understanding, compassionate listening, and an attitude of sympathy and responding in times of need take the front seat in strengthening a harmonious, happy and healthy family life. The family is the oldest institution in the world and is the sustaining ground for a welfare society and the world. Each such family unit constitutes a harmonious society and a peaceful world.

Man is a social being. Unity and integrity are the bed rock of the social life. It is the responsibility of all to maintain law and order, peace and amity among different sections of the society. We are all beneficiaries from the society which shapes, nurtures and fosters human beings and in return we should also be socially responsible. The members of the society should be inspired to live a life of social values such as simplicity, flexibility, reliability, humility, equanimity and freedom with responsibility.

Professional life is a very important area of life. From morning to evening, we work collectively in offices, factories, or in public and private organisations to primarily earn money for our daily needs. We must aim to go an extra mile, do a little more than what we are paid for. We should perform the assigned tasks with dedication and interest. Our professional life should be guided by the values of sympathy, self discipline, competence, responsibility, co-operation, perseverance, mutual respect, punctuality and determination. Professional life may enable us to earn the blessings of the people and one may contribute to the welfare of the society in a big way.

The members of political parties, government officials and other public servants are expected to

address the needs and concerns of the people. They must work for socio-economic, educational and family welfare of the people. They have greater responsibility and accountability to discharge the duties assigned to them. They have to practise ethical and human values such as honesty, truth, trust, integrity, fairness, compassion, sacrifice, non-violence and dedicated service. Every citizen should think globally and act locally with good intentions and for others' wellbeing.

We need to understand that the hand which gives will never be empty. The hand which takes and takes remains empty at all times. To begin with, let us give away the real wealth of peace, happiness, joy, contentment and security. As the real wealth increases, life becomes happy, healthy and prosperous. ●

ON MOTHER'S DAY

– Poonam Singh, DELHI

Made up of heavenly powers that shine
Considered as the best adornment of the Divine
Who deserves to be called next to God?
And the best and strongest person in this world?

'Mother' my dear 'Mother' is what I am talking about
Words are less but express my feelings without doubt
She is always there for us in every situation
She is certainly God's most beautiful creation.

The embodiment of SELFLESS love and care
Mother is a soul through whom we learn what's fair
By facing and bearing all hardships of this world
We can see HER happy-go-lucky face in all spheres

By standing in front of all the obstacles of her kids
She shines high like the brightest star of the Universe
Ever respect this selfless embodiment of purity and love
Because GOD has presented Mother who created all of us

Words never suffice to praise her role noble
Mother is here to give us hope, make stable
To respect this bountiful soul, Mother's Day is created
So that the value of perseverance can be celebrated

VALUES IN EDUCATION



– B.K. Ranjit Fuliya, Associate Editor

“When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always.” – **Mahatma Gandhi**

Education is considered a true agent or instrument of development. Education results into betterment in social conditions as it changes beliefs and mindset of the masses and introduces positivity, hope and enlightenment in their lives. If education is free from religion and gains a secular nature, it opens the gateway to development at a very fast pace. The light of education removes the darkness of blind faith, prejudices and bias.

Education also helps science and technology, which accelerate development and surely make people’s life more convenient and comfortable. Education process brings about significant changes in individuals to enable them participate in the social processes and contribute their mite for development of the entire society. Since it is prejudice and bias that obstruct man’s progress, education liberates him from all such

hindrances and facilitates cultural and economic modernization. Education also highlights the principles of equality, fraternity and freedom in the society. It creates a rational and scientific outlook among the masses and there is consequently a fast industrial development initiating benevolent type of management techniques. There are better management-worker relations and productivity goes up very fast.

Thus secular and scientific education helps to spread modern values of equality, freedom and humanism but it doesn’t divorce rationality. The spread of modern education led to a great social change and development in India which necessarily ushered economic development. Emphasis on education as an important means of modernization and peaceful co-existence has been highlighted by the former President of India Dr S.

Radhakrishnan also:—

“The importance of education is not only in knowledge and skill, but it is to help us to live with others. Cooperative and mutually helpful living is what we should be trained for. Moral qualities are of greater value than intellectual accomplishments. We have in our country great natural resources, intelligent men and women and if in addition we learn to work together with pleasure, with pride, with a sense of duty in the sacred task of re-building our country, no one can prevent us from reaching our goal. The Buddha says: “None else compels, ye suffer from yourselves.” If our institutions give our young men character and democratic discipline, the future of our country is safe. Dharma is what holds society together.

***dharmaevahato hanti,
dharma raksatiraksitah.”*1***

We must provide the students an opportunity to read the great classics of various countries and languages, as it makes students global citizens, enabling them to learn various mental and intellectual skills and enhancing their knowledge and mental capabilities. It was also advised by Dr S. Radhakrishnan, in the following words:—

“It is through the study of the great classics of the world that



we grow in our spirit. The basis of democracy is the central principle of all religions, that there is an intimate connection between the mind of man and the moving spirit of the universe. This principle of democracy must become an effective faith. In our educational institutions, we can train our young men and women in the spirit of democracy. We must increase wealth, reduce inequalities and raise the standard of the common man. Let the bright image of a new India where we will be free socially and economically break through the fog of fear and ignorance, self-interest and superstition.” *2.

The Values that transcend Time

Education makes our lives meaningful by enhancing values in society and it must inspire people, particularly students, to imbibe values in their practical lives. All cultures and traditions throughout the history have given importance to values. One of the values necessarily required for success in human life is Honesty or Truth without which society can never progress in the real sense of the term. Stories and anecdotes replete with values are found scattered in almost all the cultures of the world. If we can convey the values contained in

these stories, it can surely add value to humanity, more particularly to students, as they have the most impressionable minds and need to be guided in the appropriate direction at this crucial juncture in their life. However, caution is needed in selecting the stories; only such contributions are recommended that may foster unity, harmony and understanding between various sections of society.

Here is a story related to the most important value in human life, i.e., Truth, Honesty or Transparency.

In ancient times, there was a king. When he grew old, he decided to select a successor for the throne. He thought of a plan to test the honesty of the persons vying for the position. So he called them to his palace one day and distributed some flower seeds to them to grow and nurture. He asked them to come to him after a year with what they grow out of the seeds given to them. He would appoint his successor on the basis of what they grow. On the appointed day, all of them came to the palace with beautiful flowers in their pots. However, one little girl went there with an empty pot. When asked, she told him that she sowed the seeds in the most fertile soil, watered them regularly, took all due care,

yet nothing came out of the seeds. Therefore, she came there with an empty pot. Thereafter, all those who came with beautiful flowers in their pots were told by the King that in fact he had given them roasted seeds and nothing could come out of them. All of them had replaced the seeds while the little girl had the honesty and courage to come with an empty pot. Naturally the girl passed the test and she was appointed his successor.

Learning from our great saints and reformers

We have great sages and learned persons in India who inspired people through their virtuous and righteous acts. They left indelible imprint on society and their lives and teachings are a source of advancement and development. The stalwarts of Bhakti movement had a tremendous influence on people’s minds. It caused a lot of social changes for betterment, by challenging age-old traditions and opening new vistas of love, light and enlightenment. One of these social reformers was Saint Kabirdas or Kabir whose verses carried the message of unity of mankind and social awakening. In the following verse, Kabir exhorts people to understand the value of life, have good conduct

and lead a virtuous life, as the same is the basis of social harmony and cohesion. He advises to keep good company, listen to the sane advice of learned persons regularly and make life meaningful and righteous by special care and attention on our thoughts, words and deeds. The verse represents novel, noble and nimble ideas of Kabirdas which went a long way in bringing about social awareness:—

*Just ponder over O
arrogant man!*

*This life is like a bedsheet;
it has become old now*

*It was assembled in pieces,
sewn for being worn on thy
limbs*

*You have dirtied it with
vices, imbued it with Greed
and Attachment*

*Neither you washed it with
clean water, nor applied
soap*

*You used it life-long,
without thinking of right or
wrong*

*Have doubt; use it with
precaution, as it doesn't
belong to you*

*Says Kabira, keep it with
great effort, you'll not get
it again.*

Values and ethics weave the basic fabric of society. These days we find a lot of corruption in people's lives because values have seen an unprecedented fall in all spheres of public life. If we want to see India progress, we have to re-establish values and ethics in all spheres of life—politics, administration, business, education etc. Empowerment of Indians in Values and ethics can take India to new heights, despite all sorts of adversities and challenges. If we want to build character of our young generation, we have to inculcate right values in students, from the very beginning. For doing so, the importance of observing good character must be highlighted.

Taking Inspiration from Ancient Literature

The students must be inspired to imbibe the high values of our ancestors—adhering to truth, being sympathetic to others, helping and cooperating with the poor and the needy etc. which can be useful in building a better society. Our ancient literature and folklore are full of innumerable examples of good moral standards. Our epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata do contain important lessons on dedication, upholding truth in life, respect to elders, patriotism, adherence to one's duty etc. If children are inspired to practise

these values since childhood, in their homes and at schools, they shall have good moral character and civil sense. By inculcating the basic characteristics of our lofty traditions, the students will certainly become law-abiding and righteous citizens.

There is a great need of taking appropriate measures for improvement in education. Some organizations and individuals have been voicing their concern for it, from time to time. Eminent educationist Amrit Lal Madaan advises education to be kept free from influence of politicians and bureaucracy. He also highlights the need of inculcating values and ethics in students.

Parity of both genders— Male and Female

Improvement in education necessarily involves parity of both males and females. For many centuries, there has been gender-bias in India and women have not been treated at par with men. It is imperative to take remedial measures regarding removing gender bias and ensuring proper environment for equal development of both males and females. Then only can proper spread of education take place in the country.

Education for Self-Reliance

Highlighting the importance of education, Swami Vivekanand quoted a sanskrit



shloka: “yatha kharas chandana bharavahi bharsyavetta, na tu chandanasya” which means “The ass carrying its load of sandalwood knows only the weight but not the value of the sandalwood.” He was not in favour of an educational system that is based on mere bookish knowledge but the one that builds character, strengthens the mind, expands the intellect and makes one self-reliant.

Blending Values in Education

All forward-looking organisations are now-a-days paying special attention on incorporation of values and ethics in their work culture. NCERT and CBSE have also initiated programmes for propagation of values and the schools can implement the programmes with support of these initiatives. There are also some social and spiritual organisations that are quite active in this field. One of them

is Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishva Vidyalaya, Mt. Abu.

One of the greatest educationists of the world, B.K.Jagdish Chander Hassija, who was also the Chief Editor of The World Renewal and Chief Spokesperson of the Brahma Kumaris organisation, also highlighted the importance of values in society, in his various books and research papers. His writings had a very positive effect and value education certainly got a boost by his persistent efforts. The Brahma Kumaris organisation has been working effectively for propagation of values in education field through their programme ‘Living Values Educational programmes (LVEP)’ world wide. The government can take appropriate measures to use these initiatives for betterment of education which can go a long way and prove highly beneficial for the society and the country.

It can therefore be concluded

that education must build the character of people and make them stand on their feet. Education also gives inspiration to develop positive attitudes and inspires to do something for service of mankind. It is also the basis of universal brotherhood and lofty ideals that make this world a better place to live in. Thus inculcation of values and a spiritual way of life certainly lead people towards the cherished goal of *vasudhaiv kutumbakam*.

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have to bring benefit to our own selves and to others. The essence of this knowledge is being *Manmanabhav* (attaining the state of being soul-conscious and God-conscious). So, one must ask oneself where one’s mind is. Is it caught up in the body or bodily relationships? It has to be seen how much detached one has become from everything – from the body, material possessions, and relationships. It has to be checked: ‘Is the quality of my speech such that it reveals who I am?’ ‘Have I learnt how to make a mountain into a mustard seed or do I expand small things into big ones?’ Many have this habit. Others may go into details of the situations and people in front of me. My task at that time is to remain quiet. One must pay attention now to the thoughts one is creating in one’s mind.



UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

—B.K. Er. Om Prakash Masuriha, USA

In the year 1899, a young saint named Swami Ramtirath was on a foreign tour. From Japan he intended to go to Chicago (U.S.A.) and about 1,000 people had come to the Seaport to see him off. His supporters cheered for him with enormous enthusiasm and joy, and his neck was full of garlands. His followers were shouting Victory to Swami Ji, Victory to Swami Ji.

An American fellow, who had already occupied his seat in the ship, was witnessing this entire scene from the window and hearing the loud cheers of victory to Swami Ji; his attention got diverted towards Swami Ji. As the ship started leaving the dockyard, that American gentleman was very much pleased to see Swami Ji entering the same compartment in which he himself was travelling. As Swami Ji took his seat, the attention of that American fellow went towards the luggage of Swami Ji. He observed that almost every passenger of his compartment was having at least 6 to 8 pieces of baggage,

he himself was carrying 12 pieces of baggage, as he was one of the wealthiest men of America, but he was amazed to see Swamiji travelling with minimal luggage.

He was eager to know more about Swamiji and soon when he could not control his curiosity and greeted Swamiji by shaking his hands. Since Swami Ramtirath was a man with "Third Eye-Instinct", so he understood his confusion and pointed towards his 2 numbers of baggage.

The American gentleman was surprised to know that Swamiji was travelling with only one small box of tin and a small bundle of clothes. He had thought that Swamiji must be a famous person as the crowd who came to see him off comprised more than 1000 people.

The American gentleman asked Swami Ji, "Where are you going?" Swami Ji Replied, "I am going to America." The American gentleman said in support, "Oh! I too live in America." And then immediately

asked, "Where will you go in America?" Swami Ji again replied, "I am going to Chicago." The American gentleman again said, "Oh! I too live in Chicago." Then he smilingly said, "Does someone from your family live in Chicago?" Swami Ji smiled and replied, "My real brother is living there." The American further asked, "What is his address in Chicago?" Swami Ji replied, "I don't know." The American asked further, "What is he doing there?" Swami Ji again said, "I don't know." The American said, "Don't worry", and enquiringly added, "What is the name of your brother, Swami Ji?" Swami Ji said, "Sorry! I don't know his name too."

Then the American amazingly said, "You don't know his address. You don't know his occupation and you don't even know his name." And then asked, "Can you recognize him bodily or by posture or by face?" Swami Ji said, "Certainly." The American said, "In such a big populated city like Chicago, I am surprised to know, how you are going to search for him?" Then Swami Ji confidently said, "I have already searched him out; no need for further search". The American gentleman said, "Sorry! I am unable to understand your puzzle; who is your real brother?" Swami Ji smiled and said, "You,

gentleman, you are my real brother, you, your-self are my real brother!”

Swami Ji further said, “Is it not true that you live in America? Isn’t it true that you live in Chicago, which you have already told me?” Swami Ji added, “What is the need of searching for you, as you are sitting before me, but yes it is true that up till now you haven’t told me your address; what you do there and what your name is.”

Then, Swami Ramtirath enlightened him that, I means ‘Soul’ and ‘My’ means ‘Body’ and we are all ‘Souls’, sons of The Supreme Soul or ‘God’ and the ‘Abode’ of all the souls is, ‘Parlok,’ ‘Param Dham’ or The Soul World, the abode of the Supreme Father too. Swamiji further said, “So, is it not true that you are a soul and I too am a soul and all human beings on this earth are souls who reside in their own human bodies and all souls are children of the Supreme Soul?”

‘This we all very well accept,

while praying in temples, churches or in the mosques by uttering God as our Supreme-Father. So, we all are real brothers; is it not true?’

The American gentleman was so deeply impressed by the inner experience of the ‘Self’ and by the charismatic personality of Swami Ramtirath that he requested him to accompany him.

Swami Ramtirath, the spiritual giant of India, gladly agreed to his proposal as in fact, he was not acquainted with anyone in America. The American gentleman kept Swami Ji with him providing all required facilities for a long period of about one year and ten months and made all the arrangements for his spiritual lectures, throughout America.

This is the real example of INDIAN CULTURE of UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD. This type of Spiritual Philosophy may alone create harmony amongst all the human beings on earth when you

consider others as soul brothers, it creates a vision of love and respect and true relationship can be formed and sustained.

Brahma Kumaris are spreading the message of Supreme God Father Shiva that we should move beyond the discriminating labels of caste, colour, creed, country, language, religion, opinion, sex, education etc., and see ourselves as soul brothers, the children of the ‘Supreme Soul’. This is the bare need of the world to-day, as humanity is reeling under the onslaught of anger and hatred, jealousy and animosity, criticisms and judgements. However, when we have love for the eternal soul, it helps to see beyond the deficiencies and imperfections of our fellow men and embrace them unconditionally

So we should take an oath to-day that we will remain conscious about the understanding of ‘Universal Brother-hood’ in thoughts, words and actions. ●

MANNERS

A person of wisdom and spirituality has very beautiful manners that have grown from genuine respect and love for the whole of humanity. Manners in this sense have nothing to do with culture or education: it is simply a question of humility. When we are at the receiving end of such manners, we feel that some deeper part of us has been honoured. In fact, none of us deserves anything less.

NECESSITY OF VALUES IN LIFE

– B.K. Sujoy, Durgapur (WB)

“Values are the invaluable Wealth Of life. They are the real friends providing happiness in life. A value-based life is the most self-respecting and respectable life; these make the soul worthy of being nearer to GOD and the life attains its true significance and meaning. Values make men free of all bondage, independent and self sufficient and protect them from all external dangers and problems.”

– **Rajyogini Dadi Janki Ji**
(Chief of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris
Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya)

The question of Values now occupies the centre stage. There is no profession, no field of activity, no area of learning where the question of values is not being discussed. It is being said repeatedly and vociferously that our education should not neglect values. Politics should observe some moral principles, business and industry should have a code of conduct and administrators should have a set of values to put into practice. Thus, inculcation of values is being stressed upon everywhere.

In spite of the material, economics and scientific sources of comfort increasing in plenty, one finds the true happiness, love and peace being lost somewhere in the journey of life.

Comparatively our present life is so full of material comfort yet one finds life losing its path and direction in an internal restlessness, loneliness, hopelessness, disappointment and strife. No doubt material progress is an important factor in the development of human civilization which makes our external life prosperous and provides a material protection to existence, yet values are indispensable for making our inner self contented. Values are in fact the guides to direct our civilization into a positive direction. It is only when the human values are degenerated that the whole human civilization is destroyed with the destructive weapons like the nuclear bombs. When values decay, man

even tends to lose his title of the ‘crown of creation’ on this earth, because man’s rise and fall is integrally related to the development and decay of values in his life. However, it is little realized that values are derived from our beliefs. Values do not exist independent of beliefs. One has first some ideals and goals, some visions and aspiration and these determine the set of values necessary to realize those goals or achieve those ideals. There is no human being, however remote from the civilized society he might be living, who has absolutely no beliefs. Beliefs are basic to life and whether lettered or not, everyone has some values in life. Even a cave man has some values.

But the question is, what are those values which will enhance human experience and enable men and women to have such life characterized by harmony and health, well being and wealth and heavenly happiness and purity?

The United Nations have declared ‘Tolerance’ as much of the conflict in the society today, is due to lack or absence of tolerance. It is the tolerance of difference in views, diversity of religious beliefs and cultures, plurality of race and nations etc. that bring about unity and co-operation and create efforts for

the amelioration of the miserable condition of the world.

But tolerance or unity cannot exist or survive alone. In fact, no value or virtue can stand alone by itself. In the case of tolerance, there is either some common purpose that holds people in unity or there is an urgent common need, waiting to be fulfilled, that impels or compels people to be tolerant. But even if there is a common purpose and common need, tolerance becomes shaky, weak, emaciated and even dead if there is suspicion about a person's motives, doubt about his intentions and awareness of lack of sympathy and, above all confronted with civilized and wise people even if the latter are one's bitter critics or opponents but one has to have a higher degree of tolerance if one is confronted with persons who are compulsive, vile and wicked and for this, one is required to develop in the self, the supportive values of goodwill, patience, introversion, calmness and love that is uppermost among these all.

If we ponder deeply, we will come to the conclusion that love is the mother of all divine qualities, virtues or values. Remove love and the whole edifice of values crumbles down or caves in. But true and pure love gets sustenance from soul-consciousness, purity and meditation. Without the latter, love, tolerance and other values cannot stay strongly for long. So purity, peace, love and meditation are the four pillars on which a better world or value based world can be built. ●

DRUG ADDICTION-FREE SOCIETY

– B.K. Yogesh Kumar,
BK Colony, Shantivan

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco – various forms of addiction,

All early death's horrible intimation
Containing highly hazardous intoxicating chemicals,

Reduce the life to last few breathing decimals.

Damage the heart, liver, kidney and skin
Ruin the lives of the self, kith and kin

Stress, infidelity, loneliness, and anxiety they induce

Being available easily, passion dangerously seduce

The most affected body part is brain,
The stubborn nature makes all efforts in vain
Now, it is time to rediscover the self-belief
Regain self confidence, overcome all grief

De-addiction and rehabilitation centres just a step away

Let's make the society addiction-free in full sway
To have a society sans drug-addiction
Let's do some self introspection and reflection

Practise Rajyoga Meditation– a step in right direction

Supreme Surgeon Shiva rejuvenates souls, par perfection

Rajyoga harnesses dormant virtues to the fullest
Soul-consciousness and meditation make us fittest

All evils and addictions get clean bowled through
Godly Yorker

Supreme Coach God's guidance makes soul-player winner

With the help of winning shot of self-sovereignty of soul

Addiction-free we are, ready to play divine role

BE FEARLESS AND FIRM



There are children who overlook the Father. Even in daily life, some children become unworthy. Children may be unworthy, or worthless, but the Father is never known to be like them. Even a worldly father is merciful towards his children, regardless of how the children are; and this One is the unlimited Father. He is famous for this: He is remembered as The Merciful. The Father Himself says: 'I come whenever the children are unhappy, to show mercy!' When children become impure and unhappy, the Father comes and helps them. This is why He is known as the redeemer and as the saviour. Now, we have found that father.

Those children who reject such a Father are called unfortunate. Despite finding this Father, the Bestower of Fortune, they are unable to attain anything from Him. So what should we call such ones? Unfortunate, but we should not become like them. Therefore, one must continue to take care, to not be deprived of our spiritual inheritance.

Maya Is Our Enemy

Many things come before us. Maya is very powerful,



immensely forceful. It is her kingdom. This is the end now; she will use her full strength. So, one will be able to face Maya in proportion to his bond with the Father. It is we children who fight with her. We have learnt to fight with Maya. Earlier, we never knew about Maya because we belonged to Maya; it meant we were under her control. So why would we fight, when we were under her control? But when she finds us drifting away from her, she uses the game of excuses and temptations to trick us.

Even if she loves us, she loves with enmity inside her. She tempts us a lot, to pull us towards her. Now we know that Maya is our enemy, all these things will come before us. Many types of

things come in front of us. Even if some children don't have any bondage, still, vicious or waste thoughts of their own mind will distress them.

One would face obstacles, papers and illusions that one did not face before. Scarcity of money, loss in one's business and many other things will also happen. One would say: 'I never experienced all these things in this way, before Gyan' Friends will become enemy; relatives will become distant many wrong things, upside down, will come. This is because Maya will clear our accounts completely.

Now, this is the time when we must finish the accounts we have with Maya Ravan. When, we disconnect our intellect from the body, and bodily relationships, we are bound to face Maya/ Ravan. Such things must be understood. There is no need to become confused.

Go Across With Caution

Many people think: 'Oh, after being Baba's, there are so many misfortunes! I have found God; I have embraced His love; and so, good things should happen to me! No hardship must come my way.' One shouldn't think this way as we are bound to clear tests. Therefore, seeing such wrong things, one need not think one hasn't found God, or wonder whether or not God exists, or whether one is on a wrong path!

‘Are all the old gods upset with me, because I have come here?’ One shouldn’t think this way.

God has informed well in advance that all tests – difficult situations – will come. Many have left Godly Knowledge, getting afraid of such things, or they have been scared of what others say. There are some people, if someone infuses some wrong information into their mind or some doubt arises in their own mind, they break up. All this will happen, and has happened. For some or the other reason, they break up. All this has happened; I have seen it. However, the main reason responsible for all this is body-consciousness.

Body-consciousness also comes because one gets afflicted with different forms of Maya such as lust, anger, greed, attachment or many types of suspicions. These are the weapons of Maya to drift us away from Gyan by arousing wrong things in the mind. Turning the intellect upside down, is Maya’s job.

All this will continue so one has to be cautious as well as courageous about this. The Father says: ‘Connect your intellect with me, so that it never gets deviated or wrong.’ One must continue to check. With the power of checking, one must maintain caution, and take oneself across.

We have to change ourselves in this very birth. We must cross all these hurdles of Maya. So, one will have to make effort. One must not become relaxed or careless, forgetting the Father. The Father says: ‘Make effort to remember Me.’ this is an internal effort. One doesn’t have to do anything external. The most beloved Shiv Baba says: ‘such situations will come, such things will happen, as to require you to have Immoveable faith. Continue to make effort with unshakeable, firm faith.’ Keeping all these aspects within ourselves, we must be cautious, and caution others as well. We have to save ourselves and others from slipping from the righteous path and from being deceived by Maya.

DEDICATED TO WOMAN

–B.K. Helen Ong Penang, Malaysia

Woman, Oh Woman!
Haven’t you taken your stand?
No more should you be number second
Each being is equal in all lands,
If not, it should be in the plan
Your status should be something grand.

Woman, Oh Woman!
Haven’t you recognised your worth?
You should take your place in the world
No one has the right to leave you in the cold
C’m on be forthright and bold
You know yourself and never need to be told.

Woman, Oh Woman!
Haven’t you taken your right?
You are no more to be kept out of sight
Nor someone dwelling only in fright
Your seriousness should not be taken as
something light
You have all rights for a fair fight

Woman, Oh Woman!
Haven’t you discovered you’re wonderful?
You’re neither mere plaything nor somebody’s tool
Nor should you be treated like an unimportant fool
You should be represented in the world’s decision
pool
For your thoughts, feelings and views will project
a new global rule

Woman, Oh Woman!
Haven’t you gained equality?
You have all the talent and ability
No more should you need to ask for creditability
Your sweetness, gentleness and humility
Should add in your life more profitability

Woman, Oh Woman!
Haven’t you seen yourself as world mother?
Mother Nature, Mother Earth, you’re the one and
no other
Always worshipped in temples in every corner
Who else has the patience and selfless love to
nurture?
Only in you lie the hopes of the world for a better
future

INDIRECT PROOFS FOR BRAHMA KUMARIS TEACHINGS!

– B.K. Joseph, Bangalore

Yet, as usual, this seemingly dead-end is actually going to be the beginning of another Age. Change-over from a catastrophic end of the Iron Age to a Golden Age will take place orderly under the supervision of the Supreme Soul, God Shiva, whose very name means THE SUPREME WORLD BENEFACTOR. He takes all souls (not the bodies) to *Paramdham*, the Soul World, and recreates Heaven on earth into which souls will descend number-wise (merit-wise), in a systematic process by which all souls will reach the earth towards the end of the next *Kali Yuga*—each one, according to his merit and according to his time. In fact, the only role God plays is: Recreating Heaven on the earth after humans convert it into a Hell. (*Gita* 4:7) Hence He is aptly symbolized in *Lingam*, made of parts of two Sanskrit syllables *lin + gam* indicative of Dissolution (*laya*) and Recreation (*agaman*) respectively (*Gita* 7:6; 10:34),

which is a symbol that is found all over the world, even in (Etruscan Museum) Vatican (which is originally a Sanskrit word *vatica*, meaning religious centre). Photos from multiple locations are displayed in http://www.stephen-knapp.com/art_photo_fourteen.htm. Thus, *Shiva Linga* is a symbol of cyclic history in nutshell. This is something that is prophetically shown also in *Mahabharata* (Adi Parva) as God entering the intellect of Brahma in order to create a new world. It is also written that when the entire world was covered with vices and darkness, a light in the shape of an egg (*Jyotirlingam*) manifested itself, and became the instrument for the establishment of the New Age. That *Jyotirlingam* uttered a few words and gave birth to *Brahma* in a subtle way and brought benefit to this world. It means that when vices, wickedness, sin, and irreligiousness go to an extreme level in this world, the Supreme Soul (who is “minuter than the minutest and effluent

like sun,” *Gita* 8:9) enters, *Brahma*’s body and through his mouth gives the divine knowledge and teaches easy Rajyoga.

And this is what exactly happened in the year 1936. God Shiva borrowed the physical frame of Dada Lekhraj, a spiritual magnet of his time, renamed him Prajapita Brahma, gave him many visions—including the visions of how this unrighteous world will give way to Golden Age, and commissioned him to spread the good news to the whole world. From this corner-stone appeared the worldwide organization called Brahma Kumaris fulfilling that commission globally. This sequence of great events (God chooses a medium, and uses that medium to impart the lost knowledge and trains the willing people in the short period between each Kalpa, better known as Sangam Yuga) is given in *Gita* 4:1-7 and is also called “the supreme secret.” Supreme Knowledge taught by the Supreme Soul would aptly be called Rajyoga, and The *Gita* itself testifies that Rajyoga is revealed to the prospective ruler of the Sun Dynasty (or Golden Age) before the start of Golden Age. (*Bhagavad Gita* 4.1) *Brahma* is called the *Adi Dev*, and God Shiva is called

Swayambhu (One who creates himself) or *Adinath*. Interestingly, Adi Shankaracharya (a famous saint and great scholar of 8th CE), while commenting on this verse in *Bhagavad Gita*, said that God has given this knowledge through *Prajapita Brahma* and taught Rajyoga at the time of creating a new world.

Collective Memory

If there was a Golden Age that once existed here on earth, then it would not easily be forgotten. No wonder, virtually all cultures and religions of the world point to a Golden Age and to the Great Fall that mankind experienced from it. The most prominent of them all is the Bible which is made up of 66 small books. Its first book (*Genesis* which is common for Jews and Christians, and even for Muslims with minor variations) speaks of how the Paradise on earth was lost (when humans began to think in terms of ‘me and mine’ which is the root of all divisiveness and separation), and its last book (*Revelation*) shows how it will be restored on earth (when people revert to purity through oneness with God’s qualities)

Perfect Language

In Golden Age, people were divine in qualities; hence spoke perfect language that matched the majesty of the deities. In the

second half of the *Kalpa*, people gradually became *dwi* [first letters of *Dwapar*, indicative of divisiveness] and started migrating in all directions (leaving behind whatever was pure and perfect—including their language) which gave rise to various man-made systems—religious, political, social, lingual, economicetc. In the Golden Age deities spoke a dialect of Hindi which is called *devanagari* (the deities who are civilized), and later on, this *Devanagari* script was used for Sanskrit which might have been a derivative of the deity-language of the Golden Age. Interestingly, great non-Indian scholars who studied Sanskrit say its remnants are found in almost all world languages, and this suggests that Sanskrit may have been the original language that the world first knew. And they also say that either people speaking this language moved from Bharat to various locations of their liking, or it was the one world language, traces of which linger in all languages around the planet. There are many scholars who hold this view, to mention a few: *Thomas Maurice*, *Franz Bopp*, *Jean-Sylvan Bailly*, *Voltaire*, *Pierre de Sonnerat*, *Friedrich von Schlegel*, *E. W. Eichhoff*, *Vans Kennedy*etc. No wonder we find regions with Sanskrit

names (like Indonesia, Indochina, West Indies), or places that show the Sanskrit based *sthan* (Afghanistan, Baluchistan, Turkasthan, Kurdisthan, Kazaksthan, and Uzbekistan) in addition to many Sanskrit names in the countries of the Far East and South Pacific. Even NASA researcher Rick Briggs wrote in the 1985 spring issue of *AI (Artificial Intelligence)* magazine that only Sanskrit qualified to be called a perfect language—something that was found out in connection with their prestigious programme of developing artificial intelligence. If Sanskrit (which is a derivative of the language of the deities in the Golden Age) is considered to be perfect by scholars, one can imagine the degree of perfection that the original language of the deities had. In other words, Sanskrit is like moonlight whereas its prototype (the language of the deities) was like sunlight.

Technology

In the Golden Age, technology was naturally at its best. For example, mode of transportation was through pollution-free, risk-free and accident-free airplanes. Again, indirect proof for this too exists in language. Sanskrit word *Chumbak Mani* (literally translated as the ‘jewel that attracts’) is equivalent to what



the modern term SEMI CONDUCTOR-MAGNET implies, and it was a vital component of ancient Indian aviators' inventory. That means *Viman Shastra* (Aeronautical Science) was part of ancient India's real-life. Interestingly, chemists in the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, who were testing the veracity of the various claims, especially relating to material science including that ancient aeronautical manual, is reported to have synthesized *Chumbak Mani* by melting 14 exotic ingredients and mercury at 1,200° C (*The Economic Times* 12.01.2015)

Existence of Deism

There were many shrewd people (in the history of the world) who firmly believed in the existence of a loving God, yet declared He has not started any religion on earth. These people are called Deists (who are different from Theists who are mostly associated with religions). Some of the famous

Deists are: Albert Einstein, Alexander Pope, Adam Smith, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Watt, Mark Twain, Neil Armstrong, Thomas Alva Edison, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Victor Hugo, Voltaire, etc. to name a few.

(<http://www.deism.com/einstein.htm>, and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_deists).

Interestingly, Mahatma Gandhi's perception of religion too was similar. He wrote (in his books such as *My God, Message of Gita* ...etc) that India's great epics and incarnation stories are all allegorical (not historical), intended only to convey spiritual truth. The resounding thoughts of these great people passed the stage of drama (as though a King's pilot vehicles) before God Shiva made His promised descent on earth, disowning all the religions, thus reflecting God's own view of religions. What a resonating proof these

well-informed great people provide to what God Himself says: 'My role begins only in the fag end of *Kali Yuga*, at the end of 5,000-year cycle (not before that).'

You Can Have Direct Proof

Though the above things are indirect proofs, you can have a direct proof. You know that the seed precedes the tree in Golden Age. And Golden Aged people (*Brahma Kumaris* and *Brahma Kumars*) are already on the world scene too obvious to miss. Pay a visit to their Head Quarters in Mount Abu (Rajasthan, India) and you will realize that these people are really being trained by God Himself and you will see God's own qualities being reflected in all their activities. The Good News is that you can also be part of these Golden Aged people—come to your nearest *Rajyoga* Meditation Centre, and ask for one-hour course for a week, which is conducted free of cost. **(Concluded)**

(Contd. from page no. 8)

Russian culture and art. Many of them are very powerful and interesting people. But none of them showed such a depth of humility. What a great inner power is needed to be beyond everything you have done. And Jagdish Chander Hassija had that great inner power.

Sixteen years have passed since I started my spiritual journey. Within that time, I was able to achieve something. A few films, some programmes, a short book, something else... And when a sudden wave of pride comes from inside, I open any book by Jagdish Chander Hassija, read a few pages and all that pride disappears like a morning fog under warm rays of the sun. What a wonder it is that the history of humanity witnessed such an outstanding personality like Jagdish Chander Hassija!



WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE BRAHMA KUMARIS?

– BK Rohit Gehani, Mulund, Mumbai

I have been a student at the Brahma Kumaris and have always thought how to put forward the reason why one should be at this institute. Let me first give a small introduction of this institution to start with. Brahma Kumaris, as a spiritual institution has been in existence since 1936.

It started off in Sindh, Pakistan, with 300 students and has now grown into a huge spiritual organization with more than 9000 centres spread across 140 countries. There are more than 10 Lakh students practicing meditation each day. It is currently based in Mount Abu, Rajasthan, which is the International Headquarters and is like a garden in the desert situated right at the starting point of Rajasthan.

We all are human beings and love to have conversations with each other. One such conversation which comes up every now and then as we get out of college and into our workplaces is **“Wish we could go back to school again”**, **“those were the days”**, **“the**

life was so disciplined”, **“no bad wishes for anyone”**. This simply shows that we all love a disciplined life which is full of focus and great joy. We learn a lot of new things in school and then we do homework which makes us work over what we learn.

We at the Brahma Kumaris are also Spiritual students and not followers of the organization. We learn Rajyoga Meditation which helps us to gain control over our sense organs which invoke all the vices to which we have been slaves for ages. Now the question here can be: Why Brahma Kumaris and not any other organization for teaching meditation? To answer this I would like to put more light on the studies. There is a daily class which focuses on different values which we should inculcate into our day to day life to be a master of it.

As we know that however hard we might have tried, we have not been able to change the situations or the people around us and hence the focus here is

to change ourselves. **After all self-change leads to world change.** We also have 18 various wings i.e. Women’s Wing, Education Wing, Business & Industry Wing, Youth Wing, Education wing etc. which cater to different sections of society. There are programs held each year at Mount Abu which is our headquarters and also at various other places at our centres so you literally have a house and a spiritual family everywhere and you don’t feel lonely.

I have been here for 18 years now and believe me that in this world where everyone tries to only put you down; it is God only who Himself lifts your spirits and takes you on a joyride. Here there is no religion, no caste, no black, no white, no thin and no fat. We are all just souls and belong to one Father. We are all united following one set of studies and are being taught each day by none other than God Himself.

Now if you have God as your Father and a big spiritual family of 10 Lakh students, a spiritual school to attend to every morning and an opportunity to visit the headquarters each year to take you away from the stress of city life, wouldn’t you aspire to be a part of this unique family and live your life to the fullest.



SOME UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS WITH B.K. BROTHER JAGDISH



– B.K. Atam Prakash, Editor

I got to meet rev. Bro. Jagdish for the first time in this time cycle in 1957. That time, Mamma-Baba had come to Rajouri Garden Centre, New Delhi; so I also went there to meet them. Bro. Jagdish hugged me so lovingly that I felt as if I had got divine love from ‘a long lost, now found’ brother. Those days, ‘Trimurti’, the first magazine of the Brahma Kumaris, used to be printed. I was deeply impressed with the depth and clarity of the articles in the magazine. Besides, I had already studied the books written by him, viz. ‘True Gita’ and ‘Sachchi Gita’. Both these books had inspired me a lot. I was already a keen admirer of him, but when I met him personally, my happiness increased much more.

In 1962, dearest Brahma Baba sent me to assist Bro. Jagdish for the purpose of Godly service through literature. Thus, I got a golden opportunity to stay with him for 2 years and received various experiences of Godly services and also got benefitted from his sacrificing

and inspirational life.

When we remain in the company of some noble soul whether at workplace or otherwise and get to witness their practical life at every moment, then this indelible influence gets imprinted in our mind deeply. Similarly, Bro. Jagdish’s life was a mine of virtues. He was a great knowledgeable person, great writer, great speaker and a great Godly server. It is said ‘Writing makes a man perfect’. I saw this practically in him. Some great secrets of Godly knowledge were revealed through his writings. From the first meeting with him, I experienced that even strangers would get attracted towards him. Many times very famous people would meet him and in the course of discussion on spiritual points with him, even they’d say, “We are feeling obvious God-connection in you.” Whenever I met him there would be some spiritual discussion. Once he said, “What is concentration all about?” Then he himself

clarified that contemplating/churning on a pearl of Godly Knowledge continuously is concentration. In the meantime, if any other thought creeps in the mind, we should discard the same. He would also emphasize that in the course of meditation if someone is having wonderful experiences and in the meantime due to some reason white light has been put on in the meditation room, even then one should remain entranced in that blissful state and should not come downwards. His state was so powerful that even by just getting seated beside him, one would feel so much light that one would experience being in meditative state, i.e. get connected to God mentally. It was not that he maintained such an elevated stage in some specific moments only; in fact he would remain in the state of soul-consciousness and God-consciousness naturally.

In the initial phase of Godly service, he’d take me to a number of places in Delhi and would tell me each and every aspect of printing in detail; we would often have to go to those places on foot. That time, he was physically stronger and would perform every Godly service with intense dedication and zeal; he surrendered his body, mind, breath, thought and everything in the service of the

world in his 50 years of Godly service.

He was an Incarnation of Economy

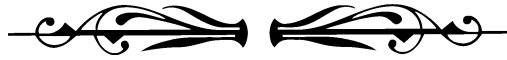
In this eternal world drama, every soul who comes to play their part; has to leave their body; this is an eternal truth. But a great person even after having left the mortal coil, leaves a subtle picture of his virtues such as diligence, fidelity, farsightedness, fearlessness, immovability, feeling of true love, purity, generosity, renunciation, belongingness towards all, on the stage of this eternal world drama. Such a great soul remains to be a source of inspiration for all ever. Despite getting vanished physically, he cannot get vanished from the minds of people. He disappeared from our life bodily but the larger existence of his virtues and qualities will keep touching and resonating our hearts for all the time to come.

In this spiritual organisation, Bro. Jagdish was the first bachelor to have got surrendered during its 'Beggary Part'; he was like an incarnation of simplicity and economy. He always wished that whatever Godly service had to be done, should be done in the best and the most

economical manner. He was very punctual. After having completed a particular task, when we used to go in front of him, his discriminative vision would never fail to detect a defect if any. He wanted 'perfection' in every task. In order to fulfil this wish, I wouldn't get success despite several efforts, but he'd be very pleased with the tasks performed by me under his guidance for a number of years. Two years before he left his mortal coil, his two books were published in Hindi and English. He got an intuition that he'd not remain alive for long. I had also understood his internal feeling. I first completed the task directed by him. Just one month before his leaving his physical body, I went to meet him at Sukhdham (Pandav Bhawan, Mount Abu) and showed him various printed books and said, "Rev. Bro., we are bringing the tasks given by you into action like King Bharat." Then, he lovingly said, "Atam! I'm happy that now you have become very experienced and, circulation of 'Gyanamrit' has also increased a lot and its standard has also become very good... The books are also being published in quite good manner." I felt very happy with

the blessings received through his contentment. Just one week before leaving his mortal coil, he asked, "What is status of printing of the book 'Cartoon and Kahavaten' (Cartoon and Adages) "? I said, "The printing is going on". Then he said, "Hurry up!" As soon as I got such an order, I got it ready sooner and just after three days, I presented it in front of him and with a sigh of relief, he uttered, "well, this task has also been accomplished", thereby thanking me. Thus, he was engaged in the service till the very end of his exemplary life. He has bequeathed to us so much treasure of Godly knowledge that we are still benefiting ourselves from him and will continue it in future too. The Godly constitution produced by him, the embodiment of his being '*Nashtomoha Smriti Labdha*', Godly laws and a strong life like thunderbolt (*Vajra*) in inculcations will keep inspiring us forever. However, he had just one complaint with himself that he couldn't reveal God Shiva in this world. As his true and affectionate successors, let's all pledge to fulfil this auspicious wish and get engaged in it completely. ●

THE WOMAN IN YOU



– BK Vithal Pingli, Visakhapatnam

“In a woman, man is conceived; from a woman he is born; with a woman he is betrothed and married; with a woman he contracts friendship. Why denounce her, the one from whom even kings are born? From a woman a woman is born, none may exist without a woman.” – **Guru Nanak Dev**

Every person has emotional needs like love, acceptance, respect and security, whether it is a man or a woman. Only when these needs are met, the person feels safe in his dealings with another individual or a group. Are women secure in today’s world? The very usage of the word, ‘Security’ with respect to women brings into limelight the challenges being faced by them today. Apart from the aspect of proving themselves in what is believed to be a man’s world, they need to adhere to their stereotyped portrayal of a ‘woman’ by the society. But, maybe the problem lies deeper... Perhaps, it is the concept of treating woman as different from man that has led to the design of the system, where each one is assigned his or her separate roles. This has led to the assumption that one is superior to the other, thereby resulting in a fierce struggle to

establish this fictitious supremacy. Let us consider a better and more realistic proposition, which might heal the disease of oppression of women that has been ailing mankind for so long.

There Is A Woman In Each Of Us.

Have you noticed that we are sometimes judgmental and sometimes understanding; we like to move and explore at times, yet just be and experience at times; we find ourselves self-centred at one time and selfless at another. It is our nature to embody both masculine and feminine qualities. Balancing the duality within is the essence of evolution. However, during the course of our History, we have witnessed a transition from honouring feminine energies to glorification of the masculine energies. This has led to a culture possessed by domination and aggression, resulting in decline of time-honoured-

values and respect for mankind as a whole. The increase in violence in sexual transgressions, excessive materialism and consumerism, being witnessed at this point of human civilisation, are all consequences of this loss of balance in the universal energy. It is now time to embrace the feminine aspects within us all, such as love, nurturing and empathy, which we are conditioned to label as *weakness*. Yet, salvation to the ills that torment the world today lies in re-emergence of the dormant Feminine Strength. Feminine energy is all encompassing, empowering and enriching.

The Child of God

Woman has been placed on the highest pedestal from ancient times, as the symbol of Mother Nature and as ‘Adi Shakti’ or the primordial life giving energy. Many religious teachers, preachers and prophets have emphasized the importance of respecting womankind as an essential step in the progress of humanity. Yet, in many cultures, women are kept away from spiritual practices and are even considered as the symbol of desire and temptation and are branded as unfit for the holy path. Surprisingly, a detailed reading of teachings in different religions throws up a different picture.

Jain religion pointed out that



there is no difference or distinction as far as the souls of a man and a woman are concerned, on the spiritual plane. In religious and social functions of the Jain fold, a woman enjoys as many rights as a man does. Where a man goes, woman can go; what a man does, woman can do. In Sikhism, Sikh Gurus invite women to join the *sangat* (congregation), work with men in the *langar* (common kitchen), and participate in all other religious, social, and cultural activities of the *gurdwaras* (Sikh places of worship). Most verses of the Quran stipulate liberation and equal rights to women and call upon Islamists to be the right-guided leaders for the salvation of men and women, emancipating them from the shackles of history and convention, and steering their life clear of the aberrations of mutative change. Christianity says "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." The difference between male and female is only biological; in Christ, there is neither male nor female.

The essence of every religion indicates that Man and Woman are children of one Supreme Soul. In fact, in a spiritual sense,

it is said that every soul is a wife and the Supreme Soul is the Husband. Their communion or 'Milan' is the greatest achievement that one can aspire for in one's lifetime.

The Home Maker

Our society is built up of families; the stronger a family, the stronger the society. The foundation of a family lies in the tradition of marriage. And the key to a successful marriage lies in the blossoming of a true relationship between man and woman. In these turbulent times, where stress pervades the populace, the subtler aspects of a beautiful family like spending time together, eating and cooking together, discussing and learning subjects of morality and spirituality are fast becoming a casualty. It is not the duties that a man and woman share as husband and wife that define their relationship, but the overall development of their individual personalities by complementing each other.

"A committed, permanent, faithful relationship of husband-wife is the root of a family. It strengthens all the members, provides best for the needs of children, and causes the church of the home to be an effective sign of Christ in the world" (U.S. Catholic Bishops)

An equal place in society for woman can be achieved only by

providing her, the rightful place in the family first. When the family members treat her with respect, if not with reverence which she deserves, then the children of that family will start bringing this culture into the society.

The Leader

"The division of labour must be made by aptitude and ability, not by gender; if a woman shows her skills." – Socrates

We view Bharat, the land of deities, as this is the land where woman is worshipped with honour and pride. This country had a woman Prime Minister for over 35 years and boasts of legendary queens like Rani Jhansi Laxmi Bai and literary jewels like Sarojini Naidu. Women of this land are leading corporate houses, marking their presence in politics and breaking records in sports. Yet, unfortunate incidents of ill-treatment and exploitation continue to maul the spirit of this God's chosen land. Today, the nation calls out in one voice for security of women.

When our intentions emerge from honesty, our thoughts reflect clarity, when our thoughts reflect clarity, our actions are filled with purity. And, when our actions are filled with purity; the society experiences security. Then the woman in the country, and in the world around us, shall

be secure.

True Security for woman comes from independence. And independence comes from education. And true education is wholesome, neither limited to a section of the people nor to the acquisition of a Degree, but that which teaches a way of life which brings peace and happiness to one and all. When we balance achievement with growth, blend pleasure with caring and harmonise development with understanding, we may call ourselves educated and civilized.

The Woman

It is said that it is difficult to understand a woman. The proper interpretation could be that we have lost the significance of feminine traits and qualities in our evolution. We walk on a one sided path to progress, blind to the dying aspects of morality, inner values and benevolence, that lie on the other side. In the race to win, we forget the joy of sharing. As we master the techniques of war, we let go the art of trusting. In the mad rush to possess and accumulate, we no longer remember to gift. As we scramble our way up to the top, our hand no longer pulls up another.

Is the world around us a reflection of our own lopsided selves? Have we killed the woman, who is an integral part of each of us? Do we no longer play with our inner child? The secret of an integrated personality lies not only in strengthening the man within, but also in caring for the woman in you and nurturing your inner child. And when our personality is complete, so is our society. And in this ideal society, every woman shall be a Queen and every man a King.

“The deepest experience of the creator is feminine, for it is the experience of receiving and bearing.” –**Rainer Maria Rilke** ●

LET'S BE THE BEST VERSION OF WHO WE ARE

– **Saanj Thimmayya**, Bangalore

Because I feel, I owe it to myself to be the best version of what I was created to be.

Mother Theresa the saint says

“These are the few ways we can practice humility:

To speak as little as possible of one's self.

To mind one's own business.

Not to want to manage other people's affairs.

To avoid curiosity.

To accept contradictions and correction cheerfully.

To pass over the mistakes of others.

To accept insults and injuries.

To accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked.

To be kind and gentle even under provocation.

Never to stand on one's dignity.

To choose always the hardest.”

Now while we do know Mother Theresa was a saintly person and one who lived a very simple life of example, it may be a little hard to surpass all the human qualities we develop that are less than positive but we can really try to make an improvement on ourselves and atleast change within us that which we perceive to be less than desirable in us.

If we take the larger scale of every creation in this beautiful world of God, the human being is but a tiny speck. But a human's ego takes over to make him feel he Lords over everything under the sun. In his mind, the small world he makes for himself is THE whole world , one which makes him look at himself in huge proportions. All it takes for a person to become grounded is a bit of humility and a modest look at who he really is .

The points touched upon by Mother Theresa are simple to follow and one just needs to exercise them a little every day. After all , don't we owe it to our creator and ourselves to be the best possible version of who we are ?

YOU CAN'T CANCEL TODAY – BUT YOU CAN CANCEL YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW FROM THE DIARY OF YOUR MIND

(Do You Have Servants That Kick You Or Bring You Fruit?)

– B.K. David, Paignton, England

We should learn to live in the present. Living each day in the present should be everyone's top priority in one's mind. The first thing you should ask your partner or very close friends when you meet them must be: "How was your day? Did you live in the present, in peace and happiness"? Or were you dwelling in the past or future?

The importance of the present should be taught in every school, college, university and be the number one pursuit and goal of everyone. Learning to live in the moment should be so well taught to all, that when anyone is asked where they live, they'd reply, 'in the Present'.

Many people seem to short change themselves and settle for the mediocre or insignificant pleasures in life thinking 'This is it! They can only have those few moments of happiness and peace each day and that is the way it is meant to be. Are you only allowed to breathe 6 mouthfuls of air a day? Are you only allowed one parent or one

friend? Are you meant to only have one shoe and one shirt and tie in life? You are allowed many things in life, and that also is very true when it comes to happiness and peace. And like leaving something on the train or bus that is valuable, we have somehow lost the ability to be happy and peaceful, as we have lost the ability to live in the present. Learn and regain the ability to live in the present and all the good aspects of life will come flooding back and wash over you refreshing your mind.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Unhappiness, sorrow and a waste of time. Please come in and make yourself at home.

Without living in the present you can never really taste anything, see anything clearly nor can you feel anything beautiful or meaningful or do anything of value that helps and contributes to the world to become a better place. Why? If your mind is not fixed in reality, in the present, it easily gets lost and tangled in the past or future.

Once you open the door of past and step through it, feelings of regret, anger and frustration all too easily emerge and can take over your mind before you realise it, and the present with its reality and key to happiness is lost or simply forgotten. Stepping through the door of the future can cause just as much pain as behind this door is complete darkness. You can fall down the stairs that is hidden behind this door.

By constantly or even occasionally projecting yourself into the future, you open the door of expectation which is potentially just as dangerous as the open door that leads on to your past. The door of the future when opened can make you worry or create a world of dreams that is a million of miles away from reality, thus wasting your precious time. However, the future door of 'what could be', of escapism from probable errors, can be very useful if it inspires you, takes you in a good direction for you to aim at and act upon. Yet just like the door



of your past, you need great care when opening the door to your future. Dreams are very good when they fill you with enthusiasm and make you strong but not when they only waste your time and you don't have the skill, quality, qualification or power to make those dreams come true. You need great attention and awareness when you stand outside either of these doors and as a rule they are both best left firmly closed, especially the door to your past. It is wise to ignore knocks and calls from the past that can lead you down to a muddy path.

Do You Only Smell Your Food Or Do You Also Eat It?

You can live without being in the present moment but that would only be like sitting in the kitchen smelling the food cooking and not being able to eat, taste or enjoy it or not being able to have its nourishment make you strong and healthy and happy.

How healthy and how happy can a person be who can only sit down in the kitchen of life and smell the wonderful food cooking? Many now in life are totally oblivious to the wonderful taste of life! They would love the food and nourishment of happiness if only they knew how to live correctly and enjoy

the simple aspects of life.

It is within simplicity that you can find the true and lasting key to happiness. Without simplicity in your life, you will be just rushing about, worrying, feeling stressed, being more selfish and will be paying far too much attention to your body. These detrimental traits will close the door to happiness in your life. When this door of happiness is closed, the door of unhappiness automatically opens on to a life of dissatisfaction and nervousness. It is always good to remind yourself that you are in charge of which doors in your life you open and close and that you do not need to be a servant and victim to either your past or future. You should be and can be in control of your happiness that can only be found in the present.

If you care to look at your watch it says: the present, the gift is here, right in front of you ticking away. Can you hear it? Or are you lost? Can you not hear the present ticking away as you are behind the door of either the past or future? You need to step out from your illusionary world and pay attention to 'the now' in front of you. Forget the past and future and pay attention to only what you have now in your life that is real and can be touched. Which of these two

meals would you prefer to eat today if you only had one meal to choose from? Which do you think would be more fulfilling, nourishing, tastier and wiser to eat? Would you choose the jam sandwich that is real and is in front of you or would you go for the lavish banquet dream which only exists in your mind? If you do not grasp the present, you will slowly but surely grow weak and unhappy with just smelling and dreaming about food (life).

You need great care not to allow the past to flood and drown you today. You need always check that your past is tightly locked away from you and your present life. Only when your past is out of sight, and mind can you truly live and enjoy the present and your life. If you have one eye on your past, that is enough to drown you as you have entered the eye of the storm and in time, it can take over you and throw you about like a rag doll.

Yesterday is a mere photo that should be in a drawer of your mind, somewhere out of sight. This photo should only be taken out and looked at if it makes you smile and laugh and fills you with happiness and enthusiasm for today. Otherwise all photos of the past, even recent photographs, should be completely forgotten and placed

in the drawer. Many past photos should be disposed of never to be seen and thought of again.

Cement Each New Day with a Clean Sheet

Each day should be a clean sheet uninterrupted by past images and thoughts. Each minute and second should be felt as a clean sheet in which you are free to write and create what you wish. Each day should be like a walk on clean snow that has no footprints from your past. There should also be no snowmen built in your present life, as that would cause a waste of your time, both in building and then later on wondering why they never came true. These imaginary snowmen might appear attractive but they are illusion and will melt all too easily under the sun of reality that shines every day. You may get to stand in front of your snowman and it is likely he will melt before your eyes, leaving just a puddle. Such are our dreams that often never materialise and leave a sad puddle on the floor in which we can see our faces reflected in the reality of truth.

It's Hard to Be Happy and Walk Right If Your Pockets Are Full of Seeds

Tomorrow is an invisible ring that you may think suits you and feels lovely to wear. The next

day it becomes so tight that it pinches you and causes you pain. Planning or expecting the best from life is a good state of mind, of course, but you always will need to be carrying a shield and lifebuoy if you are overly confident, especially if you have not sowed good seeds along your way.

Many have a keen eye on the future and take their eye off the ball in the present on which you should actually be concentrating on and kicking if you want to score a goal. If not careful to keep control of the ball (your life, your thoughts, plans, aims), you could end up scoring own goals. The wind of expectation easily blows your ball (life) in many differing directions and put you out in the game of life. You thought you will be going from A to B in a straight line with your high expectations and ideas, yet the wind of reality can send you round and round in circles. Expectations of tomorrow can end up making you giddy, give a headache and ultimately cause you great sorrow.

Tomorrow always offers great potential but whose gifts are only invisible at best; except for the few rare occasions they appear in front of you, and that can be as rare as seeing a shooting star in the afternoon whilst you are down the cellar

that has a small window with broken glass. Seldom does a dream fall on to your lap to open. Dreams can come true – only when you work towards them, and that requires you to focus in the present. No present, no present.

The Present

We all need to pay attention to the golden lesson in life that is always there in front of us to learn from. Learning this golden lesson can make you eligible to join the wealthiest, healthiest and most exclusive club in the world. The golden lesson to be learnt is: forget the past and future and dive into the present with love and enthusiasm and not come up for air until it's time to sleep.

When you've such courage and lungs of love, you'll be able to dive deep and find all the hidden treasures left there by God, for you to find and share.

Think of yesterday as quicksand. You should view and treat yesterday as your enemy who if you let in, will become the Trojan horse in your life. Think of tomorrow with great suspicion or else, it will take you down. Learn to be wise and throw both yesterday and tomorrow in the river and learn to enjoy the present. Think of today as your blessing. Think of the present as your present.



(Contd. from page no. 3)
weaker classes and the backward sections, etc. (xv) to resolve the conflicts between diverse or antagonistic interests of various communities and sectional demands of various groups and classes, (xvi) Relief in the case of natural calamities and (xviii) to govern all the internal and external affairs of the State and to fulfil all other responsibilities, connected with these. This would show how important is the work of the politicians and how great are the responsibilities of politicians! The Statecraft and Statesmen are, no doubt, the sine qua non of a modern civilised society, particularly one that has a democratic form of government.

Need for teamwork, co-operation and stability

A noteworthy thing in this context is that all these are inter-connected and, so, they require co-ordination, mutual consultation and teamwork. If there is bickering and lack of team spirit, then the affairs of the State and the people are bound to suffer. If the ministerial *gaddis* (seats) are constantly shaking and the game of musical chairs is always going on, then the nation will certainly lag behind other nations in the race. *These are precisely the reasons why, even after 67*

years of independence, India, a giant among nations, has been left far behind by such nations as Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea and even by Japan. Japan had to rebuild its shattered economy after the Second World War but has now become one among a dozen affluent nations whereas India remains to be one of dirtiest countries. It is disunity, dishonesty; lack of sense of responsibility, poor management of our resources, utter selfishness and utter lack of a spirit of service to the nation that has led the country to its present plight.

Two types of politicians

Politicians are persons who have a hunch for statecraft and a taste for statesmanship and an urge to play the game plan of politics. But there are two kinds of politicians

A genuine, patriotic, self-sacrificing or a saintly politician has an inner drive to plunge into politics because he is fired with a vision. He has a great zeal to work for the poor, the downtrodden, the exploited and the neglected brethren or he may take up the work for nobler and higher causes such as freedom, human rights, justice and dignity of women by wielding the power of

governance or political leadership. He may feel highly energised to see a great potential in his country and people and may have dreams to take his country to a place of honour among the comity of nations.

On the other hand, there may be politicians who stealthily enter the portals of politics or gate-crash into it for power, position, prestige, and privileges or for amassing wealth without any moral scruples. These latter types are over-ambitious and make all kinds of attempts to capture levels of power for self-aggrandisement or for narrow interests of a class, community, party or coterie. It is because of this latter kind of politicians that politics becomes dirty and politicians, as a class, get defamed.

Politicians of this latter category use party, community or class also for their own selfish aims. They may have suitcases full of currency notes in every room of their every building but, if they are caught by the CBI, they may say that the money belongs to the party and, if no one notices their abominable acts and their detestable modus operandi, they may collect money in the name of the party and keep it for themselves.

Lowering of moral standards

The problem is not merely of economic offence. There are many other misdeeds that go against the interest of the nation and the whole society. Many reports have so far been published about the links of some politicians with the mafia, the underworld dons, criminals and musclemen. One finds that there have been filed charge-sheets alleging not only economic offences by front-rank politicians but legal proceedings for other crimes as well. Also, there have been reports of booth-capturing, abductions and even killings during the elections to State Assemblies or Parliament. Thus, there has been all-round degeneration of moral standards and the wrong doings of some have done a great damage to the whole party.

Multi-media publicity of misdeeds

Since politicians hold prominent positions and stand out high among the general public, the scandals and scams in which they are involved and the strictures passed against them set a bad trend among the people. Common people also

begin to think of making money by short cuts. As film stars set trends for new fashions in dress and sportspersons set in vogue new styles in their game, politicians, because of their power and position, sway the minds of the masses the right or the wrong way. Politicians are in the lime-light and they are very much sought after by the people because they represent the people and lead them and plead their causes at different fora. *So, if politicians are persons of upright conduct, all the publicity about them can do immense good to the people and can help mobilise public opinion in the right direction but, today, we find that people are demoralised and disappointed and feel that they have been let down by their leaders.*

Powers without principles

So many trees are cut so as to produce paper and so much time and money is spent on the electronic media and the politicians get a lot of publicity. But what is this publicity about? Much of the publicity is about the in-party squabbles, intra-party defections, and manipulations for capturing seats of power,

pandemonium in parliament, cases in courts, constant in-fights and instability because media have a permanent vested interests in bad news. So, very little time and energy is left with the politicians to do solid and constructive work and to fulfil the promises made in their respective manifesto. Much of the time is lost in party conflicts. There are also leaders who are not in active politics but who remain in the background but work their designs through their agents. There are so many powers but there are no principles and the result is that the game is spoiled. As guided nuclear missiles in the hands of misguided people can spell doom, so also are powers in the hands of those politicians (however few) who do not observe certain essential principles, can wreck a nation.

It is, therefore, time for the politicians, as for anyone else, to have a change in outlook, attitudes, life-style and work-culture. This is possible through India's powerful system of Values and Yoga Meditation, which is India's unique contribution to the world-culture. ●