

SILVER LINING AMONG DARK CLOUDS

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I am thinking about the aim of our lives. . Is it just earning money , getting degrees , winning awards , imposing recognition or much more than that .Ramakrishna Paramhans who was the guru of Swami Vivekananda , used to tell him a story.`` There was a great scholar of Sanskrit full of puffed pride.One day he has to go from his village to another village .He has to cross the river .He took a boat .His pride was compelling him to enquire others knowledge so that others may know how much knowledge he has.He boasted that he had full knowledge of Vedas, Astrology and Grammar.He had so much superiority complex in him that he started comparing his knowledge with the knowledge of boatman .This was the only way he can show to others what he is. That learned scholar asked the boatman, `` Have you studied Bhagvad Gita ?``.The boatman answered, `` I do not know how to read so I can not read Bhagvad ?`` The scholar said disdainfully, `` The person who has not read Bhagvad Gita , has destroyed his twenty percent life.``The boatman tried to clarify with the reason that he has no time for all these activities because he has household works and children to look after.That scholar again asked the second question , `` You might have heard about Vedas .``The boatman answered that all the persons in his village are illiterates .How can they hear about Vedas``Then hearing so the scholar cried, `` Its too much .You are fool .You have destroyed your forty percent life.Everything is useless in your life``. Till then the boat came in the middle of the river.The scholar did not stop his questions .He again asked , `` You might have atleast heard about Ramcharitmanas ``.The boatman answered in negative .That scholar again commented , `` You fool! You have destroyed your eighty percent life``.Uptill now the boatman was bearing all these insults .All of a sudden the boat started dwindling in the middle of the river and water started pouring in the boat.The boatman asked the scholar, `` Panditji, Do you know how to swim ? ` That scholar answered , `` NO``.The boatman retorted with anxiety of fear, `` Now your whole life has been destroyed. Now we have no option but to jump and swim .All your books and knowledge cannot help you in swimming``

Its not just degrees, knowledge or post that matters but it is the Midas touch of compassion .Vidya Dadati Vinayam [Education gives us humility].But in this materialistic rat race we are becoming like a balloon after getting degrees or posts and forgetting our villages and relatives.Swami Vivekananda forced upon compassion and human heart in education. He said,

``Well, you consider a man as educated if only he can pass some examinations and deliver good lectures .The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life , which does not bring out the strength of character , a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of lion –is it worth the name ?

Real education is that which enables one to stand on one own legs .The education that you are receiving now in schools and colleges is only making you a race of dyspeptics , you are working like machines merely, and living jelly fish existence.``

We have become machines with no human heart that hears or feels. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore materialized his concept of getting education in lap of nature through his Shanti Niketan but now we are destroying nature and making airconditioned class rooms. Can cool breeze of natural air be compared with mechanical stale air of airconditioner. Sant Kabir Das has propounded the theory of love.

`` Pothi padh padh jag bhaya, pandit bhaya na koy

Dhai Akhar prem ka padhe so pandit hoi ``

Means human touch and compassion is the real scholarship in place of tons of books and selfish ends. Education without nature and love is useless or lame. It is positivity self confidence, love and brotherhood that is important. Swami Vivekananda has said,

``You have a thousand times more than in all books. Never loose faith in yourself, you can do anything in this universe. Never weaken, all power is yours.``

Evil talk has much attraction. We are always ready to hear the evils of others. We always raise our fingers on others. When we see that two persons are fighting on the way, we stop and look at them more closely but we never glance a spell of love on starving begger on the way. Our curious eyes never try to know how much that begger or helpless person is suffering. Not only this we try to search the weak points. If any person has done 99 good works that will never be counted or appreciated but if he has committed any error that will be go on forever. Every can't be perfect because Mr. Perfectionist is Almighty. Another thing we should try is infiltration of jealousy. Jealousy is like a burning coal that we keep inside our heart. Its better to have a healthy competition in place of pouring the venom in form of ill talk or rumours. You should not feel bothered about these ill talk but meet that person with more love who wants that you should weep and always have the smiling face inspite of pangs of grieves.

We always preoccupied in ill conversation about that person whom we never like and in this way keep remembering him keep loving him all the time. We should be thankful to such persons. If anyone throws stones on you. You should be patient enough to collect all those stones to solidify your foundation. Today all kinds of news magazines and news channels are filled with negative energy to present the truth faster. They are selling this in the name of presenting truth. One person is labeling charge on other and other is also counter labeling charges. Its result is negativity, enmity but no creativity.

Goswami Tulsidas has said, `` Samrath ko nai dosh Gusain.`` , means a powerful person has no diffect in himself. I am amzed our human history is full of charges ---whether it is Jesus Christ to be crucified with some charges or Aristotle or Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King or Swami Dayanand. Swami Dayanand was so compassionate with the person who mixed the pieces of glass in his milk, he gave him his blessings and money to run away from there so that he can save himself. In this modern life we should try to make our line longer in place of erasing other's line shorter. Don't feel bothered about bad criticism

or selfcentredness of others. We should not be afraid of our difficulties or sufferings and should try to follow the words to Swami Vivekananda,

“When I Asked God for Strength
He Gave Me Difficult Situations to Face

When I Asked God for Brain & Brawn
He Gave Me Puzzles in Life to Solve

When I Asked God for Happiness
He Showed Me Some Unhappy People

When I Asked God for Wealth
He Showed Me How to Work Hard

When I Asked God for Favors
He Showed Me Opportunities to Work Hard

When I Asked God for Peace
He Showed Me How to Help Others

God Gave Me Nothing I Wanted
He Gave Me Everything I Needed.”

Mother Teresa has said the same thing to encourage us,

“ you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

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For our good health we should give up these human evils of jealousy , malice or hatred .We should try to develop the feeling of ``Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah``[All should be happy].We should try to develop this spirit and should take this oath,`` I shall not have no jealousy or malice for anyone .I shall never show anger on anyone .I shall have no self-centredness.``We are all part of the same Almighty so we are One .There is no difference of caste, creed or religion .We are part of the whole .I want to conclude this topic with these golden lines of Osho-----

``Life is possible only with the whole
Only the whole is alive, never the parts.
The parts are also alive
When they function in the whole.
Take them out of the whole
And they lose all meaning.``

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