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Continued on the back

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Telugu, English and Hindi.



LET US THINK



J.P. BALASUBRAMANIAM

*Living without hurting others and
helping the poor to the extent possible
is the way for your bright future*

*Hurting others (Except on duty) - Sin
Helping others - Virtue*

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New Delhi.

*Living without hurting others and
helping the poor to the extent possible
is the way for your bright future.*

*Hurting others(Except on duty) - Sin
Helping others - Virtue*



HEMALATHA

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*I dedicate this book at the feet of my beloved, kind
and soft daughter, Hemalatha who always keeps guiding
me at every step in my life.*

Author

J.P.BALASUBRAMANIAM

*Pioneer Match Industries,
Dharmapuri - 636 702. Tamilnadu*

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GITASAARAM

Whatever happened, happened well
Whatever is happening, happening well
Whatever will happen, will also happen well
What have you lost? Why are you weeping?
You have lost nothing since you brought nothing into this world
Nothing has been wasted since you have created nothing
Whatever you have taken, it has been taken from here
Whatever you gave away, it was given to you here.
Whatever is your's today, will be somebody else's tomorrow.
It will be yet another person's, day after tomorrow
This change is universal.



After reading this book, please give it to others and
get the grace of God. Don't keep it idle.

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GOD

How to get the blessings of God?

How to progress in life?

How to ensure a bright future for our children?

How best can we do our duty to mankind in order to improve it?

How does God look? We don't know whether He is tall or short? white or black in colour? slim or fat? When you think of him as Lord Muruga, He is Lord Muruga. When you think of him as Lord Ganesha, He is Lord Ganesha. When you think of him as God Krishna, He is God Krishna. When you think of him as Allah, He is Allah. When you think of him as Jesus, He is Jesus.

We worship Lord Muruga; He accepts our prayers and blesses us. Do the people living in North India know Him? Do the people living in foreign countries know Him? Would not Lord Muruga who blesses us, will not bless those people? Definitely He will bless them also. He will bless them in the form in which they think God exists and worship. While giving explanation for a slogan in Bhagwath Gita, (Like the Bible for the Christians, the Ouoran for the Muslims, Bhagwath Gita is for the Hindus) the Great Saint Ramakrishna Paramahamsar says ***“God is beyond all religions. By whatever religion and by whatever***

manner you worship Him, your prayers will always reach Him ”.

God has no fixed shape. You can't confine Him in any particular shape or form. In whichever shape you think He exists and worship, through that shape He will bless you. We should realise this truth.

Where does God exist? He exist only in temples, churches and mosques? For another slogan of Bhagavad Gita, Ramakrishna Paramahamsar explains:- ***“ We go around the temple, and looking at eight directions, we offer our prayers. How did this custom originate? It is to remind us that God exists every where in all the places and directions of the earth ”.*** Great Devotee Prahaladha says "God exist in the pillar and also in the dust". Hence you cannot find a place where God does not exist. Gita also says that God exist not only in human beings, but in all living beings. You may perhaps find a place where air is not present. But you cannot find a place where there is no God. We should realise this properly.

What kind of worship does God prefer? Let us see what Gita says - ***“ Whoever worships me with the easily available things like water, leaves, flowers, and fruits, and with a pure heart , I accept them willingly ”.***

A pure heart is the most essential thing in prayer. God cannot be pleased with costly prayers, like

abishekam, aradhana, homam, kalyana utsavam, golden chariot etc. We should not underestimate God's sense of values. God assesses the value of a prayer, or offering not on its cost, quantity or grand style, but on the purity of the heart with which it is offered.

Once there was a tussle between Sathyabama and Rukmani about who had more love, affection and closeness towards God - Krishna. Both claimed that they loved Krishna more than the other. Finally they decided to hold a test and find out. Sathyabama placed gold, diamond and costly jewels on one side of the weighing scale; while Rukmani placed just one tulasi leaf on the other side of the weighing scale with love, affection and humility. The tulasi leaf was heavier than all the gold and costly ornaments and the side with Tulasi leaf came down in the scale. The Tulasi leaf is accepted by Lord Krishna with pleasure, since that is offered with humility and simplicity and with a pure heart, rather than the costly jewels of gold and diamonds. This incident from Maha Bharatha explains God Krishna's preference for simple things offered with a pure heart. When boyhood friend Kuchela came with cooked aval packed in a rag and hesitated to offer it to his friend, living in a big palace . Lord Krishna grabbed it eagerly, and ate it with love. Love and a pure heart are more important than costly offerings.

In Karnataka state in a town called Udipi, you find, in the temple, the main idol of Lord Krishna with his back facing

the front door. When you enter the temple, you can see only the back portion of Lord Krishna. There is an interesting story behind this. A low caste sincere devotee was coming daily to worship Him. But he was not allowed entry inside the temple because of his caste, and he kept returning home disappointed. He was daily praying to God, full of tears in his eyes, requesting darshan of Him. One day Lord Krishna appeared in his dream and said, "There is a hole in the back wall of the temple. See me through that hole. I will turn that side for your sake and you can worship me". For the sake of giving darshan to that sincere devotee God Krishna turned about completely, and we can see that even today in Udipi.

Meat is prohibited from being offered to God. But Kannappa, a great Shiva bhaktha, offered meat to Lord Siva, that too after tasting it to know whether it was delicious. But Lord Siva accepted it because it was offered with a pure heart and devotion.

God is the personification of Truth. He is utterly honest. He does not know how to do wrong. He is impartial. All of us are the children of God. All of us are liable to make mistakes, and in fact we are committing it frequently. But God is incapable of doing the least wrong or giving punishment to any man or even to any animal. He will not give that even to the low creatures like dogs, cats, ants etc. He is careful that no injustice is done to anybody.

There is a basic rule behind the entire system of judiciary in the world – "***A hundred criminals may escape punishment; but an innocent person under any circumstances should not be punished***". When even ordinary men are so careful not to punish the innocent, how can we expect that God will punish any person who has not done anything wrong? It is impossible and unimaginable. Then why is God punishing people in the form of diseases, poverty, accidents, etc? When God, the personification of Good Truth Honesty and Love gives punishment for people, it must be based only on honest, justifiable, and foolproof reason. That is on the basis of our past sins like cheating others, committing frauds, doing bad deeds causing pain to others etc..

God gives punishment in proportion to the sins we have committed in this birth, the sins we have committed in our previous births, the share from the sins of our mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, and the sins our ancestors committed long ago.

The great sages and rishis said that "***All the good and all the bad things that we do will have their effect on us in the form of rewards and punishments in this birth and in the next seven births and also in the next seven generations***"- like son, grandson, great grand son etc.

One's grandfather could have been a god-fearing, generous and a philanthropic man and so he might be blessed

with a grandson living a life of peace and happiness many wise men say. The good, the ancestors did helps a man in his days of difficulties. We hear people say due to the virtues (Punniyam, Punya) of our forefathers, even though big problems came, we were able to overcome with little punishment. We also hear people say, that due to the virtues of their fore fathers; the danger which came to their heads passed off damaging only the headgears. We also see that when the grandfather is blind, the son is blind, and also the grandson is blind in the family.

God is impartial. God never thinks, "He is an American, I like him a lot; he is an Indian, I like him a little; he is an African I dislike him". God likes all men; He likes Ram, Rahim and Joseph You can't even imagine a bit of partiality in the all wise God.

Though God likes all men, He has a very big duty to perform. He has three big duties of **Creation, Protection and Destruction**. In discharging the duty of protection, He dispenses rewards or punishments according to our sins and virtues (Punniyam, Punya) If we have done good deeds, which are virtues we will get rewards; and if we have done bad deeds, which are sins we will get punishments. For good or bad deeds, we have committed, God is not giving the rewards or punishments immediately. But only after many years. But even after many years they are not given it at one time. They are spread over this birth, the next seven births and over our seven generations.

When we do wrong deeds, we are inviting punishments . We can cheat somebody and can earn a few thousand rupees now. But these few thousands of rupees gain, will bring back a big calamity later. Always we get a small gain by cheating others, but on the other hand we are taking a much bigger punishment which will come at a later stage. One is normally pleased when he earns money and tells himself " Oh I have cheated him. I have earned a lot of money. I have bought a bungalow and a car ". Man is proud of his wealth earned by fraud, cheating and committing other sins. He little realises that he is going to pay heavily for this later on.

Is it possible for everybody to earn a lot of money by wrong means? Out of lakhs of people only a few are able to earn. That is because they had done some good deeds in the past. But people don't realise that whoever get money by wrong means will invite heavy punishment later on. Our assets like car, house, properties, happiness and peace of mind will disappear gradually, and they will be replaced with disease, poverty, a troubled mind and problems in the family. When we do a wrong deed, we can escape from the punishment given by law, the people and the government; but we can never escape from the punishment given by God. We can run to the far corners of the universe, but the punishment will pursue us relentlessly and will catch with us. This is Truth, nothing but truth and a wholesome truth .

When you harm others, bodily or mentally, it is a sin.

The punishment you get for that from God will be in proportion to the quantity and the quality of the sin . For example four different persons commit the same kind of cheating. A cheats a rich man and robs him of one hundred rupees. B cheats a middle class man and takes one hundred rupees from him. C cheats a poor man and deprives him of one hundred rupees. D cheats a beggar and takes away one hundred rupees from him.

Will God award the same punishment to all the four A,B,C and D? Never. God will register less sin against A as the rich man is not much affected and will register a little bit more sin against B as the middle class man is affected a little, but not much. As the poor man is more affected God will register more sin against C. God will register the maximum sin against D as the beggar is the most affected. The amount of sin registered to us depends on the people we affect, on the circumstances in which they are committed, and on the quality of the pain inflicted on others.

When we inflict pain on others while discharging our duty, it is not a sin. But If we fail to do our duty in order to avoid inflicting pain on others, the neglect of duty on our part itself is a sin. This is the essence of Bhagwath Gita.

For example : A judge hears a murder case. It is proved beyond doubt that the accused has committed the crime. But the accused is a married person and has children also. If the

judge awards him death punishment his wife will become a widow, and his children will become orphans. If the judge takes into account the situation of the family, have mercy on him and acquits the criminal, it is a sin committed for not performing his duty properly. On the other hand if the judge awards death punishment or life imprisonment as per law, the agony caused to him and his family will not bring him any sin, as the judge is doing his duty properly.

The CBI Deputy Director Mr. Madhavan who handled the Bofors corruption case, and who resigned his post stating the reason of political interference in his work, was an honest and sincere police officer. When he was asked for his opinion about the corrupt politicians swindling public money he said that it was like robbing a blind beggar of his earnings.

“ The tears of the poor people is like a sharp sword ” -

- Thiruvalluvar - great Tamil Poet.

There is a proverb which says that ***“ If the strong people punish the weak, the strong people will be punished by God ”***. The opposite is also true. If the rich and the strong help the poor and the weak, will not God help the rich and the strong? Yes, definitely without any doubt. God will help them.

All our actions come under one of the three categories:

1. Sin

2. Virtue (Punniyam, Punya)

3. A state in which there is neither sin nor virtue.

All our actions are closely watched by God. Our action, its quality and the resultant goodness or badness are registered and according to that the punishments and rewards to be given are also registered. Can we imagine doing the smallest deed without the knowledge of God? Leave alone action, we cannot even think without the knowledge of God. We go to the temple and we pray to god, "God give me a house, give me good education, give me a good job". We make lot of demands in our minds. Only we know it; no body else on earth knows it. But we believe that God knows our prayer and He will fulfill it. Then it shows that God knows whatever prayers and thoughts that are running in our mind. Hence it is a truth that without the knowledge of God, we can neither do any act nor we can think.

We go to the temple and pray to God. We say that we should not tell lies in the temple and we should not do any wrong deeds in the temple. Can we lie and can we do wrong deeds outside the temple ? Will these not be known to God ? How can we believe that God observes us only in the temple and not outside the temple ? Is it not foolish to believe that our bad thoughts and bad actions, outside the temple will remain unknown to God ?

In our day to day life, we do several things that God

does not approve of and that God does not like. But when we enter a temple, we pose as good men. We believe that God does not know all our evil thoughts and deeds done outside the temple. Do you think it is possible to cheat God? Believing so, are we not cheating ourselves?

For instance Ramaswami is an evil person, but he is a staunch devotee. When he goes to the temple and prays to the God, will not God think "Come, Ramaswami. You pray to me in the temple with all love and humility. But do you think I don't know the evil you have committed last night? Don't I know the evil you have committed at midnight on the eighth of last month? Don't I know previous to that, you did a dark deed at 2. 00 pm. the month before? Apart from cheating others, do you want to cheat Me also? You will get the punishment for all the sins you have committed without fail and also for the sin now you are committing- posing as a good, honest person before me".

God will never listen to the prayers of cheats. Only when people realise their mistakes sincerely, and only when they pray. "Oh God, I have committed mistakes due to ignorance and I am sincerely sorry for that. I will never repeat them. Please forgive me, God". Then only God will consider their mercy-plea and may agree to reduce the severity of the punishment. But He will never cancel the punishment.

One of the main reasons for all our difficulties is our

tendency to underestimate God's intelligence power and wisdom. God is millions and millions of times more intelligent, more powerful and more wiser than Man. Man does not realise this and invites problems.

God's power, intelligence and wisdom are incomprehensible to the human mind. To give an idea of the vastness of the universe, let us look at what they say in Astronomy. Astronomers say "It is easier to count the sands on the beaches than to count the planets in the universe". The planet Earth where we live is one among billions and billions of planets. The distance between the sun and the earth cannot be easily remembered in terms of miles and kilometres. It can be easily remembered, and calculated in terms of the time, that light takes to travel. It takes eight minutes for the light to travel from the sun to the earth. Some of the planets are so far away from the earth, that light takes thousands of years to reach the earth. This is calculated according to the powerful telescope and other instruments available now. Beyond this exists billions of planets. Is it possible to comprehend the vastness of space and the distance between planets? Our intelligence is too small to comprehend it. Imagine the power of God who controls the entire universe.

The population on this earth is 600 crores. But the number of planets in the universe is many more times. How dare we underestimate the power intelligence and wisdom of

God who controls this vast universe? To underestimate Him, is in itself an insult to Him. It is a sin.

To imagine that such powerful and wise God would not see through our tricks, and that He could be tricked into granting us favours by our showy pujas and ceremonies, that He could be made a partner in our crimes by offering him a portion of our ill-gotten wealth, is an insult to Him

There is a very important work to be done for you in the Government either by a big officer or by a Minister. Both of them are very honest and sincere. That work has to be done against the rules. You are in a big dilemma and worry searching for ways to do it. Somebody approaches you. You are disclosing the work to be done to him. For that he says – "Oh! it is not a big thing for me. Come with me. I will complete your work by offering a cup of coffee to that Minister". He says by drinking that coffee, he will be very much pleased and he will complete your work. If you believe his words and go with him, are you not a fool? Apart from that, if you think by drinking a cup of coffee, such an honest and sincere Minister or officer, will execute your big work against the Rules; you are also insulting him. Likewise if you think God who is having immeasurable quantity of intelligence, power and wisdom, will be pleased by your elaborate poojas, homas, yagas, ceremonies, shastras etc and grant you so many rewards, is it not foolish? Is it not an insult to Him?

God gives only a little credit to sincere prayers poojas and ceremonies. He gives big credit only to the good deeds like alleviating the sufferings of other persons, especially those of the poor.

ASWAMEDHA YAGAM

We go to the temples to worship God. To worship in a better manner, we light the camphor and pray. For still better manner of worship, we offer flowers, fruits, coconuts and ask the priest to do an archana in the name of our birth star.

For a still better manner of worship, we perform abishekam with milk, honey sandal paste, panchamirtham etc to the deity. For a still better worship, we make a homam or yagam in order to please God. The top most form of worship as per our Vedas is performing Aswamedha yagam.

Aswamedha yagam cannot be performed by ordinary people. It requires a lot of resources and personnel. Not even the Rajas and Maharajas can do it. Only Emperors, like Dasaradha, Asoka etc who have vast territories and a good number of Rajas and Maharajas under their control, could perform this yagam, as it needs hundreds of yaga kundams, very big yaga mandapam, tons of ghee and other materials and hundreds of Brahmin scholars well versed in the Vedhas.

Aswamedha yagam is the ultimate puja to get the utmost blessings of God. There is a story about this yagam in Maha Bharatha: Once an Emperor made elaborate arrangements for performing this yagam. After completing all the formalities, when the priests were about to start the yagam, a mongoose appeared in the yaga mandapam. Its body, except for the tail, was shining like gold. It had the capacity to speak clearly.

It came to the presiding Head priest and said to him sarcastically “ What virtue (Punniyam,punya) is your Emperor going to get out of performing this yagam ? He will not get even a fraction of the virtue earned by a poor Brahmin for the deed done by him in the forest”.

All of them were taken by surprise. Here was a golden mongoose and it speaks. They stood frozen. The head priest gathered courage and said, “This yagam will yield the greatest of virtues to our Emperor. Who else can do better than this? Explain your statement”.

The mongoose replied, Once in a small village, a poor Brahmin lived with his wife and two sons. He was unemployed and he had no means of earning a livelihood in that small village. So he decided to leave for the next big town.

He along with his wife and sons were walking through a forest. They had not taken any food for the past two days. They were starving and tired. On their way they sat under a big tree, and saw paddy grains scattered all over there. Happily they collected the paddy, ground it to rice and cooked it, with the firewood available in the forest.

When they were about to eat the food, there came an old Maharishi, also tired and starving. Hospitality being inborn with this Brahmin, he welcomed the Maharishi and offered him his portion of the food. It was not enough for the Maharishi. The

Brahmin's wife gestured to her husband to give him her portion also. When that too did not suffice, his two sons also offered their portions. After taking all the food, the Maharishi was completely satisfied and left, after blessing all of them.

The Brahmin had been starving for two days; he had prepared the scarce food with much difficulty, inspite of hunger for two days, depriving himself and his family of a meal, he offered it with a generous heart without expecting any returns to a good and respectable Maharishi. This exemplary action had brought him the greatest virtues from God. When I rolled over that holy spot; my body except the tail turned into gold and also I got the power to speak. To get my tail also turned into gold, I rolled over the holy spot of your yagam, But my tail remained as it was without being turned to gold. As such your Emperor will not get even a fraction of the virtue earned by the poor Brahmin.

The poor brahmin's offer of food was not even one thousandth of the efforts required for performing the Aswamedha yagam, and not even one in lakhs of amount spent on it. But the virtues he had accrued was tremendous. ***“ The virtues that come out of our actions depend on the person's heart,intentions and the circumstances in which it was given, to whom it was given, and what was the condition of the receiver etc ”.***

In the Olympics games held once in four years, the winners are decided very very carefully. For instance, in the

Diving competition in the swimming pool, ten judges belonging to ten different countries are appointed, to avoid partiality in selecting the winners. They are assigned a list of ten parameters according to which they have to award marks to each of the contestants. The parameters are, the way the contestants stand on the diving platform, the way they dive into the water, the kind and quality of the somersaults they do before touching the water, the position of the body when it touches the water, the amount of water displaced when the contestants go into the water etc. All these parameters are taken into account, for awarding marks.

All the ten judges award marks for each parameter, the maximum per parameter being ten marks. Taking into account the marks given by each judge and the total marks of ten judges, the winners for gold, silver and bronze medals are selected. Even after selection, they subject the contestants to undergo thorough medical check up to ascertain whether the winners had taken any steroids to boost the performance, which is illegal. They take utmost care to see that any kind of mistake should not happen and only the real winners should get the medals.

If the ordinary men, with their limited intelligence and resources, are prepared to take so much trouble to decide the real winners in the Olympics imagine how much care the Almighty God would take and how many parameters he will have, in so meticulously and perfectly assessing the good and

bad of men's actions, and dispensing rewards and punishments. The fortunes and misfortunes of our lives, the joys and the punishments we undergo, are decided by God very very carefully. There is no half-hearted or casual approach on the part of God. We get only what we really deserve.

For the good things and problems that happen in our life, we attribute the reason for them as our time, our luck, our fate, etc. Whatever be the name that we call it the truth is, they have been given by God. Our deeds only are responsible for what we get in our life, and nothing else. We decide our fate. God does not decide our fate. God calculates our fate depending upon the good and bad deeds performed by us.

“ The rewards and the punishments God gives us are so meticulously calculated; they will not be more or less even by a needle's point; and they will not come even a second late or early. God's rewards or punishments come exactly at the right time, in the right measure and in the right manner ”.

God is the Supreme judge who passes judgments on our actions. In the court of God, there is no enquiry, no arguments, no witnesses, no cross examinations. Because there is nothing God does not know. He knows everything there is no need for Him to make enquiries or to get explanations. He knows the amount of good and bad committed by every person.

God knows perfectly the good and evil actions of men. In his judgement, there is no possibility of even for the smallest of an error. God is a very very honest and very very truthful and very very sincere judge. God will never pass wrong judgements or wrong punishments. or wrong rewards to any body in the world and at any time. We can be very sure of that.

VIRTUE

Everybody knows well that hurting others is a sin. You ask anybody how to earn virtue ? They will say that going to the temple worshipping God, doing poojas, yagams, ceremonies etc will give us virtue. It is not perfectly correct. As hurting others is a sin, the quite opposite of that - alleviating the sufferings of others must be the reason to fetch virtue. That too to relieve the sufferings of the people who undergo very much distress in life is the greatest of virtues.

“ Yogis are far better than Rishis ”

“ They are better than Gnanis,

Therefore Arjuna You become a yogi ”

(Bhagwath Gita VI chapter – 46th slogan).

Giving up all attachment for land, gold and woman, sacrificing pleasures and desires and all joys in life and seeking the blessings of God is the way to emerge as a rishi. It is a great state of life. But if a yogi is far nobler than a rishi, how much a better person should he be ? Who is a real yogi ? Bhagwath Gita says that a yogi is one who does his duty with humility and devotion, without any expectations and the one who leads his life without hurting others, and helping them in distress.

“ When you help a poor person, God is indebted to you ”

- Bible.

“ I firmly tell you that when you help one of my poor brothers, you are exactly helping Me ” (God)

- Bible

The Bible says that extending help to those who are in the lowest position in society, to those who are poor. and to those who are suffering is like helping God Himself. Gita also endorses this view of the Bible in a different manner.

Bhagwath Gita says that God exists in all the living beings (human beings, animals etc) of this world. It means that God exists in the poor needy suffering people also. Hence if we help those people, it is one way of helping God. Is it not ? We can ask, Why should I help those people ? If God so desires, He can at no time relieve them of their sufferings in a moment.

It is a perfect question. But the point is, God never goes out of the way to show mercy to those who don't deserve it. Perhaps He is like a judge, who cannot step out of the limits of the law formed by Himself; to reduce punishment. God's duty is to reward those who have done good and to give punishment to those who have done wrong. God Himself is bound by His own rules.

If God can flout His own rules and show undeserving mercy to the suffering people, there will be no deaf, blind or handicapped people, at all in this world. But God is impartial.

His rewards and punishments are based only on the good and bad deeds committed by the people.

The Quoran says that there are three ways to reach the palace of God:

The first way is through prayer - it will take you half the distance to the palace.

The second way is through Penance - it will take you upto the gates of the palace.

The third way is to relieve the sufferings of the poor - it will take you right inside the palace

- Quoran

The Quoran also says that God likes those who help the poor in their days of suffering than the people who offer prayer to Him. All religions insist on worshipping God, performing duty with humility, never-harming others, and helping the suffering poor.

Final destination to reach God is the same. Only the roads are different. Whatever road you select should take you to the destination - God. Propably one road may be a broad national highway, one road may be a state highway and another road may be a village road. All religions were created at some

point of time. But God is the beginning and end of all things.

Prayer, Bhakthi, Poojas, Homam, Yagam, Meditation etc are performed mostly for selfish purposes: “ I should live well, my wife, my children should be happy. I should go to Heaven after my death ”. This is the selfish aim of most of the people. But helping the poor people and alleviating the sufferings of the worst sufferers and the downtrodden are selfless acts.

How foolish it is to imagine that God, with his boundless wisdom, would not be able to see the difference between selfish and unselfish thoughts and deeds that we perform. Our foolishness in grossly underestimating God's power, intelligence and wisdom leads to our fall. We are digging our own grave. By ignorance we are writing our own fate wrongly. God is not writing our fate. He decides our fate on the basis of our good or bad deeds and thoughts.

Reformists and Rationalists say that “ Our life is in our own hands ”. It is 100% true when we look at it from the spiritual point of view also.

Nobody has the power to change what is going to happen to us now or in the immediate future; but we can change what is going to happen in the distant future, God will give us a good life in future depending on the good deeds, that we do now. This is the real meaning of the proverb that

“ We can conquer our fate with our wisdom ”.

Suppose we are destined to get a severe punishment after some years from God for a past sin. If we perform good and selfless actions continuously without looking for returns, and if we desist from doing sinful activities, God will certainly reduce the severity of His intended punishment by half or by a quarter measure. There is also the possibility of the punishment being cancelled completely. Besides this, God will shower His blessings and good rewards on us.

A rich industrial magnate in Bangalore used to help the poor in his own way. During winter, he would fill his car with woollen blankets, go around the streets of the city at midnight and distribute the blankets to the people who would be sleeping and shivering in the bitter cold on the platforms. He would silently wrap the warm blankets on the shivering poor and leave silently without their knowledge. They would never know who had helped them.

Is it not an excellent virtue to help the poor without disclosing the identity and without the knowledge of anybody ? Will not God notice his action ? Would not he and his generations get the benefits of his excellent action ? Now the rich man is dead, and his son is a big industrial magnate in the state of Karnataka.

I will narrate a real-life story, which happened in America

to show what wonders, selfless help could do. As you all know, Rockefeller is an American and the richest man in the world. Once He fell ill and was bedridden. He was in acute agony. The best doctors in the world could not help him. The best medicines in the world had no power to cure him.

All his senses were in good order, but he could not get up and move about. Daily reports of his various companies would come for his attention and advice and he used to issue his orders, lying in bed, undergoing acute pain.

As days went by, his condition was going from bad to worse. The doctors were baffled. As a last resort, they called the psychologists. They examined him and said, "Help the poor. That may be the only and the last way to cure your disease".

Rockefeller was a very clever business man and a good administrator. He knew how to make, keep and multiply his wealth. But he had neither done selfless deeds nor helped the poor or the downtrodden. As there was no other way, acting on the advice of the psychologists, he diverted a few million dollars to help the poor. In a miraculous way, he got better in a few days and was able to leave his bed.

Now having experienced the effect of his generosity to the poor, he gave a few more millions to the poor. His health was restored. He became active and normal. Then he established the Rockefeller Foundation (the equivalent of charity,

trust organizations in India) which is synonymous with charity all over the world. He spent hundreds of millions of dollars for the benefit and progress of the poor and suffering people. Even today Rockefeller Foundation is one of the biggest charity organisations in the world.

In America almost all business corporations and a large number of individuals allot a portion of their income to charitable purposes as they know the value of charity.

But the situation in our country is entirely different. There are lakhs of wealthy people here. About 95 percent of them contribute only to the temples, churches and mosques. They do not come forward to help the poor needy and suffering persons.

When an employee with many years of service in a business house approaches his boss asking for a loan to meet the expenses of an operation that his wife has to undergo, his boss would reply " Business is dull, I am sorry I can't help you" . But immediately when a group of people approach him and ask for a donation to conduct the Kumbabishekam of a temple, he would willingly contribute a few thousand rupees.

There are many who donate tube lights and electric fans to the temples with their names written in large letters on them. What makes them to donate to the temples and not to the poor? The rich men think " When we donate tubelights and

fans, God would be daily watching our names. God will give us many times more than what we have spent on the goods. What is the use of spending money on the poor ? God will not know about it. We will not get any return on our investment ". Such narrow selfish views and gross underestimation of God's powers pull us down, further and further.

HUMANITARIANISM

A social organization made a survey of the level of humanitarian qualities that exist in the people of various countries of the world. It has serially numbered the countries according to the level of humanitarian qualities of the people. India stands at 136 th place in that list. Most of the Western developed countries come in the first twenty places.

What is known as the Third World countries find a place in the list below hundred. The countries at the top of the list are rich and developed, while the countries in the bottom are poor and backward.

Countries with more humanitarian qualities are rich, healthy and the people therein are endowed with good education, medical facilities and a good social order. In countries where there is less humanitarian qualities, there exists lot of poverty, disease, famine and starvation.

What is humanitarianism? It is respecting others, not inflicting pain on them, and relieving the sufferings of others. These are all the qualities that God respects, and these are all the things that gives virtues to us. The man who has more humanitarian qualities stands high among men. He gets the mercy and blessings of God. If a country has a large number of such people, the country becomes wealthy and develops in all spheres.

“ Service to the people is service to God ”

- Swami Vivekananda

“ The man, who sees God in the idols of a temple, is at the bottom level of devotion to God. The man who wipes the tears of a widow, the man who feeds a starving man and alleviates his hunger, the man who sees God in relieving the pain of others, is at the top level of devotion to God ”.

- Swami Vivekananda.

We are very active and enthusiastic in building temples. There are more than two hundred temples in the town of Kumbakonam alone. But in the rich Western countries, they do not give much importance for building churches. In many big cities, you cannot find more than four or five.

The Christian community in the Western countries is service-minded. They start hospitals in the hilly and backward areas in the poor countries and render medical help to the poor. Even if there are only a few students, they start a school in a small house. These in course of time grow into big organizations, helping innumerable poor and suffering people.

The Christian community gives more importance to render service to the poor, not only in their own country but also all over the world. Though they have their own shortcomings and lapses, they have grown into a well developed, prosperous and

forward looking community. The first twenty rich countries in the world, with the exception of Japan, are Christian countries.

Do you think God has helped such countries to be prosperous without valid reason ? We have a lot to appreciate, congratulate and learn from them. If good qualities exist even among our enemies, we should learn the good things and follow them in our life. Only then we can lead a good and enjoyable life.

God will give neither less nor more of punishment to any human being or even to the animals. In the same way, He will not give less or more of rewards to anybody. A man deserves whatever God has given him; he may be rich, or middle class or poor, he may be sick or healthy, he may be educated or uneducated whatever be his condition, it was awarded by God after perfect and meticulous calculation.

So there is no point in a poor man being jealous of the rich, the sick being jealous of the healthy, the ugly being jealous of the beautiful or the less fortunate being jealous of the more fortunate.

Because a good man has done many good deeds, God has given him a happy life. Every man should take a vow to this effect: “ I will also do good deeds and put myself in the good books of God. I will rise to a good position like him or even to a better position than him “.

Gitasaaram

Whatever happened,
happened well

Whatever happens now,
is happening well

Whatever is going to
happen, will happen well

My explanation

Whatever rewards or punishments, God
has given to every man they were given
honestly justifiably and with perfect and
meticulous calculation.

Whatever rewards or punishments God is
giving to every man is being given honestly,
justifiably and with perfect and meticulous
calculation.

Whatever rewards or punishments God
intends to give to every man, will be
given honestly justifiably and with
perfect and meticulous calculation.

“ Even an atom cannot move in this world without the approval of God ”. “ God is the cause for all things and happenings ”.

These words said about God, are hundred percent true. These are the words of great saints and rishis. The saints and rishis will talk nothing but the truth. They will not show the wrong path to the people. To their sayings, a lot of additions has been made subsequently. Like the legendary bird Annam (swan) that drinks only the milk, carefully avoiding the water; we should use our discerning powers, to pick up only the truths told by great men in their writings and speeches.

God has placed the rich people in a comfortable position. The rich people have the resources to help others and can get lot of virtues. The rich people, without doing any sacrifice, without giving up any of their comforts, without yielding to others, they can do service to the poor people with their wealth and strengthen their present position with the mercy of God or even enhance it. In the corporate world of company executives it is said that “ There is always room for improvement ”. The same is true in spiritual matters also.

Don't imagine that only the rich people can help the poor and obtain virtues. Please remember the story, which the mongoose narrated about an old poor Brahmin and Aswamedha yaga in MahaBharata.

A woman supervisor in my factory has a little daughter and she is studying in the eighth standard. She has heard of my charitable activities from her mother. She goes daily to the school with lunch packet for the midday meals. On some days if any girl in her classroom has not brought lunch ***this little girl gives her own lunch to her. Please note that she does not share her lunch, but gives it completely.*** This is an excellent kind of help one can give. She is ready to starve, but wants to feed another starving girl. There is a real sacrifice in her act. I have done a lot of help to others, but there is no element of sacrifice in them. I am giving away to the suffering people only the excess of what God has given me. God will

consider as supreme only the help given by that little girl, rather than the help that I render to the people.

There are many poor people who render meaningful help to the suffering people. There is an old social worker, about 60 years old. He brings patients from his village to the Eye Camp that we conduct regularly. He stays with the patients all through the day and leaves the Camp only after seeing off the patients to Coimbatore for further treatment. A sixty year old woman goes to the government hospital in Dharmapuri once in a week, and does little things to the poor patients there. Another woman takes free evening coaching classes to the children of poor parents in a slum. There are so many avenues one can do service, without spending much money, like helping the miserable people, organizing blood donation and eye donation camps, comforting those who are in agony, guiding those who are confused and bewildered. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Let us grade different difficulties. A leaves on a trip in his car with his wife and children. He himself drives the car. On the way, one of the tyre is punctured, The stepney tyre too is deflated. He and his family undergoes suffering. B is a factory owner and a certain amount of money has to be paid in the bank, to clear a bill on a particular day. He is short of money. If he does not pay on time, his prestige and business will suffer and cause him mental agony. C is a college student and he has no money to pay his college examination fees.

D's wife is bedridden. He has no money to buy the drugs that the doctor has prescribed. E is the mother of a child. Her husband is away and has not come home for a long time. The child cries for milk. The mother has no money to buy the milk.

Whose suffering is very acute ? Suppose you have the choice of relieving the suffering of only one of them whom will you help ? With the natural instinct of sympathy, you will try to help either D or E. Of course it is the right thing to do and God will love you for that. Always we should give preference to relieve the pains of the poor suffering people.

The help we give to children, women and old people is a good help. If these categories of persons happen to be poor also, it is doubly good to help them. That perhaps is the reason why it is said in the Bible that “ ***The help that is given to one of my poor brothers is exactly like helping me (God) ”.***

Actually we Indians are fortunate in a way. We have a lot of miserable people here to be helped. We have full of opportunities to help them and to accumulate virtue. But in the rich Western countries, it is difficult to find people who are really suffering. Suffering poor people are very less in those countries. Even if there are some people, the government readily goes to their help.

In a big office, nearly 100 people are employed. The office Manager is an honest, impartial, hard worker and very

efficient. He has the following 5 qualities which are very important to come up in life. 1. Truth 2. Honesty 3. Hard work. 4. Not hurting others (Except on duty) 5. Relieving the sufferings of the poor.

The salary of each of the 100 employees is Rs. 5000/- a month. The Manager is asked by the Management to select 10 among them, for promotion to five different categories of posts with different salaries.

For the first category, two persons are to be selected and they will be paid Rs. 10,000/- per month. For the second category, two persons at Rs. 9000/- per month. For the third category, two persons at Rs. 8000/- per month. For the fourth category, two persons at Rs. 7000/- per month and for the fifth category two persons at Rs. 6000/- per month.

The Manager has all the relevant details of the 100 individuals with him; like date of appointment, their qualifications, the time of coming to the office, the time they leave the office, the number of days of leave taken in an year, their efficiency and involvement in their work etc. He himself has been in the office for 5 years and has observed these men closely and recorded his impressions. With all the details on hand and with his own observations of their conduct, he calculates and compares their efficiency, sincerity and their worth for the higher posts and makes his selection.

Some of his relatives are working in the office. They are not efficient. Some of the staff are really humble and faithful and some others pretend to be so. Some of them try to flatter him speaking high of him. All these people are not really efficient. The Manager ignoring all the above, select the really efficient and talented people for the promotion.

Some of the selected candidates may not show any undue humility towards him. They may not even try to meet him in the office. Some of the selected candidates have even talked bad of him on some occasions. He ignored all these insignificant points. But these really efficient persons are honest and will be involving in their work whole heartedly. The Manager intelligently selects only such people for promotion and for the efficient working of the office. His aim is only to give promotions to the really efficient and really deserving persons.

When an ordinary office manager ignores flattery, false humility, rejects any kind of recommendation and nepotism and selects only the honest and hard working efficient persons; don't you think, God, with his immeasurable interlligence power and wisdom, will be very meticulous and careful in selecting the right persons to bestow His blessings on? There is a saying “ ***A good atheist is better than a false devotee*** ”.

God does not mind even if an atheist talks bad of Him. Neither God's greatness is diminished by his bad talk, nor is elevated by the praise of a devotee. God is least bothered

about tributes of his devotees or abuses of the atheists. He is above all such things and is unaffected by the people's judgements.

Just as the good Manager in the office judges his subordinates on their efficiency and not on their ability to flatter him, God judges us only on how we conduct ourselves in our daily life and not on the basis of our regular visits to the temple and doing pujas. Let us realise that God is immensely talented and intelligent.

There are many atheists having good character, they are honest sincere, and good hearted doing many good things in life and leading a happy life with a good wife and children. You might have seen such people or heard of such people. Why does God bless these atheists with such a good life ? God takes into account their good qualities and charitable deeds in judging them, and He ignores the fact that they do not worship Him or go to the temples. There are many devotees who lead an indisciplined and selfish life, committing many wrong deeds while regularly going to the temple and worshipping God. God will give only punishments for these devotees. God knows that they are cheats, "Tigers wearing cows clothing".

Nobody can cheat God. Those who try to cheat Him will be ruined. Suppose two persons commit the same mistake. One person commits the mistake without any intention. Another person commits the mistake with the intention of

cheating. Will both of them get the same punishment? Never. God always gives more punishment to those who try to cheat Him. These cheats dig their own grave.

" Those who think to cheat, get cheated "

- A Tamil proverb

This proverb states the mere thought, on our part, of harming others will evoke the displeasure of God and will get punished. One common way of earning the displeasure of God is by hurting others and committing sins which brings in punishment. The other way is the thought of cheating others and inviting punishments due to one's bad thoughts. God knows about our bad thoughts and registers sin for that and subsequently gives punishments for the sins.

In Dharmapuri district, there is a school for Blind children in a small town called Bargur. A philanthropic organization from Germany, Christian Blinden Mission, is giving all help to the Blind School for the past so many years. Even the school children in Germany contribute a part of their pocket money to this blind school. A distant country of India, and in that a remote place called Bargur and the blind children in that school. They have not seen India, not seen Bargur, not seen the blind children. Still they think that they should help those suffering poor.

And we have people in India who work only for their own welfare and for the welfare of their family and children, indulging

in selfish poojas, ceremonies, abishekams etc. To whom do you think God would prefer to bestow His blessings on? Whether on the selfless German school children who render help to the blind they have never seen, or the selfish people who never think beyond themselves? If we think that God does not know how to choose the good people; then nobody is as foolish as ourselves.

You might have heard some people say, “I was caught in a big problem. I prayed to God X and the problem disappeared. There was another difficulty and I prayed to God Y and it also disappeared, God Z has more power and willingness to help us than God W. You had better approach God W, he is the most powerful”. If some God has the powers to relieve your problem; then whom do you think gave you the problem originally? Please think. Is it not the same God who had given you the problem originally? Through some people, through diseases, through accidents, in whatever manner it comes it was given by God only and He gave it to you as a punishment for the sins you had already committed.

“ Good and Bad are not given by others ”

- Tamil scholar - Kaniyan Poongundranar.

The punishments and the rewards, we get in life are not given by others. God gives all these things based upon our previous sins and virtues we have committed. God who gave you the punishment, knows when to relieve you of it and the time of relieving you of the suffering has been already decided

by Him. He does not relieve of your sufferings only on the basis of your prayers.

As far as possible do not make appeals and requests to God, particularly unreasonable ones. God is all-wise and all powerful. He knows what to give you and when to give and how to give He has developed a perfect justifiable system. Let us not interfere with that beautiful flawless and foolproof system. If you are always going on demanding, God may be irritated by your nagging behaviour. If you leave everything in the hands of God and wait, God perhaps may give you more blessings.

COMPARISON

One of our common practices is to compare ourselves with others and get disappointed. There is a main weakness in this practice - that we always compare ourselves with those who are better off than ourselves, and invite disappointment. When somebody is handsome, we compare ourselves with him only on the point of beauty. But in many aspects like wealth, wife and children, we may be in a better position than him. But we feel sorry that we are not as handsome as he is. Likewise we are comparing wealth, a good wife, a happy family, good health etc on individual points with others who are more fortunate than us and feel disappointed.

We must remember the saying “ **I was complaining that don't have shoes,until I met a person without legs** ” Atleast once in our life time, have we ever compared ourselves with people who are worse off than us? There are people who are starving without one meal a day, who do not have a home of their own and are living on platforms, who cannot afford to buy books and pen for their children, who have no money to buy medicines for their wives, who have no money to buy milk to feed their infants. Do we ever compare ourselves with these unfortunate people? Only when we compare ourselves with them, we can realise how fortunate we are. Then only we will be in a position to thank God for keeping us in a better position and also, we will get more psychological boost and strength in the mind and body, to carry on our work.

“ Nobody can refuse what God gives, and nobody can give what God refuses ”. If God decides to give a reward or a punishment, no power on this earth or even all the powers put together, can stop it. Likewise if God decides not to give you a particular reward or punishment, nobody else can ever give it.

Once General Padmanabhan, our ex Chief of the Army, said in an interview, “ **Whenever I visit the war front or the terrorist-hideouts in Kashmir, I trust more the ring of protection provided by God, than the ring of protection provided by my soldiers** ”.

You go to the doctor for health check up . He conducts the tests of urine, blood etc and says that you are affected by Diabetes (Sugar disease). He also asks you whether your father, mother, father's father and father's mother, mother's father and mother's mother were diabetic and says that if they were diabetics you will also get the disease definitely. Even if you are keeping the body fit, by doing regular exercises and strictly controlling the diet, you cannot avoid the disease, says the doctor.

Medical research says that based upon the parents and grand parents qualities only, colour of the skin, colour of the hair, colour of the eyes, your physique, health even to certain extent one's character will be formed. Scientists say based upon the “GENES” only these qualities are acquired. The nature

and quality of the genes is determined by your heredity. Based upon the genes of your parents and grand parents, your genes will be determined. Hence your parents and grandparents body, health and character influence you. Our Hindu religion has told many centuries ago, what the modern scientific research has found out today. The effects of sins and virtues are said to be passed on to the next seven generations. What a great Religion is our Hindu Religion.

If you desire that your children and the subsequent generations should live happily do a lot of good things. Only your good deeds will protect them. Please do not foolishly think that your wealth and your properties alone will protect them.

It is your duty to leave some property and money to your sons and daughters, but too much of it will only spoil them. Too much of money earned in wrongways will attract bad friends and bad habits and lead to a spoiled life. Only a moderate amount of money and property, and lot of merits will take them to a good position, and help them to go up and up in life.

You should learn the true spiritual life, understanding God and how to lead a meaningful life when you are twenty, not at the age of sixty. You can't do much, by learning it at sixty when you have lived most of your life. When you learn it in your young age, it will be very much helpful to you, to lead the life properly which in turn will help your children, your society and

your country in a great manner.

“ Atoms can neither be created nor destroyed ”

- Scientific theory.

From the inception of the world, no new atoms have ever been created or destroyed. Atoms are such tiny objects which can be seen only through a microscope. All the materials in this world, plants, trees, stones, buildings and living beings are the constitution of atoms only. The atoms can be changed, but they cannot be destroyed. If you burn logs, you get charcoal, and when you burn charcoal, you get ash. But you can't destroy it. This is an established universal scientific fact. Even in this much developed, modern world this is the truth. Not only now, even later on also at any future stage, atoms cannot be created or destroyed. This truth goes to show the greatness of God.

I appeal to the atheists to note the following points.

1. The global population has reached 600 crores. Each one of the 600 crore people has different and distinct lines of finger prints. Who made these differences ?
2. All the 600 crore faces are different from each other. Every face has two eyes, two ears, one nose and one mouth. But they have distinct features and none of them is a replica of the other. Even twins have different features, though sometimes only their mothers could distinguish them from one another. Who made these differences ?

3. The DNA test establishes the father and the mother of a child. The bad men, who deceive young women, run away when they become pregnant. They deny their involvement even after they are caught by the police. Only by this DNA test the parenthood of the child is proved beyond doubt, and their atrocity is exposed. The genes of a father are transmitted to the child, and in the same way the sins and virtues are also transmitted to their children. Who made these processes?
4. In all the countries, in all the regions, in all the communities and societies, the ratio of men and women is maintained at 50 : 50. Sometimes it may be 49:51 or 52:48. But it is never in the ratio of 70:30 or 60:40 at any time in the history of mankind. The imbalances in this ratio happens, sometimes only by the cruel and selfish activities of men due to war, female infanticide etc. Who decides; who has to get a male child and who has to get a female child, and who sees to it that the world goes on maintaining in the same ratio of men and women?

Oh. the atheists, please think honestly.

CONFESSION

After committing all sins in life, some people, to wipe out the sins committed, go to the temples and pray to god. Some do short term penance for 48 days and go to worship Lord Ayyappa, some go to Rameswaram and sprinkle water on themselves at all the 22 holy springs and worship Ramanathaswamy, some go to Kasi take bath in the Ganges and worship Lord Viswanatha, some take a bath in the Ganges on the days of the Kumbamela. They believe that all their sins would be condoned, if they do all these poojas and visit the holy places and pray to God. There are people who say that one can commit a murder and get God's condonation if they have darshan of three Kumbhabhisekams. (very sacred ritual in the temple performed once in many years) Are we not grossly underestimating the intelligence power and wisdom of God ?

Every year the number of pilgrims going to Sabarimala is increasing. Many lakhs of people observe 48 days of strict and difficult penance and make a tedious pilgrimage to worship Lord Ayyappa. They spend money and they have the mental strength to undergo such ordeals of penance for the sake of God. They are appreciable qualities. To get the grace of Lord Ayyappa, they spend money and undertake difficulties. If such money and such sacrifices are utilised to help the children of God who are in acute pain and suffering; how happy the Lord Ayyappa will be towards them. There are students who cannot

buy text books and who cannot pay the exam fees; there are patients who suffer in agony with no money to buy medicines; there are mothers who cannot buy milk for their starving and crying infants. If you help these people with the money you spend on poojas and pilgrimages, imagine how happy Lord Ayyappa will be! It is sure and certain that His blessings to the devotees who helped the poor people will be many times more than His blessings to the devotees who come to worship Him.

The Prophet Mohammed says, “ ***There are some who will pray regularly, who will observe all the ceremonies and who will undertake the holy pilgrimage to Mecca; but they will utter lies very casually they will cheat, and deprive others of their property and they will follow evil ways. They are hypocrites*** ”.

A hypocrite is one who is a wolf hiding under a cow's skin. He is worse than a murderer or a thief. The thief robs other's money as he and his family are starving and suffering. The murderer commits murder in a moment of sudden anger or for vengeance. But a hypocrite is aware of what he is doing, and he is aware that he should not do it. But he believes that he can get the forgiveness of God by offering poojas. Such belief is only fallacious and foolish.

Only those who repent their mistakes and those who honestly pray to God that they would never repeat them and beg for God's forgiveness may perhaps be forgiven by God to a

little extent. God's real forgiveness comes only to those who lead a life of honesty and purity and who spend their lives helping the poor people. Do this, your sins will be wiped out and you will get all prosperity ! Do that, your sins will be wiped out and you will get all prosperity ! With statements like these, some religious leaders and others mislead people ; they are in some sense the cause for the society and the country to reach such low social and moral levels as we witness them now.

All of us are God's children. All are equal before God. If God forgives the sins of a particular child without any valid reason is it not a betrayal to the other children ? God is always impartial. Whatever the law, order or rule that God stipulates, they are equal to all human beings. There cannot be any partiality in God's actions and also there will not be at any point of time.

There are many good people who swear that they would never harm others, would never do evil deeds, and would earn money only by honest means. Of course it is a good and appreciable thing. They don't commit any fresh sins. But how can they redeem themselves from the sins they have already committed in their previous births? Only if they do good things, like helping the poor and suffering then only the sins they had committed already will get reduced or wiped out. If they had not done or inherited any sins, God would not have given them this birth at all. He would have given them the supreme happiness of birthlessness. Hence those people also should do good things.

An act of help differs in quality, according to the motives and intentions of the person who does it. In a public function, four people A, B, C, & D give a donation of Rs. 2000/- each to a blind school. A gives, thinking that he should help the suffering blind people. He knows their agony and wants to be of some help to them. B gives thinking that if he gives Rs2000/-God will give back the money, many times in later years. C gives thinking that it is a good publicity. The large number of people and the press reporters attending the function would come to know about our donation and our name would appear in the news papers. D very reluctantly gives the donation as A,B, and C, had given the money he tells himself “ if I do not give, it will create a bad name among the people here. I should not have attended this function. Now Rs 2000/- is a waste ”.

All these thoughts run in their inner minds. Nobody knows about their thoughts. Actually D acts as if he has real concern for the blind more than the others. Will God bless all the four persons equally? Definitely not. He knows their motives, intentions and the thoughts running in their mind. He will give virtues to A more who has donated without expecting anything; and to B a little less who donated expecting returns; and to C still less who has donated for the sake of publicity; and to D far less who has donated unwillingly.

In our enthusiasm to help others, “ ***we should not encourage beggars and idlers, and encourage laziness which is a menace to the society*** ”. We should extend our help only

to the selected deserving persons. Many undeserving people would try to cheat and get help from us, if they come to know of our helping nature. There are number of orphanages, blind schools, schools for the handicapped and ashrams which receive large donations but don't spend even half of it for the right cause. There are plenty of cheats in our country. We have to search and search for good people. Hence please beware and do not get cheated, while trying to help others.

On many occasions, I have lent money to different people as loans to help them. But none of them has paid it back wholly. After many such occasions, I came to the conclusion that I will not lend money as a loan to anybody. If I wanted to help anybody, I will not lend it, but contribute as much as possible as a gift. I have been practising this for a few years. Whoever comes to me for a loan, I make this point clear to him. I have also not stood as guarantee for anyone under any circumstances. These decisions of mine have saved me from many problems.

We come across a good number of people who by cheating and adopting all types of bad activities, get rich and lead a luxurious life with a car, bungalow and other comforts. We also see honest people with good qualities and who help others lead a miserable life, braving difficulties and problems. We exclaim whether God exists at all? And whether good things will not help? But we are looking at the present only. Let

us patiently analyse and understand God's ways. We see only their present condition, which is actually the punishment or reward God has given them for their past sins and virtues. If we take a long term view of life, probably for a span of 15 or 20 years one can see good people ultimately enjoying life, and while bad people getting punished.

We plant a coconut sapling, and we water it daily. We protect it from weeds and insects and look after it carefully for seven long years. We firmly believe that from the eighth year onwards, it would yield coconuts and continue to do so for the next 70 to 80 years, which is a fact. Do we have the same belief in God? If we do good deeds now, we expect the benefit in a month or a year. If we are not getting the benefits we feel frustrated. We are reluctant to continue the good deeds. Let us not forget that good deeds yield good returns only very slowly but continuously for a very long period. Please don't forget that the scholars and saints have said, that it extends to seven generations and seven rebirths.

“ Desire to do good things ”

“ Never stop helping others ”

“ Give food to others and then eat ”

- Aathi Chudi – well known Tamil poem

“ Good deeds always help ”.

- Proverb

Are these not true ? We have studied them in our primary classes. Have we studied them only to secure good marks in the exam ? Should we not follow them in our lives, in order to improve ourselves, our children and our country ?

There is a story in the Maha Bharatha to illustrate how good deeds protect a man. In the Great Battle of Kurukshethra, Karna was severely wounded by the arrows of Arjuna. Karna's charioteer had also deserted him the chariot got bogged down in mud and Karna tried to retrieve it but could not. He was in death-throes. Lord Yama could not take away his life, as the Goddess of Dharma was protecting him for the good deeds, he had done throughout his life time. Karna could not die until all the virtues accrued by his dharma was taken away from him. At that stage God Krishna approached him in the disguise of an old Brahmin and asked for help. Karna said pathetically even at that stage, “ I have given away everything, I have nothing to give you now. Don't ask me anything which I will not be in a position to give. Don't put me in a position where I have to say no to you. Ask me only the things which I will be able to give you now. ”

Lord Krishna says ***“ You have accumulated a lot of virtues (punniyam) by having practised dharma throughout your life , and you are going to get some more virtues in the donation that you are going to give now. Give me the entire virtues ”.*** Without any hesitation Karna gave away all that to Lord Krishna and without the protecting ring of Dharma,

he got killed by Arjuna.

What an irony that God has to beg a man for his favour. Here Karna soared higher than God. You cannot find a parallel to this in any religion. This is unique. The moral behind this is that in order to raise such a good man to Godly level, God will not hesitate to lower Himself. We can also find Gods in Hindu epics who work for the devotees. God is great. Do not underestimate His intelligence power, wisdom or greatness. That itself is a sin.

A man is awarded life imprisonment for committing a murder, and he is undergoing the punishment in prison. Depending upon his behaviour in prison; such as, obedience to the prison officials, accepting the prison life without protest, keeping discipline in the queue to get his food, doing the work allotted to him sincerely, obeying the orders of the officials without protest. Every year he gets remission in the period of imprisonment. That remission is less in initial years and more in later years. For good conduct in prison, the twenty years of life imprisonment will get reduced to 14 or 15 years and he is released from the prison.

In the same away, God will reduce the punishments we are due to get in future; on the basis of continuous good deeds we do now; to half or even a quarter. Even to bear that reduced punishment, he will also give us the mental strength to take it lightly.

Man has made computers which do a trillion calculations (one lakh crores) in one second. If Man has such powers, imagine how much powers God will have! We must realise that God has intelligence, power, and wisdom that we cannot even imagine or measure. In the present scientifically much advanced stage, America with its brilliance in space control, through NASA is tracking, controlling, receiving and sending messages to hundreds of satellites in orbit at a time. When a man with his limited intelligence and knowledge, can control hundreds of satellites which are situated thousands of miles away; is it difficult for God to put in operation a system, by which he receives the signals from a part of the brain in each and every person about his actions, movements words, thoughts etc ? All these datas may be stored, and processed in such a way that subsequently appropriate orders as punishments or rewards are delivered at appropriate times.

Let us not imagine that God has likes and dislikes as we have, that He has limitations as we have, and that He can be swayed by our flattery or abuse. Let us not believe that God will understand only certain languages and that He will be pleased if he hears mantras recited in Sanskrit and oblige our demands when he is in that pleasant mood. Does not God know the African language or the language of Eskimos in Antartica. The idol of Lord Krishna turned around in the Udipi temple so that his true devotee who is denied entry inside the temple can have His dharshan; Does that devotee know Sanskrit? Does the

uneducated hunter Kannappa who offered meat (which is forbidden to be offered to God) to Lord Siva, know Sanskrit ? Has not God accepted their prayers and blessed them ?

In order to get things done, we sometimes please an official by doing some odd jobs for him; we get his superiors to influence him or politicians to pressure him or we try to corrupt him with money. But there are some officials who are not influenced by these considerations. They are not tempted by flattery, inducements or money or be threatened by force or power. They discharge their duty according to the rules and their conscience. When some men are so impartial, how can we imagine that God would be any less? Don't think like that. That itself is a sin. Please do not commit that sin.

There is a proverb in Tamil which says “ ***If you look after your neighbour's children, your children will be automatically benefitted*** ”. The real meaning of the proverb is that when we help others, it is a good deed which earns us virtue and due to that virtue, God would look after our children.

God created all of us. We are all the children of God. When others hurt your children you will get hurt and will be angry with those people. Likewise God also will be angry with the people who hurt the other children of God. When others help your children; you are pleased and you look at them with love and affection. The same way God will be pleased with you, when you help the other children of God. Please think. When

we do things which God dislikes it is a sin.

When we do things which God likes, it is virtue. The good deeds of ours will be transformed into a good life for us and our children later on. Hence we should always do things which God likes. We do poojas, Yagams and homams and other ceremonies for a selfish purpose: we want our family and our children to live happily. God knows our real character, our intentions behind performing these ceremonies, though we try to hide them. When we work selflessly, with truth, honesty and sympathy, and help the hopelessly suffering poor, God knows our selflessness, and will give us more virtues.

Today and now itself take a hundial, or a box or a paper cover and write on it “ ***For Dharma – not for temples*** ”. Put coins and small amounts in it whenever you have them. Spare the money which you intend to spend on poojas and homams and ceremonies and fill the hundial. You will come across suffering needy poor people at times. Whenever such a situation arises, utilise this amount to alleviate the pain and suffering of those people.

You can visit the government, corporation or municipal schools in your town. Only the poor children are studying there. You can meet the Head Master and inform him that you want to donate notebooks or text books or uniforms to the children of widows and also to the handicapped students. You can meet the children yourself and donate these essential items

to them with your own hands. In the months of December or January the students studying in the tenth and twelfth standards have to pay the examination fees. At that time also you can help them by paying those fees. You can also go to the government hospitals, select a few patients and help them directly.

“ Look at God as God, not as Vinayaka, Muruga, Rama, Krishna, Jesus or Allah . When we think of God as God our mind widens, we forget religions and we are recharged ”. Let us not confine ourselves in narrow circles; let us come out of the tiny circle of our family, our community, our friends. Let us expand and widen our circle; make it bigger than the city; bigger than the state; bigger than this country; bigger than this world, why bigger than this universe.

Look at hundreds of countries in this world. Look at the various people of those countries; their activities. Then only you can learn the good things from them. Whenever you meet a person; you search if he has any good quality. If there is one, grab that and implement it in your life. Then only, yourself, your children and your country can prosper.

Rationalists and self improvement analysts give this prescription for success: work hard, plan properly, persist in your work; don't be discouraged by defeat, have perseverance, go on doing hard work day and night. You are sure of getting success. These qualities alone will not bring success to you ?

If you had already possessed virtue (punnyam), then only you will get success. “ Only the effort is in your hands. The result is in the hands of god ”. They refer to quote few people with the above good qualities, who had come up very successfully in life. If there is one man who succeeds with those qualities, there are thousands of persons who had never succeeded with the same qualities. They conveniently ignore these failures. We also see many people who succeed in life without these qualities.

No doubt qualities like hard work, efficiency, dedication, sincerity and perseverance are important to succeed; but they alone are not sufficient. More than all of these, they should have the blessings of God which is very very important. That blessings you will get only on the basis of the virtues ie the punnyam as it called commonly in our country, that you have accumulated by your good deeds. He will continue to bless us only if we continue to do good deeds.

The thoughts we have and the decisions we take, are determined only by our fate, which is based upon the sins and merits of our previous karma. When we have good fate, we will be guided to take good decisions, when our fate is bad, we will be forced to take only wrong decisions and face failure in life.

Here is an incident to illustrate this point. During the Gujarat earthquake, a man, his wife and children were rushing out of their apartment by a lift in a hurry to save themselves.

After coming out of the lift in the basement, the man saw his four days old new car parked there in the basement; and he was tempted to save it. He asked his wife and children to go to the street and rushed up to his flat, to bring the car key to save the car also. Without going to the street, his wife and children were waiting near the lift for him. In a few seconds the entire building collapsed, killing all of them.

At that crucial moment, there were two choices before him. One, he and his wife and children could escape abandoning the car. Two, he his wife and children could escape along with the car. As according to his fate, he was destined to die with his family, he took the second decision. Taking into account their past sins they had accumulated, they were destined to die. In that case how can they take a decision which will lead them to escape from death. They can take only a decision which will lead them to death. God will induce them to take a decision leading to the death of his entire family.

The western archaeologists have found a big ancient city immersed in the sea, near the coast line of Tamilnadu. They found out that it was of the most ancient civilised community. They have calculated it as 7000 years old. Even Mohenjodara and Harappa civilizations, considered to be the oldest and the best are only 5000 years old. 2000 years earlier than that,our country was as civilised as that.

In the ancient times, India was not only the oldest, but

one of the richest developed countries. Now India is ranked among the poorest countries. Who is responsible for this great fall? Some people say corruption, some say immoral politicians, some say population; some say the number of castes and religious rivalries between them. But the real reason is to be traced to the sins committed by a very large number of people of the country also. Totally selfish people, and the people without integrity of character are the cause for the downfall.

“ If wealth is lost, nothing is lost ”.

“ If health is lost, something is lost ”.

“ If character is lost, everything is lost ”.

- English proverb.

“ The persons who do not have good character, will do bad deeds and will accumulate all kinds of sins. When such persons are large in numbers, the country in which they live also slides downwards ”.

SHORT-CUTS

So many people have invented so many short-cuts to get health, wealth, prosperity, happiness, good wife, good children, success in love, success in elections, etc in this world. There are a variety of talismans to get all these benefits through Ashta lakshmi yantra, Kubera yantra, Mahalakshmi yantra and what not. In that too, there are ordinary, special and super special talismans for quicker results. There are stones and gems and magic formulae to enhance one's luck; there is vasthu shastra and numerology to help men to get rich quickly, without the necessity of hard work. Quacks peddle a good number of short-cuts, promising to take the ignorant people to quick money, luck and power.

These are the tricks quacks use to cheat people, who are weak and foolish, promising them quick riches. If one can get these things by using these short-cuts, all of us can go to the top of the world quickly. God will become irrelevant. No one has become rich using these methods, and if at all there is any one it is just accidental.

God does not recognise or encourage any type of short-cuts. God accepts only the straight forward routes. Life is a long struggle, like swimming against the tide. When millions of people are struggling in honest ways how will God ignore those people and reward the greedy persons who choose the short-cuts? Don't dream that God will do like that. Don't get cheated

like the people, who invested their money with dishonest financiers who promised them higher rates of interest and subsequently lost, not only the interest but also the principal. Only people who earned money in crooked ways, will invest them in such dubious concerns and lose it. Honest people who have earned their money, in honest ways will not make such bad investments. Nobody can cheat them. God will bless them, and will show them the way to take the right decisions.

The astrologers calculate and tell us of our past, the present and the future only on the basis of the time, place and date of our birth. Nowadays in the affluent families, the parents fix the time and date of birth of their children. They ask the doctors to operate and cause the birth of the baby at the desired time. The Doctor obliges them and the baby is born at the specified time and date.

Science has bestowed the power of choosing the time and date of birth on your hands. With that you can change the destiny of the babies to be born as beggars, fools and disease-ridden, into as rich, wise and healthy. If everyone implements this then everybody will be rich, healthy and wise. The whole country, the whole world will be prosperous! Then we do not require the mercy and blessings of God also!

If it is true that nobody can change the punishments and rewards decided on by God, then the astrology based upon the time, place and date of the birth of a person is also not valid.

May be there was a little truth in it when people did not have the powers to decide on the timing of birth. But at the present stage with rational thinking, we have to conclude that astrology is false or not foolproof.

Saint Elango, the author of the great Tamil epic Silappadhigaram, was the second son of Tamil king Pandian. At his young age this incident happened. An astrologer visited the court of the king Pandian and examined the horoscopes of the King, Queen, the first son and the second son Elango. After a deep study of all the four horoscopes, he said that after the king's period, the first son will not succeed as king, but only the second son Elango will become the king. This shocked the whole royal family. The first son was very much disappointed. Elango was also upset and he did not want to take over the kingdom which by tradition has to go to his elder brother. Further he wanted to prove that the astrology is not correct. Against much opposition, he decided to become a saint and entered the holy life and assumed the name of Saint Elango. Subsequently the first son became the king.

This is a true incident, and even in those days, astrology was proved false. Only a very popular and efficient astrologer would have been allowed, to cast the royal horoscopes, and only a learned astrologer would have the courage to predict unpleasant things to a king. If such a good astrologer had been proved wrong, how can we have faith in astrology?

There is an incident in Mahabharata about astrology. Sahadeva was one of the Pandavas and an expert astrologer. Just before the great Kurukshethra war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, Duryodhana consulted him and requested him to fix the date and time to start the war. Even though Duryodhana was an enemy to him, Sahadeva adhered to the principles of Dharma and fixed an auspicious time and date to start the war. If the war started on that date and time, the Kauravas would definitely win it.

The Pandavas were very much disturbed. They blamed Sahadeva for this big problem. Sahadeva being a honest and principled person could not lie or cheat and fix a wrong date. Nobody knew what to do. But the God Lord Krishna knew that Kauravas should not win as per destiny. The victory should come only to the Pandavas. He decided not to allow them to start the war at the auspicious time.

With his tricks, Lord Krishna caused the war to be started at another time, and the Pandavas won it. They were destined to win the war, and they did. What is the lesson we learn from this? Even if an expert astrologer meticulously calculates and fixes the time, God will change that decision according to the fate. Astrology will fail finally. Hence what is destined to happen, will definitely happen. Nothing can change our fate. Is it not foolish to spend our money time and energy on astrology, which cannot change our fate decided on by God. Please think.

I was also a believer of astrology. Even though I have consulted the best astrologers, nobody predicted the death of my beloved daughter Hemalatha. I too have lost faith completely in astrology after the death of my daughter Hemalatha. I have seen so many people, who have spoiled their lives blindly following astrology. Now I don't follow Ragu Kaalam, bad time or good time. Is there any country in the world which follows Ragu kaalam or Yama gandam (considered to be bad times as per astrology) in fixing Bus, Train, Ship, Air timings? I took delivery of my new car purchased in the year 2000 and another one in the year 2004 only in ragu kaalam. I know that God will never say, "Balasubramaniam bought the car in Rahu kaalam, and so he should be punished". I bought a new Flat in Bangalore on a Tuesday which is considered to be an inauspicious day. And I never performed any poojas on that occasion.

Vasthu Shashtra is another way of cheating people. I don't trust or follow any short cuts. I always preach to others, what I myself follow in life. With all humility, I would like to say that you can't see in my life "preaching one thing and following the other thing".

Marathon is a running race covering a distance of 26 kilometers. In one marathon race held in America, more than a hundred people participated. The man who came first was honoured with gifts, prizes and certificates. A week later, a press reporter found out that the winner had not run all the 26 kilometers.

After covering some kilometres along with the others, this man chose a shorter route, ran in that and again joined the main route much before the final point. Instead of the original distance of 26 kms, he ran actually 20 kms and was able to reach the final point much ahead of the others. When this was discovered later, the titles, prizes and certificates were recovered from him, and he had undergone punishment also. He had invited this humiliation because he had chosen a short cut to win the race.

Life is also a very big Marathon; it is a long race. All of us are running in search of happiness, peace, and prosperity. Some try to take short-cuts like talismans, numerology, gemmology, Vasthu Shastra etc. When you follow these short-cuts, do you think God would reward you with more benefits, ignoring the others who are running in the straight honest route? If God chooses to help these people, is it not cheating the other honest people? God will never commit this mistake. God will not reward the cheats; instead, he will punish them. Oh the followers of short cuts, please think, you will not be getting rewards, you will only invite the displeasure of God, and subsequently the punishments from Him. Any man who resorts to such short-cuts will definitely receive punishments later on. God will always punish cheaters. Whatever punishments God registers, that will be given only after many years. This is truth, truth and nothing but truth.

You can think, Oh, the cheating has happened in the marathon held in America. Hence cheaters are there in America also ! Yes cheats are to be found in all the countries. There are murderers, rapists, plunderers, frauds, in all countries. If the percentage of these evil people is 5% in America and other developed countries, it is 90% in the third world countries, (India is one of the third world countries) Moreover the criminals very rarely escape punishment in countries like America; 90% of them are caught and punished. But in India, 90% of the criminals and law breakers, escape punishment using power, money and political influence. Law is powerless in India in the case of the rich and the powerful.

But in America and in other developed countries, law is equally enforced on all, including the rich and the powerful. The most powerful man on earth is the American President. The daughter of the present American president, George Bush's brother was found drinking in a bar. She was below 21 years and so she was taken to the court and fined. It is illegal there to drink before you are 21 years old. The Prime minister of England is Tony Blair. The Prime Minister's 18 year old son was found drunk in a park bench after dark in London. The police took him to the police station and charged him. When the Prime Minister came to know of it, he said that the police could do their duty. "I am willing to go over to the police station, if Police call me ". These incidents happened in the year 2003.

In our country, it is nearly impossible for the police to charge or arrest even a politician of a small town who might have committed a grave crime ? The police would not do it, even if they do, they would be transferred to another place or censured. How can a society like this can come up ? How will God help the societies like this ?

RITUALS & CEREMONIES

In our society, we give too much importance to rituals and ceremonies. The principles governing them are forgotten, bhakthi, humanism, discipline and morality are not given importance. Our rishis and saints, under the compulsion of time and circumstances, established certain rituals and ceremonies to discipline the people and to guide them to lead a good life. When the necessities and circumstances change, most of the rituals and ceremonies become irrelevant in course of time. It is wise on our part to discard some of them.

In the olden days, in the Brahmin community, there was a custom. If the husband dies the wife has to undergo tonsure of head (removal of hair) wear only the white dress, and should not attend any family functions like marriage etc. In my school days I saw many young wives put into this pathetic condition. Nowadays as the educational level has improved and as we have become more civilised this custom is not practised. Now we cannot see even a single widow put into such humiliation. And even remarriages of widows are taking place. Have we not changed ourselves now?

Marriages are not celebrated in Tamil Nadu on Tuesdays and Saturdays and also at nights. But in our neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh, marriages are celebrated only during nights and also on Tuesdays and Saturdays which are the days

considered as bad and inauspicious in Tamilnadu.

Rituals and ceremonies differ from country to country, and sometimes they differ in the different parts of the same country. There are thousands of ceremonies in hundreds of countries. What is considered auspicious in one country; is considered inauspicious in another country. Let us not give undue importance to rituals and ceremonies. Instead, let us follow the underlying principles of humanitarianism and helping mentality. God will not see the rituals and ceremonies we perform; he will see the heart character and intention of the person who is performing it. Let us throw away the rituals and ceremonies that hurt others practised in the name of God. Let us not imagine that God will be angry with us for abandoning certain ceremonies that are irrelevant now and which hurt others.

“ Let us throw out the religion

Which does not wipe out the tears of a widow

And does not feed a starving poor ”.

-Swami Vivekananda

Think about what the great Vivekananda has said. God looks for the intention of the people when they perform ceremonies. The ceremonies themselves do not please God. Had not God accepted the meat (which is forbidden as an offering) -offered by great devotee Kannappa Nayanar ? Please

do not grossly underestimate the intelligence power and wisdom of God.

Please do not measure the success of a person on the basis of the wealth he has accumulated. Only one rich man among thousands of rich men, lives a peaceful and happy life. All the others have lost their peace in the terrible process of making money. Money alone is not life. If we are moderately rich, money will protect us. If we are excessively rich, we have to safeguard the money, and be the servants of money.

The most essential things of life which are more important than money, cannot be bought by any amount of money. Health, education, a good wife, good children and a peaceful and happy home - these cannot be bought by money. All the wealth in the world cannot give you a happy home. **“ Money should be a slave to you. You should not be a slave to money ”.** Always more money brings more problems to you. Further the money that comes through evil means will bring intense pains and complex problems quickly.

Take the case of a typical rich man A. He has many business organizations and industries. He has many bungalows and cars. He is profusely rich and others are envious of him. However he is not getting good sleep at nights. Every day at night, he is thinking about the affairs, he has to manage the next day; how to pay the bills, how to pay the loan instalment,

how to manage the shortage of funds to be paid to the bank, the next day. How can he fall asleep ? It is not one night's story; every night the same thing continues. His business turnover is in crores and crores of rupees; but he is always short of cash. It is due to the fact that if he has excess money he starts another business.

B is moderately rich but abundantly wise. He has a manageable business; he has a car and a bungalow. He has no shortage of business funds. If there is a deficit, he has reserves to manage it. If he needs ten thousand urgently, he will be having fifteen thousand rupees with him. On some other day if he needs a lakh of rupees, he gets two lakhs of his money from the person to whom he has given as a loan. There is never any deficit for him in his life. Out of these two who is truly rich?

A is a slave to his money. He is like a cashier who handles millions in a bank but cannot enjoy them. Like a caretaker, he is in charge of the money and properties. But he does not benefit from it. He spends his entire life in going on multiplying his money. He is really not wise. Pathetic man. This is called the Maya -illusion. He is caught in the Mayaweb. The rishis, the Mahatmas, the leaders, the scientists, and the philosophers of the world were not rich men. With their ideals and service, they have served the society, and obtained elevated, respectable places in the hearts of the people. And their names

have found a place in History. Even though they have died, their names and life histories are in the minds of the people. The world remembers them even after so many centuries.

When we entered this world; we came with a return ticket to go back. Definitely we are going to return one day. The date of our death is also written on the ticket. Only thing, we don't know it. It may be tomorrow or after 5 years or after 50 years. We may have a good death, or a miserable death, ending up as a bedridden patient, attacked by paralysis, unable to move without the help of others; insulted by others, suffering each and everyday as hell, being a nuisance to others and a torment to ourselves.

When we finally die, we are not taking anything with us. Remember the great scholar Pattinathar's famous saying- "Even the broken needle will not come with you when you die " The broken needle is a useless thing. If even a useless thing is not allowed to be taken with you, what else you can take. You can't take anything. What you have amassed as wealth is useless in your hour of death. But only one thing will come with us - the sins and virtues, we have accumulated during our life time. According to that only, God will decide in which country and to which parent and with what qualities, we have to take the next birth.

Every minute hundreds of children are born in various

parts of this world. One child is born as a first child with all good qualities and characters to a wealthy couple in America, who have been longing for a child for so many years. Another child is born as a third child with moderate qualities and character to a middle class couple living in a moderately developed country of Brazil. Another child is born as a third female child with third rate qualities and character, to a poor couple in India who already have two girl babies and intended to kill the third child, if it is a female child. Yet another child is born as an eighth child with bad qualities and character, and with physical disability, to a couple in the always famine ridden poor African country, Ethiopia.

What a lot of differences are there with regard to qualities, characters, health, parents, country etc, between one child and another child. God only decides which child should be born to which parent, in which country and with what type of qualities and character.

God who possess immeasurable quantity of intelligence, power and wisdom and who is very impartial and very very justifiable decides on which child has to be born where, when, how and to whom. It must be only on the basis of sins and virtues that child committed in the previous births. Only on that basis God can take an impartial justifiable, perfect, and precise decision. The Hindu religion with its faith in the previous birth, this birth and subsequent births has so perfectly laid down the

impeccable system of god. How philosophically sound is our Hindu religion. Please think.

Each and every incident in life, will take place according to one's fate. Our life is determined by our fate. God has awarded bad and good to us depending on our sins and virtues. Thinking that we can change only our long term life (which can be altered by ourselves, if we continuously do good things) and that we cannot change our present life we should not remain idle, without taking sincere efforts.

We cannot remain passive and idle in the belief that we cannot change our present life. Suppose a student says, " I am not good in studies; God has not bestowed any intelligence on me. If you are going on insisting me to study, What can I do? That is my fate ". Is it fair if a student talks to his father in this way ?

Is it fair if your grown up son refuses to get a job or makes no attempt to get it and roams about with bad friends, blaming God for making him only idle ? Then all men who commit crimes and who neglect their duties, can blame their fate and disown their responsibility.

Every man should do his duty and persist in his attempts to succeed though failures that he encounters at every step. Perseverance is one of the top most qualities, which one should try to acquire. Doing one's duty irrespective of the result (even

if failures come) is of utmost important in a man's life. This is the essence of Bhagwath Gita. All happenings in life are the result of the combination of fate and hard work. Suppose as per your fate you should get a profit of one lakh of rupees; with your sincere efforts and hardwork, you can increase it to one and a quarter lakh. On the contrary with your laziness, you can decrease it to seventy five thousand also.

In the same way, if a punishment is to be imposed on us as per our fate, we can with our efforts reduce the severity of the punishment or with our laziness increase its severity. It is all in our hands.

Look at it from another angle: You start and run a business. Its success or failure depends upon your fate. The effect of your fate is 90%. And the effect of your hard work is 10%. According to your fate, you should fail in your business. Hence inspite of your hard work the business becomes a failure and leads to a loss. Again you are making a second attempt. Now the effect of your fate is 80% and the effect of your hard work is 20%. Again according to your fate, you should fail and so you meet failure. Again with your persevearance, you make third attempt. Now the effect of your fate is 60% and the effect of your hardwork is 40%. Still according to your fate, you should be defeated so you will again get a failure this time also. With remarkable perseverance, after sometime again you are making

a fourth attempt. Now the effect of your destiny is 40% and the effect of your hard work is 60%. According to your fate, you should get failure this time also. But God is noticing your exemplary perseverance. Oh this man, in spite of his repeated failures is not crumbled ! He goes on trying for success. He is the real duty bound hero. I should give more value to this man's hard work and He will rewrite your fate and will give you success

The percentages of effect of effort and fate mentioned above are only imaginary estimates. You should take only the moral behind this.

“ Even if God could fail you, your efforts and hard work will be rewarded ”.

- Thiruvalluvar – the great Tamil poet

Even if God does not help us, our sincere efforts and persistent hard work will receive recognition and rewards, though small. Nothing is impossible for God in this universe is the fact. Only to emphasise the importance of efforts and hard work, the poet has apparently belittled God. Your sincere and persistent efforts will bring small, benefits, and if you continue your efforts with these small benefits over a long period of time, these small benefits will become big fortunes as millions of drops of water make the flood.

Parents spend so much of their time energy and money

for the sake of their children. They take great efforts, make sacrifices to bring up their children and to educate them, They want to give their children, the best education possible. Though some of them cannot afford, money is no consideration to such parents when it comes to good education. They admit their children in the best schools if the school is far away, they shift their residences nearer to the school. If the best school is situated in the next town, some parents, do not hesitate to shift to that town also.

Some Indian parents working and living in America do not like their children, to be educated in the culture of American society. They return to India, sacrificing their comforts and a promising future in order to educate their children, in a good environment. The sacrifices the parents make for the sake of their children are thrilling.

Great efforts and sacrifices are necessary to ensure a bright future for your children. Will these alone ensure a bright future ? If you have amassed money by wrong means and use it to educate your children, they will not prosper. Your sins will spoil the life of your children, even if they get good education. Living a life of good deeds is the greatest help you are doing to your children. Your good deeds will help your children very much. We see persons who studied in the best schools are leading a bad lives and are going down, from their good positions and there are persons who studied in the ordinary village schools,

leading their lives with truth, honesty and hard work and have achieved great success in life. There are people who have attended the prestigious English schools; but have ill treated or neglected their parents. There are some who received only an ordinary education in the village schools and yet treated their parents with dignity and love, and gone up in life.

I have a Brahmin friend in Bangalore and his son is employed in America as a computer Engineer, and his wife is also employed in another computer company in America. Both of them are paid well, and they lead a very comfortable life. My friend is a government employee; after retirement, accepting his son's invitation to come and to live with him in America, he and his wife went there and lived for 6 months. They did not like the American way of life and they decided to return to India. His son said " It is my duty to protect and to give comfort to my parents. If they don't like American life and want to live only in India then I will also return to India and will look after them ". The son's wife also agreed with him and they came back to India, settled in Bangalore and secured good jobs for both of them. They are all happy.

There was another important incident in their life. After getting a job in America, and before leaving for America, the mother had got a promise from her son that he should not do certain bad things in any circumstances. One of them was avoiding non vegetarian food. Once on his way back from America

on a vacation to India, he was served non vegetarian food by mistake in the plane and he ate it unknowingly. He came to know about the mistake only after eating the food. He was very much disturbed and on returning home, he fell at the feet of his mother, narrated the incident, cried, and asked for forgiveness.

How did these Brahmin parents beget such a good son with such a good character in this corrupt world ? They must have earned a lot of virtues early in their lives and also in their previous births, and it had given them such a gem of a son. If you desire your son whom you want to go high up in life and whom you want to look after you, in your old age, you should accumulate lot of virtues by doing good deeds, apart from giving the best education to them. No other short cuts will help you.

When you cause pain to others and thereby commit a sin, a total of 16 persons are affected. The person who is affected by you; yourself; and seven different persons in your subsequent seven rebirths and the persons of your seven generations. A minimum of 16 persons are affected when you cause pain and commit a sin. In the same manner; when you help others in their problems, a minimum of 16 persons are benefitted. You should never cause pain to others (except in the process of doing your duty) and should extend only a helping hand as far as possible.

2000 years had gone since Christianity came into existence in this world. In these 2000 years it has spread all

over the world, and the countries where Christians live are prosperous, rich and progressive. 19 out of the top 20 wealthy countries in the world except Japan being the only exception are Christian. On the other hand the greatest Hindu religion which is the oldest in the world came into existence some 20,000 or 30,000 years earlier than the Christianity. But our people are poor, hungry, uneducated and sick. The Christians have made some mistakes and misdeeds. But in spite of these, by their social services, of providing education and medical services to the poor and suffering they are getting good rewards from God. Please think about the saying "Hands that help are holier than the lips that pray".

Why not we learn and adopt in life that good and noble quality of "Service" from them. We can prosper only if we do that. Whoever possesses good qualities without any hesitation we should learn from them. I had recently visited a school for the handicapped and orphans in Dharmapuri, I was pained to see a child with two legs and one arm missing. I was very much disturbed by that suffering child. Almost all of you, when you visit a Home for the Physically or Mentally handicapped children or when you come across such persons somewhere, would be equally disturbed.

If God had given us the power, to turn them into normal persons, without any hesitation definitely, we would have used that power and would have alleviated their sufferings. Does God,

who really has that enormous power, help them? No. These miserable people have to undergo the suffering every minute, every hour, every day until their death.

In fact, God only has given them such a punishment for their past sins. This is the real Hell. There isn't any separate Hell above. Oh! sinners. Realise; for you that Hell is reserved in your subsequent rebirths.

In Iran, in the month of January 2004, in an earthquake 30,000 people were killed. Some people ask How come 30,000 people died in one place and at the same time? Was not there even a single good person out of that 30,000 people? How does God permit incidents like this? Does God exist really? Do we wrongly assume that God exist? Like this so many questions come to our mind.

The world population is 600 crores. In a year one percent of the population dies and two percent of the same are born. Two percent is birth rate and one percent is death rate. The excess one percent is the reason for the increase in population. One percent of population dies every year. It means that every year 6 crore people die. Hence everyday 1,64,383 people die all over the world. (6 crores divided by 365 days). This is an every day happening. When it is scattered throughout the world, we don't know the significance of it. Hence it is not reported as a News in newspapers. But the death of 30,000 people at one

time, in one place is a rare occurrence. Hence it is a big incident and comes as a big news in newspapers, which we read; and so many questions come to our mind. But if we go through statistics, it is not a big thing.

Death is only for the body not for the soul. It is something like, shifting from one house to another house. After the soul has left this body, it takes another birth in another body. Death is a punishment for some people and a gift for some others. For whom it is punishment, and for whom it is a gift? Every person from birth to death, is committing sins and virtues throughout his lifetime. When the person dies if he has committed more sins than virtues in his lifetime, the death would then be a punishment for him, as though he is shifting from the present house to a less convenient house or to a hut or to a platform he is taking the next bad birth. That may be as an eighth handicapped child to poor parents in Africa.

If the person who dies has committed more good things in his lifetime, the death would then be a gift for him, as though he is shifting from the present house to a more convenient house, or to a big bungalow or to a palace; he is moving on to a better birth, as the first child with all good qualities to a wealthy American parent.

Hence the death according to the sins and merits committed by the person it may be a punishment or a gift given

by God to that person. But any person's death is definitely a punishment given by God, for his family members, relatives and the people depending upon that person.

A good man who never hurts any person and as far as possible always helps others, has died leaving his wife and children pathetically. We ask Is it fair for the God to give death to such a good person? That death for that person is really a big gift given by God to him. God thinks, " Oh such a good person, should not toil in this present condition anymore. Let me give him a birth where he will be happier with all good environments and with good parents and with good family members".

But at the same time this good man's death is a punishment given by God, for his wife, children, parents and other dependants.

Likewise so many incidents are happening for various reasons in this world. Perhaps we are incapable of understanding the reasons; and there may not be anybody to explain it properly. Some day the reason will dawn on us. Let us not have any doubts about the existence of God.

Out of ignorance and gullibility, the uneducated express their doubts about God. But the educated should not behave like that. We should have unshakeable faith always in God. Our faith in the existence of God should be such that one can

say " Even if my life is taken away I will not have any doubt about God ". The first requisite to receive the blessings of God is to have a true, clear and unflinching faith in Him. God will love only such loyal persons.

DOWRY MENACE

In most of the houses, the pain we inflict upon our family members and the sins, we are getting out of that is much. Sons, daughters, daughters in law etc who neglect and humiliate their elderly parents; parents who indulge in their own pleasures and pastimes neglecting their duty of looking after their children; drunken husbands who torture their wives daily; brothers and sisters who do inflict pain on each other. Above all there are the husbands and their parents who torture young wives demanding unreasonable dowry. Let us atleast reduce these sins if at all not possible to completely stop it. Not only to human beings, even if you cause pain to animals that is also a sin. Non-vegetarians-please think it over.

Let me narrate an incident that occurred to me a year ago. An elderly lawyer from Salem, known to me, came to Dharmapuri by car to visit one of his relatives near my factory. After meeting his relatives, on his way back, his car could not start. The frantic efforts of his driver proved futile. The lawyer had to return to Salem urgently. I came to know of this problem, I asked him to leave for Salem by bus and told him that I would arrange for a mechanic, get the car repaired and will send the it to Salem. As he had not brought enough money to pay to his driver to repair the car, he was hesitating. I said to him " Don't worry, I will pay and get the car repaired and will send it to Salem."

The nextday after the car and driver had returned to Salem, the lawyer made enquires with his driver and sent me the money I had spent. Though I said that it was a small amount and that he need not bother to pay it, he insisted on repaying the sum. I was indeed surprised at his insistence to repay the expenditure involved. Perhaps he thought that he should not get money from others without a valid reason. He would be indebted to me, if he did not repay it either now or later on, in any other manner. Perhaps later he may not get an occasion to repay it, either in the form of money or by helping me in any other manner; he may die with the debt unpaid. May be these were the reasons behind his insistence to pay back the amount. It is for this reason, some yogis and maharishis do not visit individuals at their houses and take food there.

Among these selfless people, there are some who torture their wives and force them to get more gold and cash from their parents. How highly sinful they would become through such mean acts like these? If the parents are rich and give voluntarily to their daughters there is no harm in receiving them. But to pressurizing the poor parents and inflicting pain on them, who had with great difficulty and with much borrowed money performed their daughters marriage is really a big sin.

In the marriage function, you pledge in the name of God that you would protect your wife from all mishaps difficulties and misfortunes, that you would share the joys and sorrows of the

woman you marry (This is the meaning of the mantras chanted by the priest who performs the marriage) You make this promise in front of God Agni, in the presence of hundreds of your friends and relatives, and with Arundhathi and other holy planets blessing your union, you make her a part of yourself and of your life. But what happens within a short time?

You forget your promises, you forget that she is part and parcel of your life. Your greed and unsatiable desire come to the surface. You demand your wife to get you money and materials; or your parents and sisters do it. You sometimes join them, and sometimes just let them tease her and pretend not to be aware of these things. What happened to your promise made at the time of the marriage in front of Lord Agni? But now you have forgotten it. You cheat God by breaching your promise you torture your wife and her parents. Are you not treacherous? Do you think, from the accumulation of these sins, you can escape God's punishment? Never. Never.

In the society, some sections of people are weak and they are to be protected. They are women, children and elders. It is our duty to protect them. Even during war time, in the olden days, these sections of people, were spared. If anybody harmed these three categories, they will accumulate more sin. In the same way, if anybody does good to them, they will accumulate more virtues. There is a saying " Even the ghost will show mercy to women ". Will you not accumulate more sin by causing pain

to this category ? Please think.

The story of Emperor Sibi is familiar to all of us. A hunter was in pursuit of a dove, wounded by him; the dove sought refuge with the Emperor. Taking pity on the dove's plight, the emperor promised to help it. Later when the hunter found the dove in the hands of the Emperor, he demanded his bird back or an equal amount of flesh from the Emperor's body. The Emperor offered to give his flesh, rather than the bird back to the hunter. Such an act of the Emperor Sibi is most laudable and unparalleled in history, considering the facts that the refuge is sought only by a bird (Not even a human being) and it was chased after only by a hunter who is no match to the status of an Emperor; one wonders whether the above incident is real or fictitious.

But you are cutting slowly the flesh of your wife who has taken refuge with you, leaving behind her brothers sisters and also her parents whom she treats as equal to God. Where do you stand ? Cutting your wifes flesh – in contrast to the Emperor Sibi who sacrificed his own flesh for the sake of a simple bird !! Can you escape the punishment from God for your treacherous act ?

In Ramayana, in the final battle with Ravana Rama was noble and magnanimous. At the end of a day's battle, Rama found Ravana without arms, with nothing to defend himself, with having lost all his weapons. Rama was not willing to kill his

enemy who was unarmed. Even though killing the enemy in the battle field is not a sin, and inspite of the fact that in the morning when the battle started Ravana was in possession of all the weapons Rama told Ravana to go and come back the next day to resume the war. But the young brides who have come to live in a strange house with strange in laws without having any protection and not even some consoling words, from anybody in the house are tortured by you and your parents. How cruel ?

That too what kind of wife ? The wife who treats you like a God the wife who feels very much hurt and sheds more tears than your own parents when you are in an hospital for treatment for an accident. The wife, who will not hesitate even a second to give her life, to protect your life from death, if such the situation so warrants. You are torturing such a good wife!

The best relationship in this world is the relationship between the mother and the child. Even this relationship is sometimes secondary to the relationship between husband and wife. Your wife is the first person in this world to get affected very much with the news of a debacle to you. Then only your mother comes. When you are torturing such a good wife could there be a more treacherous act in this world than this ? You are doing this after all, for the sake of money. Even a prostitute earns a few thousands in a night. For that money you are torturing your wife , the wife whom you have married in front of Lord Agni, the wife to whom you have promised at the time of marriage in

front of God, to protect her until your death, the wife whom even the ghosts will forgive, the wife who has taken refuge with you treating you as God, the wife who stands before you without any sort of protection, the wife who is prepared to sacrifice her life for the sake of your's .

Don't you realise your treachery ?

Don't you realise your atrocity ?

Don't you realise how much sin you are committing ?

After doing all this, can you imagine you can escape the punishments from God for these acts ? You can't escape wherever and to whichever corner of the world you go.

In the Western countries, there is absolutely no dowry menace. Hence there is no sin committed in this manner. But only in the third world countries like India, the people commit sin through dowry menace. Is it any wonder that India starves and stagnates ? You cannot escape the punishments for the sins committed against young brides.

Those who indulge in dowry menace, should realise that they are committing great sins. Why are you accumulating bags and bags of sins ? Is there any fool like you ?

REAL ELEVATION

The following five qualities are essential to achieve success in life:

1. Truth
2. Honesty
3. Hard work irrespective of the result.
4. Not hurting others (except in performing the duty)
5. Relieving the sufferings of the poor.

These qualities are found abundant in the life of all successful persons. We should base our life on these qualities in order to achieve a successful and meaningful life.

Life is a big and a long struggle. We have to swim against the waves in order to reach our goal. We will face lots of problems and troubles. Only the person who is prepared to face them and manage them becomes an achiever in life.

Don't expect others to light the candle, when you are in a darkroom. Among others let you be the first to light. It is easy to be honest in a society of honest people. But it is very difficult to be honest and perfect in a sinful society like ours. Wherever we turn around, we find selfishness cheating fraud corruption graft nepotism and exploitation. We should vow to lead an honest life practising the five qualities mentioned above. It is easy to walk on the ground, but it is very difficult to walk on

the rope. It may be easy to live with the above qualities in the Western societies; but to practise these in our society is very difficult. You take it up as a challenge to live like this. ***Do not blame the politicians, illicit-liquor brewers, selfish merchants, adulterators and other exploiters. They will be only like that. It is futile to try to reform them, to question the atrocities they commit, or to seek justice from them.***

It is impossible for you. You should ignore them. Can a mouse confront a mountain ? Why does God allow these people to thrive in the society ? We can assume , God has allowed these people to give punishment to other sinners.

In practising the above five qualities do not try to achieve 100% in any one of them. It is enough if you achieve 90%. If you can achieve 90% in all the five qualities in this birth that itself is a big achievement. Here is the story of a good man who tried to follow the virtues 100% and ended as a bad example to others.

There was an honest shopkeeper in Bangalore who sold spare parts for machinery. In business, in keeping accounts and in paying taxes he was 100% honest. He did not cheat the government even one rupee. And he did not pay even one rupee as bribe to the officials. As he was honest, he was a problem to the fellow businessmen and as he was not giving any bribe, he was a problem to corrupt officials.

Shopkeepers who adopted bad practices and the tax officers who were corrupt kept on creating problems to this honest man and tried to create problems for him. He continued to practise honest business inspite of the tortures given to him. At one stage he could no longer tolerate the problems given by them. Hence he closed the shop.

Nobody was impressed by his honesty. People wondered what he had achieved by having remained honest. His honesty drove him to close his shop. So people concluded that you cannot afford to be honest and also live happily in these days.

I have heard people commenting “ Mahathma Gandhi’s children and grand children are not prosperous ”. People think ***“They are Great people, exemplary leaders, people to be admired, people fit for worship like God. But we cannot follow them in life. If we follow, we cannot survive in this world, we will become penniless and our wife and children will live a miserable life ”.***

Hence it is better to follow the above five virtues 90% and become successful in this materialistic life . Only when you succeed in life and become rich, the others would listen to you, have faith in your words and follow your ideas and practice in life. In our society, it is very rare to find people who preach good qualities and also follow them in life. If you belong to that

category, you have the big responsibility to set an example to the uneducated, ordinary people. You should prove that good people can also lead a rich and happy life.

You should continue to lead a good and honest life and set an example for others to follow. God will be very much pleased with you and will give you the big throne. The people around you, after initial criticism, will come round to your way slowly. Swami Vivekananda said " Give me 100 honest and selfless youths! I will change the future of this country." Why not you be one of them?

God has given us the sixth sense. We should not behave like animals having only five senses. Educated people, people with intelligence, people with thinking power should analyse, should know the best things and should come to the correct decision. If we follow the above five qualities in life we can change our country for the better. We are standing very low in international level inspite of having the best Hindu religion to guide us. Whatever number of schools and colleges we start, and whatever number of industries we set up and provide jobs and whatever number of hospitals we start and run to eradicate the diseases, unless we have the above five important qualities neither the people nor the country can get any progress. However intelligently the government plans and implements various projects, and ensure that the benefits reach the people, God will give punishments through many other ways to each and every

person according to the sins they have committed.

He will not allow a country of sinners to prosper. Earthquakes hurricanes storms and other natural calamities – all these are God's way of punishing sinners. Why new diseases like Aids, and Saars are coming up in the world? All these are created by God to give punishment to the sinners. However much intelligent, efficient and clever you may be if you do not practise the above five qualities, all your talents will be nothing before God's will.

If we have a proper understanding of God, His likes and dislikes, and live our lives as per His guidelines, we can rise to the level of the rich Western countries. Instead of borrowing money from them, we will rise to a position by being where we can lend them. You can rise. Your children and their children can rise; the society can rise, and our country can rise to great heights.

The uncrowned king of the computer world, and the richest man in the world, is the chairman of Microsoft Corporation, Bill Gates an American selects and employs, intelligent people from various countries of the world. He has stated that out of all the people working in his company; south Indians are the most intelligent people. This is the place where great rishis, philosophers and yogis were born. Not eating the flesh of other living beings is a good way of life - preaches our

great Hindu religion. These are all the reasons behind the good achievements of South Indians. With a proper understanding of God's ways, if we lead a proper life, we can definitely rise to the position of leading the entire world.

LOVE MARRIAGES

Youth! You are the future of this country. You have the great responsibility of leading this country to prosperity. As you have the duty to perform for your family's wellbeing, you should also have certain duties for the welfare of your country. We have to remind ourselves of John Kennedy's words: "***Don't ask what the country has done for you, ask yourself what you have done for your country***".

You are indulging in love affairs while studying in college. Your minds are diverted from the most essential task of studying. Love is one of the most powerful forces in the world. That will divert you from other important responsibilities. It is very much better for you and your family if you turn to love, after completing your studies. Love, that blossoms in immature minds, is not good for you. After completing the studies, after falling in love, and after selecting your sweetheart, do not marry without obtaining the permission and participation of your parents.

Your parents consent, permission, and approval may not be necessary for you. After getting employment and earning a decent salary, now you are standing on your own legs. Now it may not be necessary for you to get your parent's permission and their support. But the parents, after spending a good portion of their lives in bringing you up, educating you, and after crossing most part of their life; now they need your love and support. But please don't forget that your parents are the first persons in this

world to see, feel happy, and to cherish each and every one of your elevations in life. If you are getting married without their permission, ignoring them, imagine for a minute how much painful it will be for them, how much tears will roll down their cheeks. It is a sin to hurt anybody, it is a big sin if you hurt your parents.

“ There is no holier temple than your mother

No more sacred mantra than your father’s words ”.

-Avvaiyar-Great Tamil poetess

“ Mother, Father, Guru and God ”.

-Tamil proverb

India has given these lessons to the world. Our great Lord Rama led his life as per the above guidance. There is no price in this world, for the agony, sacrifice and suffering a mother undergoes for her children. It is impossible to compensate it. You can never repay the debt in your life time.

Mother is held in great esteem even by the maharishis and yogis. The great Adi Sankara was touring North India when his mother expired in the South Indian small town of Kaladi, his native place in Kerala state. Knowing his mother’s death in advance by his spiritual powers, he came all the way down, undertaking a great and long journey, in order to do the last rites for his mother. Even for rishis who have given up all ties with the family, doing the last rites of a mother is very important. Even if

you offer a shoe, made out of your own skin to your mother you cannot repay the debt to your mother.

Motherhood is holy and sacred. Even the father of a great Rishi or Saint can fall at the feet of his son to get his blessings. It is accepted. But a mother should never fall at the feet of her son, even if he is as holy as God. Mother is considered to be greater than her son, whatever the position he reaches. Hence she should not fall at the feet of her own son.

There is the story of a young man who, at the behest of his sweetheart, killed his mother and was taking her heart in a plate as an offering to her. When he stumbled on the way hitting a rock, the heart of the mother wailed, “ Son, are you hurt ? Be careful ”. Such is the greatness of the mother. If you hurt such a mother’s feelings, you cannot lead a comfortable life.

I have seen numerous young couples, who defied their parents, got married and suffered heavily in life later on. If you are in love, and want to get married, don’t be in a hurry. Be patient. In course of time, your parents will give you permission to marry. If a choice to choose any one of the two is given to the parents; either the parents should undergo the suffering or their children should undergo the suffering; 90% of parents will prefer to willingly undergo the suffering for themselves, rather than their children to suffer. If you are firm in your love, and are ready to undergo any suffering for your love; after a span of a few months

or years, your parents will accept your love and will allow you to marry. Suppose you are quite sure, that under any circumstances your parents will not allow love marriage; then guard yourself from falling into the trap of love and after the marriage, you love your wife.

In the present modern society, we see so many selfish people who don't bother to look after their parents in their old age. They are committing a great sin. In the Western countries, the government looks after the elderly people, gives them concessions in transport and in healthcare expenses. Elderly people are given preference in all the places wherever they go. Hence no sin is committed there in this aspect also. But in India, the situation is entirely different. We are not learning good things from the western people. We are taking only the bad things from them, like modelling, fashion parades, beauty contests, cat walks, exposure of the body, luxurious things etc. Do we learn their good qualities of involvement in work, punctuality, doing one's work without supervision, keeping one's promises, practising honesty in business and in customer satisfaction, not intentionally cheating others but respecting them, and above all humanitarianism from them? We learn only the things which give temporary pleasures, ignoring the good qualities which will bring virtues from the God.

I will narrate a few incidents that occurred in western

countries. Once my brother visited America and during a trip to the world famous Disney World, in the cafeteria in the self service counter, he ordered 3 cups of coffee and one cup of tea. The sales girl gave 4 cups of coffee by mistake. Only after drinking it, my brother's group of people came to know of the mistake. My brother did not complain and kept quiet. During the course of the same day, he happened to visit the same cafeteria again and he casually mentioned to that sales girl, the mistake that she had committed in the morning. The sales girl expressed apology immediately and offered a cup of tea free. She did not argue that she had been right, she accepted her mistake, and she came forward to compensate for it, even though she personally had to bear the cost of that extra cup of tea. With the thinking that the customer will not lie, that the customer is always right, she accepted her mistake readily. Honesty levels are high with people in America. The behaviour of the sales girl seems exemplary to us because we can rarely notice such behaviour, in our country.

Another of my brothers had been to London along with his family. His wife was travelling in a town bus. She was sitting near the door of the bus. At a particular stopping, an old English woman boarded the bus with a bandaged hand. My brother's wife got up and offered her seat to that old lady. Generally on such occasions in our country, the person benefitted only will say "Thank you". But there apart from that

old lady, the people sitting nearby also thanked my brother's wife.

A retired government official from Bangalore and his wife accompanied our group, when I went on a tour of Europe. Their son was working as a computer engineer there and he had invited his parents to go over there and stay with him for a few months. They stayed with him for some months and they told me of an incident that happened there.

One day, he went for shopping in a nearby shopping complex, purchased the necessary items and was returning home with goods overflowing in his hands. An American woman came to him and offered to carry some of the goods for him even though he was reluctant. She came with him to his house and delivered them there. When he asked her, why she took the trouble of helping a stranger, she said, " You are a senior citizen, and you have come as a guest to our country. Your house is on the way to my house. There is no meaning in life, if I don't do even this small help to you ". It was a bit hard to believe. But this was real. Can we think of such incidents happening in our country.

Here is another incident to show the humanitarianism of the Americans and of how public opinion forced a government to withdraw from a major war. Nearly thirty years ago, when America was engaged in a war with Vietnam, thousands of

American soldiers were sent to Vietnam to fight there. Hundreds of reporters and photographers of all countries were working in Vietnam to report the daily happenings of the war.

One American photographer sent a remarkable photo to his newspaper. It was published in that newspaper, and subsequently in all newspapers and magazines in America and shown in television also. It created a tremendous and deep impact on the public mind. It has changed their minds. The people who were supporting the government on Vietnam war, began to change their minds and oppose the war due to that single photo. In America, government cannot and will not act against the opinions of the public. The American govt, respect very much the views of the public. Opinion polls regarding many important issues are conducted there every week and some times even once in few days also. Regarding the vietnam war the opinion of the public, has changed a lot after seeing that photograph. Public opinions conducted showed people who were earlier supporting the government to conduct the war, slowly changing their minds week by week and opposing the war, and asked the government to stop the war which forced the government to bring an end to the vietnam war.

A single photograph brought the war to an end. What actually was in that photo ? A slender ten year old Vietnam girl, stripped completely naked, was fleeing from her napalm-bombed hut, from burning huts, flames all over the area, terror and grief

writ large on her face, tears rolling down her cheeks. This single photograph expressed what a thousand words could not do.

This photograph disturbed the conscience of the people. People asked themselves, what they were going to achieve by terrorizing innocent small girls like this. Even if they achieve was that achievement an absolute necessity ?

The people's heart was full of humanitarianism and they did not care if the girl affected was an American or a Vietnamese. The girl in that photo is living in America, married and settled there with family and her photograph was published in a recent issue of TIME magazine. Please do not correlate the actions of the American government with that of American people and get confused. American government's actions and decisions are taken by the American President and a few of his ministers, which may be wrong and which may not reflect Humanitarianism, on many occasions in international matters like Vietnam war etc and more recently in Iraq war also.

If you are in search of an address in an American city, people approach you and ask, " May I help you ". If you are walking on a sunny pleasant day, strangers say good morning or Hai to you out of the goodness of their hearts. They love life and people, and they are open hearted. They delight in helping poor and suffering. America is prosperous and wealthy because the americans are good natured and are of helpful

attitude. God is awarding a good life to them as they have accumulated a lot of virtues (punniyam , punya)

TEMPLES

In most of the temples God is not present. Is it surprising? It is a popular saying that “**God lives in the hearts of good people**”. It naturally follows that God does not live in the hearts of bad people or where bad things are taking place. God does not like bad things. Hence he will not be present wherever the wrong deeds takes place regularly .

So many frauds and cheatings are prevalent in temples nowadays like grabbing temple lands and properties,, resorting to fraudulent practices in the collection of money, taking money from hundials, adulteration in pooja articles. Even the priests who are doing the pooja rituals to the deity are not good at heart. When so many sinful activities are going on in temples how can we expect God to be present in the temples ? He will not be there.

For how many minutes do we sincerely pray to God, out of the time we spend to go and come back from the temple. When the camphor-flame is circled around the idols, we spend a few seconds thinking about God. Even then, at that time also, we bargain with God. “ Oh God grant me these favourable things, I will do abhisekham to You; I will drop so much money in the temple hundial; I will perform this or that festival for You ”. We do business with God and we treat Him as a commission agent. How many people pray to God asking him to give good thoughts or to show good path to follow ?

If God grants favours to those who go to the temples frequently, then the priests who are with God most of the time, standing very close to him and uttering the holy mantras constantly, should be the great beneficiaries. God should have bestowed the greatest rewards on them. Please do not forget that Lord Krishna loved the low caste devotee so much, who had not entered the temple even once in his life time, and that He turned around in order to enable him to have a better darshan in Udupi temple. If we get one measure of benefit for our prayers we will get 100 measures of benefit for our good deeds from God.

I make an appeal to the intelligent, right thinking good people and to those who endorse the views expressed in this book, to stop going to the temples or atleast reduce the frequency of temple-visits for some time. Is it not true that the same God who is in the temple, is also in your house ? Worship that God in your house itself. This is to help the uneducated, ordinary people. If we are good, if we are moral, if we sincerely adopt good qualities in everyday life, and also go to the temples, what is the impression that we create on uneducated, ordinary people ?

They believe that the rewards that we are blessed with in life are the result of our going to the temples. They don't understand that God has given us rewards, because we have good thoughts in our mind, and do good deeds in life, and do real service to the suffering people.

If we are rich and enviable and if we don't go to the temple, the poor people will be forced to think: How could this man be well off though he does not go to the temples ? They will come to understand that God has granted us a good life because of our good thoughts and the good deeds we have done, and are doing, and not because of visiting temples. They will try to put into practice some of our deeds at least on some occasions.

I have been practising this for the past several years. I would have gone to the temple perhaps twice in a year. That was also for the sake of others. I don't donate any money to the temples. If any body comes to me for donation for poojas or kumbabishekam for temples, I always tell them: " I will not give you even one rupee for the temple. But if there is a poor student or a poor patient who needs help, tell me. I will help him ".

By observing me, some of my friends relatives and others who were initially criticising me behind my back slowly realised and are trying to follow me. Some of them changed their life style and are slowly changing their thinking and started helping the poor and suffering people. The intelligent and the educated people have a duty towards their less fortunate brothers. Even if you encounter discomforts you should bear with that and set an example for others to follow you. In order to be an example for the society, they should reduce their visits to the temples and must show to the ordinary people who believe

that all their trouble will vanish if they go to the temples.

We need not be scared of God's ill will, if we do not go to the temple. Will not God understand, what is our intention for not going to the temples ? Will He not appreciate our way of showing the good path to the unintelligent common man ? The great saint Ramanuja once said that he was ready to go to Hell; if by his action, hundreds of others can go to Heaven. When he is having such a good intention, God will take him first to Heaven. (of course we should know that Heaven and Hell are only concepts created to educate and discipline people)

For the past 20 years, in the month of December I have been distributing free sarees, dhotis or blankets to the poor elderly people. We visit the houses of the poor in the slums in the town of Dharmapuri and in the adjoining villages, see the condition of their houses, select the really poor elderly people and distribute tokens to them. On a particular day, we ask them to come to our factory, and allow the token-holders to come inside our factory and we distribute free sarees, dhotis or blankets to them.

Outside the factory, people without tokens will be waiting for free sarees and dhotis. After the distribution was over, I will come out of the factory, and meet the crowd. Some able-bodied people, would have pushed the weak and the old aside and will be standing in the front. Some elderly people, who could not compete with them, will be standing at the far end of the crowd,

pathetically looking at me. I will ask my assistants to give the free sarees and dhotis to those helpless people who are standing far away first. Some of the people standing in the front will not be elderly, and will not deserve the help. I will not give the clothes to them.

I am just an ordinary man with little intelligence. Even then, I choose the elderly and deserving who could not come nearer to me and ask me for help and give them the cloths. At the same time, I do not help the undeserving who come nearer to me and ask for help repeatedly. If an ordinary man like me is so careful in selecting the people who deserve help, How much care will God who possess immeasurable intelligence wisdom and power take to select the really deserving persons for the benefits ? How much more wise and impartial will He be in giving the benefits to the deserving people ?

None of our tactics will work with Him. He will not grant His blessings to those undeserved people who frequently go to the temples and beg for favours. He will not bless them if they had not accumulated virtues by their good deeds. Is it not true that even if good people don't go to temples and ask for favours, He will grant them at the right measure and at the right time.

We need to understand God and his methods clearly. " If we take one step forward towards God, God will take ten steps towards us ". If his real devotees are in trouble, His heart

will shiver. He will be the first person to come to their help even without their calling. Even if all the forces on earth try to harm the real devotee of God, they could not make even a scratch on him.

ARROGANCE

Arrogance is our secret enemy. Like Saguni of the Maha Bharatha, it acts as our friend but without our knowledge, surely leads us to fall. We can manage an open enemy. But it is very difficult to manage the hidden, unknown enemy. The faceless enemy called arrogance blocks our progress or at least slows it down considerably. An arrogant mentality does not allow people to recognise good things in others to respect the talents of others or to congratulate them on their achievements. It leads most of the people to ruin. It prevents us from adjusting with others and accommodating their interests. Let us not forget an old proverb: ***“ Those who yield to others, never harmed ”.***

Mckinsey is the best consultancy company in the world. It is a first class American firm specialising in consultancy work, for setting up very big industries, building big dams, establishing car factories, helping to build all kinds of giant companies and in managing, assisting, and solving problems in the establishment of big projects. It provides consultation services to the governments also to sort out their financial crises, to plan economic activities etc. It is a very prestigious company, commanding respect from all quarters, throughout the world. All the directors in this company are Americans. They have chosen an Indian as their chief - Managing Director. He is, Rajat Guptha, who belongs to the West Bengal state. He was selected as Managing Director for three consecutive terms, each

term lasting three years. If the American Directors were proud and arrogant, would they have chosen a foreigner, an Indian, as their Managing Director?

What is the secret of success of the much admired and respected Rajat Gupta? “ Bhagwath Gita is responsible for all my success ”. He says. “ It is my guide. I have followed the principles advocated in the Gita and this is the secret of my success: Do your duty without expecting any returns.”

We should follow the good principles, they adopt in their life. Then only our life will be prosperous. Whereever good things exist and whoever possess good qualities, we should not hesitate to learn and follow them. Suppose, we have four good qualities with us; we meet a person with some two other good qualities. We absorb them and practise; then the good qualities with us will be six. Then we see another person with yet another good quality, we absorb it and it becomes seven. Like wise if we are going on absorbing good qualities from others; we will be filled with lot of good qualities and we will go up and up in life towards prosperity and goodness. On the contrary if we refuse to respect others and learn from them, we will be left only with the four good qualities we have, until our death and there will not be much progress in our life. Please think it over.

LYING

Lying has become an ordinary routine thing and has become a part and parcel of our life nowadays. Most of us lie many times everyday for one purpose or other. We do not even realise that lying is a bad habit, and that it is also a sin. Lying is an immoral act, sought to be justified because it is a common practice adopted by all in our society. There is no stigma attached to it. And we justify it. We believe that lying is not wrong and that it is a necessary evil, a part of our daily life. Without being aware of it, we are committing sins almost daily.

It is true that we cannot get on in this world without uttering lies, particularly in a corrupt society like ours. But how many lies you will tell in a day? Take a pledge that you will not lie for ordinary things. Only when it is absolutely necessary you tell a lie. Take a pledge to this effect, and implement it. Every day reduce the number of lies you tell.

Gradually, bring the number of lies to one a day; then once in two days, and then once in four days. If you make a determined effort to reduce the number of lies you speak and if you are firm in your resolution to reduce the number of lies in your daily life, this one aspect alone will play a major part to clean your mind and change your life for the better, in a big way.

Most of the people in the developed countries commit the sin of lying at a very much reduced level. One of the

developed countries Japan is rich and prosperous. Here is an incident that happened there, to illustrate their commitment to truth. I have a friend who imports used printing machines from other countries and sells them in India. He imports machines mainly from Japan. He has close contacts with the firms dealing in old machines in Japan and does good business. He used to go to Japan often for this purpose.

He purchases the machines through a Japanese agent who is specialised in selling machines which are in good running condition. The agent took our Indian friend to a Japanese printing factory and showed him the machine, which was running smoothly and which was for sale. The agent said, "I asked the owner of this factory not to reveal the defects in the machine to the prospective buyers. But the owner said that he cannot lie about the machines, and that if the buyer were to ask for the defects in the machine he cannot hide the same and that he would tell the truth." Look at this man's honesty.

Even to sell a machine which would yield a profit of some lakhs of rupees, the Japanese are not prepared to lie and cheat the buyers. Compare them with the people in our country who do not hesitate to lie even for very insignificant things. Perhaps this will tell us why God gives prosperity to the Japanese, while giving hunger, disease and poverty to the Indians.

HEMELATHA MEMORIAL TRUST

It is the aim of the Trust to render service to the poor people silently, without publicity, without any desire for personal glory or good name. We have a policy not to give interviews to magazines or newspapers or to give to anybody the details of the services rendered by us. Is it right on my part to breach our policy, and to write about them in this book? After much deliberation, I have decided to come out with the details of our services in this book.

I feel that I am not writing about our services, for seeking publicity or personal glory. If the readers know about these activities it will help them a lot to go in a good path and to lead a better life thereby benefitting innumerable poor and suffering people. Moreover the readers would trust my advice and the contents of this book, if they come to know that I do not only preach but also practise what I preach, it would give added strength to my words. It will induce them to think and to improve. These are the reasons for giving details about myself and the services rendered by our Trust in this book.

Hemelatha Memorial Trust was started in the name of my daughter Hemalatha who was born in 1972. She was a divine child with sterling qualities and she believed in simplicity and in humble life. She grew up with a native desire for service to the poor and she left this money-minded corrupt world after undergoing many cheatings, and ended her life in the year 1995.

“Hemelatha Memorial Trust” was started in memory of her and is purely a service organization.

My daughter’s soul was highly enlightened and here are a few facts that show how much she has influenced my thoughts and the course of my life.

A few days after her death, I decided to lead my life with the following resolutions and guidelines. {In fact she induced me }

1. To allot 50% of my income to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, and the needy
2. Not to accept any public posts(I have resigned from all the posts I was holding)
3. Not to sit on the stage in any function.
4. Not to accept any certificates, commendations, felicitations,awards etc.
5. Not to participate in public functions and celebrations as far as possible.
6. Not to give interview to any newspaper and not to publicise the services done.

I have been steadfastly following the above resolutions so far; though there had been many temptations. I have declined

the felicitations offered by the Lions club, the Rotary Club and other business associations. I have also declined the Award of “ **Best Tax Payer** ” in the districts of Salem, Dharmapuri and Namakkal conferred on me by the Salem Income Tax Commissioner as per the directions of Union Finance Ministry and to be given to me by the Finance Minister of the Government of India.

I have been able to follow these principles only with the divine help of my daughter Hemalatha and with her continued help, I will be able to follow them steadfastly in future also until the last moment of my life.

This Trust does not accept donations from any one. It does not contribute any money or service to the temples. It spends its resources only on the needy poor and suffering people and on those who lead a miserable life.

In all my endeavours, I am guided by my daughter Hemalatha’s divine soul. I am just a tool in her hands. All the glory arising out of my services should go to her; and I am to be held responsible only for the mistakes and shortcomings in executing them. There are a few honest, sincere and hard working assistants with me and it is a fact that without their help, I would not have been able to do what I have done. They have enabled me to render my services in the best possible way and hence I am bound to thank them.

SERVICES DONE IN 2005

The Hemelatha Memorial Trust has done the following service projects:

1. A sum of nearly Rs. 9.5 lakhs was given as Scholarship to 200 college students who belong to Dharmapuri district, who have scored high marks and who are financially backward. Each student was granted an average amount of Rs. 5000/- and we have been giving this kind of Scholarship help for the past 7 years. Only after a personal inspection of the house of each applicant, to ascertain the real financial condition of the student, and after a personal interview, we select the deserving students and distribute the scholarships.
2. Nearly 3500 mothers, who have given birth to babies in the Dharmapuri Town District Govt. Hospital and in other Govt. hospitals situated within 30 kilometres of the town, were provided a “Baby Kit” free. The kit consisting of items such as baby bed soap towel gown and Multivitamin drops for the baby, and the medicines like iron tablets, calcium tablets and health drink of Horlicks for the mother.
3. 4200 students who are studying in 6 7 and 8 standards in the government schools in the villages and who have lost their fathers, were given school uniforms, set of note

books, geometry box etc. each set costing around Rs.200/-.

4. Financial help was granted to the poor people who underwent surgery in the private hospitals in Dharmapuri. Patients who needed better care were identified and sent to bigger and better equipped St. John's Medical college Hospital in Bangalore. They were also provided with financial help to a maximum of Rs. 5000/ per patient.
5. Cash assistance was given to widows and to the elderly people.
6. 3,75,000 copies of this book in Tamil were distributed freely all over TamilNadu along with the Tamil weekly Ananda Vikatan, and 3,00,000 copies of Telugu version of this book were distributed along with the Telugu weekly magazine Swathi all over Andhra Pradesh. A sum of Rs. 16 lakhs was paid to Ananda Vikatan for this service and in the case of Swati, a sum of Rs. 13 lakhs was paid. In the year 2004 an English version of this book was distributed freely to 5.22 lakh readers with Indian Express for which we have paid Rs.34 lakhs to Indian Express.
7. Every month an Eye Camp was organised in Dharmapuri in association with the Sankara Eye Hospital of Coimbatore.
8. More important than all the above, our mission is to guide

the people on the right path of life and to change their ways of thinking and moulding their character in a good manner. I am running a match industry in the Small Scale Industries category and I employ nearly 450 fulltime workers and 300 part time workers. Of course there is not even a single child worker in our factory.

Every morning at 11. A. M. all the workers in the factory stop their work and their machines and take the pledge (the pledge is printed elsewhere in this book) All the areas of the factory are provided with a public address system. Praying to their favourite Gods, they repeat the pledge, read over the loud-speakers. This practice has been going on from December 2001. Initially even though all the workers took the pledge; only 10% of them took it with interest, but in course of time, the percentage has steadily increased. Now all the workers, 100% of them, close their eyes, pray to their favourite Gods and take the pledge sincerely and whole heartedly.

This has definitely brought big changes in their thinking and their activities have also changed a lot. Previously there used to be at least ten petty quarrels, disputes, heated arguments, abuse of each other etc. It has slowly reduced and now there is rarely any incident of this kind. Most of them have learnt how to adjust with each other; and there are no petty thefts. Sometimes lost articles like a hundred rupee

note, gold earrings etc are found by the workers and handed over to the section supervisors.

A worker, who had earlier refused to donate even Rs. 5/- for charity, has now donated 100 rupees to an orphanage. A charity fund is organised by the workers and all the workers are contributing every month to that Charity fund which is utilised only for the poor suffering people living in remote areas of Dharmapuri district. One Sunday our workers visited an orphanage in Eriyur and distributed articles worth about Rs. 5000/- In another project they went to a remote, backward village called Sellamudi near Pennagaram, and donated articles worth Rs. 700/- to each of the 10 widows. They have chosen not to hurt others anymore.

Seeing the remarkable change this pledge-taking has brought about in the minds of the workers, I have introduced it to the part time workers of our factory and also to the staffs and students of the Matriculation higher secondary school under my control. For them also it has produced very good results. I believe that if this system is introduced in all the offices, factories, schools and colleges, it would usher in a silent revolution in the country. This would help us to take India on the path of rapid progress. Nearly 60% of my factory workers are illiterate. If this daily pledgetaking has changed the minds of even illiterates, how much more change it can bring about in the minds of the educated persons.

This year we have made all the students who have received scholarship from our Trust to give an undertaking. Everyone of them has promised, and stated in writing " I will take the 14 point pledge daily, and when I complete my college studies and get employment, I will spend 2 % of my income to help the poor and suffering either for their education, or to relieve their sickness or in any form of relieving their sufferings ".

PLEDGE

PRAYING TO GOD, I TAKE THIS PLEDGE

1. I will not speak lies unnecessarily and for petty things. I may lie only when it is absolutely necessary.
2. I will not cheat anybody.
3. I will not hurt anybody.
4. I will not tell or show bad to anybody.
5. I will not be jealous of people who are well off
6. I will not speak mockingly of others or indulge in gossips or seek to make much of the mistakes of others.
7. I will not have any desire for the money coming through wrong means.
8. I will not go in wrong ways in any manner.
9. I will do my duty perfectly.
10. I will do my duty honestly.
11. I will not speak often unnecessarily while I am doing my work.
12. I will show due respect to my parents.
13. I will show due respect to the elders.

14. Today I will do atleast a small help to others

After taking this Pledge in the name of God If I don't follow, it would be like cheating God. I know I will receive punishment for this in future. Hence I will not allow myself to be punished by God. I will act as per the pledge.

Taking this pledge daily, before the photo of God in your house, would do good to you.

MY GREEDY WISHES

1. Let there be no poor people in my mother country.
2. Until poverty is abolished, let there be at least four people each competing to help every poor man.
3. Every Indian shall excel in humanitarianism.
4. Let all the courts and police stations become workless and unnecessary. There shall be no man committing crimes.
5. India should become a country, where there is plenty of milk and honey flowing and a country of prosperous, rich and wise people.
6. Let caste and communal clashes disappear from our land. Let there be religious harmony among all the Indians. The belief in “One God, One Race” should reflect in their hearts, thoughts and actions.
7. My mother India should occupy the first place in the world.
8. Foreigners should exclaim “what a change India has undergone! Unbelievable” at the progress of the country.
9. Every Indian should get a copy of this book.
10. These wishes should find a place in the hearts of every Indian.
11. I should get a big and permanent place in the Heart of God.

CONCLUSION

For the past few years while I was watching the way the people behave and the society goes, so many questions came up in my mind. Why are these people going in the wrong path? Why are they underestimating the powers and wisdom of God? Why are they digging their own graves? Wouldn't anybody guide them properly? Why should not the religious leaders show them the right path to follow? Where does the solution lie for the problems of our people and society? Why can't I write a book expressing my thoughts?

Before Starting to write this book, I had many doubts. Do I have the necessary qualification or talent to write a book? Why should I write this now? Why should not I gain more experience and maturity, and then write it after a few years? I asked myself the above questions.

This is my maiden venture. Finally I made up my mind to write, in the hope that this book might guide a few people in the right path. If atleast four people are reformed and brought to the right path, those four people would guide another set of four each; and this would become 16 and that 16 at the rate of four each would guide another 64 and this would multiply in this way. “Do the right thing and do it right now” is a Tamil saying. My friends suggested that my views, if they are brought out in the form of a book, would be helpful to many. Finally I persuaded myself to plunge in this big task.

All the views I have expressed in this book are only the thoughts and views of great Maharishis and Mahatmas and what I have understood from their sayings.

Shiv Khera has said in his famous book “ ***YOU CAN WIN ” Successful people do not do different things. They do things differently.***

Similarly I have expressed the views I have understood in a different but in an honest manner.

This is the country of prosperity and wealth.

This is the country where milk and honey flowed freely.

This is the country, where all the citizens lived a happy and prosperous life as there was justice and truth in every body's minds, thoughts and actions. .

This is the country where people were unselfish generous and they never wanted to earn money through wrong means. This is the country, where in Lord Dharma's (Mahabharath Dharma) court, the buyer and the seller of a piece of land presented the case for judgement; quarrelling over the ownership of the treasure discovered in the land. The buyer argued that the treasure discovered in the land, belonged to the seller, as he has purchased only the top land and the treasure was found deep inside the land; while the seller argued that when he sold the land, he had given all rights to the buyer and

so the treasure belonged to the buyer. Both of them declined to accept the treasure. What a strange case !!

This is the country where the Emperor Sibi gave away a portion of his own flesh, in order to protect a dove that had taken refuge with him.

This is the country, where a Tamil king Manu Needhi Cholan ran his Chariot over his own son and killed him because his son had done the same thing to a calf and killed it.

This is the country where a Tamil King, Pandian Nedunchezian fell off from his throne and died instantly when he realized that he had delivered a wrong judgment which resulted in the death of an innocent man.

This is the country where Buddha and Gandhi were born and practised their faiths.

This is the country which has shown the right path to the whole world.

This is the country of hundreds of great rishis and saints.

Is it not your duty to atleast try to restore this country to its past greatness ? Do not ask. “ If I live honestly, sincerely doing my duty properly with out hurting others and helping the suffering poor; is it sufficient ? What can one man do ”? Do not ask like this. If you resolve and take a path thinking who ever

lives in whatever manner he likes I will live only like this and start working towards my set goals will not God give you the benefits for that ? If the number of people thinking and acting like this increases manifold can't we change our country ?

Oh Harshad Mehtas – swindling crores of rupees and spoiling the lives of thousands of people in share market scam; Oh Abdul Kareem Telgis- involving in stamp paper scam, cheating the government of crores of rupees ; Oh Dawood Ibrahims – sitting comfortably in Karachi and indulging in bomb explosions in Bombay city killing innocent people. God is watching all of you. With the virtues you have accumulated by your good deeds in earlier births, you people are thriving in spite of your atrocities. But one day the effect of those good deeds will come to an end. Then will begin your great fall. You can escape from the clutches of law or from the government or from the people; but you cannot escape from the punishment from God. It is not only for you but also for your next seven generations and for the next seven rebirths, all of you will reap the consequences of your bad deeds. **“ Adharma has never won, Dharma has never been defeated”** in the history of the past, in the present and also in the future.

Oh, the politicians, like a chameleon you change your policies and explanations to suit every occasion, hoodwink the people and earn millions in easy deals, and enjoy the prestige of power and use it not to help the people but to amass wealth.

Oh, the boot-leggers and liquor merchants, in this land of Mahatma Gandhi; you make the liquor flow like a river in all the villages, towns and cities and amass wealth, destroying the lives of thousands of ordinary people.

Oh, the much educated government officials, in this land of poverty, inspite of a comfortable life by the assured good job, and a regular salary until the age of 60 and the pension after retirement, and also the pension for your wife after your death, you harass the people with your corrupt practices.

Oh, you people who think “ whether others live or die. I am not bothered in the least. I am happy if I and my family are comfortably placed “ and you go on cheating others.

Oh, you dirty people who think, “ It is all right even if I lose both my eyes, but my neighbour should lose atleast one eye ”.

You people are spoiling your future; but what right you have, to spoil the future of your children and their seven generations by your evil deeds?

If you people think and act properly it will not take much time to change our country into a prosperous and a leading country of the world. Our country is not a poor country; but a country of poor people. If not for the good of the country, at least for the good of yourself and your children, you should change.

Oh you intellectuals you sit back in the sofas in your drawing halls, read the tearful stories of poverty and disease stricken people and expect the government to go to their help and feel that you have no role to play.

Oh the Fortunate, you spend thousand rupees to eat one meal in a five star hotel many times in your life. Don't you realise out of so many times, even if you choose to skip once, that money will be sufficient to feed an entire poor family for a month !

Oh the wealthy madam, – you have many sarees in your wardrobe – that if one saree is worn for one day the next turn for that saree will come only after a year. Don't you realise the pathetic situation of your poor sister in a tiny village, who doesn't have an extra saree to change and hence compelled to wear second half of the saree, while washing and drying the first half, then wear the first half, while washing and drying the second half in the village pond.

Oh, the wealthy , Don't you realise that God had placed you in such a comfortable position that you need not sacrifice any of your comforts, to help your suffering poor brethren and fellow citizens of this country.

Oh. you intellectuals who earned degree after degree in universities, don't you realise that you can utilise, your intelligence to realise God and to know the real Art of living and

live an exemplary life, and also to show the proper good path to others ?

Don't you all have mercy in your hearts. Definitely you have. Wake up that mercy which is lying dormant.

Help that poor intelligent boy who after so many times of starvation, and after a lot of struggles finishes 3 years of study in a 4 years course and not able to find money to pay the fees for the 4th and final year exam.

Help that poor fellow who is struggling to purchase medicines for his wife, who is in death bed.

Help that poor infant crying for milk

Help that poor fellow who is starving without food for days.

What are you going to do with the money which is not utilised to alleviate the sufferings of the above ? If only a part of your money is utilised to help the sufferings of the above; you can be prosperous and your seven rebirths and your seven generations can be prosperous – Please think.

If the people mentioned above realise and change; it is good. Even if they don't change, do not mind about that. Heaven is not going to fall on earth. Oh. the ordinary citizens who are struggling to manage the monthly budget within your income – you should change I am not asking you to change as a Buddha

or Jesus or Mahatma. I know it is impossible.

Bring about small, changes in your mind and in the society around in your day to day life.

Reduce the number of lies you speak in a day

Don't aspire for the money that you can get by cheating others

Don't be lazy. Work atleast ten hours a day.
Unemployed – you work for the sake of others atleast two hours in a day.

Don't hurt others unless it is caused, while performing your duty.

Help the suffering poor in whatever manner you can and in however small a way it is.

Don't accuse others. Don't try to reform the criminals and question the atrocities taking place.

“ Keep away from Evil ” – act accrding to this saying.
Do your duty in a calm, humble manner without any ego.

Do not mingle with bad people

Try to change at least a few of your friends and relatives who listen to your words.

Take the 14 point pledge everyday morning and also before going to bed. This will change your life a lot quickly.

To accomplish all this we do not need a movment,organization or party with an office, branches, office bearers, volunteers. We need not conduct conferences,meetings,rallies, agitations etc. This is a campaign of each and every individual.

When individuals multiply, when they realise the benefits of being good and selfless, the numbers would swell in years and it would become a mass movemet on its own and bring good to the individuals and to the society as a whole. God would bless one and all. When hundreds of people become thousands who become lakhs in the course of years God will bless us all and our beloved country step by step slowly but surely.

When my daughter Hema Latha expired in 1995, I was completely broken. After sometime, I managed and determined to lead an exemplary life with five important virtues mentioned in this book. Who has raised me from the position of providing help to the society only to the extent of Rs 3 lakhs in the first year; to the present poisiition of providing help many times like that? Who has given me the various points mentioned in this book? Who has given me the talent to write this book?

Who has created the situation of distributing this book to 12 Lakh readers free of cost ?

Who has elevated me to such a good position - a person who was born in a poor family and who struggled a lot at each

and every step and at each and every situation, to come up to this level ?

Every thing happens by the blessings of God. Why has He elevated me to such a height ? Only because I have implemented atleast 90% of the most important 5 good qualities mentioned in this book. If you also implement these in your life, God will definitely bless you with similar elevation or even much more elevation than this.

Thousands of people have joined me, in my effort to restore my soil, my Bharath my country to its age old glory and prosperity. An ordinary factory worker from Pudukkottai earning just Rs 3000/- per month, who is not married but who has brought about the marriages of his brothers and sisters, has purchased 50 copies of Anandha Vikatan with the free supplements and distributed them to the libraries in his area. Like him hundreds of people had purchased 10, 20, 50 and 100 books and distributed them to their friends and relatives to spread the thoughts and messages.

A person impressed by reading this book in Tirupur called me over the phone and expressed to me that he was spending around Rs 300/- a week on liquor and that he had decided not only to abstain from liquor but to spend the money for the poor and suffering people.

A paper mill owner has appreciated the book very much and told me that he has assured to donate Rs 3 Lakhs for a

temple, and subsequently decided against the same, however on second thoughts he reversed his plan and told me “ Let me give the promised amount to the temple now, and here after I will not give donations to the temple and will utilise the money for the upliftment of the poor ”.

Like this hundreds of people had taken a resolve and the message is quietly but surely reaching good natured individuals across the country. These people will bring thousands of people to this big movement. I could foresee in distant future of a bright and prosperous India

Who are going to be benefited by this ?

Yourself

The people who receives help from you

Your next seven rebirths

Your seven generations

Our society

Our great country

It is only my strong desire to share some of my society related thoughts with all good people , my desire that our resources - mental as well as material - should more meaningfully spent on the poor people suffering around us pathetically , rather than being wasted . And above all my

burning desire that our great and ancient country of Bharath should be restored to its age old glory, to its once enjoyed highest place in the world that has compelled me to take to the writing of this small book. I will be very much pleased if this book can help bringing in a small, however small it may be, beginning in the right direction towards bringing the society where good - **GOOD ALONE -- WILL REIGN SUPREME** . This small book has been written with the best of such intentions. I may kindly be forgiven for the mistakes if any .

Thank you..