



Life Is an Opportunity to Create a Meaning

All the while we keep complaining about the world around us, but we ourselves do nothing to improve it. The world would actually be a much more beautiful place to live in if all of us could care a bit for the people and creatures around us. Like John Fitzgerald Kennedy would have said, 'Ask not what the society has done for you, ask what you have done for the society'. A little empathy and sympathy for the world around us would make the world a much better place to live in. God has made fragrant flowers of us all. But how many times have we stopped and bothered to spread our sweetness. If we have not done it so far, we should start doing it right away.

The ability to do 'good' is the privilege that God has bestowed upon us and we should benefit from the same as much as possible. After all, as they say, smell stays in the hand that gives the rose. Some people are good despite the tempting opportunities to be bad, while some are bad for simply the want of opportunities to be good. As Plato had said, 'Man is actually and naturally good'. It is just the circumstances that make him/her bad. So, if our circumstances and fortunes are favourable, we should not squander the opportunities of doing good and being good to the people around us. When we pray for others, God listens to us and blesses them. But when we are happy and feel blessed, we must remember that someone has prayed for us too.

All of us, who are leading a decently comfortable life, are the privileged lot and destiny's chosen ones sent to the world with a purpose. As Mother Teresa would tell us, 'what God has given us is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared with the deserving'. Someone rightly said, 'What I gave, I have; what I spent, I had but what I kept, I lost'. So, we should always remember that a good deed is never lost. He who sows courtesy reaps friendship and he who plants kindness gathers love. And the highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it. The act of doing 'good' is itself a great reward. The hands that help are always better than the hands that pray. We should be close to someone who makes us happy, but we should be closer to someone who can't be happy without us.

Almost all of us develop lifestyles and habits that please our senses, and most of the time we are slovenly happy without any concern for others. In fact, some also believe that if we really start caring for others or start getting unhappy or concerned with others' unhappiness or concerns, then we would make our life hellish. Not really. Sometimes even others' problems, if left unresolved, may affect our own life very negatively, bringing us ruin. We live in an inter-dependent society. Others' problems, if left unattended and unresolved, shall come back to haunt us tomorrow for sure.

So we should never stop helping others because it makes our life more meaningful. After all, no candle loses its light while lighting another candle. We only have to know exactly what to do, how to do and when to do and in what proportion, as per our capacity. Most of us continue living as if we would never die and most of us die as if we never lived. So, we should live as if we were to die tomorrow and learn and do 'good' as if we were to live forever.

But like a true gentleman, like an angel, we must keep doing good without expecting anything in return, as expectations of return may result in unhappiness, sorrow or heart-burn for you. As a general rule, we ourselves should always remember that those who receive a benefit or favour should never forget it, while those who bestow it should never remember it. We should never keep judging people for what they did or did not do. We should rather judge our self, always trying to discover our flaws and foibles to correct them. As Mother Teresa said, 'If we start judging people, we will be having no time to love them'.

Many of us who have ordinary comforts of life available to them forget very easily that we are actually destiny's chosen ones whom His Almighty has entrusted with the onus of taking care of the uncared and neglected millions on this planet.

After all, we might have been in their places, not having all that we have today. Whatever status or possessions we have is by an accident, which could have been different or could be different in our next lives; if at all the concept of rebirth is to be believed. By not doing our duties honestly and responsibly and by not being moved by fellow human beings' troubles, we are actually breaching the trust reposed in us by the destiny.

If we notice carefully, then we would find that the world is actually moving with us or moving around us or is actually fixated on us. Has any of us ever thought as to why does this happen? Despite the universe being so huge and there being so many characters and players therein, why is it that the world seems to be fixated on us? As if God were constantly watching us through his spy camera. Why it is not focused elsewhere? This really needs to be followed very closely. This very fact should make us realise that the destiny has really assigned each of us a separate role on this world stage and all of us are there to play a particular role.

Now, what role we choose for ourselves is something that totally depends on us. We wish to play a negative or a positive role is something that we have to choose. But one thing is clear. We definitely deserve and need to lead a life, which is superior to the animal life. The life of an animal/a beast does not go beyond the pleasures of the flesh, including eating, drinking, defecating and procreating. The Almighty has endowed the human beings with the capacity to think and create. That is why humans have not only won and survived the existential race, but also dominate the forces of nature, proving their superiority thereby.

But we definitely can do much better than we have done so far. While we judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, the others always judge us by what we have already done. In fact, life itself has no meaning. Life is an opportunity to create a meaning. Out of the same paper, we can make a book, a ticket, a boat or an aeroplane. Our destiny is not what we get, but what we make out of what we already have. Let's make our life more meaningful.

Salient Point

- God has made fragrant flowers of us all. But how many times have we stopped and bothered to spread our sweetness.
- Smell stays in the hand that gives the rose.
- He who sows courtesy reaps friendship and he who plants kindness gathers love.
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- We should live as if we were to die tomorrow and learn and do 'good' as if we were to live forever.
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Glossary

Empathy: ability to understand and share others' feelings

Destiny: fate

Defecation: discharge faeces from body

Procreation: reproduction