

LIGHT

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Vande Mataram

All quotations used in this article are from **Vande Mataram: The Biography of a Song**, by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

In the 1930s, when a fierce controversy erupted over "Vande Mataram", with Muhammad Ali Jinnah declaring that Vande Mataram was unacceptable because it was an idolatrous war cry, Subhas Chandra Bose was up in arms in support of the song. In his October 1937, letter to Jawaharlal Nehru, Bose advised against discarding Vande Mataram. He argued that the Congress could not afford to discard a song for which there was massive support in the country.

In his October 20, 1937, letter to Bose, Nehru wrote: "I have managed to get an English translation of Anandamath and I am reading it at present to get the background of the song. It does seem that this background is likely to irritate the Muslims." Apparently, the language of the song was too difficult for Nehru. He wrote in the letter: "I do not understand it without the help of a dictionary." He told Bose that he would consult Rabindranath Tagore on the issue of Vande Mataram.

Tagore's judgement of the song was mixed. In his letter to Nehru, Tagore acknowledged that the song had played a critical role in making the Indian masses aware of their history and culture. But there were portions in the song for which he could not muster any sympathy since he was brought up in the monotheistic ideals of his father. According to Tagore, the Muslim opposition to Vande Mataram was justified since this song was a hymn to Goddess Durga. Here's an excerpt from his letter to Nehru:

"I freely concede that the whole of Bankim's "Vande Mataram" poem, read together with its context, is liable to be interpreted in ways that might wound Moslem susceptibilities, but a national song, though derived from it, which has spontaneously come to consist only of the first two stanzas of the original poem, need not remind us every time of the whole of it, much less of the story with which it was accidentally associated. It has acquired individuality and an inspiring significance of its own in which I see nothing to offend any sect/community."

According to Tagore, the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram were acceptable but the rest of the song was a hymn to Goddess Durga. His view was accepted by the Congress Working Committee. The CWC resolution drafted by Nehru said: **"The Committee recognize the validity of the objection raised by Muslim friends to certain parts of the song... Taking all things into consideration therefore the Committee recommended that wherever the Vande Mataram is sung at national gatherings only the first two stanzas should be sung..."**

Tagore's personal popularity suffered a major setback due to the position that he had taken on Vande Mataram. Prominent Hindu intellectuals criticised him for his failure to strongly defend Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's work. Feeling bitter at the criticism being heaped on him, in his letter to poet Buddhadeb Bose, Tagore lamented: "Since I have been born in Bengal the typhoon of name-calling is like the accustomed breeze of my homeland to me. I have lodged no complaint or protest. Those days are over when I was sensitive to all that..."



**Birthday Greetings :**

Aug 7th Spouse Shikhadyuti, Wife of PP Kumud

Anniversary Greetings :

Aug 6th Spouse Ratna & Rtn. Debasis Das



THE POWER OF ROTARY

(Shared by a Rotarian)

Today I got a first-hand experience of the power of Rotary. A relative couple of mine had gone holidaying to Leh when suddenly last night the husband collapsed and expired. Leaving only the helpless wife trying to manage things in an unknown land. She reached out to me just to find out if I had any contacts in Leh, which obviously I did not. Just last Friday, when we were having lunch with the RI Director Dr Mahesh Kotbagi who was here for our installation and we were talking about a bike trip to Leh. In conversation he mentioned that there is even a Rotary club in Leh and I remembered that. This morning I messaged Dr. Kotbagi informing him about my need. In 10 minutes he sent me the District Governor's contact there, who in turn got me in touch with the Club President, who in turn sent two Rotarians immediately to the hotel and hospital to help out in any way they could. All this was only possible because of the worldwide Rotary family. This is true service above self. Helping strangers who might never have to help you in your life ever!

PROUD TO BE A ROTARIAN!!!

Presidential Message - Jennifer Jones, President 2022-23

We've all taken our own path to become a member of Rotary. Some of you joined because your father was a Rotarian. Some of us signed up because an employer tapped us on the shoulder and asked us to attend a meeting. Others became members only after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling made it possible.

Yet each of us entered through one mechanism — an invitation.

An invitation that unlocks our imaginations and allows us to know that everything and anything is possible. Each one of us has that same opportunity — the honour to extend an invitation.

It is awe-inspiring to imagine how we can look out across our communities and identify our future leaders. It's often tempting to attract people who are exactly like us. It's a special form of ingenuity to consider how people who are seemingly very different can, in fact, share our values and have



some of those same talents, just waiting to be unleashed.

It's time for Rotary to take our next step in advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) across our organization.

Embracing an experience where people feel included is more than just making our membership numbers more diverse. It's about making our meetings and events places where we can speak openly and honestly with each other, where our members feel welcome and safe. This means removing barriers for entry and opening doors for inclusion. Our values remain our strength — and our commitment to excellence requires us to maintain high standards for our members as well.

I believe we are all committed and determined to advancing DEI across Rotary. This is rooted in the deepest traditions of our organization, and it will ensure that we remain vibrant and relevant for decades to come.

A few years ago, our Rotary Board set the ambitious goal of increasing the share of female members to 30 percent by 2023. We have less than a year to go, but I believe we can meet and exceed this target.

We need Rotary leaders to rise from every continent, culture, and creed. We need young members and young thinkers to take on larger roles and responsibilities. We need to listen to new Rotary members just as keenly, and with as much respect, as those with many years of membership.

During our recent convention in Houston, we heard from astronauts about their journeys into space. We reflected upon a time in the 1960s when U.S. President John F. Kennedy urged the world to dream, with his declaration that we would “go to the moon [and do] other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

Fully committing Rotary to DEI and meeting our ambitious membership targets may seem as unlikely as a moon shot. But I know that when people of action are committed to a big goal, we make it worth every ounce of our energy.

THE SPIRITUALITY, ROTARY & OF OUR ROTARY FOUNDATION

Antonio Hallage, Brazil (PRID & Past Trustee, TRF)

Spirituality is a dimension of the human being that is translated in several religions and religious confessions as the characteristic way of living, of someone who searches to find the plenitude of his relation with the transcendental.

It can be seen as the most profound essence and aspiration of any human creature.

How can this definition be related to the essence of a Rotarian in action? How can the humanitarian and voluntary rendering of service possibly approaches us of this relation with the transcendental?

Human being is, between the living creatures those who has mostly conquered in their

evolutionary process, develop these activities in such a subjective way to allow them to reach patterns of conduct that, a part of being conscious and understanding the satisfaction that doing good to others bring to them, also approaches them of their aspiration of relationship with something that transcends their total comprehension.

This cognitive process, studied by the spiritual neuroscience, or Bio-technology, has been presented in various studies and several books under the most different angles.

But let us analyse it under the perspective of Rotary, its values and practices.

It usually gives us pleasure and emotion feelings, when we hear a success story of service rendered.

When we deliver a low cost shelter to a family that since then has lived under a bridge or dependent of someone else favour, when we present to a child glasses and they begin to see what they were not able to, when carrying a child in our arms we become conscious that we have saved her from getting polio with just two little drops of vaccine, when we see a mother writing on a piece of paper her first written words and phrases, written in a still imprecise way, when we restore dignity of a human being, by giving them a wheelchair for them to move along in freedom, all these experiences provide us with a pattern of conscious activity that gladden our spirit.

Rotary provide us with these marvellous and valuable experiences, which allow us to motivate and contaminate others to join us and share these great moments of happiness.

Our feelings are positively fed when we make a contribution, when we experience the pleasure of giving. Once grasped this life experience, it takes us to another contribution and one more and many other more, every time with greater joy. It is a joy that evolve with time.

When we stimulate others to make a contribution remembering the sensation we lived ourselves while doing it, we are giving them the opportunity to live the same experience and feel the same stimulus, being aware that many of us will be vigilant in order to guarantee that every cent donated will be diligently invested to do good and restore dignity of someone else.

The rich experiences that Rotary allow us to have, is needed by us and serves to balance our lives, promotes on us the desire to serve as a

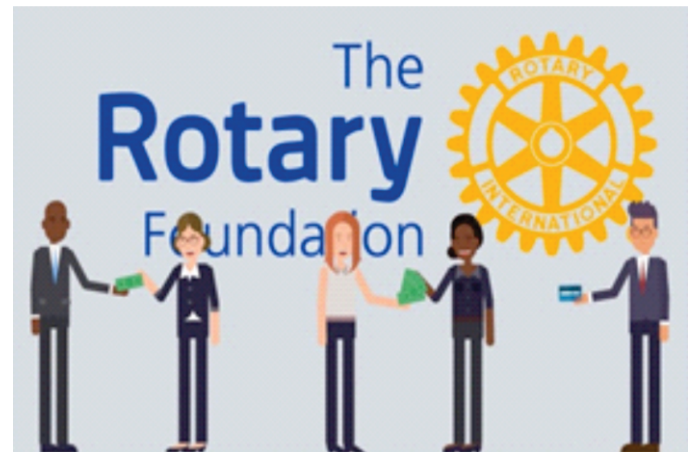
journey to happiness. It is a gift that we develop and a pledge that we assume towards the community in which we live in and that help us to develop our spirituality.

Our Rotary Foundation is the pragmatic formula that we have, to be able in any step of our life, to develop our spirituality and build a legacy that we will leave as our contribution to peace and world understanding.

Our thoughts are created in our mind, but their effective realization can only be materialized by our actions. Only through actions is that our thoughts and ideals are shared with others and produce sustainable effects.

Our thoughts transformed in actions and emotions connect us with the world we live in. The emotion manifested in such process is one of the expressions of our spirituality.

We create our reality and build it through our family, our fellows and our friends. It is our spirituality in action. And Rotary and The Rotary Foundation are the most powerful tools we have to allow us to express our spirituality through our contributions and our voluntary service.



JUST LEAVE IT!!

It is a wonderful sentence. If we know the value of it we won't be suffering as much as we do in our life.

Read the below quotes and enjoy.

Principle of JUST LEAVE IT (Worth Practicing)

-Try convincing a person once or twice. If he or she refuses to get convinced

☑ **Just Leave it**

-When the children grow up and take their own decisions, do not impose

☑ **Just Leave it**

-Your frequency doesn't match with everyone in life. If you can't connect with someone

☑ **Just Leave it**

-After a certain age if someone criticises you don't get upset

☑ **Just Leave it**

-When you realise that nothing is in your hands, stop worrying about others and the future

☑ **Just Leave it**

-When the gap between your wish list and your capabilities increases, stop self expectations

☑ **Just Leave it**

-Everyone's path of life, size of life, quality of life is different, so stop comparing

☑ **Just Leave it**

-When life has given you such a wonderful treasure of experience, stop counting your daily earnings, but

☑ **Just Leave it**

-If this does NOT Appeal or Apply to You..

☑ **Just Leave it!!!**

“Lakshya” moments with RI President Jennifer Jones










THE SPONSOR OF A NEW MEMBER

The bylaws of Rotary clearly outline the procedure for a prospective member to be proposed for Rotary club membership. The "**proposer**" is the key person in the growth and advancement of Rotary. Without a sponsor, an individual will never have the opportunity to become a Rotarian.

The task of the proposer should not end merely by submitting a name to the club secretary or membership committee. Rotary has not established formal responsibilities for proposers or sponsors, however, by custom and tradition these procedures are recommended in many clubs.

The sponsor should :

-  Invite a prospective member to several meetings prior to proposing the individual for membership.
-  Accompany the prospective new member to one or more orientation/informational meetings.
-  Introduce the new member to other club members each week for the first month.
-  Invite the new member to accompany the sponsor to neighbouring clubs for the first make-up meeting to learn the process and observe the spirit of fellowship.
-  Ask the new member and spouse to accompany the sponsor to the club's social activities, dinners or other special occasions.
-  Urge the new member and spouse to attend the district conference with the sponsor.
-  Serve as a special friend to assure that the new member becomes an active Rotarian.

When the proposer follows these guidelines, Rotary becomes stronger with each new member.



A poem dedicated the Seven Focus areas of Rotary International

Imagine Rotary and make dreams come true
The world will 'Purple you'

Our Four Way Test has power to speak Peace truthfully
Bringing to practice will perhaps address Conflicts Resolution blissfully

Finding ways for Disease Prevention is hitting the 'Purple' patch
A cut-price Treatment is like opening doors of latch

Water is life don't flush this valuable resource
As a law 'Also for Sanitation' let us make sure to enforce

A woman possesses natural Maternal feelings
Child's Health hale and hearty! its pouring blessings

Imparting Basic Education gives wings to fly
This Literacy will make generations buoyed and never cry

Our collective measures aid Community Development
Ingress it forever by means of Economic disbursement

Says the theme with the green bottom line
Tackle global warming by "Supporting the Environment" and cut it fine

- Rtn. Jaideep N. Malaviya, Director Renewable Energy ESRAG - South Asia & member R.I. Dist. 3131

MINUTES OF THE 2184TH RWM HELD ON JULY 28TH, 2022 ON ZOOM MEETING

1. President Abinash called the RWM to order and as it a virtual meeting there was no National Anthem.
2. President presented the Club Accounts till July 24th, 2022.
3. Deep-tubewell Project at Sundarbans was discussed. President informed that a contribution of Rs. 1, 12,000 has been acknowledged by members.
4. Members were informed that advertisement worth Rs. 1, 45,000 has been collected from the commemorative souvenir.
5. President informed the members that Club Invoice for July, 2022 has been received from RI.
6. Non-registered members are requested kindly register on 'My Rotary' ASAP!
7. Club Secretary, Rtn. Debasis conducted Club business.
8. Minutes of the last RWM were confirmed. President terminated the meeting.

