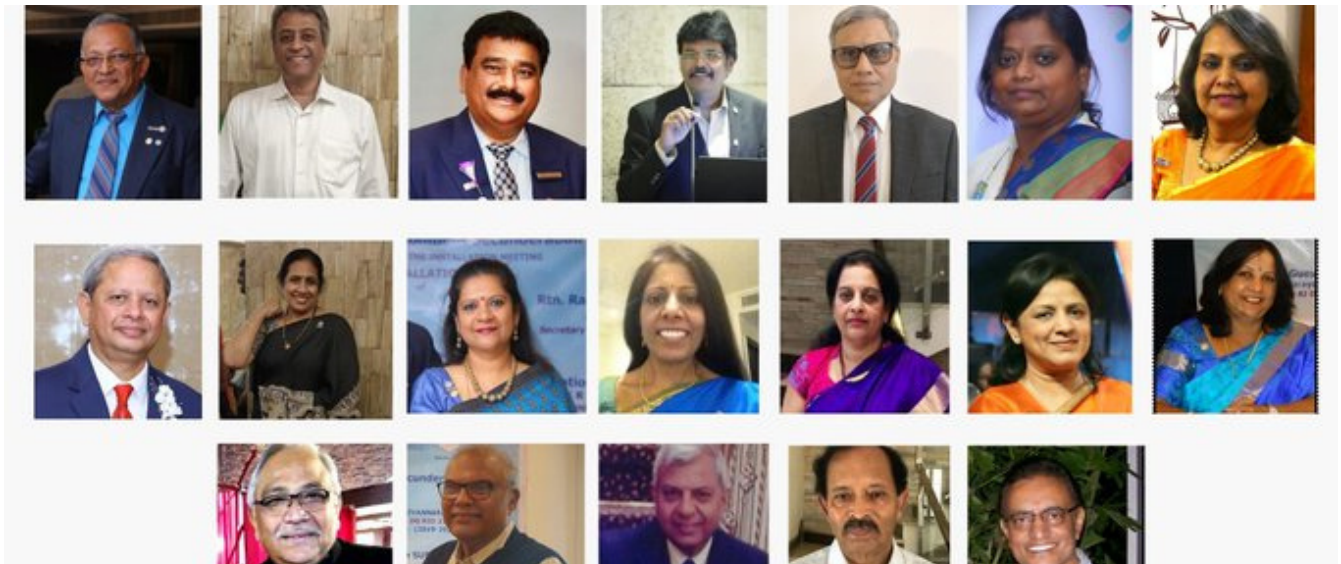


CANTONMENT TIMES

The latest news and updates from RC Cantonment Secunderabad



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AUGUST 2020

RI PRESIDENT 2020 - 21 HOLGER KNAACK

THE YEAR 2020 HAS BROUGHT MONUMENTAL CHANGES THAT HAVE ALREADY INCLUDED A GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND A RENEWED CALL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. WE ARE REMINDED THAT WE LIVE IN A CONSTANTLY CHANGING WORLD, AND ROTARY IS A REFLECTION OF THAT WORLD.

WE MUST BE READY TO LISTEN AND ADAPT, ALWAYS DRAWING UPON OUR CORE VALUES OF SERVICE, FELLOWSHIP, DIVERSITY, INTEGRITY, AND LEADERSHIP. IF WE LIVE THESE VALUES AND APPLY THE FOUR-WAY TEST TO ALL ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO LEAD AT ALL TIMES.

I AM PROUD OF HOW WE HAVE PROVEN OUR ABILITY TO ADAPT. FACED WITH A PANDEMIC, ROTARY HAS NOT STOPPED. WE MOVED MEETINGS ONLINE AND FOUND NEW WAYS TO SERVE. WE TURNED THE CANCELLED 2020 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN HONOLULU INTO OUR FIRST VIRTUAL CONVENTION. EACH WEEK, WE ARE PROVING THAT ROTARY IS A FLEXIBLE GATHERING THAT HAPPENS ANYWHERE — IN TRADITIONAL MEETINGS, ON CELLPHONES, AND ON COMPUTERS. ROTARY OFFERS A WAY TO CONNECT FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO, AT ANY TIME, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

SOME HAVE EVEN TOLD ME THAT THEY ENJOY ROTARY'S MIX OF ONLINE AND IN-PERSON MEETINGS MORE NOW THAN BEFORE! HOW CAN WE BUILD ON THIS MOMENTUM AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMBRACE CHANGE SO THAT ROTARY KEEPS THRIVING?

FOR ME, SUPPORTING NEW TYPES OF CLUBS IS KEY. THEY ARE NO LONGER JUST EXPERIMENTS BUT A REAL PART OF ROTARY TODAY. IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONAL CLUBS, WE HAVE E-CLUBS, ROTARACT CLUBS, CAUSE-BASED CLUBS, AND PASSPORT CLUBS. THESE HELP MAKE ROTARY MORE INCLUSIVE, MORE FLEXIBLE, AND MORE ATTRACTIVE TO NEW MEMBERS. VISIT THESE CLUBS, EXCHANGE IDEAS AND PARTNER WITH THEM, AND PROMOTE THEM TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE ALL AGREE THAT WE NEED TO GROW ROTARY, BUT SOMETIMES WE CAN GET CAUGHT UP IN THE NUMBERS GAME AND LOSE SIGHT OF THE BIGGER PICTURE. AFTER ALL, AN INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP IS MEANINGLESS IF NEXT YEAR, THOSE NEW MEMBERS LEAVE OUR CLUBS. LET'S GROW ROTARY SUSTAINABLY. ROTARY'S FLEXIBLE OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION WILL ENGAGE MEMBERS AND SHOW THE COMMUNITY HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER CLUB. LET'S CELEBRATE THAT ROTARY IS NOW LESS ABOUT RULES AND MORE ABOUT JOINING TOGETHER IN A VARIETY OF WAYS BESIDES TRADITIONAL MEETINGS.

I RECOMMEND THAT EACH CLUB HOLD AN ANNUAL STRATEGY MEETING TO ASK — AND HONESTLY ANSWER — IF WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN FOR OUR MEMBERS AND IF OUR CLUB REFLECTS THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE. WE ARE TAKING THIS APPROACH AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, TOO. I AM PROUD THAT SIX WOMEN ARE SERVING WITH ME ON THE RI BOARD OF DIRECTORS THIS YEAR, THE MOST WE HAVE EVER HAD. LET'S KEEP ROTARY MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION AT EVERY LEVEL. WE NEED MORE PERSPECTIVES, MORE DIVERSITY, FOR ROTARY TO THRIVE.

IT'S FASCINATING TO IMAGINE HOW WE WILL FIND NEW WAYS TO ADAPT AND STAY NIMBLE THIS YEAR AND BEYOND. BUT I AM ALSO INSPIRED ABOUT WHAT HASN'T CHANGED AND NEVER WILL IN ROTARY: THE FRIENDSHIPS, THE NETWORKING, THE ETHICS, AND THE SERVICE. INDEED, THESE ARE THE VALUES THAT MAKE ROTARY ATTRACTIVE TO ALL.

AS ROTARY'S FOUNDER, PAUL HARRIS, SAID, WE HAVE TO BE REVOLUTIONARY FROM TIME TO TIME. NOW IS SUCH A TIME. ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES — COUNTLESS ONES — FOR US TO EMBRACE CHANGE THAT WILL STRENGTHEN US EVEN AS WE REMAIN TRUE TO OUR CORE VALUES



MESSAGE FROM DGE

I AM HAPPY TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS WITH YOU THROUGH YOUR MONTHLY CLUB BULLETIN.

THE MOST IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE IS TODAY. THE NEW ROTARY YEAR BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE TRUE STRENGTH OF ROTARY IS THE ROTARIANS WORKING SINCERELY IN THEIR CLUBS AND COMMUNITIES. THE NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY ARE GREATER THAN BEFORE. I URGE THE MEMBERS OF RC OF CANTONMENT SECUNDERABAD TO FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP GROWTH, RETENTION AND NEED BASED MEANINGFUL SERVICE PROJECTS.

THE SUCCESS OF ROTARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAMILY BONDING AND THE R C CANTONMENT SECUNDERABAD IS THE LEADING EXAMPLE IN OUR DISTRICT.

I COMPLIMENT PRESIDENT RAMAKRISHNA VEMURI AND HIS TEAM FOR THEIR INITIATIVE AND EFFORTS IN BRINGING OUT THIS CLUB BULLETIN. THIS CLUB BULLETIN WILL BE USEFUL COMMUNICATION TOOL TO THE CLUB MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR AND ALL THE ROTARIANS AT LARGE.

COVID OR NOT YOUR CLUB IS SURE TO ROCK WITH A LOT OF SURPRISES AND PLANS BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE THAT "ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES" BEYOND OUR IMAGINATION.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

WITH BEST WISHES FOR AN EVENTFUL ROTARY YEAR

SINCERELY

K.PRABHAKAR

LIFE IS TO LIVE, NOT JUST TO SURVIVE!

THIS IS EXACTLY HOW I WOULD SUM UP MY ROTARY JOURNEY. BEFORE I JOINED THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, I WAS JUST ANOTHER HUSTLING PROFESSIONAL ADDING LESS VALUE TO MYSELF AND TO THE SOCIETY. AND TODAY, THROUGH SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT RI PRESENTED, I'M A FAR MORE CONFIDENT LEADER, SPEAKER AND VOLUNTEER WHO HOLDS EMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WHILE BEING GRATEFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

BEING A ROTARIAN IS AN INVITATION TO ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES, CREATING PATHWAYS FOR MEMBERS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THOSE THEY HELP THROUGH SERVICE PROJECTS. MY ROTARY JOURNEY STARTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SCHOOL BUILDING IN A VILLAGE CLOSE TO HYDERABAD AND MONITOR THE SAME ON SUSTAINED BASIS. THIS PROJECT REINFORCED MY CONFIDENCE IN TERMS OF ABILITY TO FUNCTION, COMMUNICATE AND FULFIL THE PURPOSE AND DURING THE PROCESS, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET VARIOUS PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE.THE SATISFACTION I EXPERIENCED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT TO EMPOWER STUDENTS FOR IMPROVED LEARNING AND HENCE A BETTER LIFE IS BEYOND COMPARE. SO, HAS BEEN EVERY OTHER PROJECT I EVER TOOK UP THEREAFTER.

OPPORTUNITY TO BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN:

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, TRUE TO ITS NAME, ADDED STRENGTH TO MY LOCAL THINKING WITH GLOBAL PROWESS AND REACH. ROTARY GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES, TO INTERACT WITH AND BE APPRECIATIVE OF PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES, LEARN ABOUT THEIR JOURNEY. BEING A GSE TEAM LEADER, I HAVE EXPERIENCED THE WARMTH OF MORE THAN 25 ROTARY CLUBS IN THE USA, STRETCHING AND STRENGTHENING MY WORLD OF FRIENDSHIP OVERSEAS. ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE AMONG THE 15000 ROTARIANS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THUS EXPANDING MY HORIZONS.

OPPORTUNITY OF A NEW FAMILY:

ROTARY IS PERHAPS THE WARMEST OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THAT MY SPOUSE AND KIDS KNOW ALMOST EVERY OTHER ROTARIAN PERSONALLY, AS DO I. THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXCITED TO MEET WITH FELLOW ROTARIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND IT'S NOT A STRETCH WHEN I SAY MY CHILDREN GREW UP IN THE ROTARY WORLD. THE INNER WHEEL ORGANIZATION PROVIDED GREAT LEARNING;STRENGTH AND FRIENDSHIP TO MY SPOUSE THAT HELPED HER BECOME A LEADER OF THE ORGANIZATION HERSELF. BEING A ROTARIAN PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR US AS A FAMILY TO APPRECIATE DIVERSIFIED CULTURES, FOSTERING PROGRESSIVE IDEAS IN THE YOUNG MINDS OF CHILDREN. SO MUCH SO, MY DAUGHTER IS TODAY A ROTARY MEMBER.

NEED I SAY MORE ABOUT SUCH LEARNING WHICH WAS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH ROTARY AND WITH ROTARIANS WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO ENDURE OUR CORE VALUES! I'M EVER GRATEFUL TO ROTARY FOR CHANGING MY LIFE OVER AND GIVING IT A PURPOSE ALONG WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO FULFIL IT. AS MUCH AS ROTARY NEEDS MOTIVATED MEMBERS, MEMBERS NEED ROTARY FOR A PURPOSEFUL LIFE BECAUSE AFTER ALL "ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES!"

A HEALTHY YOU

by Rtn. RAMACHANDRA



MY DEAR FELLOW ROTARIANS,

THESE ARE SOME OF THE SIMPLE, YET IMPORTANT HABITS TO BE CULTIVATED, TO LIVE, LIFE OF SUCCESS, HAPPINESS & PROSPERITY.

HEALTH:

1. DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.
2. EAT BREAKFAST LIKE A KING, LUNCH LIKE A PRINCE AND DINNER LIKE A BEGGAR.
3. EAT MORE FOODS THAT GROW ON PLANTS AND LESS FOOD THAT IS MANUFACTURED IN PLANTS.
4. LIVE WITH THE 3 E'S -- ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM AND EMPATHY
5. MAKE TIME TO PRAY.
6. PLAY MORE GAMES
7. READ MORE BOOKS THAN YOU DID IN 2019.
8. SIT IN SILENCE FOR ATLEAST 10 MINUTES EACH DAY
9. SLEEP FOR 7 HOURS.
10. TAKE A 10-30 MINUTE WALK DAILY, AND WHILE YOU WALK, SMILE.

PERSONALITY:

11. DON'T COMPARE YOUR LIFE TO OTHERS. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEIR JOURNEY IS ALL ABOUT.
12. DON'T HAVE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS OF THINGS YOU CANNOT CONTROL. INSTEAD INVEST YOU ENERGY IN THE POSITIVE PRESENT MOMENT.
13. DON'T OVERDO. KEEP YOUR LIMITS.
14. DON'T TAKE YOURSELF SO SERIOUSLY. NO ONE ELSE DOES.
15. DON'T WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS ENERGY ON GOSSIP.
16. DREAM MORE WHILE YOU ARE AWAKE.
17. ENVY IS A WASTE OF TIME. YOU ALREADY HAVE ALL YOU NEED.
18. FORGET ISSUES OF THE PAST. DON'T REMIND YOUR PARTNER WITH HIS/HER MISTAKES OF PAST. THAT WILL RUIN YOUR PRESENT HAPPINESS.
19. LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO WASTE TIME

HATING ANYONE. DON'T HATE OTHERS.

20. MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR PAST SO IT WON'T SPOIL THE PRESENT.
21. NO ONE IS IN CHARGE OF YOUR HAPPINESS EXCEPT YOU.
22. REALIZE THAT LIFE IS A SCHOOL AND YOU ARE HERE TO LEARN. PROBLEMS ARE SIMPLY PART OF THE CURRICULUM THAT APPEAR AND FADE AWAY LIKE ALGEBRA CLASS BUT THE LESSONS YOU LEARN WILL LAST A LIFETIME.
23. SMILE AND LAUGH MORE.
24. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WIN EVERY ARGUMENT. AGREE TO DISAGREE.

SOCIETY:

25. CALL YOUR FAMILY OFTEN.
26. EACH DAY GIVE SOMETHING GOOD TO OTHERS.
27. FORGIVE EVERYONE FOR EVERYTHING.
28. SPEND TIME W/ PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 70 & UNDER THE AGE OF 6.
29. TRY TO MAKE AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE SMILE EACH DAY.
30. WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF YOU IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
31. YOUR JOB WON'T TAKE CARE OF YOU WHEN YOU ARE SICK. YOUR FRIENDS WILL. STAY IN TOUCH.

LIFE:

32. DO THE RIGHT THING!
33. GET RID OF ANYTHING THAT ISN'T USEFUL, BEAUTIFUL OR JOYFUL.
34. GOD HEALS EVERYTHING.
35. HOWEVER GOOD OR BAD A SITUATION IS, IT WILL CHANGE.
36. NO MATTER HOW YOU FEEL, GET UP, DRESS UP AND SHOW UP.
37. THE BEST IS YET TO COME.
38. WHEN YOU AWAKE ALIVE IN THE MORNING, THANK GOD FOR IT.
39. YOUR INNER SOUL IS ALWAYS HAPPY. SO, BE HAPPY

NATION BUILDING

by Rtn. Manju Gupta



“IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A NATION BUILDER” SAID JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

THE TASK OF THE NATION BUILDER IS ONEROUS, BUT WHEN ONE IS SUCCESSFUL, THE SATISFACTION IS IMMENSE. HOW DO WE DEFINE A NATION BUILDER IN THE EDUCATION FIELD?

A NATION

BUILDER IS THE ONE WHO THROUGH HIS PERSEVERANCE, PASSION AND PATRIOTISM, HELPS TO IMPACT THE NEXT GENERATION AND THUS LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR A STRONG NATION WITH RICH HUMAN RESOURCES.

IT IS

RIGHTLY SAID THAT THE QUALITY OF A NATION BANKS ON THE QUALITY OF ITS CITIZENS. THE QUALITY OF ITS CITIZENS DEPENDS NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BUT IN CRITICAL MEASURES, UPON THE QUALITY OF THEIR EDUCATION. THE QUALITY OF THEIR EDUCATION DEPENDS, MORE THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE FACTOR, UPON THE QUALITY OF THEIR TEACHERS. SO THE INDIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION RIGHTLY REMARKED, “THE DESTINY OF INDIA IS BEING SHAPED IN HER CLASSROOM”.

HUMAYUN KABIR SAYS “TEACHERS ARE LITERALLY THE ARBITERS OF A NATION’S DESTINY.”

DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM OPINES “A STUDENT SPENDS 25,000 HOURS IN THE CAMPUS. THE SCHOOL MUST HAVE

THE BEST OF TEACHERS, WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO TEACH, LOVE TEACHING AND BUILD MORAL QUALITIES FOR EFFECTIVE NATION BUILDING.”

TEACHERS OR NATION BUILDERS ARE THE DESTINY MAKERS OF YOUTH AND THE ARCHITECTS OF SOCIETY. WITH 40 % OF THE NATION’S POPULATION, UNDER THE AGE OF 21, TEACHERS ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF THE FUTURE. HUMAN RESOURCE IS THE WEALTH OF OUR NATION! A DEDICATED TEACHER OR A NATION BUILDER THUS NEEDS TO POSSESS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL QUALITIES AND COMPETENCIES. ACCORDING TO ME A NATION BUILDER IS AN ACRONYM FOR A TEACHER WHO IS:

N -(K)NOWLEDGEABLE

A - AFFECTIONATE & ALTRUISTIC

T - THOUGHTFUL & TRUSTWORTHY

I - INNOVATIVE & INTUITIVE

O - OPTIMISTIC & OPEN MINDED

N - NURTURING

B - BOLD AND BEAMING

U - UNDERSTANDING & UNSELFISH

I - INQUISITIVE & IMPARTIAL

L - LEADING THROUGH EXAMPLE &

LIFE LONG LEARNER

D - DYNAMIC & DISCIPLINED

E - ENTHUSIASTIC, EMPATHETIC, ETHICAL, ELOQUENT

R - RESOURCEFUL AND RELIABLE



BEING THE PIVOTAL PERSON IN THE PROCESS OF EDUCATION, A TEACHER SHOULD BE: PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY SOUND, AND SOCIALLY WELL-ADJUSTED; EMOTIONALLY WELL-BALANCED AND SPIRITUALLY MATURE; CREATIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE, CO - OPERATIVE AND CRITICAL. CURIOUS TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT CURRENT TRENDS, INTERESTED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOP SKILLS TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN EVERY STUDENT.

GONE ARE THE DAYS OF THE JUG-MUG THEORY WHERE THE TEACHER WAS THE FULL JUG AND THE TEACHERS JOB WAS TO POUR KNOWLEDGE FROM THE FULL JUG INTO THE EMPTY MUG WHICH SYMBOLIZED THE STUDENT. TODAY HE HAS TO PLAY MYRIAD ROLES AS A PLANNER, LEADER, MANAGER, ADVISOR, EVALUATOR, FACILITATOR, PERSONAL ENGINEER, SUPERVISOR, COORDINATOR, MOTIVATOR, IMPROVISER, COUNSELLOR, FRIEND, PHILOSOPHER GUIDE AND MORE. A TALL ORDER INDEED!

NO WONDER IT IS SAID THAT “THE TEACHING PROFESSION CREATES ALL OTHER PROFESSIONS!” A TEACHER ALSO HAS TO POSSESS THE 6 CS OF BEING COOL, CALM, CONFIDENT, COMMITTED, COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE.

APART FROM THESE A NATION BUILDER NEEDS TO BE A ROLE MODEL WORTHY OF EMULATION. SO, IN TODAY’S WORLD THE NATION BUILDER OR TEACHER HAS MORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO FULFIL. IT IS NOT ABOUT ONLY DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE. THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY ADVOCATES TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION BY MAKING LEARNERS THINK CRITICALLY AND SOLVE PROBLEMS.

IT ALSO EMPHASIZES ON CREATIVITY AND TO BE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IN ORDER TO INNOVATE, ADAPT AND ABSORB NEW MATERIAL IN NOVEL AND CHANGING FIELDS IN ORDER TO RAISE USEFUL CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE.

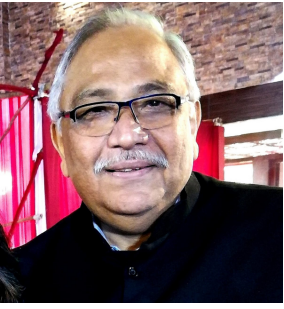
WITH THE VALUE SYSTEM DETERIORATING AND DOUBLE STANDARDS PREVAILING IN SOCIETY, THE ROLE OF A NATIONAL BUILDER IS A DAUNTING TASK. HE HAS TO IMPERCEPTIBLY BUILD VALUES IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE POINT OF NOT BEING DIDACTIC. HE HAS TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION! MEDIOCRITY HAS NO PLACE IN NATION BUILDING!

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD PUTS IT VERY SUCCINCTLY IN THE FOLLOWING QUOTE. “THE MEDIOCRE TEACHER TELLS. THE GOOD TEACHER EXPLAINS. THE SUPERIOR TEACHER DEMONSTRATES. THE GREAT TEACHER INSPIRES.”

I END WITH THIS SHANTI MANTRA, WHICH IS MY FAVOURITE AND HAS HELPED ME AS A TEACHER. IT IS TAKEN FROM THE KRISHNA YAJURVEDA AND THE WORDS HOLDS A WEALTH OF MEANING EVEN TODAY!

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Meaning: 1. Om, Together may we two Move (in our Studies, the Teacher and the Student), 2: Together may we two Relish our Studies, 3: Together may we perform our Studies with Vigour with deep Concentration 4: May what has been Studied by us be filled with the Brilliance of Understanding, leading to Knowledge; May it Not give rise to Hostility due to lack of Understanding, 5.Om Peace, Peace, Peace



What will I do!!

by Rtn. Ahmed Ali

AMONG MANY FUNNY INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED DURING MY SERVICE, ONE SUCH INCIDENT CAME TO MY MIND; WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE.

IT WAS A TIME OF CURFEW IN ASSAM 1978, AND AGITATION WAS IN FULL SWING. CURFEW WAS IMPOSED BY DAYS TOGETHER BY AASU. ONE SUCH DAY, WHEN THE CURFEW WAS LIFTED, THE MESS COMMANDER RUSHED TO THE NEAREST BAZAAR TO PURCHASE VEGETABLES FOR THE COOK HOUSE. THE MOMENT HE STEPPED OUT OF THE CAMP, HE SAW A FARMER SELLING FRESH VEGETABLES. HE SAW THE GUY SELLING BRINJAL BY THE 'PORTION'. THE MESS COMMANDER BARGAINED, BUT THE FARMER DID NOT BUDGE AN INCH. SINCE THE TIME WAS RUNNING OUT, THE MESS COMMANDER DECIDED TO BUY THE ENTIRE LOT OF VEGETABLE AND OFFERED A FIXED PRICE.

THE FARMER THOUGHT FOR A WHILE AND TOLD THE COMMANDER THAT HE CANNOT GIVE THE ENTIRE LOT OF BRINJAL. THE COMMANDER WAS TAKEN A BACK AND DUMB FOUNDED. AFTER A WHILE HE GATHERED HIMSELF AND ASKED THE FARMER AS "WHY HE WILL NOT GIVE THE ENTIRE PORTION?"

THE PROMPT REPLY CAME FROM THE FARMER:

"AGAR MAI TUM KO POORI SABZI DE DOONGA, PHIR, MAI POORA DIN KYA KARUNGA?" (IF I GIVE YOU ALL THE VEGETABLES, WHAT DO I DO THE WHOLE DAY?)

RTN. AHMED ALI



EMPATHY

by Rtn. Mohan Nishtala

AS ROTARIANS WE DO NOT NEED ANYBODY'S ADVICE ON A SUBJECT AS "EMPATHY". HOWEVER WE DO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SENSITISE OUR YOUNG CHILDREN AT AN EARLY STAGE.

IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT I AM SHARING A FEW THOUGHTS AND STORIES. STORIES ARE A POWERFUL MEDIUM TO EMBED IDEAS IN THE FERTILE BRAINS OF CHILDREN.

EMPATHY IN PLAIN SIMPLE TERMS IS THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND SHARE THE FEELINGS OF ANOTHER. IT WAS ALFRED ADLER WHO SAID "EMPATHY IS SEEING WITH THE EYES OF ANOTHER, LISTENING WITH THE EARS OF ANOTHER AND FEELING WITH THE HEART OF ANOTHER". THE REACTIONS THAT EMANATE FROM YOU WITH UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN SYMPATHY ARE SAID TO BE EMPATHETIC.

AN EVERYDAY EXAMPLE OF EMPATHY CAN BE APPRECIATED WHEN MY DOG SCOOPY WHICH HAD BEEN WITH US FOR 13 YEARS WAS IN END OF LIFE STAGE. WE TRIED TO KEEP HIM HAPPY AND COMFORTABLE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BUT THEN CAME A DAY WHEN HE WAS IN TOO MUCH OF PAIN AND SUFFERING. WE LITERALLY CARRIED HIM TO THE VET. BASED ON VET'S ADVICE WE HAD TO PUT SCOOPY TO SLEEP. THIS IS A CHOICE EXECUTED OUT OF EMPATHY.

SCOOPY DIED ON 14TH MAY 2020.

IN A TOWN A DOG BREEDER HAD SOME PUPPIES WHICH HE NEEDED TO SELL FOR CASH. HE PUT UP A BOARD AND EVEN AS HE FINISHED HANGING THERE WAS A LITTLE BOY APPARENTLY LOOKED POOR, WHO ASKED FOR ONE OF THE PUPPIES. "THE PUPPIES ARE FROM WONDERFUL PEDIGREE WITH CERTIFICATION FROM KENNEL CLUB OF INDIA AND WOULD COST A GOOD DEAL." SAID THE BREEDER. THE LITTLE BOY DISAPPOINTED AND SEARCHED HIS POCKETS AND ALL HE COULD DO WAS TO HAND OVER A PALTRY SUM. THE MAN TOOK PITY ON THIS CHILD AND OFFERED ONE OF THE PUPPIES. EVEN AS THE DEAL WAS FINALISED THE PUPPIES WERE RUNNING HELTER SKELTER AND ONE PUPPY WAS GINGERLY FOLLOWING THE REST. THE LITTLE BOY JUMPED WITH DELIGHT AND ASKED FOR THE ODD ONE. IN AN AWKWARD MANNER IT WAS TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH THE REST OF LITTER.

THE BREEDER AFTER ASCERTAINING THE CHOICE SERIOUSLY CAUTIONED "THIS PUP CAN NEVER RUN AND PLAY LIKE THE OTHER ONES, HIS LEG HAS A CONGENITAL DEFECT". THE LITTLE BOY SIMPLY STEPPED ASIDE AND ROLLED UP HIS TROUSERS. IN DOING SO HE STRESSED ON THE STEEL BRACES OF HIS LEGS AND THE ODD SHOES ALONG WITH THE BRACES. HE SUMMED UP THIS WAY "YOU SEE, I TOO CAN'T RUN AND THE ODD PUP WILL NEED SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS" SHOCKED AND WITH TEARY EYES THE BREEDER HANDED OVER THE PUP AND RETURNED THE MONEY. "GOD BLESS" BREEDER SAID.

AND ANOTHER SMALL BUT EQUALLY POWERFUL MESSAGE DRIVEN STORY.

A YOUNG STUDENT AND HIS TEACHER WERE WALKING DOWN THE TEMPLE STREET. AS THEY WENT THE STUDENT SPOTTED AN OLD PAIR OF SHOES LEFT BY AN OLD POOR MAN WHO HAD GONE INSIDE THE TEMPLE THE IMPISH LOOKING STUDENT INTENDED TO PLAY A PRANK BY HIDING THE PAIR OF SHOES AND WATCH THE OLD MAN'S REACTION. "WE MUST NEVER AMUSE OURSELVES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE POOR. INSTEAD GIVE YOURSELF A MUCH GREATER PLEASURE BY PUTTING A TEN RUPEE COIN IN EACH OF THE SHOES AND WATCH HIM. "

THE STUDENT DID SO AND BOTH THE STUDENT AND TEACHER DUO HID NEARBY. THE POOR MAN SOON FINISHED HIS DARSHAN AND SLIPPED HIS FOOT INTO ONE OF HIS SHOES. FEELING SOMETHING HARD AND UNUSUAL THE OLD MAN STOOPED DOWN AND SURPRISINGLY FOUND THE COIN. HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED. HE GAZED UPON THE COIN, TURNED AROUND TO SEE WHO HAD PLACED THE COINS. HIS JOY WAS DOUBLED WHEN HE NOTICED THE SECOND COIN IN THE OTHER SHOE. NOT FINDING ANYONE HE KNELT DOWN AND PROFUSELY THANKED THE ALMIGHTY ABOVE. HE WENT TO THE ADJACENT SHOP AND IN ALL EXCITEMENT RELATED THE STORY OF THE TWO PRECIOUS COINS WHILE PURCHASING GROCERIES FOR HIS SICK WIFE AND HUNGRY CHILDREN. HE THANKED AGAIN AND AGAIN THE UNFORESEEN HAND BUT FOR WHOM HIS FAMILY WOULD HAVE PERISHED DYING FROM HUNGER.

THE YOUNG STUDENT JUST STOOD THERE TO WITNESS THE HARDSHIP OF THE OLD MAN AND SAID "THANK YOU TEACHER FOR THIS REALISATION" THERE IS MORE JOY IN GIVING THAN IN RECEIVING AS IN THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

"I THINK WE ALL HAVE EMPATHY. WE MAY NOT HAVE ENOUGH COURAGE TO DISPLAY IT." SAYS MAYA ANGELOU