

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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'Thought for the week'

Life is very complicated. Don't try to find answers because when you find answers life changes the questions.

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CORUPTION

by Don Aguiar

Corruption is inevitability in this social structure of ours.

One friend has asked, "There is so much corruption, so much bribery, so much favoritism going on in the present capitalism! Do you support this as well?"

This bribery, this corruption, this favoritism is not because of capitalism. Its causes are entirely different. They have nothing to do with capitalism.

If a country where there is so much poverty can be without corruption that will be a miracle. That is not possible. An honest person in a place where it is so difficult to survive is a difficult proposition. Yes, a rare honest individual may exist. Some man of real will may exist. But all don't have that much will power – and you can't blame them for that where meaningless conditions have to be imposed in life for living.

Here we are sitting in this big room and if there were two dozen chapattis here and we were all hungry, do you think some etiquette would survive? And if the etiquette did not survive, would you curse the building, that it is this building which is causing corruption?

The building is not causing the corruption; it is the twenty-five chapattis and twenty-five hundred hungry people that are causing the corruption. This room is not at fault, this building is not at fault. It is not the fault of the system of capitalism that corruption is there.

The reason for corruption is different. The reason is that the quantity of chapattis is less and the quantity of hunger more. The naked bodies to be covered are more, the cloth less. There are more people and fewer houses. The means for living are less and the number of people who live goes on growing every day. The tension that grows through it is bound to bring corruption in. No political leaders can abolish this corruption, because their thinking is that the corruption can be abolished directly. The way they think. Somebody forms a "Sadhu Sevak Samaj" (a society of voluntarily serving mendicants) or our present governments programs thinking they will eradicate corruption through it.

It seems we simply fail to look at the mathematics of life the right way up. Will you be able to destroy corruption by forming Sadhu Sevak Samaj or our present governments programs? Will corruption cease just because these mendicants will go all over the country and explain to people not to practice corruption? Is this an issue of explanation – that you can just say, "Do not follow corrupt practices"? If it were just an issue of explanation, we would not be practicing it in the first place.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

It is an existential problem, related to living. One's very existence is at stake. It is not to be solved by discourses whereby all the mendicants of India go from village to village and explain to people not to practice corruption and they will stop it. There is no shortage of education or teachings here. And it will not happen this way, that you get all the children to remember the Bible or Gita by heart and impart moral education in every school and corruption will disappear.

They will read the Bible or Gita, but corruption will not disappear because the causes for the birth of corruption are hidden in existential problems. It is not a matter of doctrines and principles.

And our leaders go on shouting that they will abolish corruption from its very roots. No matter what safeguards they create, those safeguards themselves become corrupt. The most interesting thing is that those leaders shouting loudly and pledging from high pulpits that they will abolish corruption don't reach those pulpits without practicing corruption. In order to reach the pulpit from where they deliver speeches about abolishing corruption, they have to pass through the ladders of corruption.

There is such complexity involved that it is not going to be accomplished by giving doctrines and principles. The very root of this complexity has to be grasped. And if we do that, many things can become clear.

We should accept it that in today's India it is useless to talk about honesty. Neither the political leader should do it nor the holy man, priest, clergy and the like.

We should accept it that dishonesty is the rule. We should not make any fuss about that. We should not quarrel about that. Then, at least, the dishonesty will become a straightforward, clear cut matter; meaning if I have to put my hand in your pocket, I can do it directly instead of, unnecessarily, first having to wait until you go to sleep, then I enter your house in the night, put my hand in your pocket and then go to the church or temple

in the morning to sermonize that stealing is sin. There is no need for all this complexity. The dishonesty is there in today's social fabric of India; without it either the society will fall apart or we will die. The dishonesty is functioning as a lubricant at this point in time. It just lubricates the wheel and keeps it in movable condition. If this country swears to be honest, it will die. It cannot stay alive. And the people who swore to remain honest — go ask them if they are still alive or have died. Most probably you wouldn't hear their voice because they must already be dead.

Corruption is inevitability in this social structure of ours, in this poverty-stricken and wretched condition of our society, in this starving condition of our society, in this technology-less, industry-less, wealth-less society. There is no need to make a hue and cry over it, nor is there a need to curse anybody.

I was reading a small booklet from Japan about the rules of etiquette. It says, "Do not ask a person about his salary." I was surprised as to what was the matter. Japanese seem to be less advanced than we are. We, here, not only ask about the salary one gets, we even inquire if there is any extra income besides. They seem to be perfectly uncultured. They don't even know that in a well-cultured and civilized country like India, not only is the question asked about one's salary, but also what one receives apart from the salary. Not only is the question asked, but also the questioned one even answers it: that he receives nothing else, or he receives not much, only a small amount.

In the footnote in that book, it says, asking someone about his salary could be humiliating, because maybe his salary is small and he is being asked to disclose it in front of others. Or maybe the person feels ashamed and he tells a lie about it. So one shouldn't ask anyone about their salary.

In this country, in the prevailing situations, one shouldn't raise questions about bribery and kickback money and so on and so forth....

To do that will be against etiquette – deeply uncouth here. Corruption should be taken as a normal thing; this should be an accepted norm. There should be no controversy over it.

Yes, there remains the point that if we accept it we can eradicate it. If we accept it, we can go into its basic roots as to what is the matter. No one wants to be a bad person. Evil is always born out of a situation of compulsion or helplessness. Yes, there will be few people who enjoy being evil. They are sick. They can be treated. But the majority of people are not evil for the sake of being evil. When it becomes very difficult to survive, then they embrace evil as a means to survive.

The presence of this much evil indicates only one thing: the country is in a state where survival has become impossible for people. So thought should be given to how shall we make survival possible? How shall we make survival easy? How shall we bring in affluence? Do not even think of how to destroy corruption. You should think of how to make life affluent, easy, how to improve life towards betterment. You should worry about how life can reach new peaks of affluence every day. Do not indulge in the meaningless prattle about corruption and the like.

But nobody is aware that this disease in India has not just suddenly appeared today. This disease in India has grown over five thousand years and has manifested itself fully now. Five thousand years of history in India says that if you want to pass the exams, then bribe Jesus or Hanumanji, offer him money or a coconut. Tell him, "I will offer you money a coconut worth five annas if you pass my son. And if the son passes, he

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Important Announcement

from 1st August 2017 onwards

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Modernise voting in India

An article-cum-report in AFTERNOON VOICE newspaper dated WEDNESDAY , JULY 26, 2017 titled : Maha Council asks govt to issue statement on EVM malfunctioning says that in the Zilla Parishad election at booth number 56 in Sultanpur of Lonar taluka it was found and confirmed by an election officer that votes cast to independent candidate Asha Zore whose poll symbol was the coconut were getting registered in favour of the BJP candidate according to the district collectorate officials and the district collector in a written report sent to the state government which he confirmed and the Maharashtra Legislative Council Chairman Ramraje Nimbalkar directed the state government to submit a statement over the malfunctioning of an electronic voting machine-EVM- in Buldhana district but modernising voting in India is very important which can be done by having ballot boxes as an alternative along with a grievance ballot where voters can air their grievances as a credible alternative to an EVM machine that has been tampered to provide illegal votes to a candidate from a political party or independent candidate at any cost or an EVM machine that does not function when the voter casts his vote and an election booth officer who refuses to register a voter's complaint and provide him with an alternative voting system must be permanently sacked.

Postal votes must be provided to all Indian citizens who go on a holiday abroad when elections are held and another alternative is on-line voting and in both these forms of voting voters must be allowed to air their grievances

The need of the hour is a radical overhaul of the Election Commission, the police force and the judiciary to permanently remove all officials who support election

malpractices and prevent them from being re-instated through political pressure or a bribe and destruction of evidence against the sacked person by providing very severe jail sentences and fines for both the person who tries to be re-instated and the person who helps to re-instate him and this must be accompanied with compulsory finishing courses and ethics and etiquette courses once a month every year for them to provide a clean and fair election system.

When a person's name is not included on the voter's list despite many requests the solution is to have an on the spot registration in the electoral rolls even on an election day.

Before a voter casts his vote his name is cancelled from the voting list and his signature is taken for this purpose but it is unfair to ask him to sign against a list with a number or in the case of a paper ballot on the numbered section of the paper ballot counterfoil because then his vote is not secret.

Thus by making a small but genuine beginning to modernise voting in India our rights can be protected and safeguarded against any danger-so eternal vigilance is the price we must pay to keep democracy alive and vibrant in India.

—Peter Castellino

Religious Freedom Ambassador!

Gov. Sam Brownback of Kansas, a Catholic, was on Wednesday 26 July 2017, nominated by President Donald Trump to be Ambassador for the International Religious Freedom Movement! Maureen Ferguson, senior policy advisor with The Catholic Association of America said that Brownback's track record on defending religious freedom as a Senator proves his qualification.

"Brownback was a passionate defender of the rights of all persons to worship freely and courageously. He also confronted offenses against the 'human dignity', in trouble spots such as in, North Korea, Iraq, China, India, Sudan, Vietnam and Egypt", said Maureen.

In 2008, Brownback had introduced a resolution in the Senate, welcoming Pope Benedict XV1 to the USA, and "honoring the unique insights his moral and spiritual reflections brought to the world stage."

In 'World Watch List 2017', Open Doors reported that persecution in India increased sharply in 2016 and 2017. In April 2017 alone, there were 68 incidents,

PS: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven ... But I tell you love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5: 10 ... 44).

and since January there have been 316 such incidents; and this was confirmed by partners in local Churches who have been in direct contact with victims.

But we Christians endure all types of persecutions; because our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, out of His intense and unconditional love died for all humanity – "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we have complete victory through Jesus Who loved us" (Romans 8: 35 ... 37).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
(Ashburn, Virginia, USA).

Christian Raksha-bandhan

If Jesus were to be in India on 7th August, he would have visited Martha & Mary, the sisters of Lazarus & they would have tied Rakhi to him.

On that day, the 9th std. girls in Nazareth School tied Rakhi to me. In a little ceremony. On the occasion I promised them that in my religion class I will *Protect* them by teaching them lessons for 'safe' life & they promised me that they will be 'loving' girls in their families and society.

That was our *Christian Rakshabandhan!*

Fr Michael G.
Samajshudhi, Vasai,
(9326433487)

Family - wide-spread branches, ONE root !



by Melville X. D'Souza
- Orlem, Malad West

Dreaming of Freedom ? Why not, nothing wrong with that - everybody loves Freedom ! Nobody wants to be under the dominion of another. Nobody wants restrictions around them, people yearn for freedom. Around 170 years ago, the British colonized our country; they exploited our country and its resources and imposed all sorts of restrictions on our countrymen. Our countrymen came to the realization of their bondage and decided that enough was enough. They wanted freedom and so, decided to take steps to liberate the country from the hands of the British. History tells us that the struggle for freedom was indeed a long struggle, but in the end, India did become an independent nation, free from all outside forces.

It was notable that India, a country with diverse cultures, customs, traditions, languages, yet managed to fight unitedly in order to gain independence. **Unity in diversity – that is what India showed to the world; our country was like a huge Joint Family ! For the past Seventy years, we have managed to stay as One United Nation, in spite of so many differences, so much of strife, unrest across the country - that is the beauty of our country.** We have managed to still safeguard our freedom and unity but

yes, today all that seems to be under threat. The country is being divided on cultural, religious, communal lines. **All this is a challenge to our countrymen, a challenge to preserve the unity of our country – a challenge to the Joint Family we call India.**

It is said that the Family is the basic and very important unit of society, the very base of a nation. It is the family where the basic values, basic lessons of life are learnt. Well, shouldn't we be concerned about our families ? **Are we living as One United Family, with each one looking after the interests of the other ?** Or, are they looking for freedom from each other ?

We are living in a materialistic world today, living under pressure from different quarters. We have the world on our finger tips; exposed to the outside world with the click of a button. The world is showing us a wide variety of clothes, food/snacks available in the market; the world is showing us so many things for pleasure, things we are not aware of, not even heard about. The world is making us selfish. **And so, we want, we want, & we want !** We want to have our way in all spheres of life. **Even an infant wants freedom; you put him in wraps and the next moment he is trying to break free.** The teenager in the family wants his way all the time. The daughter-in-law would seek to be free from the dominion of the mother-in-law. And so we see, how everybody wants his freedom, his independence. It is said, **Family is like a branches on a tree; we may grow in different directions, yet our root remains as one. Sure, everybody in the family wants his freedom but we need to ask ourselves, should it be at the cost of unity in the family ?**

There is no doubt that the family has been under threat for some time now and today, under still greater threat.

Years ago, Pope John Paul II on one occasion, in one of his Homilies in America, had said, **“the great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become self-ish”.** Sadly, we are seeing a number of families breaking up.

Talking of broken families, it is really a sad situation. The parents so painstakingly build up a family, caring for each one of the family members. And there comes a time when all values taught to them by the parents, are thrown to the wind, and they begin to assert themselves and behave in a selfish manner, finally leading to a break-up of the family. Is it the end of the family, then ? But all said and done, it is still a Family. A great author & thinker, C. JoyBell C, says, **“There is no such thing as a “broken family.” Family is family, and is not determined by marriage certificates, divorce papers, and adoption documents. Families are made in the heart. The only time family becomes null is when those ties in the heart are cut. If you cut those ties, those people are not your family. If you make those ties, those people are your family. And if you hate those ties, those people will still be your family because whatever you hate will always be with you.”**

Can we review our own family relationship ? Are we going wrong somewhere ? We need to take corrective steps. The poster in our Church background showing a picture of the Family & the words, **“Family & Relationship”**, says it all. **Freedom should not mean the end of Unity in the Family. Let's give it a thought.**



Independent India – Where do we stand?

By Irwin Almeida

Once again we come to that time of year, which is of triple significance to us. On August 15, we celebrate India's Independence Day, along with the Feast of the Assumption of our Lady, and then on the 28th of the month is the Feast of St. Augustine, who through several events in his life was considered an agent of liberation.

This kindles in every one of us the hope of reformation and a sense of patriotic pride in belonging to this great nation which has secured freedom and independence. So as we reflect on the fact that the Blessed Virgin Mary is considered the most perfect ambassador of liberation, Augustine also needs to be revered.

Let us go back in time to when at the stroke of midnight on the 15th August 1947, India awoke to its much-awaited freedom and the tricolour was raised aloft to symbolise our independence to the entire world. Freedom brings to mind the sacrifices of scores of brave hearts on whose tombs our freedom is built. These dedicated freedom fighters guided by the Gandhian ideology pursued peaceful demonstrations without any bloodshed.

Among these illustrious patriots was the renowned Barrister Joseph Baptista whose loyalty endeared him to the people and earned him the sobriquet 'Kaka.' As a staunch proponent of Home Rule, he was closely associated with Veer Sarvarkar, Lokmanya-Tilak, Lala Rajpat Rai and others. On the other hand, Mahatma Gandhi first lit the flame of the freedom movement at various landmarks to begin India's long journey to its midnight tryst with destiny.

Cautiously supporting this struggle for freedom, Baptista advocated orderly progress. He therefore warned, "Sagacious statesmen will perceive the wisdom of conciliating Congressmen who pin their faith in the creed of non-violence. Suspicion and distrust must be ended. An absolutely straightforward policy has become absolutely indispensable. It also promises the maximum measure of peace, goodwill and orderly progress."

The first significant step was the announcement in August 1946, of the first all-Indian national interim government at the Centre. It consisted of 14 members and assumed office on September 2, after the resignation of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

The new team consisted of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Dr. John Mathai, Sardar Baldev Singh, Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan, Mr. Jagivan Ram, Syed Ali Zaheer and Mr. Cooverji Hormusji Bhabha.

A year later, at midnight of August 14/15, 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, made the most striking speech ever by an Indian. His historic words stirred the nation and shall always be remembered by those of that time who were witness to the momentous change. His words are relevant even more today as the country is faced with several challenges.

He declared, and I quote for posterity: "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.

"A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people, and to the still larger cause of humanity.

"We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?"

"Freedom and power bring responsibility. This responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India..."

Words of wisdom that should inspire and guide future generations of politicians. But, sadly lost because the quality of politicians ruling us subsequently is a far cry from the likes of Pandit Nehru, who, it must be mentioned to his credit, had even appointed Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as Law Minister, despite a life-long history of

(Contd.. on p. 22)

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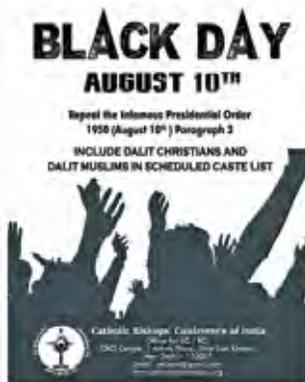
Prayer:

Holy Spirit, you who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach my ideal, you who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget all the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything, and affirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. To that end and submitting to God's holy will, I ask from you..(mention your favour). Amen

From: Lloyd Fernandes

August 10 -

'black day' for discriminated Dalit Christians



—Ivan Saldanha-Shet

The Catholic Christians of India are observing August 10, 2017, Thursday as 'Black Day' to demand that the Government repeal a Presidential order - 1950 (August 10) Para 3 - this order/law now offers protection exclusively for Hindu members of the 'dalits', SC & STs. This amendment to the law precludes Christian and Muslim dalits, evidently a gross discrimination. This observance of 'Black day' will be held by the church all over India too demanding the rights of Dalit Christians and Muslims.

This action will be done also by local parishes and others too. The CBCI commission for SC/BC has given a call for a black day on 10th August urging govt to include Dalit/SC & ST Christians and others, excluded in the reservation list as their counter parts in other religions enjoy the privilege.

This August 10th will be a "Black Day" to highlight the discrimination suffered by Dalit Christians in India for 67 years. It is the initiative launched by the Indian Bishops' Conference (CBCI) Office of Dalits and the Disadvantaged Classes.

The constitutional order of 1950 on the "scheduled caste", signed on August 10, 1950 by the then president of India [Rajendra Prasad, ndr] states that "No person professing a religion other than Hinduism may be considered a member of Scheduled Caste ". Subsequently, the order was modified to include Sikhs (in 1956) and Buddhists (in 1990).

The bishops complain that civil petition 180/2004, which requested the deletion of paragraph 3 of the order of 1950, is still pending before the Supreme Court. That is, they argue that "the constitutional rights of Christian and Muslim Dalit have been denied for 67 years because of religion." Specifically, ecclesiastical hierarchies believe that paragraph 3 is "unconstitutional, a black page written outside the Constitution and inserted through the black door of an executive order."

By most estimates, a disproportionate share of India's Christian population, conventionally estimated at 2.3 percent of the population or roughly 28 million people, is drawn from the Dalits and the "Tribals," meaning members of India's indigenous peoples, who have long suffered discrimination and social exclusion. Somewhere between 60 and 75 percent of India's Catholic population is believed to be composed of Dalits and Tribals. Many of those underclass converts have seen conversion to Christianity as a means of social emancipation, since the caste system is associated with the dominant caste groups.

Meetings, rallies, demonstrations, hunger fasts, submitting memoranda, candle vigils and other forms of demonstrations can be also organized to show support and solidarity to the suffering Christians of scheduled caste origin. The media especially the social media is to spread the news to the civil society.

Why The Poor In India Do Not Revolt ?

by Eric D'Sa

Some of my close friends who are in the 1% of the nations top financial wage earning bracket, keep repeating often that India as a country is not fit for universal democracy, as we have too many poor illiterate and semilliterate people. They claim these people are swayed by religion, caste, subcaste, regionalism, language and more importantly small cash bribes to make democracy a joke. However, it was the genius of the founding fathers, that in a country where common people were as per recorded history only used to be ruled by rajas, maharajas, kings and emperors, they decide that we could dump all this past into a waste basket and start a new mantra of governance, that is a Government of; We the People, By the People, For the People. These wise leaders provided every adult citizen of the nation, male, female, rich, poor, educated, or illiterate, a single equal vote, known as universal suffrage. For whatever reason, the masses do come from time to time in very large numbers to cast their precious single vote. The world is in awe of this largest democracy, that has worked smoothly for the last 7 decades. So has this Democracy contrary to what many of the rich think, helped this country especially the poor?

Surprisingly across the nation the rich these days are finding it difficult to find maids to work in their homes and unlike in the past they are talking back. They are claiming weekly offs and may even demand long handle mops to swab the floors. The rich are blaming the profligate Congress party that provided the options to the poor of working for MGNREGA scheme. The wages have soared. The middle class Madam has to willing or not allow her maid to use her toilet. The maids over time have graduated from sitting on the floor to sit on the sofa. They are no more the malnourished women with large number of children. They know

how to plan their families. They have a bank account of their own and are ready to talk back to their husbands, something the Madams finds difficult to do.

Hence it is not surprising that a few weeks ago a riot broke out at a cluster of apartment blocks called Mahagun Moderne in Noida near Delhi where hundreds of maids worked. There was nothing unusual about the urban housing society which is similar to others in the country. A mob of maids and their men attacked the apartments in the society after one of the

YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

maids, a young women went missing and her family and friends thought she was being illegally detained by a family and was being ill treated.

Unfortunately as it happens in such cases, a class conflict was turned into a communal one to deflect it. Instead of the perpetrator of the crime being punished, the slum cluster where these poor women lived was demolished. If they are Muslims use the bogey of being from Bangladesh. If they are tribal use the bogey of they are from naxalite land. If they are dark they from the over smart Madrasis of the South. No questions asked!

This reminded me of my own life which has been one of much comfort due to these maids. I was born as some would say with a silver spoon, to highly successful well educated professionals who were relatively wealthy in Indian terms. From what I can remember of my childhood my mother was always assisted by a full time maid, a cook and a day time maid. Besides there was a part time gardener and a driver. Later even during my days in marine college hostel and as an officer on ships, there was some one

feeding me and cleaning up my room. As I for a few years sailed around the world, I had a number of opportunities to settle in prosperous western countries. However whenever I weighed the pros and cons of doing so in one of these countries, though I did not say so openly, I had this picture of all these servants in my parents home which was impossible to employ in western countries. I was always aware that if you had some inherited wealth and decent paying job, you could live a fairly comfortable life in India. It was easy to be rich and a Bada Saab in India. So it was when I took up a shore job in India. Only thing that I had learnt from my parents and followed, is that if you look after your servants and employees well with dignity, they will remain for many years with you. Anyway to cut a long story short, though I and my family have not lived as comfortable as far as servants are concerned as my parents, we have not done so badly.

However, on a number of occasions as I was driven by a chauffeur in an air conditioned car past the slums of Dharavi and Dhrukhana, I always thought to my self, when will these people revolt against persons like myself? When will their patience run out of living in such poor dismal conditions? Do they rally believe better days will come to them in years to come and their children who are running around on the roads half naked

(Contd.. on p. 10)

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(Contd.. from p. 9)

and bare footed would live a better life than themselves? What is surprising why they like the above maids do not attack more often? How does vast poverty in the country tolerate the super wealth of a few, whom they see driving in luxurious cars and live in gated communities, where they need a pass to enter? Order suits the rich. Chaos is a leveller. Why don't the poor rise in revolt? Do they overestimate the defences of the rich? Why are we safe?

Many of the higher middle class people who live close to the poor shanti towns say that the poor will not revolt because they are such wonderful folk who believe in the dharma of Karma. Though the poor they say are prone to criminality and violence and as such must be in constant surveillance, they are kept in check by religious and mystical forces. Blessed are the poor is a concept propagated by all religions and the rich believe it is the morphine for the masses. Some how no one wants to believe that Indias poor shun violence for the same reason most human beings abhor violence. They are humans and have a right to be considered so. Unfortunately this is not happening as the above incidence of how the maids were treated shows. There is near absence of human rights for the poor in a police station or a prison or in the judicial process that exists in our country. The consequence of crimes against the rich are severe in India. If necessary the rich respond through extrajudicial killings. The less democratic the nation becomes, the safer it is for the rich.

Irrespective of the above, the reason why it is hard for any one to organise Indias poor against the rich is that such a system already exists in the form of the electoral politics. As long as the the poor believe the single vote they have, gives them political strength to bring a legitimate revolution, then a self destructive rage can bring about, they seem to be ready to wait for better days. The poor seem to firmly believe that as they own poli-

tics, they will find greater release of their rage through the ballot box. Indian politics thus is largely the revenge of the poor or at least an attempt. This is the reason why demonetisation which every economist thought would adversely effect the poor surprisingly turned into a success to the present government. The poor who stood in long lines for hours to exchange their paltry savings and even seeing some of them loose temporary jobs, voted for demonetisation as they thought it affected the rich more. May be this is the reason why RBI has not come out with the actual figures of how many old notes of high denomination were officially returned to it.

So is Democracy bringing the required changes to satisfy the poor. We have to admit it is doing so. One of their poor Dalits has become the President of the nation, the highest executive post. One of their Chaiwala has been elected by them to be the Prime Minister of the country. They have noted carefully the promises he has made of Achee Din being brought to them if they voted him into power. They have trusted him and put their faith in him and are ready to give him some time. No way will religion in way of holy cow or a dream of a mystical prosperous raj will fool them as in the

past centuries, from what they believe now as their human right. They have discarded political dynasties and have no faith in trickle down theory put out by the rich. They are aware the disparity of wealth is increasing in this country and it rates one of the worst in this world. They are also aware that almost the entire Indian upper class owes its supremacy to the huge advantages of its family wealth and at times to the higher caste they belong to. Nepotism is rampant in business, industry, politics and administration.

The poor have in their hands the votes with which they will with a single mindedness pursue their demand not for doles, but for a decent living income sufficient to provide them and their families, some cash in hand, three wholesome meals a day, a few bits of clothing to wear, a small safe dwelling they can call a home, minimum health care and more importantly good education for their children. The politicians will have over their heads this threat of a simple single vote, but for some reason if any one wants to deprive them of what democracy has provided them, they will have over their heads instead the Sword of Damocles. So should the poor in this country be deprived by the rich of their democratic rights? YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE.

Prayer to **St. Expedite** for solving a financial crisis



I call forth the Power and the presence of **St. Expedite** in my time of financial trouble. I offer my body, heart, mind and soul upon your altar of light. I have faith and trust and complete confidence that you will be my strength in this time of need. Quickly come to my assistance.

(State Your Petition) _____

My financial need is urgent. Be my Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

Amen. (Promise Publication)

—Ronald H. D'Souza.

The Politics of Survival

Bihar, like the UP, is one state which can throw up surprises when it comes to politics and power. We just saw Nitish Kumar distancing himself from the much hyped Mahaghatbandan and preferred to align with his arch enemy Narendra Modi and his party the BJP. This is not really surprising if you carefully analyze the developments right from the time the JD[U] broke away from the erstwhile coalition with BJP. Nitish Kumar did not want to be seen with people with a communal agenda. That was before the General elections. Remaining with BJP then, his chances for the top post in the country were zero with Narendra Modi around so he abandoned the BJP. Narendra Modi won handsomely and became the PM and is so well entrenched in his seat that it is nigh impossible to dislodge him in the foreseeable future. Sorry Ruhulji, it is a fact.

Shrewd politician that he is, Kumar continued nursing ambitions of becoming the Prime Minister. He knew Rahul Gandhi was simply not good enough; Lalu Prasad was out of the question with Mulayam Singh, Mayawati and others not matching Kumar's standing as a clean politician. He was elected the CM despite having lesser seats than the RJD. He accepted a young son of Lalu as deputy CM – all for the sake of power. Soon preparations for the 2019 general elections became the next target of the opposition. Barely two years in office, Kumar realized that the Mahaghatbandan had no future with the Congress losing all the way and others not so effective to take on the might of the BJP. The corruption charges against the Lalu family in general and the Deputy CM in particular gave Nitish Kumar the lifeline to wriggle out of the coalition. Taking a high moral ground, he resigned as CM.

If Kumar did not want to continue as CM, he could have discussed the matter with other partners and asked them to elect a new leader. He could have opted to remain out of the new government. He could have advised the Governor to dissolve the assembly and go for fresh elections. He knew well that, in fresh elections, the chances of coming back to power were negligible which means no Chief Ministership for a long time. The BJP would have won handsomely. Taking advantage of the prevailing situation in Bihar, the BJP played its card well. First a BJP MP offered support to Nitish if necessary. Kumar did not refuse such a support and that possibly gave the BJP leadership courage to go for the kill. Nitish became the CM

VIEWS on NEWS

Down the Memory Lane : It is a matter of co-incidence that exactly a decade ago, my first contribution to "Views on News" also appeared on 14th August, in 2007. During this fairly long journey of ten years, I have continued contributing through this column on matters of public interest - [political or social / religious] and hope to continue doing so. That was the commitment I made a decade ago.

Happy Independence Day to all the readers!



by Marshall Sequeira

with BJP help which has embarrassed his ardent supporters like Pavan Verma but is not showing it but his face does.

While Kumar says the Mahaghatbandan is not threatened, in reality, it is the sad and sudden demise of the concept of opposition unity. With no other leader in sight to head the opposition - rather too many leaders dreaming of becoming the Prime Minister, the challenge to the present NDA dispensation with Narendra Modi at the helm, is over. Of course, the opposition parties [minus Nitish Kumar] will pretend to work for the opposition unity to face the next general elections but the chances of it succeeding are receding day by day.

Nitish Kumar in his wisdom saw a secure future in aligning with the BJP for his own long term political survival. The man who saw himself as an equal to Narendra Modi, is now resigned to the fact that he will have to be subservient which can fetch political gains. By declaring that Narendra Modi faces no challenge in 2019, he has publicly sent a message that he is willing to work with him and if needs be, under him for his own survival. With this arrangement, Nitish has made sure that his political future is secured till 2024. Who knows if Nitish wins handsomely in Bihar in the next general elections, he could land up as Deputy PM provided he keeps singing Narendra Mody's praises. That is politics.

TV channels and sting operations

With the technological advancement in this country in the 21st century, all the TV channels have been working overtime to resort to overt sting operations to expose the hypocrisy of political parties and other outfits which pretend to be working for the good of the country or the causes they publicly espouse. In the process, public is fed with very interesting facts which not only enhances the reputation of the channel, but also shows the target entity in poor light. Some of the facts which are brought out are sensational and viewers lap every bit of it.

During the demonetization exercise almost every political party was exposed with their people managing party affairs openly agreeing to accept old notes which could be subsequently shown in their books to be exchanged with new ones. The cost of doing this service – mere 40% commission and nobody knows who would pocket that amount. Whether the party bosses were privy to this arrangement is not clear and if they were, surely they would have some interest in the commission amount. While other political parties were known culprits, the BJP party was caught doing this and exposed. All other parties offered similar services to those with huge cash.

The next was the funding pattern of the separatist leaders. This sting operation literally caught the Hurriyat leadership with their pants down so to say. Their admission about money coming from across the border and the gulf countries through hawala route was shocking. The systematic distribution for anti-national activities was also exposed. The leaders helped themselves with funds to acquire huge properties which have now come under scanner. Wonder if they will be let off with an understanding that they tone down their violent protests.

The latest one involved the admission in medical colleges which have been debarred from admitting students for this academic year. They have been brazenly admitting students and even offering seats through the back door for consideration as high as 80 lakhs, all from UP ruled by BJP. Don't tell us you inherited this mess. Inheritance comes on its own. You fought for it tooth and nail promising, Ram [?] Rajya, with a magic wand. Nothing of this has happened.

These sting operations should continue on a larger scale to cleanse the system. More and more such sting operations will expose all those who have been taking the public for a ride. These sting operations bring out the facts which are not in public domain. Let everybody know their dubious methods to remain in power or relevant.

My India, born to be Free!



My India was born to be free!

Broken out of bondage, shackles of strangling slavery

Born free with a soaring spirit of the hope of every visionary

The tryst with destiny at midnight, the promise of a golden baton,

'Satyagraha', 'Swadeshi', 'HomeRule'- birth pangs of a Nation,

The torchbearers lifted the flame a high, with courage and determination!

My India once stood poised on the threshold of a new vision

Of securing the future of her children was a glorious mission.

Seventy years ago, when the flag of freedom fluttered on high

India raised her gaze heavenwards, to the clear blue sky!

Those lovely woods seemed to be dark and deep,

But we had miles to walk and promises to keep.

Promises to defeat the forces of poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease

For the future generation, to build a haven of progress and peace.

As Gurudev Rabindranath aspired- India of my dreams was to be free!

Where the minds would be without fear and heads held high

Where knowledge would be free and without a sorrowful sigh,

People united as one, without barricades of class, caste and creed

Hatred, intolerance and bigotry no religion would breed

Where words would come out from sincere motives and caring hearts

Deeds would speak of worthy and honest stalwarts!

Where tireless striving would stretch its arms towards perfection

And dedicated service left no room for corruption.

We pray to the Divine ruler of India's destiny,

The creator who adorned and embellished this land

To lead us into that golden era of peace and prosperity

Because my people were born free for a happy eternity!

Protoevangelium Of Mary Mother Of God



While many scholars want desperately to know more about the Virgin Mary hoping to delve into the enduring mystery of her enormous role she plays in religious devotion, there' definitely many more people who want to exalt her position in the Christian faith.

There are several small cameos hidden in Mary's life than any society over the centuries could muster together. The point is where are those cameos?

Mary's story begins in a 2nd century apocryphal text (of James) in which the 12 tribes of Israel are mentioned. In the text it was written that Joachim and his wife Anna were elderly and childless, that Joachim was a rich man, who was a descendent of the House of David. When Joachim went on a 40-day fast, his wife was visited by an angel.

Before the early apocryphal text on Mary came to light very little was known about the Virgin Mary.

The angel said to Anna, "You shall conceive and bear an offspring who will be spoken of in all the whole world."

Mary was born, and from young was seen to be very different from other children. Joachim celebrated his daughter's first birthday inviting the high priests of Israel. One of the priests made an inspired statement, "the child will be renowned for ever among all generations."

Truly, the Virgin Mary turned out to be the most honored woman in the 2000 years of Christianity.

Beverly Roberts Gaventa, in her book 'Glimpses of the Mother of God' had something positive to say. "If you think of the most famous women in

history, no one comes close to having the stature of Mary."

The Holy Bible tells us of Mary, usually in passing – yet, the Immaculate Mother of God has been the subject of some of the most renowned pieces of literature, painting, music and art. We can never forget Franz Schubert's 'Ave Maria'.

Christian historians are not certain where Mary was born. Was it in Jerusalem, or was Mary born in Nazareth?

It is also unknown if Mary remained in Roman-occupied Palestine after her son's crucifixion; or was it possible that she went to Ephesus in the north, known today, as Turkey.

We are told that Mary, at the age of three was taken to the temple in Jerusalem to

serve God. When puberty came she could no longer be allowed to stay in the temple, was sent back to her parents and by a divine sign was married to Joseph, a carpenter.

Author Gaventa adds, that in the apocryphal text of James, "James takes on the Hebrew scripture story of the barren woman and multiplies it exponentially. Instead of the older woman who can't conceive Mary becomes this woman too young to conceive".

One day, the Angle Gabriel appears to Mary (the annunciation) and informs her that she is to be the Mother to the Son of God. According to the Protoevangelium Mary is 16 years old. We also read that the Virgin Mary "gave birth to Jesus in a cave" next we learn that Mary hid Jesus from "the slaughter of the innocence" by King Herod. That concluded the 2nd century apocryphal text on Mary.

The Third Ecumenical Council in Ephesus gave Mary the magnificent title of 'Theotokos' or Mother of God.



BY MELVYN BROWN

The university of Toronto's Pagliaroli said, "this proved that Jesus was both was divine and human".

The first Roman Church was built and dedicated to Mary. This was followed by a Marian Shrine in a sanctuary near Constantinople. The Shrine preserved for devotion a scarf of the Virgin Mary which she had often worn, and it was venerated throughout the centuries.

Marian icons, Hymns grew in numbers from the start of the 6th century. A French abbot in the early 1100, gave sermons that the Virgin Mary was our Intercessor. This proclamation raised Mary's stature. The French abbot was St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

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"Media & medics"

Linking for a healing touch

All over the nation in these turbulent times when medical aid is evolving as a commercial service, the gap between truth and lies has resulted in deep pain to the common citizen. This gap it is pointed out has two main causes : A. Hospitals and doctors are too caught up in their profession; a well oriented mechanism to interface with the public through the modern media is poor, result misconceptions and improper understanding of the deeper medical nuances. B. The media does not get timely and accurate information and the news passed on to the public is often distorted, fabricated and erroneous. Also, it may be practically observed that the journalists exposure has not kept abreast with modern science. Not only in medical matters, but even in several other fields. Reliance is partly on internet artificial knowledge which is often a mismatch with what is reality at a given juncture. It clearly follows that a good link and rapport is vital to close this gap, if not entirely at least to the maximum possible in the circumstances.



by Ivan Saldanha-Shet

A pioneering interaction between media and doctors organised by Mangaluru media club in association with Center for Health and Development

(CHD) and Association of Medical Consultants, recently, is said to have provided a cordial consensus bringing hope to citizens particularly in emergency and disaster situations which loom large in every day lives at ground level.

A lack of transparency and ethics, in rarest of the rare trauma episodes, has even spurred pseudo/drama-like scenario and information to keep a dead patient in ICU or surgery and siphon off lacks of rupees in a few hours. In deed the first steps conceived could well be a boon to the future of medical information and mutual understanding for security, human rights and peace. Public and people awareness on this aspect is as vital as participation of medics/doctors and media persons of every area.

Dr Sandeep Rai, a leading surgeon in Mangaluru said that the total focus and responsibility of a doctor in any emergency/disaster situation is to save the lives of people. In circumstances beyond control the doctors need to consult with next of kin and seek best medical options as well. This divine and impossible task often due to the stress, strain and limited knowledge and communi-



cation of kith and kin along with limited time frames gets derailed. This leads to knowledge gap and room for unnecessary accusations and unpleasantness, extending the negative causes and out comes and trust deficits. Very prime information was shared and constructively discussed. Yes, 'God does the healing and the doctor takes the fees'; In the modern perspectives, professionalism is set to be high in every profession and doctors and scribes are no exception, because expectation level is very high, Dr Sandeep Rai mentioned.

CHD - Centre for Health and Development CEO Dr Edmond Fernandes explained the purpose of the interaction in the wake of growing incidents of miscommunication or lack of communication between doctors and media persons. Appealing media to bridge and strengthen doctor-patient relationship, he said that plans are on the anvil to have draft of guidelines based on the progressive peak exchange of social and scientific details in a systematic manner to benefit people at large. A whatsApp group is now in place for exchange of information and ideas strictly on the subject.

In large hospitals it is impossible for

(Contd.. on p. 15)



(Contd.. from p. 14)

the stressed and tense kith, kin and attendants of patients in ICU and operation theater to get information often for hours together and have no option but to hang around bunched at the entrances, beyond reasonable time frames, left in the cold, high and dry.

Doctors are too busy inside and lack time, nurses not very kindly and may be within reason, refuse to explain, co-ordination is poor, causing avoidable unpleasantness and trouble. Minute by minute, people outside are eager and clamour for information as to what is happening to their dear one in side the ICUs/ surgical theater, a natural situation more specially in emergency/accident cases. In this scenario they are unable to get regular, credible or responsible information.

Managing emotions in stress and tension in critical situations not exclusive only to professionals but also to common people concerned is the new mantra. One visible solution is to provide a suitable display board (where feasible an electronic screen/monitor) where the condition of the patients undergoing surgery or in ICU can be projected from one stage to another, time to time, which will keep the kith and kin informed and at ease, lack of proper information causes anxiety, uncertainty, anger and fatigue. Hospitals could study the best possibilities and duly support the cause. Consid-



eration of these points and addressing them will help all concerned.

In reply, Association of Medical Consultants (AMC) Convenor & Trauma and Plastic Surgeon Dr Sathish Bhat said that the AMC would take steps to better interface between doctors and media so that the scribes get correct news quickly in a fixed system. Also possibilities would be explored for suitable and dedicated PRO type hospital officials sufficiently equipped to convey suitable regular authorised information to media persons, relatives and public in systematic legal manner respecting the overall individual rights of patients/ victims and all concerned. He said that though many institutions have put in place in-house training and briefing of medical personnel on communication and information dissemination, he said he would initiate workshops with media experts where feasible; it is now a relevant matter that communication be a subject in medical courses. Similarly, media people too need to improve on medical knowledge and also knowledge on conveying in a refined manner news in a multi subject knowledge scenario.

Senior journalist Dr. Ronald Fernandes, raised the issue that there is a need to innovate the communication between doctors with patients. There should be a proper framework

by the medical institutions to share authentic information with journalists as well so that there is no scope for inaccurate news appearing in media. "Many times scribes fail to get authentic news before the deadline giving scope for inaccurate news, also there is frequently no system or set up which deals with this. Management

is out of bounds, doctors have responsibility to patients - who is to bell the cat" he said. The key themes for discussion were moderated by Dr.Ronald Fernandes, and included : 1. Do doctors have a responsibility in communicating with the media? 2. Stance of journalists while reporting medical negligence, medico-legal matters and other public health issues. 3. How public health issues like road traffic injuries, disasters, hospital fires must be addressed? 4. How the media can bridge and strengthen the doctor - patient relationship, and 5. Medical advertisement and where to draw the line?

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Superstitions and Catholic Faith

by Winnifred Rego
Mangalore

From time immemorial, majority of mankind were prone to superstitions of some sort. Indians have been marked to be overtly superstitious in acceptance of belief and practices that is irrational and absurd arising mainly out of ignorance and fear.

In a narrow sense, superstition consists of irrational beliefs and practices based on the power of magic, witchcraft and imaginary powers, which have no real existence and are fictitious. It appears in various forms out of which Astrology is the most prominent one. Educated or illiterate, irrespective of their religions have recourse to astrology to govern their life's events. To cite an example, people are eager to avoid Rahu Kalam to start a business, journey, start a living in a new house, get married etc. The predictions of astrology are guiding the lives of these people in daily life. You can observe that lot of people are reading what their star forecasts in accordance to the lunar predictions of their birth sign especially the horoscopes of brides and grooms, before fixing a marriage. This type of illusion is misleading millions and is taken as a form of divination, an authentic science which is in reality a pseudo science. Another type of superstition prevalent in our society is magic, sorcery and witchcraft. People who are facing crises in their life resort to these practices in the hope of security.

Superstitious Religious Practices: Certain religious practices can ultimately become mere superstitious activities. External acts of worship do not really render due honour to God, instead they attempt to place God in the service of man. In a broad sense such quasi magic abuses of genuine reli-

gious belief and practices are also superstitious. The efficacy of prayer, rise of practices is no longer considered a gift of God but they are regarded as a result of a secret power in those rites or prayers. For example, attending the Novena for nine days and not to the intercession of the saint. The



chain prayer cards of St Antony or St Jude are another example of superstitious religious practice. It is said if the recipient breaks the chain he will get some sort of punishment. All this is indeed an attribution of infallible efficacy to the extension of the chain and the suggestion of a sanction for failure to extend it as a magical practice of piety. Some of those involved in the present day renewal programmes also seem to advocate certain superstitious practices in the pretext of authentic spirituality and mislead people.

Violation of the first Commandment:- The Catholic Church considers superstition to be sinful in the sense that it denotes a lack of trust in divine providence of God and as such, is a violation of the first commandment. The

first commandment demands that you "shall worship the Lord your God and you shall have no other Gods before me." The catechism of the Catholic Church depicts certain frivolous or unscrupulous religious practices as superstition. It can even affect the worship we offer the true god. Belief in these kinds of practices presupposes that human life is completely determined by certain forces. This is a basic denial to accept responsibility for ones decisions and actions.

Moral analysis: However everybody involved in superstitious practices need not be equally culpable from a moral perspective. If such practices control a person's life, such superstition can become a great sin. People who are ignorant are unable to take decisions and face life with confidence and trust find themselves paralyzed and cannot face life and have recourse to witchcraft and magic.

Para psychological phenomena: Para Psychological abilities deal with the extra-sensory perceptions. Telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, retro cognition, faith healing etc belong to this category. Besides people have the ability to locate water sources, minerals sometimes even lost objects, using certain divining rods and pendulums. The para-psychological powers are gift of God and therefore need not be considered as evil. The use of para psychological powers is in principle subject to the same moral laws as any other human activity. It is up to man to make good use of them. To use them for evil purpose and for harmful effects is sinful and irresponsible. However we must be very careful about false claims and exaggerations in the field of use of para psychological phenomena. Accepting the existence of certain Para psychological phenomena should not induce people to give some credence also to mere superstitious practices.

Inspiration!

Are you Enlightened?

We sometimes say that some people are enlightened but do we really know what that means? Find out

We might say that because they are kind, loving and insightful. While these may indeed be qualities of an enlightened person, it's hard to be sure unless we ourselves are enlightened. Here is a list of qualities that most of them attain.

Happiness: The enlightened person is happy and joyful. He has a cheerful disposition most of the time, and is willing to share that joy with others. He is always optimistic that all challenges have a resolution. Even though the resolution may not be the most desirable, he is confident that he is capable of being at peace with it.

Not self-centred: The enlightened person is peaceful and serene, because he is free of fear and other unwholesome emotions. He can see that the human condition reaches beyond this physical existence. To him, this is not just a concept but a reality. He realises that all physical manifestations (humans, animals, plants and so on) depend on each other for their survival.

Peaceful and serene: The enlight-

ened person is peaceful and serene, because he is free of fear and other unwholesome emotions. He can see that the human condition reaches beyond this physical existence, so he no longer has a fear of the unknown. He is free of worry because he understands that freedom from suffering comes from within, and not from material possessions.

Loving, kind and compassionate: The enlightened person is loving, kind, and compassionate for two main



reasons: he genuinely cares about other people, regardless of whether they care about him, and he knows that other people provide him with the spiritual nourishment he needs to continue growing. Therefore, he remains spiritually open to everyone. Patient and understanding: The enlightened person is patient and understanding because he appreciates how our ignorance creates our own suffering. He understands the challenges of achieving enlightenment, so he doesn't condemn people for their missteps.

Humble: The enlightened person is

Committed to His Spiritual Practice

- The enlightened person never forgets how he achieved enlightenment. He is also aware that it takes continuous effort to remain that way. It takes a great deal of spiritual nourishment to help others along their path, so he's aware that he needs to replenish his spiritual strength on a daily basis. Otherwise, he'll lose his effectiveness as a spiritual messenger.

humble. Since he knows his place in the universe, he doesn't need validation from others. Therefore, he has nothing to prove to anyone, including himself. His humble nature allows him to be kind and gentle, and be open to everyone he encounters.

Inner strength: The enlightened person has great inner strength. He has learned healthy ways of connecting with the sources of spiritual nourishment -- through healthy interactions with people, and within. He no longer has a need for the power struggles that most of us engage in.

Important Announcement

from 1st August 2017 onwards

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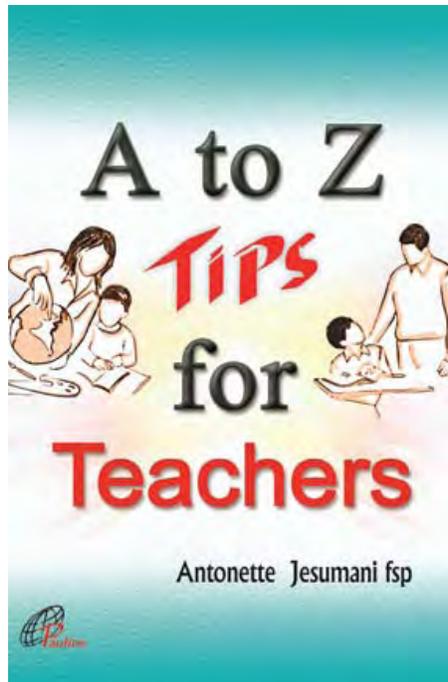
Due to steep rise in the cost of paper, printing and other inputs in printing this weekly the subscription rates are revised from 1st August 2017 onwards as mentioned above. We seek the support of our readers and Looking forward for your continued patronage

A To Z TIPS FOR TEACHERS

By Antonette Jesumani fsp

“Mr Carlyle,” wrote a young man, “I wish to be a teacher. Will you please tell me the secret of a successful teacher?” “Be what you would have your pupils be. All other teaching is unblest mockery,” wrote back Thomas Carlyle, the famed Scottish philosopher-writer-teacher of the 18th century. Implicitly, ‘Teaching’ is a noble profession that is at once a gift that challenges one to teach by the example of one’s life and an art that, when learned and developed further, can give one’s pupil the kind of knowledge only the pages of one’s heart can impart. Indeed, as a transformational agent, the teacher becomes everything to the student—tutor, mentor, parent, friend, sibling... All said and done, teaching is no easy matter, and certainly not child’s play! Making the task impactful is this nice little book, *A To Z TIPS FOR TEACHERS* by Antonette Jesumani fsp [Pauline Publications ISBN 978-81-7176-910-0 – Pp 128 / INR 100].

As the title itself suggests, the chapters in this book alphabetically cover various themes like: appreciation, balance, creativity, discipline, endurance, focus, guidance, humour, inspiration, motivation, zeal etc. Each of these chapters contains insights on how to be an integrated teacher, appropriately backed by carefully thought out life examples and inspiring quotes. While the meaningful illustrations add colour to the text, the prayer section can help enrich a dedicated soul. What is teaching if not a passion of the soul! Indeed, as the example cited by Sister



Book Review by Ladislaus L D'Souza

Antonette, a Daughters of Saint Paul nun, indicates, learning with one’s teacher can charge the learner with new energy, “precisely because my teacher’s whole personality speaks to me, motivating me to concentrate and never give up” [pp 12-13] and thus bring about much needed change in society.

“In this technological era, where information is available at one’s fingertips, the primary challenge before a teacher is not so much to give students information but to mould their

character into well integrated human beings,” writes Father Anuranjan, an Educationist from Ambikapur [p 121]. This the teacher does by inspiring students to mine the depths of their being so as to unearth their talents and capabilities, apart from teaching them everything they need to know concerning Science, Mathematics, History, English et al.

Considering that teaching, like learning, is a lifelong process, *A To Z TIPS FOR TEACHERS* gently challenges the teacher to reflect on his/her attitude towards the job, and become aware of the importance of skilled communication in the teaching profession taking precedence over the need to impress, though, of course, teaching by way of well-worded communication itself creates a positive impression! Bishop Percival J Fernandez describes the contents of this book as “practical guidelines for all involved in the teaching ministry,” adding, “As one specialized in the Behavioural Sciences, I urge every teacher, blessed with the noble teaching ministry, not only to read this book but to study it and thus function as a better teacher and a better person” [The Examiner, Vol 168, No. 28, 15-21 July 2017].

To give the author the last word, “It is my firm belief and hope that as you read through this book with a keen sense of openness, your heart will discover a much greater appreciation for teaching and learning. I pray that this book reaches and helps many teachers in their noble task of forming students to be better citizens of the world” [p 17]!

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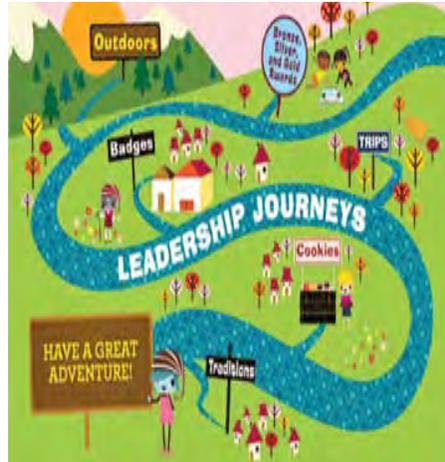
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The Journey Of Leadership

by Ninette D'Souza

As 15th August rolls around each year we bring to the fore those heroes – both sung and unsung, who made it possible for us to enjoy the freedom we take so much for granted today. In the last couple of years to my advantage, many opportunities presented themselves (which I grabbed with both hands) through which I was privileged to enrich myself, as I read and reflected on the life of M.K. Gandhi, an Indian whose intellect changed not just the fortunes of his own country, but influenced the world at large. This is a tribute to all those leaders who along with Gandhi, forged ahead to achieve a seemingly impossible dream. It is said that exceptional leaders have a way of life, a manner of doing things. To dream big, to attempt to shoot for the stars, to try the impossible, and latch onto challenges is their forte. The journey of our heroes was not smooth sailing, rather it was an arduous ride with lots of checks and balances, all of which contributed to making them Leaders we look up to even today.

I'd like to think that there must have been days when the task at hand seemed too daunting, and they were tempted to just chuck it all away. Then they probably looked around and saw to their chagrin, the hopeful, expectant faces of their exploited country men and clarity about their goal, must have come through in those miniscule moments, which probably made them feel, 'It's all worth it.' The vital lesson to learn here is that we are all adaptable. We make mistakes but we can, with hard work and inspiration, bounce back from anything. Their journey teaches us that we need to trust, believe, guide, motivate and respect one another to get the best results of a common expectation. We see 'Perseverance' at its best on this journey, where each day was in all likelihood, a new learning experience,



one which they confidently faced and accepted, with not just the challenges life threw at them but also the tough turns and bends that came along. These are what helped them to mould and alter their lifestyles according to the needs of the hour. I'm sure they realised along the way that small setbacks didn't matter, as long as they were thinking big, because that meant that they were focussed on the target to be achieved, rather than swaying to the Piper's tune irrespective of how soothing it seemed. Challenges such as pressure to achieve, dexterity in handling the massive man power at their service, getting their ideas across and implementing the same, only made them come out stronger, I'm convinced.

These inspirational leaders demonstrated excellent 'Emotional Intelligence' skills. They used the myriad opportunities that came their way, to model behavioural excellence, to their highly impressionable and vulnerable countrymen. Given the potentially wide ranging implications, of their choices and behaviour at crucial junctures, of the fight for Independence, these well rounded individuals were able to effectively contribute to the development and transformation of a country, on the cusp of massive change, and lead its nascent freedom. Some simple mantras I picked up from their journey are a) Always put your best foot forward in anything you undertake. b) Do not wait to im-

press anyone or gain anyone's attention. Believe in yourself, stay focussed and success will automatically follow. c) Passion is necessary to do the impossible because then it becomes easier to transcend stereotypes and take the journey to an altogether different level, all the while keeping the larger picture in mind.

The level of finesse involved in a person with a highly developed emotional quotient is beautifully summarised by Aristotle who said, "Anybody can become angry- that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way- that is not within everybody's power and is not easy." On our 70th Independence Day in deep gratitude I doff my hat to the Leaders of the Indian Freedom Struggle, and to those holding the REIGNS of POWER in the country today (Whether they are leaders in the true sense of the word, I leave to you to decide) I have but a simple message to ponder upon:

Emotional intelligence is a skill that like any other can be trained and developed. Would you care to hone it??? Because then those 'Aache Din' the citizenry is looking forward to, would probably make their presence felt in a country reeling under its DIVERSITY... once it's GREATEST STRENGTH.

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6735 MUMBAI : Born and brought-up in Mumbai, Tamilian RC Bachelor, (Born in August 1977), Ht. 6', Wt. 89 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn.FYJC. having own Transportation Business. Contact email : michaelenterprises07@gmail.com OR 9222008111

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6705. MUMBAI : Anglo Indian RC

bachelor, (Born in November 1979), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., Dip. Hotel Mgt., working for Groups of Hotels in Dubai. Contact email : dnfernz@gmail.com OR 9975878894

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6682. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC bachelor, (Born in September 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. ITI, working as a HVAC & BMS Supervisor. Contact email : vincent.serra1@gmail.com.

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6727. IMDORE : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in May 1990), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com with Computers, working for Airlines. Contact email : triptananda@ymail.com

6725. MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Pharma, MBA, working as a Sr. Analyst. Contact email : meenad@indoco.com

6724. MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in April 1984), 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs,

Wheatish Complexion, Beautiful, Edn. M.Com., works for a retail Company in **Dubai** as Team Lead - HR Operation. Contact email : avenap@hotmail.com OR 7506113313

6719. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC, homely and loving Spinster, (Born in August 1969), 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., Contact Email : sachin.gaste10@gmail.com OR Tel.: 7498392432

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6710. MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in November 1984), 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, HR. working as a HR Manager. Contact email : mmf8425@gmail.com

6706. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), 5' 7", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Accountant in **BAHRAIN**. Contact email : denis_anthony@rediffmail.com

6698. MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in July 1985), Ht. 4' 8", Wt. 41 kgs., Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A. History, working as an Executive. Contact email : sharmayne7@gmail.com

6689. MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in May 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. B.Ed., M.A. M.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : sspasware@gmail.com

6688. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Com-

plexion, Edn. C.A. Inter, working as a Business Development Executive in **DUBAI**. Contact email : sanyo_suares@yahoo.com OR Mob.: 9821728168

6668. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA in HR, working as a HR Professional in a Tata Group Company. Contact email : wilfyjoy@rediffmail.com OR 9860302527

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6645. ABU DHABI : East Indian RC Spinster from Mumbai (Born October 1992), Ht. 5' 5" (166 cms), 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, B. Com, MBA (Finance) U.K. working for a Bank in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Family U.A.E. based for past 25 years. Seeks a Professionally qualified bachelor, below 30 years working or settled overseas / On Board with sober habits, good family values, from a respectful family. Contact email : leteciaprisca@gmail.com

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offers money or a five annas' coconut. Now, what is this? What is this if not bribery? Do you understand what this is? You are saying to God, "I will build a church or a temple for you if I can have a child born to me." What is this?

Yes, from bribing gods, priest and deities, it evolved to bribing humans also – and that is a different matter. All you are doing is saying to an official, "I will offer you money or a coconut if you get my work done." From early on we have been getting work done this way. And if we have been getting things done by God so cheaply, then what is so great about this official? If even God gets allured and consents to money or a coconut, then if this officer doesn't he must be a non-Indian. He must consent, otherwise that will be against etiquette.

The mind of the Indian is steeped in bribery. He gives bribes. He is a flatterer. He has always flattered God, deities, priest and kings. Now, neither God is to be seen anywhere nor deities nor priest nor kings. Only these poor cabinet ministers, et cetera, are seen, officers are seen; so he flatters them. He sits at their doors with folded hands as a beggar.

The country is poor, impoverished; naturally he sta. And now even wagging the tail has become a difficult matter; one has to have as much intelligence about it as the dogs normally have. Have you ever seen a dog wagging his tail? If it comes across a stranger, it does both the things – it wags the tail and it barks. It plays the double role. Because it is not yet certain if the stranger will show a friendly attitude or a non-friendly one. If the stranger takes an attitude of a foe, he will stop wagging the tail and increase the barking. But if the stranger takes the attitude of a friend, he will stop barking and put more energy into wagging the tail. These days it is not certain at all as to which political leader will remain a leader and for how long; when will he suddenly behave stern; when will he suddenly become a "former" – nothing is certain. So people bark a little and keep on wagging the tail also. If the leader's position proves to be stable, one can wag the tail more vigorously, and if he goes, one will show him his place by barking really loud. Nothing is certain these days.

But this is nothing other than an Indian characteristic. These are our racial characteristics. The responsibility of these racial characteristics of ours does not fall on capitalism. They are much more ancient than capitalism, and the roots of these ancient characteristics are very deep.

political animosity.

If, at that time, the country had charismatic leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, it was due to uniparty governance. The Indian National Congress was the only political party that held sway over the entire nation for a long time and that facilitated its leaders growing in stature. Sadly, it has seen its own demise through rampant corruption in recent years and nepotism. For that matter, none of the existing political components has the courage of its convictions!

Even our Presidents were men of erudition and learning, starting with Dr.Rajendra Prasad, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and most others with a few exceptions, and we cannot forget our very own people's President, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, who passed away just a few years ago, but will live in the nation's memory forever. At the same time, it must be conceded that the task of our Presidents has become difficult in the present political environment where they have to contend with the present trend of coalition governance.

The ruling power and the opposition need to be educated in proper and principled governance, or else we will see the kind of situation being witnessed today. The opposition believes it just has to blindly oppose, like the ruling party did when it sat in the opposition. The result is that parliament is disrupted causing inestimable financial loss to the nation!

Those men of stature worked to put India in line with the leading nations of the world. Regrettably, today's politicians are interested only in power and pelf, corruption has been self-destructive, and regional parties have emerged to create chaos through linguistic politics. Their leaders have luxurious lifestyles thanks to their va-grant front-runners who keep them well provided through extortion and

looting. And yet some defiant elements who are a law to themselves, get away with openly defying the law.

Where do we stand today? While providing employment and development are the main tasks of the present government, not much headway has been made because the agenda has been diverted to our kitchens and our drawing rooms, name changing of monumental edifices which we would never be able to erect, chanting mantras, issuing condemnations and the like. The present socio-political climate has nurtured *gaurakshaks* and lynch mobs. We see India struggling with a moral dilemma between development and secularism, instead of secularism and growth?

The Prime Minister's very efficient PR team ensures his featuring in the print and electronic media daily, and has also ensured condemnation of the violence of the cow hoodlums. But his warnings lack conviction, because some of his ministers have openly encouraged such elements. They are aware the Prime Minister has to give occasional warnings, and they also know they are to be ignored. Therefore, it is time the people realize that the country cannot just be left in the hands of any party to do as they like for five years. Time we acted as citizens and not slaves, and get ready to resist criminal influences.

Our real leaders of an age gone by commanded respect, today our babus have to be told to show respect to our elected representatives. Wrong doers can get away with any crime if they are rich and famous, as we have seen in recent happenings. Yet, we live in a democratic society where liberty gives us the right to choose, and freedom is the result of the right choice. To quote Benito Mussolini, the war time Italian leader, "Democracy is beautiful in theory, in practice it is a fallacy."



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 ಸವೆಂ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಪನ್

ದ್ರಾಕ್ವರಿಷ್ಪ್



- ಫಿ ಚಿದಾಲ್ ಆಕ್ವಿಟಾಯ್ ನಿದಾನ್ಯಾಚ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಕಾರ್
- ಫಿ ಕಾನ್ಡ್ ಭಲಾಯ್ಕಿಚೊ ಚಿಪ್ಪಿಚ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಕಾರ್
- ಫಿ ಲಾನ್ ನಿಕಲ್ ದವರ್ಗಾಂಚ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಕಾರ್
- ಫಿ ಕಾಪಿಲಾ ಪರ್ವಾಳಾಯ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಕಾರ್
- ಫಿ ಚೊಂ ಫುಟ್ ಮೆಕ್ಯಾಚ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಕಾರ್
- ಫಿ ಚಿಪ್ಪಿಗಣ್ಕ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಕಾರ್
- ಫಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದ್ಕಿ ಅರೋಗ್ಯೊ ನಿದಾನ್ಕಾರ್

ಸದಾಂಚಾ ಸರ್ವ್ ವಕ್ತಾ ದುಕಾಸಾಂನಿ ಮೆಳ್ತಾ

