



Reflections on the Mystique of 'This' and 'That'

- *On an auspicious day last month, all those who are committed to the higher dimensions of life, express their respects and reverence, to their respective Gurus.*
 - *A Teacher teaches the Alphabets and how to spell, read and write 'this and that'.*
- *A Mentor helps us understand, that 'this' refers to you and me; whereas 'that' refers to that world, the universe out there; that all of us and the scientists are busy exploring, discovering, enjoying.*
- *'This' identified with its 'body-mind-ego' is totally unaware of 'That' Consciousness, Kingdom of God within and considers itself separate from 'That'.*
- *The Guru helps us explore, discover, enjoy 'This' and through 'This' he helps us unravel the magical relationship between 'This' and 'That'!*
 - *That, both 'this and that' are one, singular, infinite; consciousness of ananda...*

1. ICCfG Happenings

During the month IC Centre for Governance conducted another successful on-line program on the theme of "Towards an Ethical Work Culture" for 45 senior corporate managers of PSUs and PSBs this was the third program in the series.

Since the demand for conducting more such programmes is building up we are processing with NTPC and Punjab National Bank to develop modules specially designed for officers of public utilities in the power generation and distribution segment and the banking sectors respectively."

2. Best Practices



2.1 Rajni Sekhri Sibal



2.2K. Balamurugan



2.3 N. Prasanth

- 2.1 Out-of-the-box Courage!** In 1999-2000 Ms Sibal, IAS, 1986 batch, Topper, Haryana, took a brave stand in Haryana's Junior Basic Training (JBT) teachers' recruitment scam. When her transfer orders from the post of Director, Primary Education, came, she wrapped the steel admirer with the actual list of results in a four-meter-long cloth, making it impossible for anyone to open it and tamper with the list. During the OP Chautala regime in 2003, she went on central deputation from Haryana; that year, the apex court handed over the investigation of the case to CBI who convicted Chautala, his son, Ajay and several others in the scam and sent them to jail.

She has also authored a book, *Kamadbhenu: Cows of India*, one of the few well-researched books on cows. She also served as Director General of the Haryana Institute of Public Administration, Gurgaon, and Deputy Commissioner in Rewari district.

- 2.2 Giving back to his native village:** Sh. Balamurugan adopted his native village, Siruvathur, situated in an isolated region in Tamil Nadu, to help 2,500 families of the village get clean drinking water, free rice bags, street lights and other basic amenities. The residents were living a very harsh life, leading to mass migrations. Villagers needed to take a circuitous 15-kilometer course around the Keedalam River to get to another village called Panikamkuppam. They got huge relief when he got a causeway built between the two hamlets. He ensured that no one from the village has to migrate in the future and is also working hard to restore and renovate the government high school.

In recognition of his remarkable contribution, Sh. Balamurugan received several national and state awards including Passport Puraskar in 2015 and 2013, respectively, for improving passport services in Chennai and for rolling out the first Passport Office in Trichy as an e-governance project. He was also bestowed with Recognized Trainer in e-Governance Award in 2016.

- 2.3 Social Media to feed the hungry!** Sh. Prasanth, IAS, 2007 batch, Kerala, advocates and successfully executes the active use of interactive digital media for governance. He values proximity with the people at large which has made him very popular on social media.

As head of the District Administration in Kozhikode District of Kerala, he conceived and instituted the Compassionate Kozhikode Initiative to bring about a qualitative difference by securing shelter, health and financial inclusion to the marginalized sections of society. As part of

the programme, Sh. N. Prasanth also introduced “Operation Sulaimani”- a joint effort of the District Administration and Kerala Hotel and Restaurants Association to provide ‘food with dignity’ to most vulnerable sections of society by ensuring that no one in district goes hungry. He has been the recipient of the Social Empowerment Award of the Digital Empowerment Foundation and Compassionate Kozhikode has been highlighted as one of the 50 inspirational projects from around the world and the only one highlighted from India in the International Tourisms-Bourse (ITB) Berlin.

3. Reflections: Why shouldn't Lawyers also be Govt. servants?

- *It is Govt.'s responsibility to provide justice and so they have judges, courts, police, prosecutors, etc. But why should justice depend on My-Lawyers-Versus Your-lawyers? How can we justify a system where justice depends on how good or bad are My-Vs-Your lawyers and their Very-high fees, debating skills, ability to find Loop-holes in Law, or delaying the cases, etc. etc....?*
- *A far better system would be to put three Govt appointed lawyers to sit together with both sides, say as Arbitrators, and suggest Justice tempered with mercy,*
- *especially for the common man, who is usually at the losing end because of highly paid smart lawyers!*
But beware! If we give justice without mercy; above us all is That who never judges wrongly!
- *Laws must be simple, clear, and available to the common man; without need of comparative knowledge, scholarship, library of laws-books, skills, fees, of lawyers.*
- *Can a common man afford the Court fees or match the extremely high fees paid by the rich to their lawyers? Where then is the principle of equality before the law; equal access to justice for the poor and illiterate?*
- *Max Muller in his series of Lectures to ICS probationers had pointed out this defect in the legal systems of lawyers, introduced by the British, in comparison to our age-old, time-tested Panchayat system where ‘truth’ prevailed, because there were no lawyers;*
 - *Justice was not blind but delivered by men of ‘wisdom’ selected by the people; not elected!*
- *There weren't opposing lawyers focused on protecting their respective client, not on truth; whereas the function of the Panchayatwas, justice with mercy, without undue delays!*
- *Can those who ‘bribe’ to get elected; those focused on ‘me and mine’; those whom people may not respect; really be depended upon to make laws good for the nation?*
 - *Of course, we needn't worry as ultimately the principle of karma, as we sow so we reap, prevails!*

4. The Mission Karmayogi, now approved by GOI!

- The vision for civil servants, of ‘yoga is excellence in action’ is in complete harmony with the Mission Karma Yogi!
 - Do we want the future where the leaders and the rich exploit the poor or an India where the leaders are those of simple living and high thinking?
 - Don't we want an India where only those who are not hankering after power, money, pleasures are allowed to be leaders, administrators, policy makers?

- Where farmers are the most respected and where teachers not merely teach but have the character and moral authority to mentor and guide leaders to be ethical?
- **The Big question** is: How do we identify, select, nurture those fit to be karma yogis?
 - We cannot produce karma yogis by mere wish!
 - Should it require 'state-of-the-art infrastructure' or imbibing the 'time tested wisdom' as elaborated in the Bhagvad Gita and by Vivekananda in his Karma Yoga?
 - Not everyone may be able or interested in working selflessly for good of society!
- Thus, we need not just Teachers but Mentors who can help identify, select, train, nurture those who strive sincerely to be karma-yogis, beginning from schooling and continuing throughout college and service
- Can present way of education and selection make us more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative— aka karma yogis, without the wisdom of Bharat as our guide?

5. How Democracies control and manipulate masses thru' media - Noam Chomsky:

a. The strategy of distraction consists of diverting public attention from major problems and the changes decided by political and economic elites, thru' flooding continuous distractions and insignificant information. This prevents public from becoming interested in essential knowledge in the area of modern sciences (and important issues like how to make Karma Yogis!) It keeps public busy, busy, busy, with no time to think... (of higher spiritual dimensions!)

b. Creating problems and then offering the solutions: A 'problem-reaction-solution'. It creates a problem, a 'situation' planned to cause a certain reaction from the public; e.g., letting urban violence intensify or intensify, organize bloody attacks, to show public require more security; so, bring in laws to curtail freedom. Or create an economic crisis to make your suggestion acceptable as a necessary evil.

c. Strategy of Gradation: To make an unacceptable measure accepted, apply it gradually, drop by drop...

d. Strategy of Deferring: Public tends to hope that everything will be better tomorrow; and that gives them more time to get used to the idea of change and accept it when the time comes.

e. Treat public as children: Most advertisements directed at the large audience tend to use speeches, arguments, characters as if the viewer was a few years old. When you try to deceive, a childish tone helps!

f. Use emotion much more than reflection: It allows the unconscious access to implant or inject ideas, desires, fears, fears, compulsions, or induce behaviors.

g. Keeping the public in ignorance and mediocrity: Making the public incapable of understanding the technologies and methods used for their control. The quality of education given to lower social classes must be as poor and mediocre as possible, so that the distance of ignorance that plans between lower classes and upper classes is and remains impossible to fill.

h. Stimulating the public to be complacent with mediocrity: Pushing the audience to think it is fashionable to be irreverent, stupid, vulgar and ignorant...

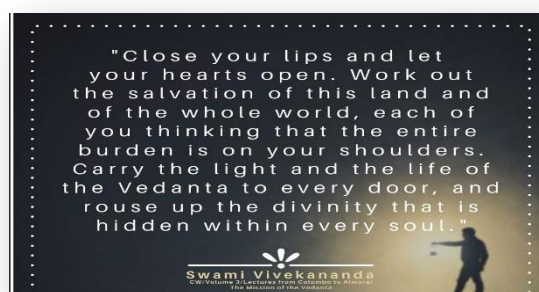
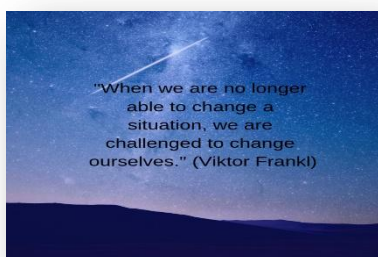
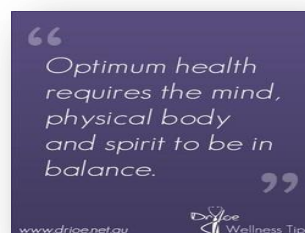
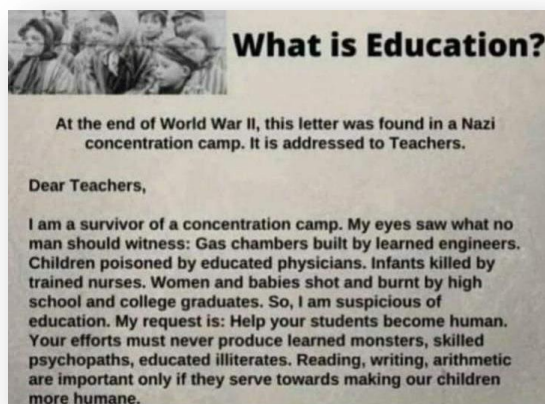
i. Strengthening self-guilt: Making the individual believe that he is only the culprit of his disgrace, because of his insufficient intelligence, skills or efforts. So, instead of rebelling against the economic system, the individual devalues himself and blames himself, which in turn creates depressive state, one of whose effects is the inhibition of his action. And without action there is no revolution!

j. Knowing individuals better than they know themselves: Rapid progress has generated a growing gap between public knowledge and those possessed and used by dominant elites. Thanks to all technology the system has managed to learn better about the common individual than he knows himself, e.g., way to an individual's happiness and longevity, and in most cases, the system exercises greater control over our thinking!

6. In contrast to Democracy, Bharat had its own governance & social system

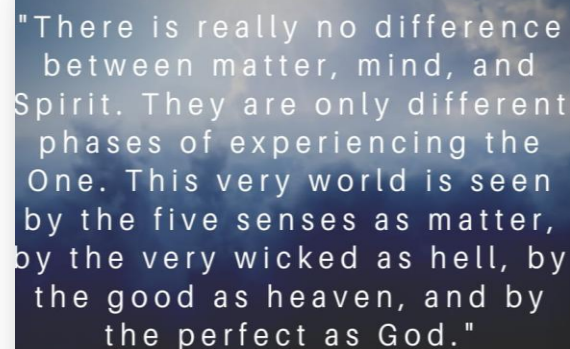
- *Where only the good, the men of wisdom, tyaga and seva, were identified, educated, trained, nurtured to rule; where the most respected were the Mentors, who were striving for the highest and best, and so had the responsibility to guide the rulers, administrators, to get established in ethics, dharma and create the education system and codes of ethics so that the result producers were committed to produce wealth for the nation by working for good of society.*
- ***Why do Western societies love Democracy?*** *In the West, the idea of freedom is freedom to do what I want to do and since masses are 80-90%, if not more, the idea of democracy is great for the 80-90% masses!*
- *In the West the idea of the best people being Mentors of societies does not exist; their rulers weren't the best of men; and society was based on the idea of 'slavery', of 'master-servant'.*
- *Whereas in Bharat it was held that the rulers were the parents of praja, and had the responsibility of guiding and nurturing praja towards the 'best'; in fact, it was held that the 'rulers' were those who had been great Yogis earlier and were therefore given the responsibility to administer societies and guide them towards the 'best'.*
- ***In contrast, democracy allows anyone*** *to be a ruler, irrespective of his character and commitment to work for good of the nation!*
- *We forget that with freedom of choice comes great responsibility whereas the mind has a tendency to go down towards temptations and pleasures.*
- *Therefore, if we wish to give freedom, we must ensure that freedom is used responsibly. Unfortunately, modern schooling that we continue aping from the West is totally unconcerned with making good people committed to their duties, etc.*
- ***Without awakening our Viveka-buddhi*** *but with freedom of choice and our natural tendency to seek pleasures, and with our own curiosity, inquisitiveness, impulses, we grow up making different choices and get entrapped in the consequences of our own choices and are today what we're, based on our own choices-actions as impressed and embedded in our mind; we're not just our choices; but also, reapers of the consequences of our own choices!*

- **Another major problem** is that modern societies, based on religious 'ideology, belief', think that there is only one life and we're all born equal, with a clean slate!
- Whereas it is obvious that we're not born equal but with our own particular USP, mind-set, likes, dislikes, characteristics, which we call *samskaras*, which define who and what we're, and in a way, we're entrapped and enslaved by them.



- **Why is it that MHRD, NEP's, educationists and academia** haven't yet understood that *IQ* is not at all the criterion for identifying the 'good' and distinguishing them from the 'not so good'; and that knowledge of this or that subject alone can never make us *karma-yogis* committed to *Fundamental Duties*, that *GOI* wants?
- Isn't it obvious that *IQ, literacy, marks, degrees, knowledge of calculus, sciences, and all that we study, cannot produce people of character who are willing to offer their knowledge and skills for good of society?*
 - **So, what is a solution?** Who is responsible to make good people?
- *MHRD should form a working group of academia from different Religions to sit together and plan how to engage us in daily self-study and self-development practices so that during 20 years of education we're inspired and established in strategies to strive to be good, better, best. We can then try to identify those 'few' who are really sincere and are striving to be good, better, best.*

- *We can then nurture and guide the 'few' to be in leadership positions, in whatever vocation they choose to follow. Issues like quality of teachers, right to education for all, teacher training, learning outcomes, exams or not, what to teach, etc., are secondary; character-building for nation building must be the purpose of education.*
- ***I alone am Responsible*** *for striving or not, to be virtuous, ethical, etc. It is not at all a matter of IQ, Degrees, status, vocation, or belonging to this or that Religion, sect, faith, or belief in this or that God or ideology.*
- *I alone have to be convinced, undertake the inner journey to cultivate our mind by sowing seeds of righteous thoughts-actions and realize and experience the highest and best.*
- ***For Happiness and Longevity***, *according to modern thinking the factors are better access to health care, hygiene, diet and nutrition, exercise, lifestyle, and genetics, etc. whereas our ancients assert that the most important factor is being established and committed to ethical, virtuous, righteous conduct, our universal duties, Dharma, and to our respective duties in our various roles, Swadharma.*



"There is really no difference between matter, mind, and Spirit. They are only different phases of experiencing the One. This very world is seen by the five senses as matter, by the very wicked as hell, by the good as heaven, and by the perfect as God."

"This world is a huge lunatic asylum where all men are mad, some after money, some after women, some after name or fame, and a few after God. I prefer to be mad after God. God is the philosophers' stone that turns us to gold in an instant; form remains, but the nature is changed.

Please send your comments, suggestions and short articles containing your experiences for publication through email at info.iccfg@gmail.com and Sunil Kumar can be contacted at kumar2sunil@yhoo.com