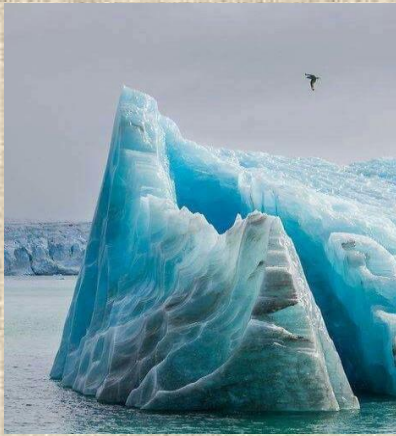


Nectar of Governance

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Part 4: Governance means dedicated service



“To serve” is the constitutional position of any living entity, including human being. In fact, every human being is constantly engaged in some sort of service to others or to himself. This is living entity’s actual quality, thus can be termed as his “*dharma*”. “*Dharma*” is generally understood as some religion or faith, but the actual meaning of *dharma* is one’s constitutional position or quality. Once such quality is lost, the existence itself would be lost. For example, liquidity or fluidity is the quality of water. It is its *dharma*. However, if it is frozen it would lose its fluid character (*dharma*) and assume different form and nature. Once frozen, water is no

more water, but ice. Then, the character and quality of ice are different from that of water. Similarly, heat and light are the qualities of fire, but once fire is extinguished it would lose its characteristics and would assume the form of ash. Everything in the world would be characterized by its distinct quality that is called “*dharma*”. This *dharma* of a human being or any living entity is to serve others.

Activities of service are seen in every sphere of our existence. One friend serves another friend, wife serves husband, husband serves wife, mother serves son, son serves father, students serve teacher, etc. Nobody is exempted from this service component in this world. Even if a person is a billionaire or even the king of a country, he would have to serve someone. Even if someone claims that he wouldn’t serve anybody, he would be serving at least himself by taking bath or taking meals or even doing other activities. However, all these services, which happen by default, are carried out with some expectation in return. But, the real selfless and self-motivated service would happen when one experiences spiritual quotient (SQ) in life. Since living entity is described as “*sanatana*” (eternal), the *dharma* pertaining to him can be termed as “*sanatana dharma*”. We are just trying to understand that the *dharma* of any living entity is service, so automatically selfless service by living entity can be termed as “*sanatana dharma*”.

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However, to realize such a high standard meaning of service, one has to nourish his spiritual quotient sufficiently. Two main components of SQ are cognizance and concern, and then the sub component of concern is care. It means if one takes the cognizance of a situation, shows concern, then care automatically gets manifested. For example if one meets with an accident on the road surrounding people would take the cognizance and immediately show concern. Such a behavior is the manifestation of their SQ component. Their “concern” would result in giving some care to the injured person in terms of taking him to hospital, informing about the accident to police, relatives, etc. All these activities are naturally without any expectation in return.

Generally, people think that noble characteristics such as generosity, magnanimity, moral support, etc. are all related to one’s emotions, that is emotional quotient (EQ). But, such divine characteristics can’t be born out of mind, but soul proper (SQ). It means ensuring sustainability and prosperity for all the people under governance is an SQ activity of the governing system or governing person. As more and more SQ component is nourished, more and more efficient results of sustainability and prosperity will be received by the subjects on account of dedicated service.

How this governance concept should first be applied to our existence is nicely explained in Bhagavad-Gita (6.17), where the Lord said as follows:

*yuktāhāra-vihārasya yukta-ceṣṭasya karmasu
yukta-svapnāvabodhasya yogo bhavati duḥkha-hā*

“He who is regulated in his habits of eating, sleeping, recreation and work can mitigate all material pains by practicing the yoga system”.

One should take complete guidance from the above verse in maintaining all his four quotients. Regulated food habits, vegetarian foods, with lots of fruits, roots and nuts, and alcohol free life style keep the physical quotient fit. Regular exercise with weekly fasting is mandatory for trouble free body. Recreation is essential for proper maintenance of emotional quotient. This brings strong bonds between all the concerned people. Nowadays, recreation is limited to either watching a movie or TV, which don’t give any chance to build strong relations. All our professional and personal activities are related to intellectual quotient (IQ), and hence it should be made sharp. Constant self-driven initiatives with specified goals would keep life always enthusiastic. Sleep and wakefulness can also be interpreted as indifference to unwanted things and attention towards favourable things respectively. If one systematically takes care of all the four quotients of his existence, then that amounts to self-governance. In that way, one would take care of his body, mind, intelligence and soul proper, thus getting delivered from all miseries. Any person or system

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that is well trained to address the requirements of all the four quotients and thus developed a dedicated service mood can act to provide long lasting and most appreciated governance. Any governing mechanism that misses out any one of the four quotients would fail to deliver the results sooner or later. Hence, leaders aspiring to provide good governance should practice it in their lives, thus addressing all the four quotients, and then applying the experience for a glorious governance process.

Governance of Lord Ramachandra is still being remembered though nobody has actually seen it. But, scriptures give vivid explanation about “*Ramrajya*”, which gives a role model to follow for exceptional performance. A verse from Srimad Bhagavatam (9.10.51) in this context reads as under:

*tretāyāṁ vartamānāyāṁ kālah kṛta-samo 'bhavat
rāme rājani dharmajñe sarva-bhūta-sukhāvahe*

“Lord Ramachandra became king during *Treta-yuga*, but because of His good government, the age was like *Satya-yuga*. Everyone was religious and completely happy”. This is the actual acid test for any perfect governance. Good governance, which means dedicated service to the subjects, leads people more towards religiosity making them more service oriented, thus awarding them complete happiness.
