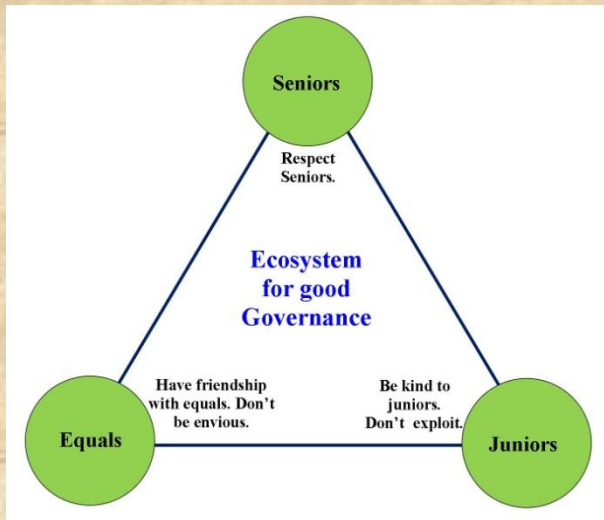


Nectar of Governance

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Part 8: Excellent ecosystem for sustainable governance



There is no dearth of intelligence for designing a wonderful system for good governance of people. There are many intellectuals, who are constantly engaged in designing, modifying or updating the governance processes in various fields of activities. But, unfortunately the expected results of good governance do not appear to be continuing for long periods. Man can design a wonderful robot that can perform any task. He can work to put a satellite in a defined orbit that is thousands of miles away from him. Though he is able to achieve many such wonderful tasks, he is unable to maintain a wonderful governance process, in any chosen

field, consistently. Is there any method defined to achieve the above so-called impossible task for human beings? Is there any injunction from scriptures about it? If so, where and in which Vedic scripture such process for ecosystem is mentioned?

Before getting into actual details, one need to know the definition of ecosystem. The dictionary meaning of ecosystem reads as “a system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment”. This means that everything in an ecosystem assumes an important role. Ecosystem demands perfect and favorable interaction between all the components of the system, not by force but naturally. Similar to a car engine, where multiple parts work together, all components of an ecosystem work together to support the whole system. Parents, teachers and the student form an ecosystem to enhance the academic performance of student. In the absence of an ecosystem model, though all the components come together, the desired results do not get manifested. Similarly, in any system of governance, both the leader and the subordinates become the integral parts of the process. Though the leader has all the required qualities and capability to administer good governance, often the process faces unexpected failures. It is due to the lack of an ecosystem in the subordinates, rather than the ecosystem between the leader and the

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subordinates. Which type of ecosystem should prevail amongst the people is nicely defined in Srimad Bhagavatam (4.8.34) as under:

*guṇādhikān mudam lipsed
anukrośam guṇādhamāt
maitrīm samānād anvicchen
natāpairabhibhūyate*

“Everyone should act like this: when he meets a person more qualified than himself, he should be very pleased; when he meets someone less qualified than himself, he should be compassionate towards him; and when he meets someone equal to himself, he should make friendship with him. In this way, one is never affected by the three folds of miseries of this material world.”

Srimad Bhagavatam gives the above wonderful solution for achieving a wonderful ecosystem amongst human beings involved in any system. As per the verdict of Srimad Bhagavatam, by implementing such an ecosystem, one will be freed from three folds of miseries, namely bodily and mental miseries, miseries caused by others and those caused by supernatural power. All human beings are limited by four defects. They are bound to make mistakes, they get illusioned, they have imperfect senses and they have cheating propensity. With these great limitations, they are now living in an era or *yuga* called “*Kaliyuga*”. *Kaliyuga* means “*age of quarrel*”. This *kaliyuga* is meant for quarrel only. People start quarreling even over petty things. As in summer, one would automatically sweat, as in the winter one would automatically shiver, in *Kaliyuga* one would tend to quarrel naturally. However, the degree of quarreling tendency would vary from person to person, but the tendency is visible in every person. Quarrel between married couple, brothers, sisters, societies, families, nations, etc. is just an every minute affair in the world. This is the real reason for the failure of implementation of any governance process.

The above approach given by Srimad Bhagavatam is a fool-proof process to achieve sustainable governance. The people who are governed can broadly be divided into three categories, namely less qualified, qualified and more qualified. If the leader of a system creates an environment such that one would show compassion towards less qualified people, would show friendship towards equally qualified people and would show great respect towards more qualified people, it would lead to creation of an ecosystem. The main reason for the failure of a system amongst the followers of governing principles is that generally less qualified people are ignored or abused or exploited. The leader should be vigilant on this aspect and provide complete protection to the innocent. This would develop a faith and respect about the leadership by the less qualified people. They get motivated to give their best performance. This doesn't mean that all inefficient people should be protected or shielded, but they are covered from abuses by other more qualified people. This is the prime duty of a leader. All such people should be given a chance to improve their capabilities or skills.

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Generally, people by nature become envious of someone who is more qualified than them. Such behavior is very detrimental for the survival of ecosystem. As per the advice of Srimad Bhagavatam, people should become joyful to receive or honour such more qualified men in their system. They are the real saviors of the system and everyone around them. A leader should identify such more qualified men and constantly motivate them for higher tasks. Simultaneously, he should also encourage others to honour such high performers as the main pillars of the system. Also, he should encourage high performers to support the less qualified people for their uplift.

People have another tendency to become proud of their own achievements when they meet men of equal qualifications. This approach unnecessarily develops enmity. The best thing is to develop friendship with equals as per the directive of Srimad Bhagavatam. So, in this way of friendship between equals, respect towards more qualified people by the less qualified and compassion towards less qualified by the more qualified a perfect ecosystem would prevail that ensures the effective continuation of governance process. It is the responsibility of a leader to ensure such an ecosystem's establishment for ever-green governing process by him. This would make people to derive the most cherished sustainability and prosperity.
