

Moral Education (2019-2020)

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1- The sloka means 'Your worship and prayers, O man, should go to the one and only God.'

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2- If we remember that God is present everywhere and knows everything, we can never commit a sin or think ill of others. We can never tell lies ~~after~~ when we know that God, the creator

2 of the universe, watches us wherever we are. We can never steal anything or cheat anyone. We cannot commit any evil deed. In fact, we cannot even think of doing any such thing. In this way we benefit by remembering the name of God.

3- The Veda is derived from Sanskrit root word 'Vid' which means 'to know' 'to learn'. Thus, Veda means knowledge.

4- According to Rishi Dayanand, Vedas is the source of all true knowledge. To read and understand the vedas is the prime duty of all the Aryas.

Planned by a government department not by any individual

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5- सत्यमैव जपते नानुतम्

The sloka means that 'truth wins, not evil.'

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6- The four aspects of Dharma, which one should follow in life are:

- Dhi (दी) - Patience
- Kshama (क्षमा) - Forgiveness, to forgive a person who makes mistakes
- Dama (दमा) - To control oneself when in distress or under temptation.
- Asteya (अस्तेय) - To never steal anything belonging to anyone else.
- Shaucha (शौच) - To lead a clean life in every aspect - to bathe everyday, to wear clothes that are properly washed, to clean one's room and house where he lives and have pure, guileless thoughts unhararming to any body

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- 7 The meaning of the sloka is that 'Dharma leads us to peace, progress, prosperity and happiness in this world and liberation from all bonds of life in the other world - the world we enter after death.'

- 8- Deva Yajna means performing Havan by lighting the sacred fire, burning of fragrant herbs and chanting of Vedic Mantras.

This Havan Yajna not only destroys harmful germs present in the atmosphere but also creates a sense of purity in the performer's mind. The Deva Yajna should be performed every morning and evening. Homes where Havans are performed are blessed as well as happy. Thus, Deva Yajna purifies the environment and thus serves an ecological purpose.

- 9- The true purpose of Yajna is one's own own inner purification and spiritual awakening. That is why it is said-

~~यज्ञो व यजुर्मवादोऽतः~~

~~It means that religious people attain God by performing Yajna.~~

- 10- The ultimate aim of human life is to attain peace and merge his identity with the Almighty after leading a full and meaningful life.
- 11- The word 'Brahmacharya' has the most simple meaning. The first half 'Brahma' means knowledge and the other half 'charya' means 'to practise'. Therefore, the word is basically knowledge related. It means 'to practise knowledge'. As a student, one must devote all his time in his studies.
- 12- God is present everywhere. He is omnipresent and there is no such space or object where He is not present. He has no form or body. Therefore He is Nirakara.

(formless). Therefore, we cannot see him with our eyes.

13-God is present everywhere, and knows everything. We cannot see him just as we cannot see butter in milk. Only when ~~God~~ milk is thoroughly churned, butter emerges. Similarly, when we study, meditate and pray to God with full devotion, God is realised. We cannot see air but we can feel it. Similarly, God's existence is all a pervasive and present all the time.

14-People have come to use the ~~use~~ prefix 'Bhagwan' before the names of certain great men out of deep regard for them. Such men can only be taken as having god-like qualities. God is only one and does not take any conceivable form. He is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, ever-existent, all-pervasive, birthless and immortal.

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15 - God, who is present everywhere and knows everything has given the knowledge of Vedas. He has given this knowledge to make us feel happy and contented. God cares for us just like our parents. Just like our parents teach give us the right thinking and the right behaviour for our well-being, similarly God gave us this knowledge as he is desirous of our well-being and happiness.

16 - According to the Vedas, we should develop our heart, mind and soul equally and we should not consider any of the three as unimportant. This is essential for total development of one's personality. One should do the required exercise, eat the right food and read good books at homes and schools and understand the ultimate aim of life and act according to it.

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17- Although many people worship God in a particular form or shape by creating their stone or clay images, God is basically and essentially Nirakar (formless). It is futile to worship Him by various rituals like anointing the image with butter or sandal and feeding the image with foods, etc. God should be worshipped in silence in one's heart because it is here in where he actually lives. We should once or twice a day meditate on him and sing in His praise to express our gratefulness to Him. Since all living beings are his creatures we can serve the poor and needy as the true worship of God.

18- Now, Dharma and Religion have come to be regarded as synonymous terms, meaning the same. But it is not so; Dharma is a much wider concept applicable to all life and humanity. But religion is a set of ideologies or principles followed by a certain community. Religion can be Hindus, Muslims or Christians, Tao, Shinto, Jain, Sikhs, Buddhists who

have different beliefs, modes of prayer etc; social customs, temple rituals, etc. But Dharma is universal and its meaning is completely different as said by the great Rishi Kanad -

धर्मस्य गुणः सत्यम् दीर्घः च एति:

It means Dharma is what leads to progress, prosperity and happiness in this world and liberation from all the bonds of life in the other world - we enter after ent death.

In this clear enunciation of the word meaning of Dharma, there is no mention to any gods, Goddesses or rituals which are common in every religion. This is the difference between Dharma and religion.

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19- Gayatri Mantra is also known as the Guru Mantra or Maha Mantra for its significance. This is a simple yet so significant Mantra. holds the key to all the progress and happiness of every individual. Through this mantra, one prays to God to give the right direction and inspiration to the intellect, mind and heart. One acquires great knowledge from this Mantra. It underlines the benevolence of God which is the source of all goodness and prosperity forever. This is the significance of Gayatri Mantra.

- 20- a) The word Sanskara means 'purification.'
- b) 16 Sanskaras are there to be performed during a person's life.
- c) Rishi Dayanand Bodh Ratni, Ram Navami, Vijaya Dasami are some of the festivals which should be celebrated by the Aryas.

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- 21- In simple terms, Atithi Yajna is the welcoming of guests and providing food, shelter, etc. to them whenever they visit your house. Atithi is a person who arrives at your house without any information, the date of whose arrival is not known. We should welcome them with good food and open arms. This is Atithi Yajna.

- 22- The purpose of dividing life into Ashramas is to live life according to one's age requirements, to fulfill one's duties in the best possible way and to achieve the ultimate aim of life by living life in an orderly and systematic way. Four ashramas are four stages of human life which help a person to grow systematically and purposefully.

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सत्यम् तीर्थम्, श्रुता तीर्थम् तीर्थं, तीर्थमिन्द्रियतिव्रहः:

~~व्रह्मदार्यं परंतीर्थं, अहिंसा तीर्थमुत्त्वा~~

~~सर्वभूतदेवा तीर्थं, तीर्थमार्जवस्तोवं च~~

~~तीर्थोनामुतमं तीर्थं, विशुद्धिमौनसः पुनः~~

The sloka means "Truth Truth is pilgrimage, forgiveness is control of offenses,

pilgrimage, Brahmachariya, simplicity and mercy for all

living beings are all pilgrimages and the greatest of them

is the purest purity of heart.

24- One cannot live alto all by oneself are even limited to one's

family. After family, the next dimension of human living is

Society which is made up of all families and communities living together. We should live in harmony and peace with all of them. We should love our neighbours and help them in

times of need. We should undertake schemes like providing

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education to the poor, spreading illiteracy, etc. among poor women and help in their upliftment. This is the importance of Social Dharma since a man is a social being must always work for the benefit of other members of society.

25 - Brahma Yajna is the performance performing of Sandhya and reading of scriptures (prayers) every morning and evening regularly every day. Performance of Sandhya creates a sense of purity in the performer's mind. It is thanksgiving to God. Studies of scriptures expand one's knowledge on about ancient Vedic texts and provide knowledge about the meaning and purpose of life.

26 - Vanaprastha Ashram is a significant contribution of Hinduism to the social system of human beings. In all other community groups in all other countries, Vanaprastha Ashram is regarded as the last stage of one's life but

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our culture envisages the third one, Vanaprastha. When one starts gradually detaching oneself from family and worldly matters and devote time in the social and spiritual matters. The Vanaprastha Ashram starts when one reaches the age of 50 after one's children have grown up and begin taking family responsibilities. It is now time for the elder in the family to benefit others from their experience, work for the common good and devote some time regularly to the reading of Scriptures and realisation of God.

Actually, the Vanaprastha Ashram can be used to do a lot of social development work. Since we got independence after several centuries there, is a lot of work to do like eradication of poverty and illiteracy, controlling population explosion, environment degradation, etc. Fortunately, many organisations and groups are working actively in many countries. We can therefore, devote our Vanaprastha Ashram

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to the useful activities undertaken on this planet. This justifies the statement "Vanapratha, Achram is a significant contribution of Hinduism to the social system of human beings.

27- ~~Not~~ Every person belongs to a nation or country whence he is born and the culture which has developed in that country. Then there are many countries, nations and cultures in this world. Each country or nation has its own government which functions in the interests of the people. It maintains law and order, runs the services and provides all kinds of assistance to the people so that they can prosper in their day today lives. There are also some duties and obligations to be performed by the people for their country. They must obey the general laws honestly, partake

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in development programmes, and not quarrel with each other, and thus fulfill the national dharma. If our country is attacked, we should fight with all our might to preserve her freedom.

We should develop a sense of pride - pride in our culture, heritage, unity in diversity and our hard won freedom. We must always try with all our might to protect and preserve here culture and freedom. This describes our National Dharma.

Gurush Pothra