

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

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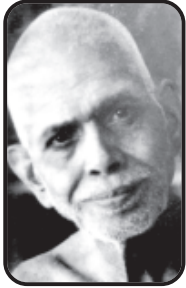


Shamefully, assault on deprived women have
become the order of the day

What is the Government doing?

Thoughts of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi

Note by the Recorder



A humble devotee sought the guidance of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi, for his own peace of mind and lived in the Asramam in Thiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu

The seeker took it upon himself to note down, as occasions arose, the sweet, refreshing and enlightening words of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi. This self-imposed task was undertaken for the purification of his own mind and better understanding of the subtle and profound words of Sri Bhagavan.

These notes cover the period 1935 to 39

The first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth parts of this article was published in the August, September, October, November, December 2006 and January 2007 issues

11th March, 1936

The devotee said that sleep was a state of oblivion and the wakeful state was the mind's activity. The mind was in a potential state in sleep.

Maharishi.: Were you not in sleep?

Devotee.: Yes, I was. But in a state of oblivion. There must be a witness of oblivion and of the mind which says that 'I' am continuous in both states.

Maharishi.: Who is this witness? You speak of 'witness'. There must be an object and a subject to witness. These are creations of the mind. The idea of witness is in the mind. If there was the witness of oblivion did he say, 'I witness oblivion'? You, with your mind, said just now that there must be a witness. Who was the witness?

You must reply 'I'. Who is that 'I' again? You are identifying yourself with the ego and say 'I'. Is this ego 'I', the witness?

It is the mind that speaks. It cannot be witness of itself. With self-imposed limitations, you think that there is a witness of mind and of oblivion. You also say, "I am the witness". That one who witnesses the oblivion must say, "I witness oblivion". The present mind cannot arrogate to itself that position.

The whole position becomes thus untenable. Consciousness is unlimited. On becoming limited, it simply arrogates to itself the position. There is really nothing to witness. IT is simple BEING.

15th January, 1936

Lakshman Brahmachari of Sri Ramakrishna Mission asked: "Can one imagine oneself as witness of the thoughts?"

Maharishi.: It is not the natural state. It is only an idea (bhavana) - an aid to stilling the mind. The Self is ever the witness, whether so imagined or not. There is no need to so imagine except for that purpose. But it is best to remain as one's Self.

23rd January, 1937

Devotee.: There are times when persons and things take on a vague, almost transparent form as in a dream. One ceases to observe them as from outside, but is passively conscious of their existence, while not actively conscious of any kind of selfhood. There is a deep quietness in the mind. Is it, at such times, ready to dive into the Self? Or is this condition unhealthy, the result of self-hypnotism? Should it be encouraged as a means of getting temporary peace?.

Maharishi.: There is consciousness along with quietness in the mind; This is exactly the state to be aimed at. The fact that the question has been framed on this point, without realising that it is the Self, shows that the state is not steady but casual.

The word 'diving' is appropriate to the state of outgoing tendencies when the mind is to be diverted and turned within, so as to dive below the surface of externalities.

But when deep quietness prevails without obstructing the consciousness, where is the need to dive? If the state be not realised as the Self, the effort to do so may be called 'diving'. The state may in that way be said to be suitable for realisation or 'diving'. Thus the last two questions in the paragraph are unnecessary.

3rd October, 1938

A visitor asked Sri Bhagavan:

People give some names to God and say that the name is sacred and repetitions of the name bestow merit on the individual. Can it be true?

Maharishi.: Why not? You bear a name to which you answer. But your body was not born with that name written on it nor did it say to any one that it bore such and such a name. Yet a name is given to you and you answer to that name, because you have identified yourself with the name. Therefore the name signifies something and it is not a mere fiction.

Similarly, God's name is effective. Repetition of the name is remembrance of what it signifies. Hence the merit.

But the man did not look satisfied. Finally he wanted to retire and prayed for Sri Bhagavan's Grace.

Sri Bhagavan now asked how mere sounds assuring him of Grace would satisfy him unless he has faith .

Both laughed and the visitor retired.

4th February, 1935

The conversation turned upon the question as to whether Iswara Prasad (Divine Grace) is necessary for the attaining of samrajya (universal dominion) or whether

a jiva's honest and strenuous efforts to attain it cannot of themselves lead him to That from whence is no return to life and death.

The Maharshi with an ineffable smile replied in tones of certainty and with the ring of truth; "Divine Grace is essential for Realisation. It leads one to God-realisation. But such Grace is vouchsafed only to him who is a true devotee or a yogin, who has striven hard and ceaselessly on the path towards freedom."

SRI G.BALAKRISHNAN, THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED ARTIST PASSED AWAY



Sri. G. Balakrishnan with an admirer

With deep regret, Nandini Voice For The Deprived places on record that Sri.G.Balakrishnan, the differently abled artist from Kodungaiyur in Chennai passed away on Saturday (16.12.2006).

Nandini Voice For The Deprived published the profile of Sri.G.Balakrishnan in September 2006 issue.

His premature death occurred largely due to poor health condition and inadequate medical attention, which were the result of the difficult poverty conditions that he faced.

Sri.G.Balakrishnan was a talented artist who acquired artistic skill on his own and lived with dignity as a self employed person.

He participated in the three programmes on disabled artists in Doordarshan, (Chennai) conducted recently, when he spoke about the attitude of disabled artists to life and the need for understanding and compassion towards such persons.

Tribute to Sri G. Balakrishnan

" I was grieved to learn of the sad demise of Shri.G.Balakrishnan, the differently abled artist. If ever you come to SIES High School in Mumbai, you will realise how important he was to the students of the school. The school corridors are adorned by 50 portraits of children that he sketched for us.

Our task is to continue to identify the several Balakrishnans around and do our very best to help them realise their full potential.

The obituary now placed on the school notice board is given below."

V.Shankar,Hon.Secretary,The South Indian Education Society, Mumbai

Let the Balakrishnans flash our inner Eyes

Sri.G.Balakrishnan merged with dust on 16th December 2006. It was to happen sooner or later. It was not how he exited from this earth but the way he lived his short span that weaves a story worth reaching to everyone.

He inspired us to have the courage of conviction, to deliver even the most difficult with ease and to think bigger and better. He never accepted defeat in the face of odds and challenged the negative forces with hope, self-confidence and conviction. He converted adversities into opportunities.

The 50 portraits of children that he penned for us and which adorns the corridors of our school are just not ornaments that enhance the aesthetics of our school. As we look deeper into these creations of Mr.Balakrishnan, we see his undying spirit and the energy that abounds around and the belief that if he could achieve so much despite the cruelty that life inflicted on him, we could indeed think that we can reach greater heights than what we aspire today.

We are saddened by his demise. His spirit will envelope us and goad us to give the very best. He will continue to inspire young minds to make the best of this life that God has gifted us.

We see the likes of Balakrishnan day in and out, a fleeting glance and no more. We need to flash them in our inner eye. The space in our heart should brim with support for them. Then our hearts would fill with pleasure and 'dance' with 'life'. That would be the true Shraddhanjali to Sri Balakrishnan.

Desperate Calls

Limitless is the scope offered by nature and conditions in an impoverished society to attain immortality by means of one's own philanthropic actions and charitable disposition .

In simple terms, to help those in distress is a glorious opportunity to make one's own existence meaningful.

DISABLED STUDENT NEEDS SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION



Ms.G.Malliga, is a poor disabled girl and she is studying 2nd year M.Com in Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Arts and Science for Women, Perambalur, Tamil Nadu.

Ms.G.Malliga requests kind hearted persons for financial help for a sum of Rs.4,880/- towards the payment of college fees, hostel fees etc.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Arts and Science for Women, Perambalur and sent to the following address:

Ms.G.Malliga, D/o.Sri.A.Ganeshan,
Government High School Street,
Kanai (Post) Villupuram (Tk) Pin:605 301

KIDNEY PATIENT NEEDS SUPPORT

Mrs. Medha Ramesh Kulkarni, wife of Mr. Ramesh B Kulkarni is suffering from end stage renal failure and is undergoing dialysis for the last few years.

Mr. Ramesh B Kulkarni is working in a private concern and his income is not enough to undertake kidney transplantation for his wife.

Mr.Ramesh B Kulkarni requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his wife's surgery.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Parekh Hospital,Ghatkopar (East), Mumbai and sent to the following address:

Mrs.Medha Ramesh Kulkarni
W/o.Mr.Ramesh B Kulkarni
204, Twins Coop Housing Society
"B" Wing, Star Colony, Manpada Road,
Dombivli (East) Thane Dist. Maharashtra

NEEDS SEWING MACHINE

Sri.Murugan is visually impaired man.His wife knows tailoring.

Sri.Murugan requests donation of sewing machine to his wife.

Contact address:
Ms.M.Vellaiammal D/o.Sri.K.Marodhraj
Thottanampatti P.O. Veelkasander TK
Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, Pin:624 005"

18 MONTHS OLD BABY NEEDS MEDICAL SUPPORT

Master Shripad Chaudhari, 18 months old baby is suffering from tyrosinemia, which is a rare genetic disorder.This is the first diagnosed case in KEM Hospital,Parel, Maharashtra. The treatment is on a trial and error basis.

The important factor is that the child's growth depends upon medically modified food supplements, which have to be imported from USA or UK.

The father of the child Mr.Narendra Chaudhari is a bus conductor in Aurangabad.



The cheque may be drawn in favour of Narendra V Chaudhari,Mumbai and sent to the following address:

Sri.Narendra V Chaudhari,
C/o.Mr.Ravdinra V Chaudhari,
Type IV, Building No.16, Room No.93, RCF Colony,
Chembur, Bombay-400 074

NEEDS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR DIALYSIS

Mrs. Bhrati is suffering from kidney problem and she is undergoing dialysis twice in a month.

Mrs. Bharati is a young divorcee. She is living with her father. He is a retired government servant.

Mrs. Bharati requests kind hearted persons for financial help for her medical treatment.

Contact address : Mrs.Bharati, LIG 892,
18th CrossStreet, Mogappair, Chennai-600 037

NEEDS HELP FOR HEART SURGERY

Sri.Ravi, age 36 years is suffering from heart disease for the last one and half years.He has been advised to undergo valve replacement surgery at Vijaya Heart Foundation at Chennai.The estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.2.75 lakhs.



The cheque may be drawn in favour of Vijaya Heart Foundation at Chennai and sent to the following address:

Sri.S.Ravi, B/o.Sri.S.Balaji,
205-, Daisy Wing, Rameshwar
Apartment,
Lakshmi Nagar, Ghatkopar (E)
Opp.Ghatkopar Bust Depot,
Mumbai-400 075

Readers' forum

Readers' forum provides space for the enlightened readers to give expression to their views on a variety of socio economic issues that is of relevance to the society.

Further enrichment of the journal with your thoughtful inputs would certainly go a long way in promoting the cause that the journal seeks to espouse.



Programme in Door Darshan on Disabled Artists

Dear Sir,

We were lucky to watch the telecast of the programme in Pothigai TV Channel about the disabled artists and their aspirations on three consecutive Saturdays i.e. 18th, 25th November and 2nd December at 9.30 p.m..

The programme was very useful not only for the differently abled but also for the viewers. Introduction by Editor of Nandini Voice For The Deprived was excellent. Compering by Ms.Bharathi Baskar added attraction to the programme.

Our disabled sister Prabha and others explained the problems faced by the persons with disabilities in an excellent manner. While concluding, certain viewers opined that the term "Physically handicapped" should not be used hereafter.

We at Amar Seva Sangam never use the word "Handicapped" and instead express "Differently abled".

Let us hope that the telecast of this programme would create an awareness among the public about the woes faced by our differently abled persons . We are extremely thankful to your goodself for this wonderful programme. Please try for re-telecast.

S.Ramakrishnan,
President, Amar Seva Sangam,
Tiruvaveli District, Tamil Nadu.

Noida's killings and the Police

Dear Sir,

Missing of boys and girls and even women appears to be a common phenomenon in and around Noida of Uttar Pradesh for more than a year. Parents made complaints to the concerned police and the police did not take any action and the complaints of the poor persons proved futile.

This was the fact and the present Uttar Pradesh government admitted that the state police force were "careless".

The National Commission for Women brought the laxity of the Noida police to the attention of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister long before the discovery of serial killings of children. The Chief Minister too ignored this serious and cruel matter.

The shameful question before us is:-

Why the police as well as the government kept silent and why the police did not act?

The very simple answer is that the crime was committed by the rich and the victims were poor. This formula applies not only for Noida but it applies throughout our vast country.

Justice is always being denied to the poor. The state and central governments are elected by the poor but it only functions for the welfare of the rich.

D.Vedamuthu, Chennai.

Loot in the broad day light

Dear Sir,

According to the statement given in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Finance, Central Excise duty amounting to Rs.26916 crores have been evaded in the last three years period by about 50 companies. He also disclosed their names.

Question now arises as to who are responsible for this? Of course, these 50 companies are responsible. At the same time, Department of Central Excise is also equally responsible, which has failed to discharge its responsibilities adequately.

The facility of self removal procedure (i.e.SRP) has been given to the manufacturers. The managements of the companies are supposed to pay the Central Excise duty before the goods would be dispatched from the licenced premises. Evasion of excise duty of crores of rupees clearly indicate that there must be clandestine manufacturing and tacit understanding between the manufacturers and the Central Excise authorities. The fact that "it did not come to the notice of authority concerned for three years period", is really great shock.

The second shocking news is that Union Finance Ministry intends to forgo recovery of outstanding arrears of several thousand crores of rupees from various parties including Rs.28400 crores arrears from Harshad Mehta company. The Finance Ministry said that despite all efforts made , there were no chance and no hopes of recovery. The curtain will be rung down shortly by writing off the amount.

On the other hand, thousands of poor farmers have committed suicide and still that process is continuing in some states due to their inability to clear the debt obtained from the banks. Unfortunately, Union Government declined

to come forward to their rescue and refused to write off their debt in many cases.

If the Ministry of Finance would recover all dues such as incometax, excise duty etc promptly, the nation can afford to bring down the taxes levied on commonmen.

Evading crores of rupees of tax to the Government is nothing but loot in the broad day light, for which Government of India is equally responsible.

Sridhar V Kulkarni, Kalyan (West), Maharashtra

Humans painfully forgotten

Dear Sir,

In the last issue of Nandini, I discovered the meaning of the line that pictures are worth a thousand words.

The picture on the cover page, of that lady on cycle with the boy and the tiffin carrier driving in water and the caption under it, were really worth a thousand words.

It is truly heart breaking in this age of superficial hightech jumbo lifestyle world, that some humans are painfully forgotten and left behind.

It is matter of shame for all.

K.Rajagopalan, Hyderabad

The ills and evils afflicting our nations

Dear Sir,

According to U.N.Institution report, 1% of world's population possesses 40% of its wealth (Jan.2007 issue).

If such a study were to be undertaken in India, it will be found that 1% of its population hold 90% of the wealth. This 1% consists of industrialists, business tycoons, smugglers, politicians and bureaucrats.

Never in our history has such a yawning gap existed between the income of the rich and poor. There can be no gain saying the fact that, as of now, corruption is at its zenith and morality at its nectar. Criminals now have good time and have infiltrated in the legislatures too.

The pity is that corruption has spread in the fields of education, medicine, law and even judiciary, let alone government departments.

Unsure of return to power in the next election, the politicians in power are keen on making hay while the sun shines and they indulge in acts of amassing wealth for generations to enjoy. Good governance is not part of their purpose. Their concern for the poor and downtrodden ends with rhetorics in election meetings and in manifestos.

Yet another evil is liquor addiction and womanising by even higher ups. Crimes like robberies, rapes and murders are on the increase. One is alarmed to read reports of several types of crimes in the media.

Can we ever get a genuine socialist government which can usher in people friendly measures and make ours to be a developed country?

M.R.Pillai, Chennai

Show them the exit door

Dear Sir,

Saddam Hussain was undoubtedly a stern dictator who ruled Iraq with an iron hand. Amassing a huge wealth, he lived a opulent life. While he saw to it that thousands of his political and religious adversaries were mercilessly massacred, he was also the author of two wars. It was for the Iraq people to have risen in revolt against his atrocities, deposed him from power and meted out due punishment to him.

But then what right do the duo Bush and Blair have to attack an independent sovereign state like Iraq without valid reasons? They were the virtual executors of Saddam and had a sadistic delight in seeing him hanged. It is time that these top most terrorists of the world are cut to size.

M.R.Pillai, Chennai.

All of us are Astronauts travelling in Space

Dear Sir,

We look with awe and wonderment when astronauts get into a space craft to venture in the space at unbelievable velocity to probe into the scientific and astronomical laws that govern the space.

The man made space craft had to be equipped with all kinds of technical arrangements to keep the astronauts alive, as any small defect in it may endanger their lives. They have to wear space suits to protect themselves from radiation, ultraviolet rays, heat etc. and they have a lot more to encounter to do their daily routine. Till they return to the earth safely, their lives are in constant peril.

God made a beautiful space ship and named it earth. It is truly a wonder - a rare beautiful jewel in space.

The space ship earth teams with life, sustained by very complex systems that provide light, air, heat, water and food, all in exquisite balance. It shows evidence of having been specially built to accommodate living things comfortably like a magnificent house.

In the truest sense, we are all astronauts accommodated on the Earth that is hurled in the space at an accurate speed of 66,600 miles an hour. That speed is just right to offset the gravitational pull of the Sun and keep the Earth at the proper distance of 93,000,000 miles away from the Sun. If the distance is a little less, the scorching heat would kill all life on Earth and if it is farther away from the proper distance, the Earth would become an icy waste with 300 degrees below centigrade and in such condition, no life can survive.

As the Earth travels at 66,600 miles per hour, it would cover a distance of 15,98,400 miles a day and 58,34,16,000 miles a year. With this accurate speed of the Earth, everyone of us living can calculate the distance travelled so far on the space ship Earth from our birth.

I shall be 77 years and 4 months old as on 25.1.2007 if it were so, I would have travelled 4498,69,68,000 miles in space on the space craft Earth and orbited the Sun 77 and a quarter times.

What an incredible and amazing distance I have travelled through the space!

G.E.M.Manoharan, Coimbatore

Concern for senior citizens

Sir,

Please refer the article by Sri.K.N.Narayanan Pillai of Chennai (November 2006 issue).

I wish to draw your attention to the following problem.

Senior citizens above age 65 having no taxable income can file form 15H for not deducting tax at source.

The Senior citizens Saving Scheme (S.C.S.S.) was launched in August 2004 and post offices only are authorised to take deposit yielding 9% of interest a year. Later certain specific banks were also allowed to take deposits under S.C.S.S.

Since my income is within taxable limits, I filled up Form 15H and gave in duplicate to Post master concerned but he refused to acknowledge in the office copy of mine on the ground that they have no instruction from their Head Office to do so. But in banks, they acknowledge receipt of Form 15H given by the depositor.

I have written about this to the Senior Suptt. Of Post Offices - Srirangam on 27.07.2006 and till date I have not received any reply from him.

If tax is deducted at source by Post Offices, it will be difficult for Senior Citizen like me above 75 years to run from pillar to post for recovery of same later on.

S.Aravamudhan, Trichy.

Indian Political perspectives

Dear Sir,

With a weak government at the centre, its survival depends upon the support of Leftists/Draavidian groups, who have been frequently criticising the government as if they are not part of it and enjoys the fruits of power at the same time.

We do not know what would be 2007 like and whether it would have a vibrant democracy or anarchy. Await foot print of time.

S.Sivaraman, Chennai-18

Campaign for deprived

Dear Sir,

In all humility, I salute the Editor of Nandini Voice For The Deprived for the singular campaign for the cause of the 'deprived' and pray that his crusade succeeds and bears fruits.

N.Rajagopalan, I.A.S. (Retd.) Chennai.

Rivalry, Thy name is Statue

Dear Sir,

There is something deep rooted in the Indian psyche that explains the countless statues dotting our towns and cities. These days, statues are erected to spread a culture of blind hero worship. These statues are generally placed in an elevated enclosure and that is regarded as sacred. They have become the vehicle of politics .

Recently, statue of a film star who became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and that of the Union Minister for Commerce belonging to DMK Party were unveiled at the Parliament. But these functions were marred by unpleasantness.

The Prime Minister attended one function and did not attend another one due to political reasons. We all know that when an Indian is awarded Bharat Ratna, he becomes non-party man and how can Prime Minister refrain from attending the function?

Dr.J.D.Ramanathan, Chennai.



Voice of Rajaji

LET COMPASSION BECOME THE WAY OF LIFE

I adhere to my doctrine of trusteeship
in spite of the ridicule that has been poured upon it

Mahatma Gandhi

Compassion is a God-given endowment which makes each life feel the pain of another and find the pleasure in relieving it as if it were its own pain relieved. If this urge that is in every heart is not killed but made into a way of life, it is the answer to the challenge of the times.

As the citizen's duty of non-violent disobedience enunciated by Thoreau was the basis of the Gandhian struggle against foreign rule, the basis of the Gandhian answer to the modern challenge in the welfare State is the duty of compassion.

The fulfillment of the duty of compassion enunciated in the Upanishads and the Gita and reformulated by Gandhiji will lead to the liberty of the individual and freedom from totalitarian governance.

The duty of compassion is based on religion and flows from an inescapable God-given urge leading to a true oneness of all life. The identity of oneself with those around should be realised without any external compulsion and without losing one's own identity in the process.

As a result of the long continued impact of the baser elements of Western civilisation, the glamour of the new and expanding knowledge of the physical world which came as a well-intentioned gift from the West and the onslaught of proselytising propaganda, India has almost lost her religion. When faith is corrupted by doubts and undermined in the heart, the preservation of ritual does not make up for the loss.

India can recover her faith in the values of spirit that her Rishis laid down for the people. It depends on whether the need is recognised and the urgency of it realised. If this is done and the discipline of compassion becomes the way of life, we shall be enabled to present an answer to the challenge of times so far as India is concerned and also set an example to the world.

The religion has time immemorial taught the duty and discipline of compassion.

The sharing of one's goods with those around one and of their joys and sorrows, can be done without handing over your soul to a lifeless machine and as an activity that yields joy to the giver as well as the receiver. It is not necessary for a mother to die for a child to be born. The mother lives for the child she has given birth to without herself losing her life. So also can be individual live and 'die' each moment for the community without losing his life, if the natural law of love and compassion were allowed to work.

The doctrine of trusteeship advocated by Gandhiji, namely, that rich people should hold their superfluous wealth as trustees for the poor and that this way of life should be inculcated by example as well as precept without compulsion or cruelty is the only true way to promote universal happiness.

Indeed at the root of this doctrine of equal distribution must lie that of the trusteeship of the wealthy for superfluous wealth possessed by them. How is this to be brought about? Non-violently? Or should the wealthy be dispossessed of their possessions? To do this we would naturally have to resort to violence. This violent action cannot benefit society. Society will be the poorer, for it will lose the gifts of a man who knows how to accumulate wealth. Therefore, the non-violent way is evidently superior. The rich man will be left in possession of his wealth, of which he will use what he reasonably requires for his personal needs and will act as a trustee for the remainder to be used for society. In this agreement, honesty on the part of the trustee is assumed.

Those who own money now are asked to behave like the trustees holding their riches on behalf of the poor. You may say that trusteeship is a legal fiction. But, if people meditate over it constantly and try to act up to it, then life on earth would be government far more by love than it is at present.

Absolute trusteeship is equally unattainable. But if we strive for it, we shall be able to go further in realising a state of equality on earth than by any other method.

Complete renunciation of one's possessions is a thing which very few even among ordinary folk are capable of. All that can legitimately be expected of the wealthy class is that they should hold their riches and talents in trust and use them for the service of society. To insist on more would be to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs.

It is not on mere authority that this solution is presented now. It is presented on its own merits for acceptance as a way of life which would be in accordance with the ancient dharma of our land and save the nation from chaos and oppression and loss of soul. It is a way of

life, besides, that will give true happiness such as is not available otherwise.

It may seem that what is suggested is to hand over the whole problem to the sweet will and pleasure of the rich. It is not the case at all. It is the only non-violent way of reaching our goal. Any other would end in soul-killing compulsion. Any form of compulsion to produce the behaviour we seek to establish is not a way of life, but just prison discipline. A way of life must be voluntary and this means that we should bring about a change of heart among people in general which is the function of a revival of religion in its true and substantial sense.

Compassion based on dharma is a noble urge different from the vulgarity of condescension. It is a way of life that forges a union. Compassion welds people into, a single and indivisible entity. Unity with those around one with individuated life for oneself, is the secret of healthy citizenship. The individual should live fully, eagerly and

purposefully and not become just a bolt or a screw or a lifeless brick, lost in a machine or a masonry construction. If this is to be achieved, only the dharma re-emphasised by Gandhiji is the way.

What is recommended may seem to be a long road but shorter roads do not lead to the goal though they may give sadistic satisfaction. The long road leads to the goal and as we go along it, we find and get joy and betterment all along at every stage and what we do binds the people together as no compulsion can do, be it brute force or the coercion of status.

We must put forth the stamina and personal conviction and the patience required for leading a religious and spiritual revolution. Fortunately the way of life we want is not wholly dissociated from the highest traditions of the land and the revolution we desire is only a re-assertion of the principles of religion this nation has always unquestioningly accepted.

NARAYANAMURTHY'S CONFUSION

There was a TV talk show of Infosys mentor Narayanamurthy when he spoke on capitalism, poverty and unemployment in India (CNN IBN TV talk show).

While Narayanamurthy's statement that India have to move into low tech manufacturing to create large number of jobs for literates and semi literates is correct, he contradicts himself when he continues to say that multinationals should be encouraged and capitalism is the only way to tackle poverty and unemployment in India. One gets a feeling that Narayanamurthy is confused.

Multi national projects are inevitably of high technology and focusses on reduction of manpower to the maximum extent possible and such projects cannot lead to employment generation.

Out of nearly 1100 million population of this country, it is estimated that those below poverty line is in the range of 35 to 40% which mean that around 350 to 400 million people in this country do not know as to where the next meal would come from.

There is an urgent need to bring this section of low income group into mainstream of national life which is possible only by providing them employment opportunities in organised and unorganised sector or enabling them to self employ themselves. For this to happen, there has to be a lot of "social spending " by the government with compassion and understanding.

On the other hand, the capitalism, which Narayanamurthy supports is inevitably oriented towards

profit making at any cost. Exploiting the scenario to maximise the profit is the goal and objective of capitalism.

In a largely poor country like India where the consumers are weak and vulnerable and substantial level of population are living at precarious level of poverty, unchecked capitalism will only lead to greater disparity in income and opportunities. There is nothing like benevolent capitalism.

Narayanamurthy's support to opening the retail market to multi nationals is surprising, coming from some one like him with so much of knowledge of the Indian and international business. Opening the retail business to multi nationals would please the creamy layer of the society like the employees of Infosys but will have no relevance to the millions of poor country men. This opening of retail business to multinationals will lead to heavy loss of jobs and business opportunities for the natives.

Instead of pleading for unchecked capitalism, Narayanamurthy should direct his call to the capitalist oriented business houses and ask them to voluntarily cut the prices in tune with the cost of production and reasonable profit margin. By making huge profits, the capitalist business houses provide enormous salaries to the employees and distribute dividend to the share holders and the members of this class live in luxury.

Obviously, they make so much of profit only due to the exploitative way of price fixation which Narayanamurthy and his tribe will call as efficiency and forum like Nandini Voice For The Deprived will call as exploitation.

WITH THE POLICE NO MORE TRUSTWORTHY, CRIMINALS HAVE FIELD DAY

The recent horrifying incident in Noida, Uttar Pradesh (which is near Delhi) where at least 38 children have been killed and buried by the criminals has sent shock waves across the country. The immediate question that comes to everybody's mind is as to what have the police been doing and as to why they were not aware of such serious criminal incident, even when it has taken place in the location very near to the capital city. Many people tend to think that the police force have lost the character and integrity and they are no more duty conscious.

This is not the first incident in the country where police have been found to be inadequate. Almost every day, newspapers carry the news about the incidents of policemen taking bribes and caught in drunken state and conniving with the criminals.

There have been repeated discussions about reforming the police and appointment of police commissions to look into the problems of police men. But such steps have not yielded any positive results so far.

What can regulations, laws and reform measures do, when there is no intention to be honest and straightforward? When there is lack of pride in the profession and responsible attitude, what can reform measures do?

Who should be held responsible for the situation? One tend to think that the primary responsibility should be accepted by officers belonging to Indian Police Service (IPS officers) who are supposed to be elites and well trained after careful recruitment procedure. Number of IPS officers have been themselves caught in recent time on several accounts including molestation of women and corruption. When the leadership is so bad in quality, how can we expect the better conduct from lower level? There is not only lack of will on the part of IPS officers to resist the political pressure and impose discipline amongst the force at lower level; but IPS officers themselves have become weak links in the chain.

Ofcourse, the politicians are doing havoc with the police force. The nexus between businessmen, criminals and politicians are reflecting on the performance of police.

The fall in the efficiency of police force are now leading to the situation where honest people have to live in fear and feel defenseless against the criminal elements in the society. Kidnapping, extortion and assaulting women in public places are becoming too frequent in the country and many citizens feel that they have become vulnerable, as the police force in the country remain steeped in corruption and inefficiency.

DOES ANY ONE CARE TO FOLLOW PRESIDENT'S ADVICE?

Speaking at the valedictory of the 150th year celebrations of Chennai Metropolitan Police on January, 2007, the President Dr. Abdul Kalam presented an ideal profile of police, which would play a pivotal role in transformation of the country. The President said that the police force should be friendly, corruption-free, responsible, tolerant to ambiguity and pressure, caring for the people with a sense of compassion and empathy.

Accountability flowed from the highest level to the police constable. Hence, the nobility of management had to flow from the top.

The President read out a nine point pledge to police officers, which included that they would lead an honest life.

SIX COPS GANG RAPED TRIBAL GIRL

Puducherry administration dismissed six policemen, including a sub inspector and an assistant sub inspector, who were accused of gang raping an Irula girl.

According to sources, six Puducherry policemen- sub inspector Nallam Krishna Rajababu (43), assistant sub inspector B Rajaram (57), head constable K Sasikumar Nair (58) and police constables G. Padmanabhan (53), K Munuswamy (58) and G Subburayan - took 17 year old Irula girl Vijaya from Athiyur village, Villupuram district for questioning about her cousin Vellaiyan, who was suspected in a theft case on July 29, 1993.

The police gang raped her on the same night in a cattle shed and took her back to her house at 4 am on the next day. Sources said the local police initially refused to file a case when Vijaya and her mother lodged a complaint.

The issue came to light after repeated appeals by local people and human rights activists.

FREE SELF EMPLOYMENT COURSE FOR UNDER PRIVILEGED

While the politicians in power and number of economists are saying that India is making rapid strides by way of economic growth, there is evidence that the gap between the rich and poor are steadily increasing. The media including newspapers and television channels are projecting an image of vibrant India marching on the road to great prosperity. However, the suicides by farmers due to economic distress in several states in the country are too glaring to be ignored.

Obviously, the under privileged section of the society are not getting their due share of national prosperity and the government is buying peace with them by extending some beneficiary schemes to them in one way or other from time to time. Such schemes are only providing them some temporary diversion and have no impact on their overall life content.

The conditions of the people belonging to lower income group are remaining difficult mainly due to lack of adequate employment opportunities for them. Several people who live in cities and towns and lead comfortable life style do not even know about the intensity level of poverty conditions in the country which can be clearly seen in rural India.

Unfortunately, the economic activities are centered around the use of high level technology, which call for reduced manpower requirement. Therefore, we find conditions where some people are paid enormously and several others have no jobs at all. It appears that reducing level of employment would be the feature of economic developments in the country in the coming years, if the present policies towards growth would be pursued.

Under the circumstances, the one way to help the youth in the lower income group would be by providing them self employment opportunities.

However, this is also not easy task for under privileged section of the society, since they do not have the necessary skill and training to self employ themselves in appropriate areas. This scenario calls for schemes to provide training

in self employment for the youth from lower income group families.

Keeping this national requirement in view, Nandini Voice For The Deprived is commencing a programme to provide training in self employment for the youth belonging to lower income group.

The course is full time and of four months duration .

Eligibility:

Minimum qualification - Pass in 10th std

Family income should be less than Rs.5,000/- per month

Upper age Limit : 23 years

Date of commencement of the course : 15th February, 2007

Venue : Perungudi, Chennai-600 096

Admission : By written test and interview

Other details : There would be no course fee. The entire course will be provided free of charge.

Number of seats for admission : 20 seats

Medium of Instruction : Tamil

Last date for submitting application : 30th January,2007

Application form:

Prescribed application form for admission can be obtained from the following address free of charge

Nandini Voice For The Deprived,

54, First Main Road, Thirumalai Nagar Annexe,
Perungudi, Chennai -96

Phone No.24916037, 24961346, 24961792

ESSAY CONTEST FOR WOMEN STUDENTS ON MORAL POLICING

Nandini Voice For The Deprived has conducted an Essay Competition for women college students all over India on Moral Policing. Large number of women students have participated in the competition.

The results of the competition would be announced in the next issue of Nandini Voice For The Deprived and excerpt from the prize winning essays would be published.

EXPANSION OF FACILITIES IN NANDINI COMPUTER SCHOOL

Nandini Voice For The Deprived is presently running Free Computer Schools at the following seven centres in Tamil Nadu.

- * Perungudi, Chennai
- * Korattur, Chennai
- * Thiruvottiyur, Chennai
- * Kodungaiyur, Chennai
- * Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu
- * Dindigul, Tamil Nadu
- * Perambalur, Tamil Nadu

The schools provide training in basic computer operations to the students belonging to lower income group and the entire training is provided free. So far,

around 2700 students belonging to lower income group have successfully completed the six months course and most of them have been placed in jobs. At any time, around 220 students undergo training in Nandini Computer School at different centres in Tamil Nadu.

On 1st January 2007, the facilities in the Nandini Computer School at Korattur in Chennai was expanded. The intake of students have been increased from 30 to 60 by providing additional computer systems in the school and moving to a larger premise. This expansion has been necessitated due to high popularity of Nandini Computer School amongst the students in the lower income group and high level of demand for admission in the free schools.

Yoga Demonstration by Children

On the occasion of the inauguration of the expanded facilities of Nandini Computer School at Korattur in Chennai, twelve children in the age group of 5 to 12 from lower income group families belonging to Kodungaiyur, Chennai provided demonstration of the yoga exercise for a period of 90 minutes. The demonstration provided by the children were of high standards and spectators were amazed at the dedication and efficiency of the children belonging to lower income group, who do not have the social and economic advantages of better placed children.

All the children who participated in the yoga demonstration were provided awards as a mark of appreciation of their efforts and to encourage them in their pursuits.



KUMARAN – DISABLED PERSON LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT

Sri. S. Kumaran, age 28 is a 90% disabled person. He can walk with difficulty , write with difficulty and speak with difficulty.

Kumaran was born as a spastic baby and was all the time in the bed upto his eighth year. His father Sri. N. Settu worked as a sepoy in the army and left his job when Kumaran was born as a spastic baby. Ever since that , he has been looking after Kumaran and helplessly watching the boy growing. He provided medical treatment to Kumaran in the best way possible for a parent like him belonging to lower income group. In his twelfth year, Kumaran was admitted in a school in the first standard.

The boy studied with all the difficulties and completed tenth standard in the same school and somehow passed the examination. And then, the school refused to admit him for the eleventh standard in view of his severe disability and therefore, Kumaran wrote the twelfth standard examination as a private candidate.

He then got himself admitted in a college in Chennai due to the sympathetic attitude of the Principal of the college and completed successfully B.A. Economics course. He could write all his examinations with the help of a scribe and now he is a graduate. This is all that he could achieve for himself so far in his life. The devoted father used to take him to the school and college everyday in a cycle and Kumaran would walk with extreme difficulty to the class room.

Now, Kumaran wants a job and nobody is helping him. Kumaran says that lot of people sympathise with him and appreciate his efforts but when it comes to the question of giving him a job, it is politely refused under one pretext or the other.

Then, Kumaran joined Nandini Computer School and studied free six months course in the Korattur center of the school and passed the course successfully. Still, nobody is giving him a job.

Even a casual discussion with Kumaran would make it clear to anyone that he is an intelligent person and has an alert mind. His response to the queries about himself and the society are very clear and it is amazing that his physical disability has not affected his mental ability.



Sri Kumaran (right) seen shaking hands with the Chief Editor, Nandini Voice For The Deprived

Inspite of his problems, Kumaran is not annoyed about anyone not giving him a job but only complains as to why should anyone give one excuse or the other for not giving him a job. He says that the potential employers can be honest to him and say that he cannot be given a job in view of his severe disability. Kumaran gets no benefits from the government schemes and several of his efforts have not been successful.

Today, Kumaran is feeling desperate. He says that he wants to do something to prove to himself and to the society that he has some sort of capability. Not being in a position to freely walk, speak or write, what can a sharp brain alone do in this heartless society, Kumaran wonders.

Seeing his plight, Nandini Voice For The Deprived has offered to provide him a self employment avenue by setting up a public call office, (PCO) and buying a Xerox machine for him. He needs capital which he does not have and this has to be provided to him. A computer has been donated to him by the college in which he studied and he will use his computer in his self employment plan.

Hailing from a poor family with the disabled body and an alert mind, Kumaran is looking for a way out.

Contact Address:- **Sri. S. Kumaran,**
S/o Sri. N. Settu, No.41/23, Thillai Nagar,
Korattur, Chennai-600080

PUT JUDICIARY UNDER THE SCANNER

National Judicial Council Bill would be placed before the Parliament soon. This is a positive move, that would provide greater clarity on the role and responsibility of the judiciary and would also ensure accountability of the judiciary to some extent.

The main objective of the National Judicial Council Bill is to create a mechanism that would enquire into the acts of misbehaviour or poor capability of the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

At present, the judges of High Courts and Supreme Court can be removed only by a process of impeachment by the Parliament, which is time consuming process.

In the present conditions, the judges are often accused of indulging in malpractices and even providing motivated judgements. Politicians in power appoint the judges and therefore the consideration for appointment of judges could be political to some extent. There is need to protect the character of Indian judiciary and ensure that it operates in atmosphere that would be free of suspicions and misgivings.

In recent times, we often see the judges participating in many public meetings and functions, where the judges

share the platform with those facing criminal charges in the court or having suspicious background.

In earlier days, there was healthy practice of the judges not mingling with the public and not taking part in functions unrelated to matters concerning judiciary. In recent times, it is found that several of the speeches of the judges in such meetings are not confined to the interpretation of law but often tend to shift towards other controversial subjects, where the judges should really refrain from expressing their opinion.

It is often found that retired judges are appointed as the head of the judicial commission and also provided other positions by the government after their retirement. This often leads to suspicion that some of the judges could have been "rewarded" for their helpful stance towards government and politicians in power while they were in service. To avoid such misgivings, it is necessary that the National Judicial Council Bill should clearly state that the retired judges should not be given any post or position either in the government or in other organisations atleast for a period of 3 years after retirement.

It is necessary that the National Judicial Council Bill should be extensively debated in Parliament and views of the public should be sought about its content.

SRI GOPALA KRISHNA BHARATI TAMIL POET AND A ROLE MODEL

Contributed by N.Rajagopalan, I.A.S.(Retd.) Chennai

Sri. Gopala Krishna Bharati, born at Narimanam in Tamil Nadu and orphaned while young, spent his life [1811 to 1881] as a bachelor-devotee of the Cosmic Lord, Tamil and Arts at Koothanur, Mudicondan, Anandatandavapuram and Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu.

He had his Tamil lessons and training in music and he flowered into one of the greatest of Tamil poets with his presentation of the opera "Nandanar", besides many others.

The Tamil drama Nandanar was the rage of the Tamils all over the world and had been enacted as drama in hundreds of places and there were films too. He became great in his own life but humility was his fine quality. He gave away whatever he got for charities. Venerable Dr U Ve Swaminatha Ayyar, his under-study, has dealt with his illustrious life. The eminent Vedanayakam Pillai was his close admirer.

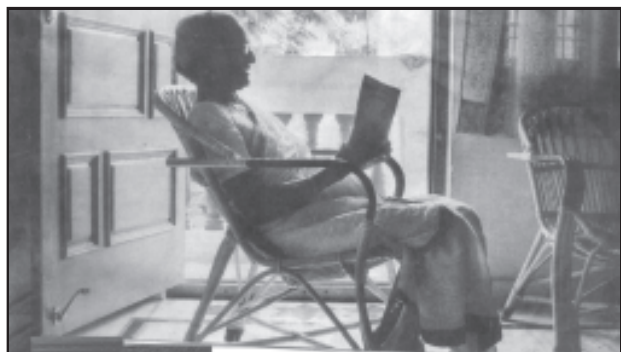
Bharati's Tamil opera Nandanar was indeed a trailblazer to Mahatma Gandhiji in the abolition of untouchability.

National Poet, Maha Kavi Subramanya Bharati had drawn inspiration from the songs of Gopala Krishna Bharati. It is indeed great credit to the eminent Gopala Krishna Bharati that he could conceive and weave out that most beautiful, opera a century and half back. His songs are the sweet, chosen menu of singers and dancers to this day.

He lived a bachelor's life, in utter simplicity. Should not his life be held out to men and women of present and future generations? Some memorial for him is necessary.

The Tamil Nadu Government should be surely favourably inclined to create a memorial for this great Tamil poet Gopala Krishna Bharati. The public would gather inspiration from the memorial. It could be located in Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu.

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