

Test 2323

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Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree long ago.

'See Mom! I told you we will win the World Cup' - The young boy Sachin euphorically exclaimed. Despite being a child, he had followed the 1983 Indian World Cup win excitedly. Kapil Dev's charisma and down to earth nature had charmed him. At a time when getting a job was considered as the world's biggest achievement for Indians, he dreamt of playing cricket for the country and started to train...

Thus, Kapil Dev's tree of hope was planted in the boy's mind and the many millions of minds who watched the game. The behemoth BCCI and the Indian cricket team today was nurtured in that shade.

The tree is one of the most important part of a biodiversity. Its large canopy is the place of many leaves, fruits and animal shelters. However, at the level of philosophy, the tree's importance for man is a symbol of potential - Potential of what could be achieved over a period of time. Its shade is the place of comfort, contemplation and relief. It shows that in the larger scheme of things, the person's work transcends him.

Thus, this essay will dive deeper into this longevity of good deeds and its impact on human civilization. It aims to combine the past, present, future of human thoughts, deeds and its impact in the long term. And lastly, it deals with what a person who lives his normal life should do to become a part of this cycle of virtue.

Planting a tree - Objectives and methods

The tree of liberty must be washed time to time with the blood of patriots

- Thomas Jefferson

The American Democracy, Indian democracy and all other nations have been nascent ideas at one point of time. They were planted by the founding fathers, tended by their followers, preserved by their children and enjoyed by their grand-children.

Just as a tree requires a lot of patience, care and altruistic outlook to life, a very similar case of protracted hardwork is there in every human's life. For bigger targets, there is some amount of personal greed is involved but for the longer targets, it is the thought of his

next generation that worries him.

In its initial stages, the tree too faces dangers of rains, storms, wild animals and disease. Similarly, the man too faces a lot of distractions and short term pleasures. Thus, only a dedicated man is able to work with prudence. For example, if in a family the parents don't guide their children at an early age, the good ideas are never planted and nurtured. Guru Drona, despite being a master himself, suffered from the after effects of Ashwathamma's misdeeds.

Thinking and orientation

Even beyond the individual and family level, the ability to work for future is quite difficult. The Indian idea of life - Artha (Wealth/Resources), Kama (Material desires), Dharma (Rightness)

and Maksha (Self Actualization) also work at larger levels.

The Pakistani space programme SUPARCO started at an early stage than India. They had a bigger budget, American help and other help. But the administrators never bothered to move beyond the pleasures of their salary, official bungalow and protocol. On the other hand, ISRO was able to transcend its limited size. In the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 'It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of fight in the dog'.

The tree, thus, is a symbol of Dharma - Righteous deeds and Maksha of self actualization. It is a symbol of delayed gratification, pillar of sacrifice and the towering example of self discipline.

But the question is why does a man do it
while others don't?

Human Spirit

The man who plants a tree despite knowing
he will not enjoy its fruits is the wisest
man' — Tenali Rama

To go for higher targets, the man has
a few motivations. It can either be an
ambition, concern of his progeny, ~~for~~
feeling of altruism or wisdom. Sometimes,
it is a combination of all accompanied
by the farsightedness.

The scholars of Advaita Philosophy
say that after death the Atman (Self)
merges with the Brahman (Supreme
Consciousness). Any good deed done, thus,
helps to be closer to ourselves and
become united with our heavenly self.
Thus, this practice of Human Spirit and

harnessing virtue was believed to the first form of Greek tradition of Virtue ethics.

In the sphere of environment, this long term outlook of human spirit holds great importance. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the only person as head of state to visit the 1972 Stockholm Conference of Environment. There she brought out the fact that how degradation challenges the world. Thus, the seeds of environmentalism sown at Stockholm became the tree of sustainable development at 1992 Rio Conference. And today, the whole humanity resides under its shelter and shade.

Human life at present

Thus, a wise person planted a tree and today it has emerged into an enormous entity. The present day

travellers of today are using its facilities.
But what should they do apart from
their daily mundane activities?

Can they afford to be complacent? Definitely No.

The tree like all other things on
this human plane are temporary. They
are always vulnerable to the ravages of
time and space and the stupidity of
human actions. Sometimes, it is also plain
luck that ₹ such large amount of efforts,
discipline and consistent deeds are vanish
in a few moments.

And when such a tree falls, the
earth shakes and destruction becomes
the norm. The atom bomb drop on
Japan devastated the beautiful country.
Post their surrender in WW2, it was
thought that Japan could never rise

again. But the Japanese people through hard work and intelligence not only did rebuild their country but made it one of the most prosperous places on Earth:

Just as a wildfire destroys the existing vegetation, but it also fertilizes the soil, the destruction of Japan contained the seeds of new tree of greatness. Thus, like the biotic and abiotic components of nature, Humans too have a duty

Promise of longevity

'Whatever I have achieved, is by standing on the shoulders of giants'

- Newton

Within physics, Newton is considered to be one of the greatest of all time. But the source of his ideas lay in the thoughts of Galileo. Not

only did, Newton nurtured the ~~tree~~ shrubs of Galileo. but also planted multiple seeds of his own like motions, astronomy, calculus and others.

Later scientists like Einstein developed these seeds into trees and planted more ideas of their own. And thus, the cycle keeps repeating for endless times not only nourishing the person but whole humanity himself.

Hence, the duty of the person is not just to enjoy the fruits of labour of others but to make his own contribution, however little, in this continuum. A human cannot be this shortsighted to ~~to~~ only take and not give back. Not only would this be selfish but also foolish and dangerous for the whole

civilization.

It is true that he will face many trials, tribulations and failures but he must not get disheartened. The tree under whose shade he sits should inspire him about his ancestors. If they could do it, then so could he. If the tree is the inspiration, then the new seed with him is definitely a new source of hope

Even the saint Ramanujacharya felt same way while propagating anti caste ideas in Medieval India. However, he still watered his own disciples with knowledge and righteousness like future saint Ramananda.

This was repeated by saint Ramananda with his disciples like saint Kabir. And slowly but surely, the tree of freedom and tree of equality eventually became

Strong. However whatever be its might, its strength, like the Banyan or the Mangrove, comes from its stilts which represented ordinary people committing small deeds on a daily basis. And this is reflected in the ideas of Albert Einstein

'Compounding is the 8th wonder of Nature'

A very similar thing happened with Sachin too. He used to practice daily and debuted in the Indian team, slowly but steadily, he became the best batsman of all time. Thus, the Sachin Tendulkar of today was the outcome of Kapil Dev's victory in 1983. And, he is the underlying reason for the inclination of people to undertake cricket as a profession. Thus, the tree of cricket today has become the forest which,

not only supports India but also the world.

It is true that time is the ultimate truth for the human body. But due to one's deeds of the past and his ideas of the future, the person lives on. And as long as the cycle of goodness lives on, people are more associated with it.

Thus, the person who enjoys the shade not only appreciates it but he plants the trees of tomorrow so that other people too could benefit. And this longevity is the bedrock of all human civilization.

This time like all times is a very good one if we know what to do with it

In the pleasant summer season of 1936, the British Parliament reflected a not so pleasant ambience. It was a sign of huge conflict between Winston Churchill and the members of government. Churchill was proposing increased military spending sensing the rise of fascism in Europe while the Government proposed that it's not a good time to militarise. And like Mark Twain said, history rhymed again.

The essence of Mr. Churchill's proactiveness was that preparedness is better than being blindsided. It is scientific to see time as a linear entity but the socio-economic and multi-dimensional impacts make it a bore to

reckon with. Thus, the goodness of time is not its essence but the impact on the existence of man. If a man can harness the tides of time to create developmental energy, it is a good time. But if not, then it is a bad time.

The following essay, thus, will look into the nitty gritty of time, the role of action and human endeavour, conversion of time and what one should do to develop the capacity to ride safely over the tides of time.
Let's begin....

Philosophy of time

'There is no good time or bad time.
It's just time.'
- Japanese Proverb.

For centuries, scientists and philosophers

have tried to understand the epistemology of time and its larger nature. Depending on the person, time can be either linear or cyclical, singular or plural. However, the bigger question is what is its relation with human action and deeds?

For this specific purpose it is like an hourglass. It is the sand which slips away no matter how one tries to hold it. It is intimately linked to the performance of deeds and their timeliness. If completed within the limits, it is virtue, if not its a ~~not~~ sin.

The story of ant and grasshopper, in this regard, is well known. While the ant spent its summer collecting food grasshopper spent its time merrymaking. As a result, as the ant remained safe in the winters but the grasshopper was

frozen. Thus, the summer became a good time for ant even if it meant hardwork because he knew what he wanted to do and vice versa. Thus, opportunity knocks once

Good time and Bad times

Thus, the goodness and badness of time is a human construct. A very similar case is observed in the thoughts of Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai. Both of them knew that despite the poverty, illiteracy and communalism of post independent India, it is the right time to go for scientific prowess.

Luckily, Pandit Nehru despite being reluctant gave them an opportunity. And today, ISRO, BARC, DRDO and the common people don't regret that they persevered despite the delicate

times.

Thus, like Machiavelli comments, 'A strong prince can overcome the torrential rains of bad fortune into good times', even the worst of days can hold the key to prosperity of future. It is true that the sad period of one's life makes one depressed, angry and brings melancholy. But, he should also appreciate that he has the power to change his destiny and present day situations. But the question is how will a person know and follow up on this?

Doing over thinking

'Vita Activa is superior than vita
Contemplativa'

- Hannah
Arendt

The noted women philosopher Hannah Arendt has given her thoughts

on the Theory of Action. She is of the beliefs that excessive contemplation leads to Analysis Paralysis. Hence, one should pursue the actions and attempt to mould the time to his suiting.

Knowing what to do with time was a key question faced by Gandhi in the freedom struggle. In his struggle-True-struggle movement, there were plenty of gaps of political inaction. Thus, in order to keep the people motivated and dedicated, he did the Constructive work of Anti Untouchability work, Khadi manufacturing, education etc

At level of person, this can be seen as becoming prepared - physically mentally, spiritually. The Constructive work at the level of individual can be

to meditate, introspect and other physical activities. For Grandhi, being idle would be a sin and same would be for the people.
At higher levels of society, nations and the globe, it could be to identify global goals and work towards it. In the parlance of environmentalism, for example, first was conservation, then it was preservation and now it ~~was~~ sustainable Development. Thus, if our past generation did not commit the deed of conservation, the time would have been unfavourable for sustainable Development. Thus, deeds are vital to get a good time.

Present time leads to Pleasant times

Kal Karo so aaj kar
Aaj Kare so aab'

- Kabir

The doha (couplet) of Kabir further

solidifies the doctrine of action. It states that 'whatever you wish to get done in the future, do it now'. This is the best time to do it. And knowing what to do is fifty percent of the action.

For transparent situations like the aim for a better future, providing for one's family, becoming one's best self and others, the way is set. For such people, they know what to do but they must follow up on their knowledge. Steve Jobs knew he had to make the best phone and the best computer. Hence, he formed Apple. Despite being thrown out of his own company, he was committed and rose like a phoenix to give the world the iPhone'.

However, for rest of the people who are engrossed in their day today

struggles and enjoying the pleasures of the modern world, it clouds one's mind. This opaqueness is dark as the thought process is clouded with technology, consumerism, petty behaviours and others. So what should the person do in this state of sleepful action?

'Arise, awake and don't stop till the goal is reached'

- Swami Vivekananda

Thus, the sleepy person must come out of the case of comfort to see the real world and his place in it. He must get the sense that he needs to prepare for the long term and know the highs of time are oscillatory. For example, in the age of artificial intelligence, people who recognize and use this new method can only prosper.

However, despite the enormous wisdom, majority of people are engrossed in the time. What should be done to awaken the masses?

Becoming an enabler.

'The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.'

- Ronald Reagan

In the age of global inequality, poverty, space travel, climate change, the time has come for every person to lead by example. An individual should inspire his compatriot to utilise the God given time on earth to make the best out of it. The time is not of citizen centric governance but of the citizen centric leadership. This was

the self rule (Swaraj) envisaged by Gandhi for the whole world.

At the level of States, this means to perform multiple tasks at once like poverty eradication, Sustainable development, technology upgradation and others.

The previous generations, despite the hardships of war, disease, and death did their duty of utilisation their time. Now the onus is on the present day human beings to strive hard to reach the next level. And in that respect, it is the best time today.

Bad times create strong men

Strong men create good times

Good times create weak men

Weak men create bad times

Thus, it can be observed that human civilization is a function of time, action and people. The close interaction of all three create the past, present and future of one's personal, social, national and global life. Hence, a doing justice to one's time is paramount.

However, like ~~human~~ all beings, even Man needs a break. It needs to unwind to recuperate his faculties. Rest and recreation are as important as work. The Italians call this as 'La Dolce Niente' or the happiness of doing nothing. Thus, taking a break is important for one's physical, mental and spiritual upliftment.

But, it means that break is

the medicine and not the daily food of human life. If the Olympian Neeraj Chopra takes a break, it means that he is resting before the endeavour of winning the next medal. Thus, the long term outlook of the rest also is to know how to spend the time of future.

Though Philosophers have made many claims about time, but they are correct in one aspect - 'Time is priceless'. Good ~~days~~ ^{days} make one strong but bad days make one stronger. Hence, this priceless but limited commodity must be spent with immense carefulness. And knowing how to spend it is a welcome step for man and the lives he will touch.