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**COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH &
DISCOVER THE DIAMOND IN YOU**

**THE
INTELLIGENT
PERSON'S
MANIFESTO FOR
SUCCESS &
HAPPINESS**

DR. ARINDAM CHAUDHURI

**BEYOND
GOD
&
CAPITALISM**

THE INEVITABLE NEW WORLD ORDER

**BEYOND
GOD
& CAPITALISM**

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Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

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BEYOND GOD & CAPITALISM

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Praise for Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

“The maverick management guru!”

Financial Times, London

“The intellectual litterateur of the decade”

The Hindustan Times

“Set(s) the stage on fire”

“Inspiration personified”

The Times of India

*“Mega Disruptor and Godfather of
Private Education in India”*

Elite Magazine

For you Arundhati

For our shared memory of our brother Aurobindo, the biggest ever anti-theist known to us. And for being the most beautiful human being, inside out. And for forgetting all the smaller details of life because you 'were very young then'; And yet having the ability to remember and share all the beautiful memories that really matter, in greatest of detail. And finally for bringing in utmost sincerity in all you do.

For you Zak

This book has all that I would have wanted to sit and share with you over hugs, kisses and love during every weekend/stay-overs - only if that was to happen. But, now that you are one of the most voracious readers possible, even before touching the age of 8; I am confident that at least through this book, you would soon make up for the lost time.

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I remember you every day of my life, Aurobindo. And while writing this book, you were a constant throughout. Thank you for being an inspiration with your confusion less, ruthless and expressed hatred for God! It's a mystery how you could be so clear in your thoughts back then in 1982/83 when you were barely 7/8 years old; Thoughts which never wavered till the last day that you spent with us. Your confident and humane smile still remains a guiding force. Had you been alive, I am certain either I would have had the courage of writing this book long back, or maybe you would have written it or we both would have jointly written it while laughing our guts out making loud noises - something that almost never happened again in our house after that fateful day of

1994, when our lives got torn apart.

Thank you Che for the editing support, for being incredibly humane & rational and making our discussions so intellectually stimulating from the tender age of 14 itself! You fill the void that Aurobindo left in my life. The videos and notes you shared with me inspired me to keep going deeper into this beautiful journey of rationale.

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I am glad that Mona Lisa, you also didn't forget my thoughts!

This book comes after ten years of my last solo book, 'Discover The Diamond in You'. A lot has changed since. People topping the list. But some stood by, with full faith.

Thank you Rajita for being there with all your sincerity and providing the intellectual support to the group that was needed.

Thank you Prasoon for being the only friend at work during my toughest years - without any professional binding. Your calm goodness and sharp intellect brought hope and stability each day.

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Thank you Shikha and Arundhati for your sustained sincerity and unflinching passion, while holding a very important piece of our work together.

It's thanks to the support and faith of the five of you that I could still retain my freedom to carry on with my passions.

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Thanks to the various unnamed intelligent people and organisations who have created a few of the memes/quotes (on God and Religion) which I have used in the book. Wherever I could find a source, I have mentioned, but a few didn't have any source. My heartfelt thanks still.

Thank you Ratul for the editing support, for being an incredible human being and being a real source of joy in the lives of everyone in our family, specially my father.

Last but not the least, thank you Mom and Dad for being so liberal in our upbringing. It's only thanks to you both that we brothers and sisters could develop such independent personalities; And way back in the late 70s, my brother could completely and freely ridicule God without any fear of punishment.

And finally thanks for your faith and understanding. I am sorry only to you both for all my failures.

PREFACE

**My object in life is to dethrone God and destroy
Capitalism - Karl Marx**

I have only one belief system. It's called Global Humanism. A belief system that stems from the fact that all human beings are born equal - not in terms of ability and intelligence (though even that is greatly a factor of education and environment) but in terms of rights; And thus, must have absolutely equal access to health, education, housing, basic income and justice. A belief system that says you can't divide human beings on the basis of religion, sex, race, borders, skin colour, caste or creed. A belief system that is aptly explained by John

Lennon's Imagine; a song that has been constantly voted as the world's greatest song ever and is used time again by peace lovers all across the world whenever they see violence. Yes! Equality and peace are my belief system.

And I have realised that religion and capitalism are the two biggest roadblocks to equality and peace. And Global Humanism. My belief system isn't path breaking but I hope this book is. Because this book attempts to show a way to achieve it.

By thinking, **Beyond God & Capitalism.**

I have had friends from all religions and like many Indians, celebrated all religious festivals with them with full enthusiasm, despite being a secular atheist ever since my childhood. And till 2014, I never realised that just being a secular atheist could often feel like being spineless. Because till 2014, I was not a part of a platform called WhatsApp. After becoming a part of this platform (I don't really think I need to explain to my readers how from America to India WhatsApp groups divided families and friends across political and religious ideologies, they

surely know or can do their own research) I started feeling that secular atheism is a giant compromise and disservice to the society. It is what stops the spread of right education and keeps the world divided. By being a secular atheist we say we don't believe God exists but we are fine if you believe God exists. We believe in saying that we respect your belief system. Though that sounds very good, in my view that's not the right thing to do. While everyone is free, and must be left free to call the sun as moon and vice versa, it's wrong on our part to say we believe in accepting your view point - the purpose of secularism. Our job is not only to say that you might believe that's the moon but it's incorrect; But our job is to say, it is actually the sun and please do not teach anyone, especially our children, such wrong concepts. Our job is to clearly tell people what's right and what's wrong. And take a stance. We can't just say murder is bad but it's fine if you think otherwise. We can't just say rape isn't right but it's your free will. We can't just say dictatorship is bad but it's fine to practice it. We can't just say blind beliefs are bad but as a nation we accept all kinds of blind beliefs and believe in coexisting with them. We have to

be forcefully vocal against certain evils, we need laws to make certain acts illegal and we need to take affirmative action against certain ills that plague our society.

In simpler words, we have to be anti-murder, anti-rape, anti-dictatorship, anti-blind beliefs and in my opinion, exactly in a similar manner, anti-theism. Specially if we want to spread global humanity. So post 2014, I stopped being an atheist.

I became an anti-theist.

Anti-theism is not my religion. I have nothing against theists - unlike religious people who often have hatred for people of other religions and above all else for atheists.

I just refuse to accept anything without evidence or rationale and I do not believe that there is anything called God - simply because there is no evidence. And I believe that there is a case to read/hear me out, because, if there is even one life lost on a blind belief we should be against that. And here we are talking about religion and God - due to which the earth has lost the highest number of lives ever, and continues to lose on a daily basis. Which

is the key reason why I not only believe that God doesn't exist, I am actually against (anti) the illusory concept called God that divides human beings, makes them hate each other fanatically, abuses children, women and poor specifically, and is the biggest hindrance to individual health, happiness and success.

This book, while explaining the lack of rationale behind the impossibility of God's existence also throws light on how to live happily and achieve success. In the process, the book touches upon another deterrent to the happiness of human kind called Capitalism.

It tells you how an intelligent person can be happy and successful without depending upon God or Capitalism and how depending upon any of these two is actually detrimental to global humanism as well as human happiness and displays lack of intelligence.

This book will systematically and logically take you through all the key concepts around God and Religion, and reason out the irrationality of it all. It tries to show why in all democracies around the world, the

disappearance of God and Religion is taking place faster than one can imagine. It will also systematically explain how the internet is the biggest equalising force in the world and how it's bringing an end to Capitalism. It will explain how systems, which put human happiness before profits would eventually be adapted worldwide - not in too distant a future.

You have read your *Gita, Quran, Bible* & 'Das Capital' and 'Wealth of Nations'. If not, then you have at least heard your religious leaders and political economists speak.

I hope you now enjoy this rational journey of reading about - what I call - the inevitable new world order.

Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

28th March, 2019,

New Delhi.

N.B. With this book, my part of bringing up my son Che (who is 18 now) comes to an end. My life's only ambition since his birth was to write down everything that I wanted to share with him- so that it stays documented with him forever. As he embarks on a new journey after school, this book completes my job as a father.

A special note by the author ten days before the India book launch.

This book of mine got launched in the last week of May this year in London. It was then titled 'Without God & Capitalism'. Before going to London for the launch, I had gifted my father the first copy of the book.

Exactly one week back on the 13th of August 2019, after seeing his life's efforts being vindicated by a Supreme Court of India order (given by a three judge bench headed by CJI, Shri Ranjan Gogoi) that stated that IIPM could offer its MBA level programs without any permission from AICTE, my father breathed his last.

His smile, pride and happiness was my singular greatest aim in life for which I got up every morning for 30 years from 1989 (the day I entered IIPM as a student) till last week... and studied, taught, wrote and kept fighting against all odds.

People have many passions. My passion was to chase his dreams and fulfill them.

With him no more, broken down, and having lost my very aim of existence, I found the copy of the book I had gifted him. In his own unique style he had underlined it all over. Putting multiple tick marks on every para that he loved. And writing down detailed comments at places he disagreed.

When I was excitedly reading his comments inside the book and trying to find out what all he liked, my mother told me that he had told her that he wanted this book to be named 'Beyond God & Capitalism' instead of 'Without God & Capitalism'.

I know he isn't seeing me anymore. I know he won't smile anymore. Yet, I got another command of his to fulfill.

Thus, the book you hold in your hands now is called **'Beyond God & Capitalism'**.

Before signing off I want to share something.

My dad loved this book. Though there were parts where he disagreed slightly. Being an eternal romantic, he didn't like my critique of the institution of marriage. And though he agreed that God probably didn't exist, he insisted that thinking of Goddess Saraswati gave him strength. However, for him more than gods were godly human beings, something that he wanted everyone to become. One such human being that he almost used to

worship was Rabindranath Tagore. But occupying far more space in his heart than even godly human beings were the poorest of poor. He always said if you have to dedicate your life, it must be to the cause of the poorest of poor in the world. And till his last breath he lived most simple thinking every moment for the poorest of poor.

The last week that he spent with us, he was restless to change his name from Malay Chaudhuri to **Malay “Mehthor”**. “Mehthor” is the Bangla word for a **scavenger/mehatar**. He felt unless we change the system of casteist discrimination by embracing the discriminated as a very part of our very existence we will not be able to see a new world.

This was a dream he nurtured for more than a decade. Unfortunately it remained unfulfilled. But hope it inspires many of you to uproot the horror of casteism from around you and fight for a more equal world - irrespective of whether you agree with what you read in the following pages or not.

20th August 2019

CONTENTS

CHAPTER-1

Dethroning God : Be Fearless - 25

CHAPTER-2

Destroying Capitalism : Be Intelligent - 243

CHAPTER-3

Defeating Destiny : Be Successful - 345

CHAPTER-1

Dethroning God

Be fearless

Most of us don't even question God's existence. We take it for granted. We believe there is someone up there sitting and watching us. A heaven up there that we need to go to after our death. And a hell we need to avoid! We pray because we feel if we upset that person, he will make our life miserable. We pray because when we go through miseries we believe he can help. And pray because we believe when we do wrong he punishes us.

We never wonder how do we exactly go to heaven. The just born version of us, the five year old version of us, the young version of us or the fragile old version of us struck with Alzheimer!! We never bother to ask how are these concepts even possible.

The truth is, forget heaven or hell, even God doesn't exist. The following pages will explain why. And help you live the rest of your life confidently and fearlessly by dethroning God.

“The first requisite for the happiness of the people is the abolition of religion”

Karl Marx

At first man created God

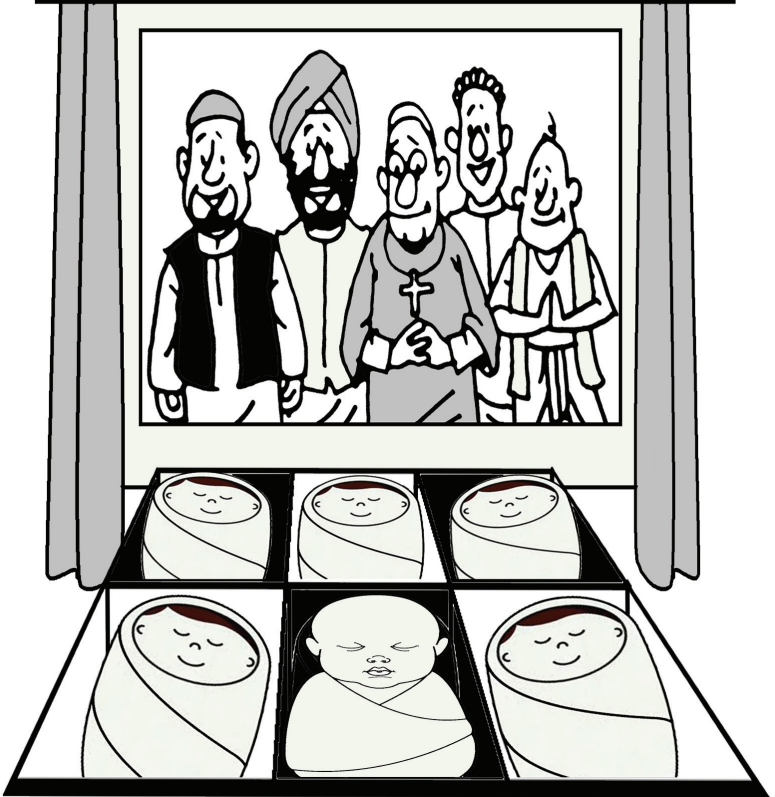
Yes. Imagine uninitiated, unscientific, clueless cavemen seeing their caves getting flooded with water while a heavy thunderstorm shakes their world outside. No idea what's happening. They sit together and start hoping (praying) the thunderstorm passes and the water levels go down. They look outside and see lightening. And they feel someone above is angry. That's the how God was created. Human kind in its earliest avatar in all their

ignorance about everything that's happening around, created God. They believed there was someone who at times decides to shake them up through thunderstorms, earthquakes, floods and more importantly deaths. And often when they held their hands together or sat in front of the fire or looked up at the sky or looked down at the river and prayed, they saw the lightening disappear, the rains going away from months, the earthquake not happening for years and some people coming back alive when they thought they were sure to die due to an extremely heated body (fever).

That doesn't mean that there indeed was someone up there creating troubles for them. Neither did it mean sitting together and praying to water was the reason rains and foods stopped nor praying to the soil was the reason why earthquakes didn't occur again in their lifetime. That was a pure myth. A belief. A story being passed on over millions of years.

God never existed. Cavemen created the concept of someone up there due to their ignorance and fears. Fear of losing out to nature and fear of death.

We are all born atheist



**And then our parents start
filling our brain with lies**

Thus God came into existence. Not because cavemen wanted money. Not because they wanted success. Only because they had a huge fear of the unknown. And of death. And they wanted to live in peace. And they saw at times when they had sex a child was born. Not always. But at times. So they believed that when you pray with your whole heart before having sex you might be blessed with the happiness of seeing a child. And yet when you didn't pray properly enough the child and its mother could both die during the process. When you have no idea of how things happen, no idea about what to do during pregnancy and no scientific way to deliver babies so that the baby and mother both survive; God indeed is the only thing you get forced to believe in.

That's the origin of God. Let anyone say anything. This is it.

And then man created spirits and ghosts.

Gods and ghosts are the same thing. There is no God and there is no Ghost. Because there is absolutely no scientific evidence for both.

But when you live in the darkness of caves and a wild animal comes and takes away someone from your clan, without leaving any trace, right after the day someone died. This leaves a very strange feeling of helplessness; you believe it's the spirit of the dead that came to haunt. When in the darkness of night you suddenly hear sounds that primitive knowledge and lack of light can't explain. You are afraid. Afraid of the unknown. Afraid of physical harm. Afraid of death.

And you believe there is something evil that's there. A ghost. The antithesis of God.

An original cavemen creation of the bad that keeps haunting. God is the good. You pray and the thunder stops. You pray and floods disappear. You pray and earthquakes don't happen for years. You pray and one who you thought would surely die becomes alive. You pray and pray and you get a child.

Ghost is the bad. You pray every day to God but in the darkness of night you hear sounds. You pray and yet one of your brethren disappears and his body is never

found. You pray and yet you see strange figures, shadows and lights coming from far away. It haunts and stays. It refuses to go away. It's almost as powerful as God and more. It scares the daylights out of you.

So cavemen called them ghosts.

Ghosts slowly disappeared with the advent of lighting devices and electricity (and made a major comeback with the invention of Photoshop). God had no such luck. It stayed back. Because God had nothing to do with actual darkness. God had to do with darkness of the mind. It is the answer for the weak and ill educated, to everything they still can't explain and for everything good that they want to happen.

So God lives still.

And we started praying to God. Though no prayer ever works.

The convenience of prayers and the irrationality of it!

Ever since the universe was created about 14 billion

Had there been DNA
testing, 2000 years ago



We wouldn't have this
fairy tale today

years back, no prayer has ever worked. Rather if we are to be less dramatic then let's just say ever since the earth—the only known place where prayers take place— was created 4 billion years back no prayer has ever worked. Or maybe more precisely ever since human type beings/ conscious beings came into existence about 7 million years ago no prayer has ever been answered.

So what does that mean? Yes unfortunately it means all your prayers for New Zealand, prayers for Paris, prayers for Chennai; WhatsApp and Facebook statuses and profile pictures have been a humongous waste. Of course I realise these statuses were all well-intentioned.

But before praying for anyone or anything next time please be a bit patient and read up so you at least know that you are doing something very convenient and something totally irrational. I urge you my friends to think a bit rationally. Apart from sitting and doing nothing with folded hands and making others feel like you are doing something and trying to give yourself a false sense of humanity, what else does a prayer really achieve?

I always tell my friends. You believe prayers work? Then please get me a good example of the same. Don't tell me my father had a heart attack and he survived. These are all due to advances in medical sciences and in case you didn't consult a doctor then due to positive luck (because in the case of such curable things positive luck has a chance of working).

So what to me is the proof of a working prayer? The proof of a working prayer is a man's hand gets chopped off. And then his family starts praying and it grows back— on video not in a mythology like The Bible, the *Quran* or the *Gita*. The proof of a working prayer is your head gets crushed under a truck but on your way to the crematorium the head grows back and you come alive as everyone prays.

Well that doesn't happen. Because prayers never work. They have never ever worked. 250,000 people die each day and they would still die irrespective of your prayers. These no. of deaths per day might reduce only due to scientific advancements that might make people start living for two hundred years and beyond.

In the caves prayers were a rational thing to do for the uninitiated. But in today's world the only reality of this word prayer is, how to think you are helping without helping. Everytime you pray. Yes...exactly that. You do nothing! However well-intentioned the prayers might be.

In fact it's mighty illogical too. For example, we already know what causes rains, but let's assume rains don't happen due to science but due to our prayers. So everytime there is a flood, does it mean God listened to prayers so much that it not only gave rains... But so much of it that it caused floods?

What is more surprising is that those who believe in God, also believe that the "Good God" has a plan for all of us. And God knows everything that is to happen way before it happens. And yet they think they need to pray to him? Why? To make it happen or to question his plan's goodness and change it? That's ridiculous isn't it? If God has a pre-decided plan for everyone and everything and it's for everyone's good, then why should anyone pray and try to alter the plan? And why would

——“——

“The Vedas: Because a book written by a bunch of guys that didn’t know where the sun went at night must have all the answers.”

——”——

Religion is an
advertising
campaign for a
product that
doesn't exist...



Clive James

God change his plans?

Unless of course someone is making moneys out of your prayers. Someone says come and p(r)ay to God and take his blessings. And the bribe that you leave behind will make God alter its plan.

While believing in God itself is an attempt to purposefully suspend your critical thinking, yet let's assume that you believe in God, still. I wish you at least do that rationally. And the rationale is as follows. What you pray for is a part of Gods plans? If yes, your prayers are useless. It will happen in any case. And if no, even then your prayers are useless!! It won't happen in any case. Of course if I were to go back to my basic logic on God, needless to say, even then you shouldn't be praying... not because God will ignore your prayers... you should simply not pray because there exists no God. It is a creation of cavemen.

Prayers are at best like what Barbie dolls are to little girls. It gives them comfort without any actual serious ability to change things. And as adults doing such futile

things and wasting time doesn't really reflect highly about your intelligence.

I think it's Peter O'Toole who had said that he concluded "he himself was God", the day he suddenly realised while praying he was doing nothing but "talking to himself"! Yes that's what you do at best during prayers.

So, next time instead of telling someone "I will pray for you", say or write "I will think about you"..., that is, if you can't say "I will help you" or "do for you" or "bring change for you" (which I admit is not always possible, though two working hands can any day do far more than a million clasped hands). And when you think for others and don't pray you must not have any guilt. Contributions are not always about ground work. At a macro level contributions come in form of just carrying on doing what you do daily, paying taxes, protesting and making the government accountable to using those taxes properly, writing, teaching, inspiring or even waiting for the right time to jump into action as long as you are thinking about the misery of someone or its existence in

any form in the society.

At a micro level your contribution comes by your sheer presence in the lives of the people affected... ideally physical presence and doing as much as you can for them with two working hands (instead of, I repeat, two clasped ones).

But yes, as rational human beings we must avoid this word called prayer, and stop saying I am praying for you. It's like saying I am holding the Barbie doll close to my chest tonight so that you become okay. It's genuinely meaningless. Either do something real— directly or indirectly , or don't and know you did nothing though you should have. And let the guilt inspire you to do something greater soon.

I have never heard a doctor come and say hey, guess what?! We don't need to put the plaster on your broken leg, your family's prayers have taken care of it! Thankfully so!

Yes, true. There are lots of scientists and doctors who believe in something as unscientific as God but

amazingly they do not use God's power to cure illness or go to Mars. A doctor's job is to disprove God's existence by increasing life span and eventually take mankind to a stage— that will be achieved very soon— when he will almost live forever.

Unfortunately, researches are often done by religious apologists to try and prove prayers have an effect on health. Yes positive attitude has an effect (though researches have conclusively proven for example, that positive spirit has no scientific role to play in surviving cancer) in certain cases. But that has nothing to do with any God's existence. That's due to the chemicals the brain releases. So if that positive spirit comes from a Barbie or intelligent self motivation both have the same effect. That's the only truth. Adults with intellect comparable to those of kids, choose the Barbie, while self motivated scientific adults choose their brain's power. At times I fear a survey amongst astronauts might also reveal they believe it's God that took them to moon and space and got them back safely (though the journey ended up actually proving there is no God up there, in space or on

moon— to the displeasure of many, I guess).

One of the bigger research findings actually totally debunks the concept of prayers. On the contrary it proves that post surgery complications increase hugely when people know that they were being prayed for due to build up of expectations (it's a pity indeed on the intelligence of such people who have expectations from prayers though)! Isn't it so logical in any case! Pity, we have to do researches to prove the obvious! Here are doctors and scientists helping you stop suffering and there we have some one else taking away credit. Sad, that prayers to Jesus by people of Botswana give them an average life of 42 while those of developed nations that of 84! Or is it that Jesus in developed nations is more developed?!

Also most such researches are around curable health issues. No research ever is done on say healing of amputees! That seals the debate actually. Anything that's clearly measurable, like an amputation, on that it seems God has no power to help. But when it comes to health problems more vague with chances of recovery like heart ailments etc. we have all researchers doing



**Oh no! Once again you have
destroyed my scientific
facts with your knowledge
of the Quran! Said
nobody ever!**

their researches... the question is why don't they do their researches when it comes to amputees or for cancer reversal?

The fact is “every answered prayer” is absolutely nothing. Nothing but a “coincidence”, an illusion. All we have to do to prove it is do simple scientific tests like a double blind test involving something concrete and measurable (for example healing a broken arm or healing people with cancer). And we would realise there is zero effect. Irrespective of the God you pray to, irrespective of who is praying and irrespective of what you pray for!!

So unless next time you want credit for being very caring without making any efforts, never use prayers as a part of what you are doing for anyone... for Paris or for Chennai or your parents or your loved ones.

Remember always that for every prayer in the universe if there was a good deed done, the world would be a far better place! Of course I know praying saves us from living with guilt! Don't visit your parents when they are ill, pray for them... do any wrong and pray for

forgiveness. Convenient indeed!

We must stop fooling ourselves into believing that our prayers are giving us protection from scrutiny and making people feel that we are doing good while in reality we are doing absolutely no good.

Our parents, loved ones, and friends are intelligent enough to know the difference between real care and fake care through prayers... so are the people right now suffering in Chennai/Paris. They don't need prayers. Think of them. Work for them. If nothing do your work better and harder while thinking of them.

I do realise it's indeed tough to convince otherwise, kids who believe Barbie doll is the reason they get good sleep. However, that obviously doesn't mean that a Barbie is required for a good sleep. As adults we must realise this.

If you have to pray still. Pray to Marilyn Monroe or Elvis Presley.

There are many friends who don't like rationale.



What can be more
arrogant than believing
that the same god who
didn't stop the
Holocaust will help you
pass your driving test?

Not their fault at all (jump to the chapter on God and child abuse for further clarity). For example one of my friends insists that, forget my argument of no prayer ever working, all his prayers are always answered and on a daily basis.

I was really amused. So I asked him to give me an example. He said the smallest of things. Everyday on my way to office I get late so I pray to God at the traffic signals to quickly turn the light green. And Arindam, you won't believe it. It happens daily.

The example was so amazing that I was left with no answer. So I asked him you found Marilyn Monroe gorgeous? He said yes. I said from next time you are in any kind of trouble or a bad situation please pray to her. Trust me the success ratio of your prayers to her and God both will be same. And no. It's not because she is dead and is now with God listening to you.

But because for all these things you believe God listens to your prayers actually no one listens. They happen naturally. By chance. Coincidentally. Or because you

pray for things that were bound to happen.

So praying to Marilyn Monroe will give the same result. And for everything that doesn't work, when you pray to your God, like bringing your dead father back to life, praying to Marilyn Monroe will also not work.

But there is an advantage of praying to Marilyn or Elvis or your favorite icon. At least while praying with closed eyes you will get to see deeply satisfying imagery!! It will at least do you some good. And that's exactly why I tell my friends, if you ever feel like praying for me, maybe you could think of watching some porn or a Netflix web series instead. At least that way one of us will be happier.

I hope you all got my point.

And then the intelligent man created Religion.

Religion is a more intelligent creation of recent man to gain power and control through creation of a moral code of conduct for people to follow.

Unlike God that was a creation of cavemen—

hundreds of thousands of years back and maybe millions— out of fear of the unknown and fear of life, almost all religions that exist are very recent— 100 to 5000 year old— creations of sharp and intelligent “men”. At least as intelligent as you could get 5000 years back, without the knowledge of earth being round or how day turned to night!

As cavemen evolved and learnt to light fire, create the wheel, make a spear and win more often than not the battle of survival of the fittest, their need to be more powerful grew. Kings and emperors emerged. Battles for larger pieces of land and riches emerged. And the need for more control emerged. Men’s need to control women, use them as their private possession and keep them tied physically to themselves individually emerged strong, simultaneously with the need to control the poor and keep them subservient.

The intelligent man realised there was no other way to do this but by exploiting the fear of the unknown— the one in front of whom by then every man, woman and child was bowing down to. God.

“

**“THE BIBLE: BECAUSE ALL THE
WORKS OF SCIENCE CANNOT
EQUAL THE WISDOM OF CATTLE
- SACRIFICING PRIMITIVES
WHO THOUGHT EVERY ANIMAL
SPECIES IN THE WORLD LIVED
WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF
NOAH’S HOUSE.”**

”


Saying ‘I am God’ directly, for any power thirsty King was risky. Because then people would expect miracles and the failure to perform miracles would expose him—a reason why all evidence based real human beings who actually existed and are today considered Gods were made Gods many years after their death, once enough stories of miracles had been spread over about a hundred years and there was no way to disprove his miraculous powers.

So how do we use God for more power and control. The more intelligent way was to say, ‘God came to meet me yesterday night on the top of that totally isolated mountain and gave me these sets of moral principles that we must all follow. And said he will keep coming and meeting me every night if I go and pray to him “alone”.’ Or say that he came in my dreams and said this and that. And these fictitious sayings and moral codes gave rise to different religions. Of course not every one got away with such stories. Mainly the nicer guys with more credibility and acceptance with the masses got away with such unfounded and irrational stories.

Actually to be fair not all of them were power hungry. Some were good men, but high on hallucinogenics. Some were good men who went out indeed in search of the meaning of life and thought somehow the mountains and jungles had some secrets stored inside. And even got their answers because thought of he left everything and disappeared into mountains for so many years and came back alive and naked, he must be having all answers that we are in search of.

But the point is, all these “men” who created religions created nothing else but a moral code of behavior to either control people—the poor and women in particular—for what they thought was the good of human kind. No God ever came and met them. No God ever told them anything. They necessarily cooked it all up. And made a code of conduct which according to their medieval understanding of life and ethics seemed fair to them.

And don't ask me for evidence as to how I know they cooked it all up. The onus of giving evidence lies with those who tell such stories. Else to me and every rational person it's a lie. As Christopher Hitchens would



“When people tell me, ‘God has blessed you with the gift of music’, you’re damn right I get offended. I did not practice hours a day for eighteen years to have my success attributed to a myth.”

— Josh Groban.



say “What can be asserted without evidence, can be dismissed without evidence”.

Or as Bertrand Russell had explained while specifically referring to Religion, why the philosophic burden of proof lies upon a person making unfalsifiable claims than on others, in his famous teapot theory. He said if one was to suggest that between the earth and the Mars there is a China teapot revolving around the sun in an elliptical orbit, nobody would be able to disprove it specially if it's also added that the teapot is too small to be revealed by our most powerful telescopes. But it didn't mean since this assertion can't be falsified or disproved it is intolerable presumption on the part of human reason to doubt it. This would then be rightly thought to be nonsense. If, however, the existence of such a teapot were affirmed in ancient books, taught as the sacred truth every Sunday, and instilled into the minds of children at school, hesitation to believe in its existence would become a mark of eccentricity and entitle the doubter to the attentions of the psychiatrist in an enlightened age or of the inquisitor in an earlier time.

So with the absence of any kind of evidence whatsoever of God or any God coming and giving sermons to any human being we can safely and boldly state that for the intelligent man these are all stories, mythology and fables.

In fact it's not that atheists didn't exist when religions were being created left, right and centre (there are about 5000 odd religions). But, Despite the existence of atheists in even as long back as 11th to 5th century BC in Greece, India , China and even Middle East and existence and encouragement of debates on Gods specially in Greece; the rulers always felt threatened by such challenges to their concepts of Gods and sentenced to death those accused of heresy. Thus with time, to make their case stronger, they invented the coming down of God to earth around various fictitious and real men of medieval goodness and wrote guidelines they wanted their people to follow in the name of religious texts and God's preaching. In some cases the men of goodness themselves preached various morals which got passed on upon their death as their religion. In the case of Hindus

SHOO! SHOO!



You're messing up with my Story

of course it got told and passed on through mugged up verses over generations in the form of *shlokas* from the Upanishads and Vedas. Almost none of those illogical commandments, decrees or thoughts on the universe or way we should live and existence of Gods and Goddesses as creators of the universe applies now. In fact, today, each religious book reads like the most illogically insane, inhuman, anti women, unscientific, homophobic, racist and blind faith promoting stone age blah-blah. These thoughts are often child/human/animal sacrificing, incest promoting, shocking and near barbaric that reads totally anti human.

Minus a few good lines— like be kind to human beings etc— which drown in the plethora of patently illogical and often derogatory thoughts in each of the religious books, I find absolutely nothing good in most of the religious texts. These good words needn't come from religions, these good thoughts are basic principles of humanity and come as a natural consequence of being humans. Thus a close reading of each book, including the Bible— which to me has really gone through very less

criticism (thanks to the cross and Santa Claus being so romanticized) given the barbarism it has inside, leaves us with nothing great that we normally wouldn't know along with unbelievable amounts of cruel and inhuman thoughts.

But then how can you blame texts written or passed on since 2000 to 5000 years back. A scientific look will tell medieval man had his main occupation as agriculture, masonry, carpentry and pottery at best unless they were soldiers with the local rulers' army. Man who knew almost nothing about the universe apart from what they saw in the form of lunar and solar behavior, seasonal changes, could only assume the earth to be definitely flat and square (or at best a sphere) and created by a supreme being. Whenever faced with unanswerable questions they created myths by telling stories. So when an earthquake happened they said we have sinned so Gods must be angry. Someone else said that the earth stands on four elephants which stands on the back of a giant turtle which balances itself on top of a cobra. So when any of them move we have earthquakes and so on.

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”
- Richard Dawkins

That's how we slowly developed, till someone insisted in ancient Greece that earth is round and suspended in empty space and finally we had the first signs of modern science when Galileo Galilei made improvements in the telescope and made revolutionary contributions to Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics. And even he was charged with heresy.

That's the contribution of Religion in the evolution of human kind. Setting science back a few thousand years with its irrational unfounded medieval stories.

Religion helped man exploit women, children and masses

It's also not incorrect to say that religion and God was invented by man for the dual purposes of keeping women fearful, and thus under his control, and to unite man to go to war against others. Apart from setting science back by about a few thousand years, the only purpose religion has served is to make human beings irrational and unscientific, take uneducated and unsuspecting masses to war and exploit women by keeping them ill

educated and telling them lies about God's wants from an ideal woman. So that when men go to war, plunder and rape enemy's wife, their wives stay at home without interactions with other men; and thus their "possession" is safe behind them. The Bible for example clearly says, at war, kill every woman who has slept with a man and take for yourself the virgin. And advises women that they must marry their rapist. Reminds me of what Mark Twain once said about the Bible, "It ain't the parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand."

Mark Twain also famously said, "Religion was invented when the first con man met the first fool". Nothing could be more spot on. In place of nations having their own laws to govern human behaviour, some— perhaps well meaning and probably good— men found the use of a cooked up evidence-less concept called God and His will, a better way to make people behave the way they wanted to. From keeping control on women to making people fight against others to conquer their land, it served both the purposes well. Specially the

purpose of keeping their women well behaved behind them as they went to loot, plunder and rape others from neighbouring lands, as is evident from verses from each of the three major religions of the world, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.

I quote from the Bible, *Ephesians* 5:22-24

“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

I quote from the *Quran* 4:34

“Men are the managers of the affairs of women for that Allah has preferred in bounty one of them over another, and for that they have expended their property. Righteous women are therefore obedient, guarding the secret for Allah’s guarding. And those you fear may be rebellious; banish them to their couches, and beat them. If they then obey you, look not for any way against them; Allah is All-high, All-great.”



**Violent, irrational,
intolerant, allied to racism
and tribalism and bigotry,
invested in ignorance and
hostile to free inquiry,
contemptuous of women
and coercive toward
children; organized religion
ought to have a great deal
on its conscience**

-Christopher Hitchens

And I quote from our Hindu scriptures:

“If a woman should not grant her man his desire, he should bribe her. If she still does not grant him his desire, he should hit her with a stick or with his hand, and overcome her, saying: ‘With power, with glory I take away your glory!’ Thus she becomes inglorious.” (*Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* 6.4.7)

“It is the highest duty of the woman to burn herself after her husband’s death”. (*Brahma Purana* 80.75)

“When a woman, proud of her relations [or abilities] deceives her husband (with another man), then the king should [ensure that] she be torn apart by dogs in place much frequented by people. And the evil man should be burnt in a bed of red-hot iron”. (*Manusmriti*, MS VIII: 371/372)

Of course this is just a glimpse of far more and equally worse, chauvinistic and cruel stuff on women. But then that’s not the only purpose religion has served. With barbaric concepts like stoning your disobedient son to death it helped keep children under control and I quote,

Deuteronomy 21:18-21:

“If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his home town. And they shall say to the elders of his city, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.” Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear of it and fear.”

Similarly with inhuman division of people, religion helped keep the society divided:

Purusha-Sukta of Rig Veda says: “Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras originated respectively from the mouth, hands, thighs and feet of the purusha or the creator.”

And as I said earlier with deep-rooted hatred for people of other regions and religions, religion helped its own clan unite and kill the non believers :

“Why must I cling to the customs and practices of a particular country forever. Just because I happened to be born there? What does it matter if its distinctiveness is lost? Need we be so attached to it? What’s the harm if everyone on earth shares the same thoughts and feelings. If they stand under a single banner of laws and regulations? What if we can’t be recognised as Indians anymore? Where’s the harm in that? No one can object if we declare ourselves to be citizens of the world. Is that any less glorious?”

— Sarat Chandra
Chattopadhyay, author


2:191-193 *Quran*

“And slay them wherever you come upon them, and expel them from where they expelled you; persecution is more grievous than slaying. But fight them not by the Holy Mosque until they should fight you there; then, if they fight you, slay them — such is the recompense of unbelievers, but if they give over, surely Allah is All-forgiving, All-compassionate. Fight them, till there is no persecution and the religion is Allah’s; then if they give over, there shall be no enmity save for evildoers.”

Having made clear how religion was created to rule women, divide men and control people in general through a false fear of a nonexistent and imaginary creation called God, I must say, the problem is perhaps not with these laws that they cooked up and wrote in religious scriptures, since two thousand years back many countries had similar laws without religion too. The problem is while normal laws can change with time, and have changed everywhere across the world, laws of religion can’t be normally changed. Why? Because God gave those laws. How can you change those laws???

That actually explains why Islam is most criticised by one and all, Christianity considered more tolerant and Hinduism most peaceful. Because laws of the *Quran* can't be questioned or changed at all. Be it year 517, 1517, 1917 or today in 2017. On the other hand Christians have been more market savvy, with the current Pope being most market savvy and populist. They keep changing and diluting the laws of Bible to suit the times. From lying in bed with a man the way you lie with a woman being an offence punishable by death, the current Pope, still using the Bible, is even ready to forgive gays. Thank Jesus for small mercies indeed! And Hinduism is considered above all else, at least by Hindu apologists, because reformers in Hinduism are a dime a dozen and they have changed most of the barbaric rules and made them humane without encountering impossible opposition. In Hinduism, there is no protest if you worship a stone or a towel or a cockroach because in everything there is God and there is no protest if you are a non believer too. You can still be Hindu.

However, though that doesn't make the word religion



*"God: Pray to
me! Man: Why?
God: To save
you! Man: From
what? God: From
what I'm going to
do to you if you don't
pray to me! Stw
I love u..???"*

or Hinduism any less a work of fictitious imagination as other religions; the fact is, ever since my childhood Hindus seemed to be far more embarrassed of quoting their religion to spread hatred.

Marriages are made in heaven? Not really!

When there is no heaven itself, how can anything be made in heaven. There is no heaven. There is no hell. They are subsets of religion to hold together its seductive myth. Invisible places created through pure and fertile imagination to farcically punish and reward human behaviour.

The institution of marriage is similarly another most crucial subset of religion. It's a specifically created tool, to enforce a private property act on human beings (specially women) based upon bronze age morals. While war cries of liberty and freedom rule the planet, the institution of marriage mostly evades all scrutiny despite being an institution of making human beings tied to another human being, almost slavishly, with more and more complicated rules being created by the day; instead

of doing away with this concept that has long outlived its purpose.

Two people get attracted. They want to get physically close. But hey! Wait a minute! That would involve nudity. And God doesn't mind starving millions, it doesn't mind killing millions, it doesn't mind warring millions and it doesn't mind children dying of cancer but it is specially concerned with what you do in your bedroom and with whom. And before that have you taken its permission. God is like a voyeur, looking out for sex videos 24x7. So God says you can only have an act of performing sex with your married spouse who has to be of the opposite sex (necessarily in all religions). You belong to the LGBT community? Well then we will either throw you out of the window or stone you to death and so on, depending upon which man made book we are referring to.

No God didn't say so. Men who wrote religious scriptures with their bronze age morals, insecurities, false sense of ownership based on being the "superior sex", instincts of possessiveness, petty jealousies and need to dominate women created these rules. So that their

“The problem is not people being uneducated. The problem is that they are educated just enough to believe what they have been taught. And not educated enough to question what they have been taught.”



Thanks for getting your
dying child to hospital.
Let's now all join our hands
and pray till she
recovers

Said no doctor ever

women remain subservient to their whims and fancies while they can have whom they please as I have explained previously.

The best way to legitimize this was by creating the institution of marriage that prohibited women from being objects of desire of other men once a man put his stamp on her. A marriage meant women would need to leave their homes while the man remains where he was. Women would need to change their surname. A man remains Mr., before and after marriage. Woman becomes a Mrs. from Miss. And when things don't work out, mostly the woman who was uprooted from her family is expected to go back to her home while the man cosily retains his original space. How convenient and one sided.

Of course with time women gained more say. And society changed. And human rights and equality became tough to control. And finally with #MeToo things have taken a complete 360 degree u-turn with women giving it back in the same, often not so fair, coins!

The fact of the matter is if two consenting adults (the

definition of which should be defined by scientific ability of the human body) want to go inside a room, what they do inside is none of anybody's business. And post that it's their business if they want to stay together forever or for one week or for five years. For someone true love maybe forever. For someone true love may only last for a while. For someone attraction might be the only thing. It's a matter of individual priorities and choice. And despite the forever type of true love one might realize it's not possible to stay with the same person forever. The fact of the matter is what two people do when they fall in love or get attracted must be their own business. Neither do they need the permission of the society, nor do they need to get married. Nor does any human being (read man) have the right to judge anyone by the number of people they have sex with or the type of sex they have sex with. Man in his written text said women shouldn't be having sex outside marriage. Everything about this is farcical.

In fact while I have been able to separate out God and Capitalism in most of this book, it's here where God and patriarchal Capitalism are inseparable and

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“Why don't these

God-men

ever perform

“healing” in

hospitals?”

”

make marriage a necessity for women. Male dominated Capitalism hasn't given equal rights of ownership of property to every adult. Property ownership in the world is highly lopsided in the hands of men. So women need to get a legal stamp of marriage to get security and from there starts the crime of chauvinism. It's the failure of societies to give guaranteed access to dignified shelter that still keeps women subservient to men and get exploited. In countries like Germany where a woman knows that depending upon the number of children she has, she will get a sizable house any day that she walks out of a marriage; Men have limited scope of exploiting women.

The new inevitable world will soon have every adult having access to a separate and independent living space, not dependent on who they stay with. And society will provide for that as a basic human right along with universal basic income. That's the only way there will be Equality of sexes. You like someone, one of you vacate your apartment and shift together. And let's hope you stay together forever. But if one of you wants to stay separately again, society will help you gain access to

another dignified shelter. When such social security exists, marriages won't be needed, nor will there be any need for ugly divorces. People will stay with each other for genuine love and feelings. And when that ceases to exist they would be free to move out without worrying about financial aspects of life. No, it's not that I want men or women to have multiple partners. But it should be to each her own. I do think a child growing up in the company of a loving set of parents and even grand parents is beautiful. At the same time if it is not to be, there shouldn't be any economic compulsions to stay put in an abusive/unhappy relationship. Human goodness and better parenting education would definitely make human beings take great care of their children. In a world where having a single parent isn't a stupid stigma, every child will grow freely in good schools with human goodness of loving people— who will be the new age family irrespective of formal marriages. And in such a world of social security with respect to property and income, even if someone is to choose marriage, I am certain it will be more of a legal matter than a matter of exploitative religious dictates.

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“Why not just ban guns and when people are upset about it, just send them thoughts and prayers? If ‘thoughts and prayers’ are good enough for people who’ve lost their families then it’s good enough for people who have lost their guns.”

– Erica Buist.

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In a nutshell it's time to get over absurd morals that judge people— specially women on their decision to exercise sexual freedom— based upon morals laid down a few thousand years back.

In India, a couple of years back, a trailer of a film called *Jab Harry Met Sejal* created a lot of controversy. In the same, Sejal comes to Harry with an indemnity bond stating that in case they were to have any sexual intimacy or full intercourse, Harry would be absolved of all legal charges. Harry obviously finds it very exciting— specially in these days of over the top definitions of date rapes and false accusations worldwide (without trying to trivialize the same – BBC News: Does India have a problem with false rape claims?:<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-38796457>).

But while Harry found it a fun and exciting proposition, some morons sitting at the Indian censor board found it vulgar and asked for a cut. It seems they were all born Jesus—you know what I mean— without intercourse obviously! This over-the-top morality is becoming a sign of the new cow-dung worshipping, cow-brained India

being lead by anomic, non-state actors like *gau-rakshak* groups, that is slowly but steadily making India a killing field (The Times of India; Accused of carrying beef, teen killed on train; <http://toi.in/CR9wlb/a18ag>) in the name of culture, cows and religious supremacy. We have no strong-handed clampdown on such madness coming from the top; and at the bottom, we have various *gau-rakshak* vigilante brigades getting a nod from people like even our home secretary (The Home Secretary thinks lynchings are over-hyped. “I think they are over-hyped and over reported,” says Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi on lynching incidents in India; <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/union-home-secretary-lynchings/1/987029.html>). It is so much so that every 5th case of communal violence in Uttar Pradesh is today linked to cow vigilantism! And it’s all because the powers that are, hellbent on creating antagonism between religious groups to polarize votes.

When you allow religious fanaticism to spread, needless to say you promote a patriarchal culture conducive to sexual harassment and rape— a growing menace in India. Of course the root cause in almost all



“Brahmins have been discriminated so long that I demand 100% reservation for them in manual scavenging and toilet cleaning jobs!”

God watches everything...



***But missed hundreds of years of
child abuse by his own priests?***

these cases is religion, lack of education and in case of countries like India lack of speedy justice.

Yes you read it right. I am not talking of terrorism where the root cause is obviously religion, but I am talking of sexual harassment, where it's totally no different.

When the Gods you worship in Hinduism are all male chauvinistic and consider women primarily as sexual objects; one—Krishna— teases women for fun, other—Brahma— has sex with his own daughter, the third—Shiva— chases women naked for sexual gratification (and the list of male chauvinistic Gods go on); when the Bible you read approves of rape and says in a war kill all men and capture all virgins and keep them for yourself; and the *Quran* you read, explains a man can have sex with multiple women but a woman can't; and says a female captive in a war becomes the sex slave of the male captor... then what you have is a society where men grow up feeling entitled. And potential eve teasers.

The solution? Exposing the farce of religion with special focus on how religion was created to exploit

women. Giving the right education. And having stringent laws. It's time, specially for Indians, to crush the sense of entitlement of the menfolk who believe that like the mythological Krishna, teasing women is their birthright— specially by trying to character assassinate a woman. A woman's character isn't determined by the clothes she wears. It's time to stop being sanctimonious about sex when it comes to women and judging her the moment she breaks a set of 5000 year old morals. In order to stop rape culture, education has to be spread about the fact that if a woman prefers one man throughout her life, a hundred men or if she prefers women is her business. And irrespective of her preference, there is something called "consent", which is a must.

Sadly, while the world is moving forward - with definitions of marriages, sex, judging people on the basis of their sexual preferences and number of partners becoming totally outdated worldwide— Indians are moving 'coward'.

In 2017, The New York Times did a path breaking piece on open marriages (<https://www.nytimes>.

**“DON'T CALL
TRANSGENDER PEOPLE
MENTALLY ILL IF YOU
BELIEVE A MAN IN THE
CLOUDS LOVES YOU
UNCONDITIONALLY,
BUT UNDER
CERTAIN CONDITIONS.”**

com/2017/05/11/magazine/is-an-open-marriage-a-happier-marriage.html). And while my views on this are far less apologetic and clearer than the way this rare and lovely article addresses the issue, the reality is that the world is heading towards a far more liberal attitude towards sex than our cow-vigilantes would allow.

Actually, the problem is also that for far too long, we have stupidly inflated things like the immature and unintelligent virtuousness of being a virgin etc. and tied down women with far too many stereotypes.

Truth is, of course, that neither is there any virtue in those stereotypes and, more hilariously, nor have women ever been like that. I have been telling everyone for more than two decades now: get married only if you want a/another sibling to share your life with... Not if you are thinking of having the initial feeling of crazed up attraction last forever. If some people manage to retain that, my respects. But it's necessarily quite unnatural—scientifically and logically.

As The New York Times' piece suggests— and I

strongly believe— to get that feeling of attraction, which is a natural desire, perhaps you need to realise that you need to look beyond the concept of marriage. For we need to understand that a marriage is a creation by the society to legalize something which never needed any legalizing. It was a creation to dominate women and brand them as one's personal property. While officially men were also supposed to become the same (barring in Islam where women had to possibly share them with three more women, officially), the fact is they never cared. But men failed to realise the other reality. Women also never really cared. Men only lived an illusory life thinking that their women remained their personal property. Because for every man looking for a relationship outside his marriage, there was an equal number of women. It was never one woman satisfying the needs of the rest of the 3.5 billion men (assuming all men have been looking for relations outside their marriage, as all women like to point out)!!! So while men, being dominating, were non caring, women, being raised up to be careful and protective of themselves in general, thus became more sly and secretive and thus became better liars. So, many



**“If Hindu Caste
System is not wrong,
then nothing in this
world is wrong!
#EndCasteApartheid.”**

more men got caught, while women only charged their men and cried victim, while hiding their relations nicely (and often using these tears to get into newer and more secretive relationships). That's all. While men know that someone else's wife is having a relationship (with him or his friends), they generally had less idea about their wife and some other man had more!

In a nutshell, it's time now to give up traditional religion-based completely irrelevant concepts of marriage. We can raise children without getting married; we can have children without getting married; we can live happily without getting married; and most importantly, we can love someone of the opposite sex as deeply and have intercourse with them freely without getting married. And we can still have a love that lasts forever and makes you stay together forever.

In fact, the obsession with being the sole sexual right holder of your partner is the reason behind breaking down of love and relations. Getting to realise that, respecting each other's independence, and giving each other space is the only way to have gender equality. It's sad that parents

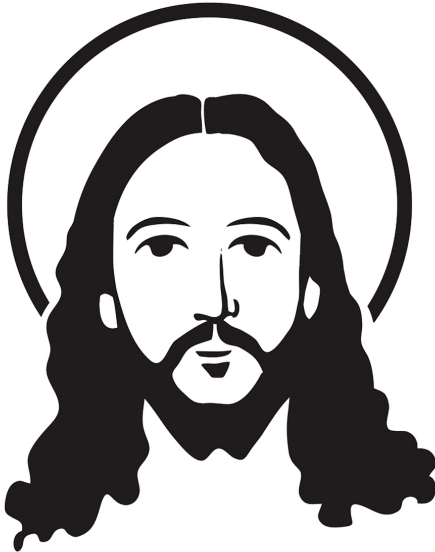
proudly talk about their son having many girlfriends. But when it comes to their daughter, they limit themselves to praising her dancing skills or music abilities. Well, the truth is that she is being introduced by different boys in their homes as their respective girlfriend. Just that she is good at lying in her own home. Let's not make liars out of our daughters by making them feel that they lose their purity if they have a boy friend or if they fall in love. That's a shame.

The concept of marriage, like religion, is dated. It can only make a world of 7 billion liars. After all, is it not so farcical to cry hoarse about feminism and women's rights and then get dirtily legal to get moneys from your partner during a divorce? Be independent and live in your own merit and as per what the society can provide for all.

No wonder in the commercially successful Indian film PK, the protagonist PK— from a different planet— was so amused at why everyone was in general so secretive about sex, and yet gave a massive marriage party to announce to the world that tonight they would be having

“When Raja Ram Mohan Roy spoke up against Sati practice (burning of widows), When Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar tirelessly worked to legalise widow remarriage, When Savitri Bai Phule opened a school for women and untouchables, they all went against Indian culture and the popular notions of morality.”

There is a cure for cancer – His Name is Jesus
There is a cure for HIV/AIDS – His Name is Jesus
There is a cure for LUPUS – His Name is Jesus
There is a cure for DIABETES – His Names is Jesus



*Well when is He going to publish
his research*

sex with each other. PK was never a movie about religion alone. It was about the shame of treating sex as a taboo, and about gender equality... Sadly, not many people realised this.

As more and more people stay without getting married (less than 50 percent of adults in USA now live with their spouse compared to 75 percent plus in 1960s), let's cheer this generation of forward-thinking adults, boys and girls, who are slowly but steadily bringing about gender equality more than anything else. In any case, as the average age of healthy living for the next generation hurtles towards upwards of 100 years (and perhaps lot more soon) as per each and every research, to declare yourself the sole property of one person for 75 to 100 years of your life sounds almost immature and absurd. At least it shouldn't be through any kind of external force. Without the pressure or legality if you are with someone forever, that's a far higher level of love than when you are bound by laws and marriage. For the first time in a public forum— apart from with my students— I touched upon this in the forum for equality that we

organized recently in London. And am glad that it was well received.

Religion is harmful for children

As they say we are all born atheists but very few of us are lucky enough to remain so. Because when it comes to religion or God, from almost the day we are born our parents start feeding our brains with lies. Be it through various pujas and *namakaran* ceremonies or baptism or *janeyu* ceremony or circumcision. Blatant lies without evidence. By pure force, autocratic advantage of being our parents and due to their personal faith. Luckily my parents never tried to feed me with lies about God's existence so I could decide about God based on evidence. And since there is none of it, I could freely reject its existence. However, of late as I see children around me growing up I have become from an atheist to an anti-theist. And I thought it's my duty to write my feelings for the sake of my son and all children who are our future.

My biggest objection to religion and God is because I have realised that by believing in God we harm our

“Faith is child abuse. Teaching a child to uncritically accept your religious lies is teaching them not to think. You are teaching them that belief, without evidence, is unacceptable. This damages the child’s ability to reason.

Add to that teaching the child that normal behaviour is sinful, and that the sinful are hell bound, and you get a clear pattern psychological abuse.”

kids most. We make our kids dependent on an illusory external force which takes away their self confidence and ability to achieve in life. And that's scary. It's of utmost importance to realise— specially for every child— that there is absolutely nothing called God simply because of complete lack of evidence and logic. There can't be. And make them realise all these religious books from the *Gita* to the Bible to the *Quran*, have been written by manipulating human beings— most likely though with good intentions— to show people a better moral path, however as per their extremely limited understanding at that point of time, one and a half to three thousand years back. Thus, unfortunately, as mostly illiterate shepherds and farmers of medieval ages they wrote about low IQ morals which helped promote their illogical concepts of Gods in order to dominate women and rule the poor then.

I am always worried about kids seeing their favorite biology teacher— who teaches about evolution and fossils— at a Sunday mass/Thursday Sai Baba temple/ Friday *namaz*... The kids clearly would learn nothing,

for if evolution were to be true, and the biology teacher really believed in it, she wouldn't be found in a church or a temple. The same goes for the physics teacher who teaches about the universe and at the same time wears a stone on his finger, or the chemistry teacher who teaches about the chemicals required to spot life on other planets and keeps a Monday fast or eats vegetarian food on Tuesdays, or the history teacher who is supposed to teach about facts of the past and comes to the classroom with a red *tika* on his forehead; and the geography teacher who is supposed to teach about the formation of landscapes and keeps *navratra* fasts. Because then there is no need to teach anything, as God believers have one answer for everything— God created it! That's genuinely scary and pitiable. Imagine, then what's the need of teaching all these subjects like biology, chemistry, geography at all? After all, where is the role of science compared to, for example, the amazing intelligence of primitives who wrote the Bible, where all the species of animals on this planet stay within walking distance of Noah's house! We can either teach in class how life on Earth came as a result of the process of evolution over 4 billion years and

BEING AN ATHEIST



It's a lot like being the only sober person in a car full of drunk people, and they refuse to pull over and let you drive

that human beings evolved not even from apes but in a straight line from a fish (and how before multicellularity evolved about the three billion years back, for the first one billion years of evolution of life there were only single celled organisms that are evolving even till date), or teach how God created man and woman. We can either teach how rains happen scientifically or teach how praying to rain Gods and fasting for it, brings rains. If we teach the former we must not do the latter.

A child should be always encouraged to question and understand things on the basis of rationale. Else its pure child abuse to use the blank slate of his brain and fill it up with unsubstantiated man made lies.

I strongly advocate, just like sale of cigarettes and alcohol to children is banned any no child is allowed inside bars, no child should be allowed inside any place of worship or be allowed to be a part of any religious ceremony till the age of 18. Can you imagine how she will laugh when at the age of 18 she first steps inside a temple or a mosque? She would roll on the floor laughing at the childishness of such acts of worship. And that's

exactly the reason why we indoctrinate kids into religion even before they can question. So that they take can never laugh at its irrationality. They are forced to believe this is the truth. And then later in life when they meet someone rational who explains them that there can be no God, they just can't come out of their evidence-less belief system. They keep arguing like buffoons though they realise they don't have any argument. They try their best to refute the fact that they acted foolishly all these years. It's really hard on them because religious indoctrination has already closed their brains to questioning their belief system. They are already too used to saying God bless, RIP, OMG, I swear upon God, touch wood and all such meaningless stuff. They have already grown used to crossing their fingers and sitting during crucial moments of their life believing God is going to help them fulfil their unfulfilled wish.

To get rid of such habits inculcated from childhood then becomes traumatic. For, it has to begin with accepting that they acted foolishly all these years.

Religion ruins every important occasion of your life

“A billion people being fooled doesn't make something true. It just makes a billion fools.”

GOD'S SCORE CARD

Murders stopped : 0

Rapes stopped : 0

Goals scored : 2,174,455

Keys found : 9,192,631,770

...BUT DON'T YOU DARE
QUESTION HIS PRIORITIES

and makes you do something stupid.

Imagine. It often begins even before you are born. When your mother is pregnant, there is a religious ceremony. In fact to get pregnant there are ceremonies. When the child is born there is a ceremony. At adolescence there is a ceremony of indoctrination (it could involve something be as painful as removal of the foreskin from the male penis). When the child is about to be an adult there is a ceremony. There is a ceremony when you get married. When you die. It doesn't leave you even after death— as in some religions there could be an annual death anniversary religious ceremony. When you buy a new house there is a ceremony, when you buy a new car, when you get a new job, it just never leaves you. And then of course preferably every Sunday you are expected to play toy-toy in your nearest toy house that houses the idols. It doesn't even spare the only day you to laze around— your Sundays. In Islam you are actually expected to do prayers five times a day. Then of course all religions have your fasting weeks and months!

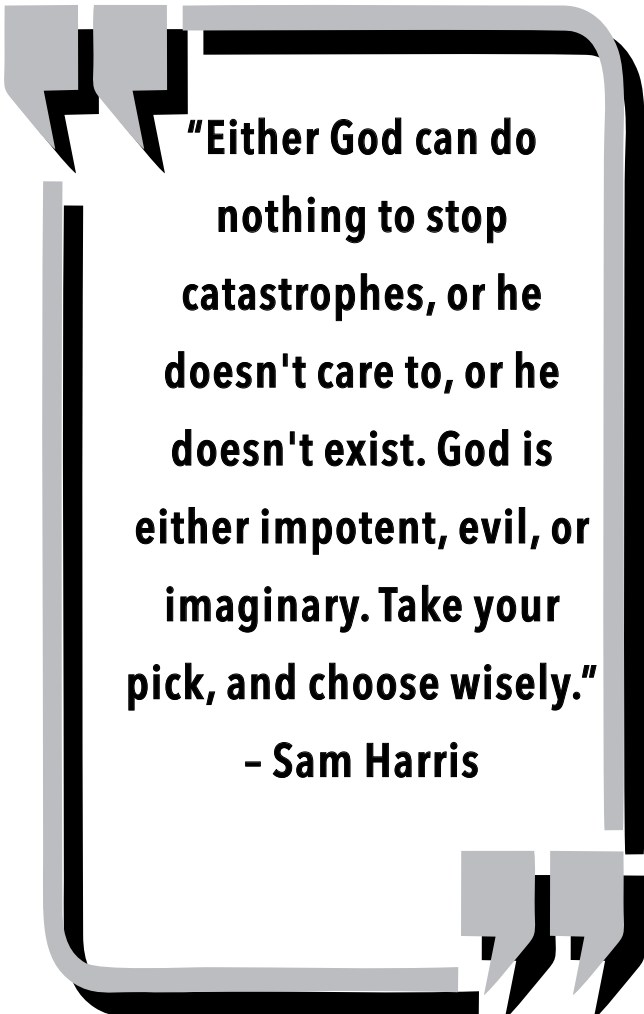
Religion ruins every happy day of your life by

making you do something brainless and foolish. And I have not even started to question the meaning of the things it expects you to recite and pray during each such ceremony. Stuff that's steeped inside middle age morals and completely outdated and unscientific understanding of universe and how things work. In Hindus, you sit during a marriage ceremony and say things that are outright chauvinistic and backward, just like during a Christian wedding ceremony.

Staying away from religion would help you enjoy life to the fullest. It will not ruin your present life for the sake of an imaginary concocted better after-life.

Religion is not needed to be Moral.

They say religion at least instills morality. That also is baseless. Which moral? Marry your rapist moral? Yes deluded morality of authoritarian stone age people whose main occupation was farming and warring. To me if morality is equal to stupidity then religion sure does put that inside man. Else in reality it's quite the opposite. It promotes— as rightly put by Richard Dawkins—



"Either God can do nothing to stop catastrophes, or he doesn't care to, or he doesn't exist. God is either impotent, evil, or imaginary. Take your pick, and choose wisely."

- Sam Harris

war mongering, slavery, meanness, genocides and ethnic cleansing, indiscriminate massacre, intolerance, complete hostility to science and free thoughts, and worse of all, suppression and coercion of women and children. Most importantly we don't need morals from religions. Plus various experiments have shown that morality is no less— if not more— in atheists when compared to religious people. At least atheism has fought no wars unlike religions that has a savage track record of killing countless over years— from crusades to jihads. And of course, anything that has to be made right in the society we must do it through means of education and implement it through laws, policing and an efficient judiciary. As the great scientist Einstein said, “if people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for a reward, we are a sorry lot indeed.” Thankfully though that's not the truth.

If religion were to instill morals then priests wouldn't be sexually molesting children in the Church, suicide bombers wouldn't be killing innocent people in the name of Islam every other day and in India we wouldn't

have had saffron clad people encouraging lynching of Muslims. No morals have nothing to do with religion. Morals also come from evolution. Human emotions and the ability to differentiate good from bad has come over thousands of years through evolution. Watching violence and pain makes us flinch and realise it's wrong to give it to others. A child's smile makes us smile and make us realise what happiness is. Human morals have evolved like the human being herself.

Any yet, despite all evolution, it's human to do bad as well. And to stop bad from happening we don't need religion. We don't need another bad— a lie to stop a bad. We need laws. To keep people on the right path that a democratic society has evolved to believe in, we need laws and ways to enforce those laws. Not religion.

For, forget about religion playing any role in making people moral and peaceful what we have seen on the contrary is that while science takes us to Mars, religion has at best taken us to sky scrapers. It is that single thing that has a constant track record of making fanatics out of sane human beings. Temples, churches, mosques and



**"DID YOU KNOW? THE
MOTTO "IN GOD WE
TRUST" WAS NOT ADOPTED
BY THE FOUNDING FATHERS
OF AMERICA, BUT BY
CONGRESS IN 1956 IN
RESPONSE TO FEARS OF
"GODLESS" COMMUNISM.**



now messaging apps through daily irrational (supposedly motivational) messages about God make a literal fool of man by saying unending lies in the name of God, beginning from the first lie about the existence of God itself . They promote day in and day out infantile things about how God looks after everybody and everything happens as per his plan. Shocks me no ends. It is that one single thing that stops us from achieving more. If people could just believe in the fact that there is no God planning things for them they would more actively take charge of their destiny. Instead we have the world's stupidest books like 'The Secret' destroying the intelligence of well educated adults. It's like saying there is a supreme being who is invisible and sitting somewhere up there and is watching all our moves 24x7 and accounting for them in his super computer and rewarding for each good deed and punishing for each evil deed. For every good deed you do God is keeping a track and worry not you get a reward. So after doing all your crimes, when you die and go up, he checks your records and the moment he sees you ate vegetarian food on Tuesdays for him, he instantly orders the gates of heaven for be opened for

you!!

Thus, everytime you are happy or get some results of your good deeds it's not because you did something good, but because God gave you a reward!! And whenever a good man or woman is getting punished and dying out of hunger or curable disease it's because he was punished for the sins of his previous birth. Similarly whenever an evil man lives his whole life on earth happily and cheerfully enjoying all material and other comforts of life, worry not. He will be burning in a huge fire place in hell. And if that's not good enough he will even be punished in his next life. How convenient a plan! Full proof from all angles against all arguments! Creative fantasy story telling at its best!

Think about it... and YOU MUST even if there was a God of the above kind why should anyone worship such a sadistic video gamer. Sitting up there and having fun at human misery. He has time to watch you make love before marriage and punish you for that, but no time to take care of those little kids dying of hunger and curable diseases. A megalomaniacal Kim Jong Un of North

**“There is not a
single religion
that can survive
these two words :
PROVE IT”**

Reveal
yourself

Make
humans
better

Flood

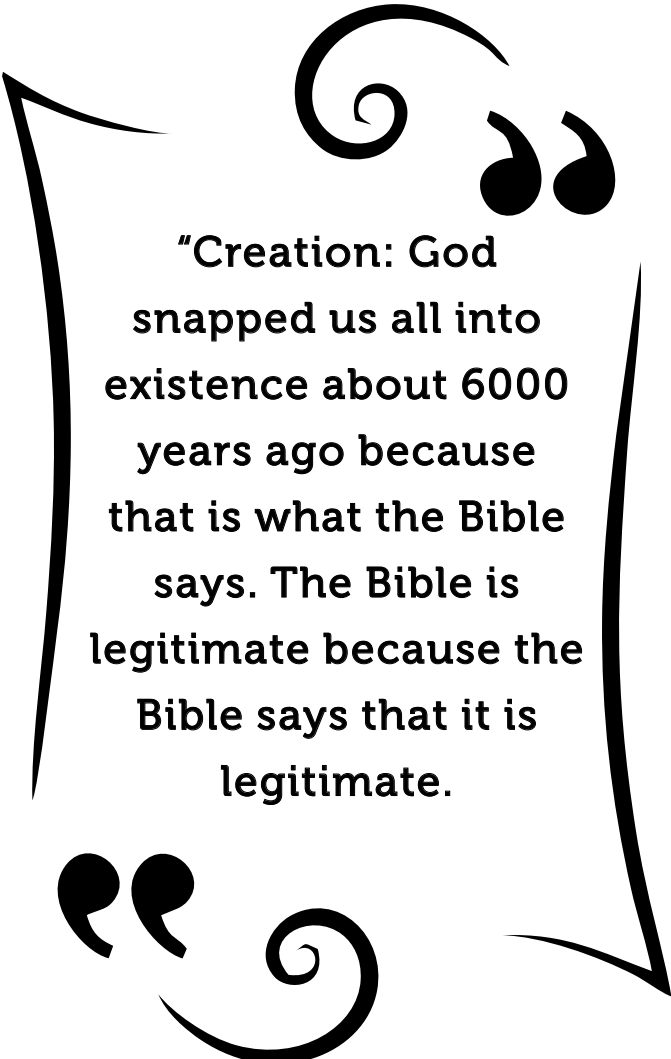


Korea kind of a dictator. A guy whom you have to keep praying to and singing songs on his praise, for good to happen. So that temple and church coffers keep getting filled up. Shame. The whole thing is purely a sinister ploy promoting only illogical foolishness against the pure logic of evolution. There is no God that created man. Man created God. That's the only truth. Those stone age guys without education and electricity living on an average 20 years and dying of simple fevers could be pardoned for being fearful of something above. Educated men and women of today? Well its a pure shame. As the scientific question goes, if God created man, who by the way created fossils (that go on to prove evolution)!

What is further painful is that every major religious book uses promotion of guilt around natural urges to promote itself. Sex being one of the most widely used, thus most of the key religions not only go on to promote irrational ideas around abstinence from sex but even some kind of genital mutilation. From sex to jealousy they try to use various natural urges to control your mind through the guilt button. The answer to the guilt

is then to believe in God and seek his mercy by taking punishment. Once the guilt has been established it makes you believe in going through stupid pain as the answer to your so called crime. Too often it's just a thought crime because apparently God is keeping a watch on your thoughts while you sleep too! So whip yourself, walk 14 km to *Vaishno Devi*, roll yourself through a rocky terrain. Makes you believe in self inflicted pain and sacrifice of the stupidest kind for Gods happiness including child sacrifice and human sacrifice. Forget it, religion goes on to say suffering is a gift of God. So if you are poor and suffering don't question your leaders, it's a gift of God. Even Mother Teresa instead of promoting women's emancipation promoted such ridiculous concepts, despite all the good she did. Today in India we have ministers who actually say if God hasn't been able to do anything about poverty then what can he do.

Religion constantly takes advantage of guilts and fears. Of course that doesn't mean human beings should lead a guilt free life. It only means if they do something for which there is no law punishing them, they need not have



"Creation: God snapped us all into existence about 6000 years ago because that is what the Bible says. The Bible is legitimate because the Bible says that it is legitimate.

any guilt. Who are religious institutions to decide what we should feel guilty about and what is the punishment we should go through for that?

Religion works on fear

The biggest fear it takes advantage of is death. And to avoid death man is ready to do anything. Anything as stupid as sitting in front of a stone and praying or wearing a stone on his finger and roaming around!! The truth is death has nothing to do with God. Religion or God has never saved anyone from death. Science and medicine does that. No religion has done a real miracle like say growing back a severed leg or hand. All so called miraculous cures that have ever happened at rare times after visit to God, are incidents for which there was always a scientific chance of happening. And obviously there is no after life. After death the number of people going to heaven are ZERO and to hell are ZERO. Because after death, we are all DEAD. That's all. We go nowhere. Nor are we born again.

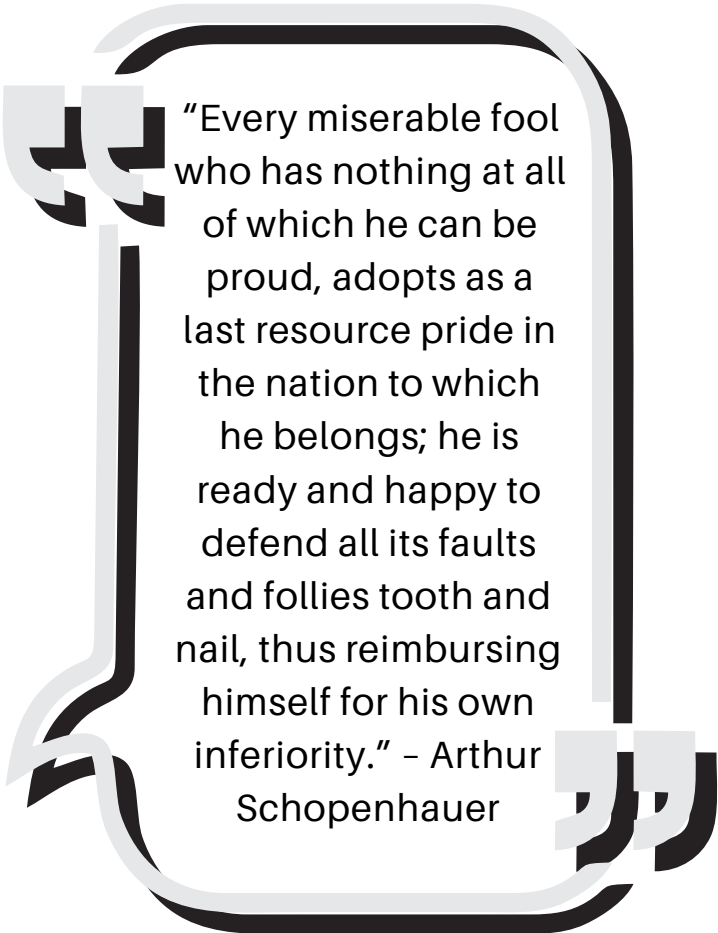
The rule of religion is simple. Pray. If it works

(obviously by pure probability) praise God. If it doesn't work, say that God works in mysterious ways. He has another plan for you. Praise God! Utter nonsense. Religion makes you believe in superiority of only one religion, the religion you practice... and actually by that logic every religion makes you an atheist about all other religions except for one— your own. So the only difference between an atheist and a religious man in that sense, is that an atheist believes in one God lesser than a religious man. The truth however is, as Christopher Hitchens would say— since it's obviously inconceivable that all religions are correct, the most logical answer is that they are all wrong. And elaborate by saying in any case, anything that can be forced upon you without evidence can be dismissed without evidence as well.

Religion creates God-men and God-women.

Good people or bad people they end up fooling you— whichever the religion.

Being an Indian I have seen all kinds of God men and God women! Good human beings like Mother Teresa



“Every miserable fool who has nothing at all of which he can be proud, adopts as a last resource pride in the nation to which he belongs; he is ready and happy to defend all its faults and follies tooth and nail, thus reimbursing himself for his own inferiority.” - Arthur Schopenhauer

to fraud rapists created by the political rapists and con men of India— who when found guilty of rape hold the entire country to ransom through acts of vandalism and rioting.

What makes me sad is that when such painful things happen, all WhatsApp forwards and posts condemning such heinous barbarism, still try to justify God and religion!! Most forwards and messages I receive at such times say it's a shame that we have such people running empires in the name of God (as if they know God personally and know how good she is).. Some posts even say, may God bless the souls of those killed in the riots.

Wait a minute, didn't we just take those lives in the name of God only? And isn't everything done under the supervision of God only? And whatever God does isn't it always for the good? Then why any sorrow for those getting killed? Be happy! God does everything for the good. It is God who is getting them killed. All those getting killed must be paying the price of some crime in their previous birth. Oops no... may be God is relieving them sooner from the punishment of being born on

Earth— depending upon which illogical cock and bull story you believe in.

How irrational indeed!!

As the saying goes “Cataract remains the second biggest reason for blindness, religion being the first...”

My advice to all such friends— stop saying ‘may God bless you’. Stop saying ‘in God’s name stop the crimes’. Stop saying ‘these are the God-men who spoil the name of God’.

Grow up. Realize that God and Religion are the two biggest con games ever invented on Earth. When you say God bless, you not only betray your illiteracy but you also promote the fraudulent exploitative concept of God and religion which for many, then, take shape of various kinds of extremism.

There is no God. Full stop.

The more you go in search of God, the more you will fall for rapists and con men. The more you will fall for fake God-men who create various religions through



**“You know
who's not
having a
church sex
scandal?
Satan!”**

If only I
Knew
the story
of the
Ramayan?



I became
an
atheist,
because
I studied
Ramayan!



cooked up fables and stories. The more you will fall for divisive political leaders, rapists and murderers who will con you exactly like God-men, by using religion as their trump card.

Stay far far away from God and religion. That's the way logical, intelligent strong people live their lives. And remember, "In the eradication of Religion and elimination of Income and Gender inequality lie the secrets of Global Humanism."

Yes, it's true not all God-men are bad human beings. But they still make a fool of you or are used by others to make you a fool. Like in the case of Mother Teresa.

When I was really young, and though even then I never believed in God, we used to celebrate Saraswati Puja as a part of our local club's annual ritual! My father had told me that we must not use the entire surplus from the Puja to buy cricket kits etc for our club. We must also do some good work like donating to Mother Teresa. And like an obedient son, to get over the guilt of buying a cricket bat, we had donated half of the surplus to

Missionaries of Charity. I still have that letter of thanks from Nirmal Hriday.

But as I look back, I find probably that's the only purpose Mother ever served. For all the western capitalists and countries full of guilt of exploiting the rest of the world and doing precious nothing for them, she was a western symbol of altruism— promoting whom, made them feel less guilty of their unending craving for self gratification. So all shades of moneyed people used her... And she used them in turn happily. There were billionaire frauds and scammers who felt guilt-free donating to her and she actually paid them back by giving character certificates to them (she actually wrote to the judge trying the 'Ponzi King' Charles Keating, in support of him).

And of course to the conservative autocratic Catholic church she served far more. To them she was the unsuspecting global ambassador of fundamentalism. Behind whom they could promote more of their uneducated evidence less fanaticism. No wonder then that post her global recognition she hardly spent time

“Religion :

*They will run your
whole life to ensure a
better afterlife, for
which they have no
proof at all.”*

in Kolkata but despite her claims of being non political, she spent the rest of her life hobnobbing with politicians and most importantly supporting them. They included politicians of all shades, from criminals like Haitian President to dictatorial murderers like the Albanian President to global political war mongers in the name of democracy like Ronald Reagan to the radical criminals forces of Nicaraguan contras. And of course these travels around the world were in a private jet given to her by another corrupt politician through his ill gotten moneys.

No don't get me wrong. I do not consider mother an evil human being without goodness. No. Like many of the bronze age men who wrote all our religious books, she was probably good hearted. With her limited knowledge and blind beliefs she did try to do very good work. But a lot of what she sure did and propagated, like what's written in all our religious books was harmful for mankind. From stoning your disobedient son to death, to killing your wife for infidelity to marrying your rapist, you name an evil and I will show you a religious book with

a moral guideline justifying that evil. I am sure men who propagated the Indian evil called Sati also thought they were doing good for the women and saving them from the eyes of lecherous men post the death of her husband by burning her alive her in the same pyre. But the fact is these are all medieval and shameful commandments of illiterates. So was the Mother, when she said poverty is a gift of God and nothing could be done about it. That was her basic premise as she insisted that she was not a social worker but a messenger of Jesus whose main aim was to spread Christianity. Apart from the fact that in today's age and time anyone trying to spread religion is contempt worthy and is basically trying to divide the world on the basis of evidence less so called stupid moral guidelines of their God, she was completely wrong with her logic about poverty. Poverty is man made. It's created through exploitation of the marginalized and there is lot people can do against it and last thing they need to do is stupidly accept it as a gift of God. Poverty is created by heartless and criminal politicians and helps them to rule nations. And this basic tenet of mother was the greatest proof of her lack of education and understanding of the world,



Evolution: The genome of all species has slowly evolved over millions and millions of years because that is what science has observed.

Science is legitimate because numerous experts over the last century had studied the physical evidence and submitted their findings for peer scrutiny, then reached consensus.

however good a human being she might have been.

But it doesn't stop there. For her the sole aim was literally to help the poor die instead of save them. How else could one explain the complete lack of scientific facilities in her clinic despite unbelievable amounts of donations. The best pain killer she would give, to even those in crazy pain caused by cancer, was aspirin. People were operated without anaesthesia and needles were washed in cold water and reused. The aim was somehow to convert a dying patient into Christianity and then help him die. They actually secretly baptised dying people irrespective of their religion, that was the level of her cult's illiterate fanaticism. People who could be easily cured by sending them to a nearby hospital were not sent there and people who could be easily saved by antibiotics weren't given that, such pathetic was her understanding of science and worth of human lives. If something could be bought from the market, it wasn't bought. For the only thing to be used was what came through donations. Such poor were her facilities that when she fell ill, she didn't have the courage to use her own facilities and instead went to

California for her treatment.

Her twisted logic and dogma had worse results. In her Nobel prize winning speech she hilariously said abortions were the biggest threat to peace in the world and she went around the world denouncing abortions due to her medieval believes.

If those kinds of imbecile acts weren't enough, she went against the use of condoms in Africa, while they died of HIV/AIDS. While being honored by international health organisation she actually said AIDS was a retribution for improper sexual contact. That was her level of dumbed down religious dogma.

While her charity got donations of upwards of an estimated 100 million dollars, her clinics remained in horrible conditions. She could have easily built many a good hospital but she preferred to spend only less than an estimated 10 percent of her funds on her work or for the poor. Instead she offered prayers and praised Christ when any tragedy struck, for prayers are the best way of doing nothing while someone else suffers. This was most

conspicuous when she offered nothing else but prayers for Bhopal gas victims.

Even in her death she was used to fool the world. Through her canonization. Nothing could be more ludicrous. Two miracles and two doves. All that's needed to prove your so called miraculous powers? That's nothing more than a joke. Her sainthood was nothing but the Catholic church returning the favor that she did to them by being the greatest ambassador of its good work thanks to her espousing poverty and living an entire life in a white saree that became the symbol of Christian altruism and third world poverty. The fact is miracles never happen. All so called miraculous powers are some kind of fraud. When there are thousands who fall ill, some who seem incurable get cured. That's not a miracle. That's how the human body works. Attributing that to someone's miraculous powers is outright stupid. And the same happened to the woman who said she had brain tumors and mother cured. She got cured as her tumors must have been temporary and curable. And the other miracle attributed to Mother is the most



One helping hand is infinite
times better than
two folded hands

delusional. The woman most likely never had cancer at the first place and church refused to investigate all that because the story suited their interest. All stories of her seeing light from mothers picture are bound to be pure delusions of an affected mind.

You know friends what's a miracle? Next time someone claims to have miraculous powers, ask them to make a severed hand or leg grow back. That's a miracle as I keep saying. That never happens. That can never happen. Because that's science. We didn't see faith healers in hospitals. Else we wouldn't need science and doctors. And that's why I found the entire act of celebrate Mothers miracles and her sainthood completely brainless and a perfect con game to keep the flag of the Church flying.

I wish at least the media and journalists would have used their brain more than get fooled by blind beliefs without questioning rationale. While celebrating all good she did, the media should have told people that there aren't any saints on this planet. Yes there are a few great human beings. And Mother could be considered one of

them. But we must question, how is anyone qualified to make someone a Saint? And mislead the masses.

And the irony and injustice of it all was, you are exalted to a higher echelon only if you had miraculous powers, not because you strove your life for the poor and the needy. Tragic indeed.

Religion makes making a fool of yourself fashionable.

And a majority of the celebrities and leaders you admire most end up looking brain dead. Let's take the case of the death of Stephen Hawkins.

It was a clear case in point showing how our celebrities and world wide political leaders have low intelligence with respect to understanding of religion and God. Twitter was flooded with messages like 'RIP' and 'may God bless his soul' which in effect were an insult to Stephen Hawking and his body of work— just like such phrases are meaningless tributes to anyone else.

Stephen Hawking fabulously said “Before we

“

“Atheism: A disbelief in the existence of a deity based on lack of empirical evidence or compelling argument. It is really that simple ... We don't hate the thing which doesn't exist actually.”

”

understand science, it is natural to believe that God created the universe. But now science offers a more convincing explanation.” Though he metaphorically referred to God in his book *A brief History of Time*, he clarified multiple times later that he was an atheist and that he didn’t believe in the existence of God or an after-life. He believed the human brain to be like a computer and said just like a broken down computer doesn’t go to heaven similarly a brain that stopped working has no after-life.

Thus as I saw thousands of RIP messages on my mobile and social media and hundreds of them from celebrities and film stars that the masses look upto and idolize, I couldn’t help but feel sad for Stephen Hawking, the greatest physicist that our generation saw. The man who thought ‘We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star’, has left behind billions of mourners who don’t seem to even be in the category of advanced breeds of monkeys. How else do you explain saying stuff like may his soul rest in peace or God bless his soul or I pray his soul while paying homage

to a man who never believed in after-life or God.

Many people have asked me what happens when we die. And my answer has always been about 6 trillion bacteria take over our body and before they spread a stench we need either burn it or bury it. That's all that happens. There is no soul (there is nothing called a soul or spirit) that escapes the body and goes to the 'imaginary Disneyland' called heaven where it again takes shape of a body and starts interacting with all the other souls floating around. It's a nice fairy tale to console low IQ and unscientific people. But a really shallow thing to tell as intelligent breeds of advanced monkeys.

But then how do we explain it to masses who are so devoid of basic understanding of science and so swayed by the unquestionable faith on something that has no proof of existence (God) specially when everyone they look upto talks in the same low IQ language— be it the president of USA (not just Trump who in any case has questionable intelligence but even most his predecessors including the so called intelligent Obama) to their favourite film stars.

“Imagine what kind of world we’d be living in if every cent ever donated to a religion had been donated to scientific and medical research. That’s the world religion has stolen from us all.”

While globally in sports we have hardly any one who doesn't believe in God (that's expected given they barely graduate school on an average), in Hollywood we still have intelligent stars who take a bold stance against religion and God, but in India's Bollywood, all our stars seem to be either unintelligent with respect to their understanding of the universe and God or compromised individuals who despite their intelligence keep mouthing off meaningless words like "God Bless" and "Pray for you" and "RIP".

I mean how meaningless can these words be. Either their vocabulary is bad or they are completely uninvolved while they respond and think its a popular and stylish thing to say to foolish masses who they believe will swallow anything unintelligent that they say without asking questions. So everytime they end a speech they say God bless. Everytime they meet a fans they say God bless. Everytime some devastation takes place anywhere they say I am praying for the victims. And everytime someone dies they say RIP.

Let's now explore what exactly do they trying to say.

And what were the options they had. When they say God bless. They are basically saying something that I have no idea of or you have no idea of and no one has ever seen but who we believe has apparently created this universe that has about 200 billion galaxies (with about 400 billion stars each) about 14 billion years back should in his super computer press a button of his blessings for you. Yes sure. That's all that he is waiting to do isn't it? That too when we believe that God already has a perfect pre-determined plan for all of us. But alas as Stephen Hawking himself put it humorously 'I have noticed even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road.'

Could we do better? Of course we could. The simplest thing that we could say instead is I wish the best for you all. It's a good wish without any blind believe involved.

What do we do when we say I am praying for the victims of the disaster. They mean that they are basically praying to the same God who created the disaster that there should be less pains in the life of the ones he (tough

*“Why didn’t God
stop the shooting?
Because God doesn’t
exist. Engage with
reality and fix your
crappy gun laws.”*

THANK
YOU
ALLAH!



Thanking God for sparing you
in a natural disaster is a bit like
sending a thank-you note to a
serial killer for stabbing the
family next door

to write she here because if God actually existed and was a woman then she wouldn't be screwing things up so bad so often) left half dead and in pain and orphaned. Could there be a bigger joke? In my mind no.

What could they do? The least is they could say my thoughts go out for those who are pain and have been struck with this disaster. They could even donate so that the relief work could be more effective. And again, two helping hands are far better than two folded hands. So they could even join the relief work like many often do. But the last thing anyone wants are their prayers. They are meaningless and least involved.

Finally what do they mean when they say RIP? Well if we take the example of India actress, Sridevi, they are trying to say, you were just cruelly drowned by God in a tub full of water leaving behind two little girls without a mom but now you must get peace as you are with the same God who gave you this cruel death. Or gave you 55 years of life with ALS syndrome (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's Disease, a neurological disease that impacts movement) in the case of Stephen

Hawking. Sridevi's death if anything should be taken as proof of non existence of God or him being cruel in case he does exist just like the painful life of Stephen Hawking proved. I mean isn't it time to get more intelligent than that. Specially if we are paying homage to someone like Hawking who never believed in God.

So what could they say instead? Well as simple as 'Stephen Hawking will live in our memories'. Stephen Hawking will be remembered for his exceptional work. We will try to focus on his beautiful deeds than his painful death that has left us all shattered.

Really it's time someone took this message to our celebrities and asked them to behave more intelligently in public. In India, before every film's release, we see our biggest of stars going mindlessly to temples to seek blessings of a stone idol run by a clever marketing manager or to a fake God-man (all God-men are frauds... have you ever wondered how none can show a video recording of God coming and talking to them though all claim to have conversions with Gods) and encouraging blind beliefs and unsubstantiated faiths. Every now and

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“RELIGION IS EXCELLENT
STUFF FOR KEEPING
COMMON PEOPLE QUIET.
RELIGION IS WHAT KEEPS
THE POOR FROM
MURDERING THE RICH.”
– NAPOLEAN BONAPARTE.

”

then tweeting about God's kindness and about fantasy concepts like souls, consciousness and spirits. And then sending mindless religious wishes on so many occasions that are less of a cultural fun (like say diwali) but more of a harmful tradition spreading some social evil (like *Karva Chauth*). Above all someone specially needs to have a chat with our sports icons. I mean imagine. What do you have to say after winning a world cup? Well... I thank God for this world cup. Without him we wouldn't have ever won this cup. I dedicate this to him!!! Yes sure. He has no time to feed the millions dying of malnutrition in sub-saharan Africa, no ability to cure the ALS syndrome of Hawking in 55 years or even no time to save a drowning lady; But he was watching your match with keen interest and making sure you win it. It's like a style statement. I thank God. How about the hundreds of teams which never win. How about the guys who come second or third. They couldn't win because you were more skilled on the given day or because God had decided to punish him despite their team being better?

I only hope and wish we at least behave like advanced

breed of monkeys— that Stephen Hawking thought of human beings as— in our daily behaviour instead of its stone age and unscientific cave men versions.

Religious people obviously have less IQ. It's rational and research proves so.

In fact, leave alone religion and God, to me personally, it's a shame that in 2019, we still have a word called atheists. I mean, do we have a word for those who believe that the Earth is round? Do we have a word for those who believe $2 + 2 = 4$? Do we have a word for those who believe that humans can't fly? Do we have a word for those who believe that humans can't have ten heads? Well, the answer is no. Because all that is normal and requires basic intelligence. On the contrary, if we were to define people who don't understand such basic logic, we would need to form a new word that would basically mean "low IQ people in need of special care."

If we don't have a word for people believing in basic and normal things, then why do we have a word for those who don't believe in God, something for which,



Nationalism is the only religion that continues to expect human sacrifice

in 4 billion years of existence of Earth, there has been no evidence? I often wonder, why don't we address the believers of God simply as "low IQ people in need of special care"?

Actually, I am not joking. Research after research has proven that people who believe in God or religion have a lower IQ. Just take a look at some of the below mentioned studies:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mr-personality/201312/why-are-religious-people-generally-less-intelligent>

<https://blogs.psychcentral.com/faith/2012/05/religious-people-are-stupid-and-mean-studies-show/>

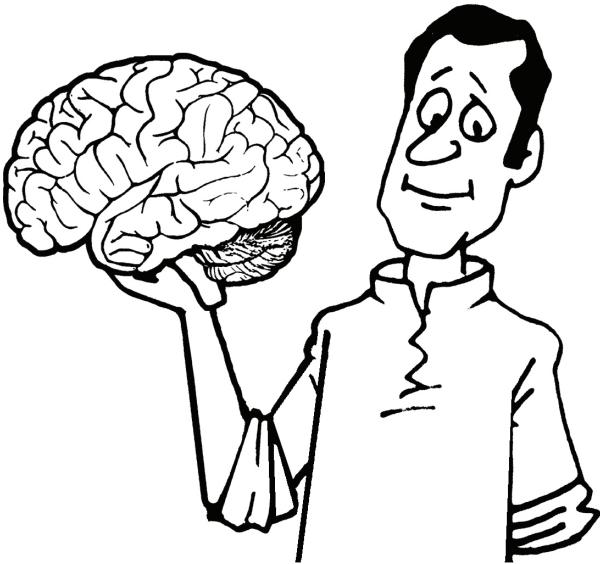
However, my idea is not to humiliate anyone who believes in God. Only education can help them overcome their intellectual handicap; and over time, just the way people learnt that the Earth is round and it goes around the Sun and $2 + 2 = 4$, they will learn that there can't be anything called God and being religious is really meaningless. The real problem is that schools and

colleges don't give us real education. They don't make us question everything that's not based on evidence.

The premier institutions across the globe don't teach about the irrationality of primitive, unscientific and brainless religious systems and don't have proper subjects on relationships and sex. Instead, across the world, one would find a cross or a church inside the campus, a Ganesha or a Saraswati statue at the entrance of the school, or prayers to the non-existent Lord every morning... And with this, we give rise to generations of idiots and semi-frustrated and unbalanced souls... Those who will either disrespect others on the basis of man-made irrational differentiations like caste, colour or religion, or on the basis of sex. Someone will put pathetic forwards on religion (either running down some other religion or praising their own— both of which are signs of equal amounts of stupidity and lack of rationale) and someone else on women... And in the case of India, we will have a nation trying to deal with gau-raksha vigilantes and rapists. Religious fanatics and sexists, two typical character traits of the ill-educated garbage that premier

***“Race, Religion,
Ethnic Pride,
Nationalism does
nothing but teach
you how to hate
people you have
never met.” –
Doug Starhope***

They told me to use
The brain God gave
Me, I did.



Now I'm an
Atheist, Ironic,
isn't it?

institutions keep producing all across the world.

As I mentioned earlier, that religious individuals have low IQ is quite evident by almost all researches done around the world: however, those who, apart from practicing it, go to the extent of pulling down other religions in public and in public forums like Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube etc. are perfect examples additionally of how religion finally makes you irrational extremists. Be it Islam, Christianity, Sikhism or Hinduism.

I don't expect everyone to become anti-theists but at least by now shouldn't we all have had secular values?

In an article (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/our-humanity-naturally/201103/misinformation-and-facts-about-secularism-and-religion>) David Niose brings out how secularism not only is rational but also leads to less crime, sexism, murders and every ill one can think of. The article is based on a path-breaking research paper by Phil Zuckerman of Pitzer College, titled Atheism, Secularity, and Well-Being: How the

Findings of Social Science Counter Negative Stereotypes and Assumptions.

Zuckerman analyzed a wide array of data comparing religious nations to less religious nations and also, interestingly, religious states within the United States (i.e. “Bible-belt” states) to less religious states.

He found out that religious people were more likely to engage in: Criminal behaviour: Citing four different studies, Zuckerman states: “Murder rates are actually lower in more secular nations and higher in more religious nations where belief in God is widespread.” He also states: “Of the top 50 safest cities in the world, nearly all are in relatively non-religious countries.” Within the United States, we see the same pattern. Citing census data, he writes: “And within America, the states with the highest murder rates tend to be the highly religious, such as Louisiana and Alabama, but the states with the lowest murder rates tend to be the among the least religious in the country, such as Vermont and Oregon.”

And these findings are not limited to murder rates, as

I have noticed that even those who assert that everything is predestined and that we can change nothing about it still look both ways before they cross the street



**Stephen
Hawking**

rates of all violent crimes tend to be higher in “religious” states. Zuckerman also points out that atheists are very much under-represented in the American prison population (only 0.2%).

Marriage and family: Zuckerman cites a 1999 Barna study that finds that atheists and agnostics actually have lower divorce rates than religious Americans. He also cites another study, in Canada that found that conservative Christian women experienced higher rates of domestic violence than non-affiliated women.

Unprotected sex: ...Teens who make religion-inspired “virginity pledges” are not only just as likely as their non-pledging peers to engage in premarital sex, but more likely to engage in unprotected sex.

Not just the above, but he also observed that atheists were happier people. The most secular nations in the world report the highest levels of happiness among their population. Similarly, atheists were more altruistic: Secular nations such as those in Scandinavia donate the most money and supportive aid, per capita, to poorer

nations. Zuckerman also reports that two studies show that, during the Holocaust, “the more secular people were, the more likely they were to rescue and help persecuted Jews.” It’s pertinent to mention here—No, atheism is no Religion nor is Atheism the reason why communists killed anyone and no, Hitler wasn’t an atheist.

Lastly, Zuckerman, citing numerous studies, shows that atheists and agnostics, when compared to religious people, were actually less likely to be nationalistic, racist, anti-Semitic, dogmatic, ethnocentric, and authoritarian. Secularism also correlates to higher education levels. Atheists and other secular people are also much more likely to support women’s rights and gender equality, as well as gay and lesbian rights. Religious individuals are more likely to support government use of torture.

Need I write more about the virtues of secularism? The Chinese Communist Party has directed its people to give up religion. Yes, while becoming non-religious should be the ultimate goal of education and every nation, the minimum we need to start is by making secularism a non negotiable tenet of daily life. Something that can’t

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“Child abuse is convincing an unprepared and underdeveloped mind that: - They are broken and need to be fixed. – They are lost and need to be found. – They are unworthy and need to be saved. – They are sheep that need to be led. – They are weak in need of another's strength. – They are a label dictated by others. – And that they are righteous, if they only have faith.”

”

be questioned. Something that can't be mocked. Instead of making it mandatory for example, for Indians to stand for national anthems in cinema halls and fanning primitive concepts of nationalism that are actually non-secular and racist (specially in the case of India where nationalism instantly means abusing Pakistanis, which in turns fans anti-Muslim feelings and turns non secular), the Supreme Court might as well make it mandatory to respect secular tenets of the Constitution of India.

Not just for Global Humanism but even for “Personal Success”, the first thing that we all have to do is to stay away from God.

The more you will believe in God, worse will be your life and less will be your success. Because by now you surely have understood, there is absolutely nothing called God. Believing in God is like handing over the reigns of your life to someone that's as imaginary and non existent as Superman or Wonder Woman. And it's a pure waste of time to even spend a moment thinking of God or praying to her/him... No prayer has ever been heard or will ever be heard. Everything that happens is

due to your efforts or at times luck and coincidence.

The time we waste praying to God, should be used in much more useful work to build on our mission in life in order to achieve success and to take control of our life. God is the best tool to keep people fooled, exploited, manipulated and even unproductive.

Everyone should stay away from is this medieval concept of God that was used to explain everything that was unknown to mankind, to uneducated shepherds of those medieval times. From birth to rainfall to thunderstorm to evolution, everything that was attributed to God has slowly been explained by science.

Scarier is the divisive concept of religion based on this completely fraudulent and man made concept of God.

Focus on your goals . Work on them. Achieve them.

And for your child's future's sake please don't force such irrational concept on the poor kid just because your parents did that irrational thing with you. The only reason you believe in God is because your parents forced

“If suicide bombing was a shortcut to paradise, whoever convinced you would have blown himself up before you.” Imam Tawhidi

SCIENCE



**Working hard to cure Cancer
since apparently God isn't going
to do shit about it**

it down your throats and never let you question it's complete irrationality. Don't do it with your child. Let him grow independent, logical and confident without any fake fear of the irrational. Be it Gods or Ghosts. By keeping your child away from religion, you will make her possess a strong personality, make her honest, logical, a great future parent, an efficient manager of her time, law abiding, empathetic towards the marginalized and a better spouse/partner— specially in case of boys.

It's time we woke up to the absurdities of religion and took our destiny in our hands. There is no one out there or anywhere else who is remotely deciding your future except for you yourself and the economic policies of nations determined by politicians. So next time you are in trouble instead of wasting time remembering Superman or God, use that time to work harder to solve your own problem.

No Hinduism is no different than all other religions.

Like all religions you are a Hindu because of geography and not because of any God's will!

Personally speaking, I was born in a Hindu family and thus as per worldwide tradition of geographical and family based religious distribution I was supposedly a Hindu. Of course needless to say that's not something I adhered to. I chose to say I have absolutely no religion. I am not a Hindu. My only belief is humanity and global humanism. I won't call humanity a religion as the word religion, like Nazism, has an inhuman and fanatic connotation.

But having had an association with Hinduism I feel it's my personal duty to write a few words specifically on Hinduism. More so because even militant atheists like the iconic Richard Dawkins, often go soft on Hinduism, saying Hinduism seems to be the only religion that might have some evolved vision or saying that they don't really understand or know much about it.

Well, I do.

Like all religions of course Hinduism has some good

First let me tell you what gives Hinduism the good name. The prime reason stems from the fact that Hinduism

**“If people are to
know and
understand the real
world, they must
give up superstitious
beliefs because they
have a narcotic
effect on the mind.”
– Karl Marx.**

has allowed endless reformers. These reformers over time kept challenging and throwing away what they thought were evils thus helping the practiced concepts relatively more acceptable and in tune with times vis-a-vis what was prescribed.

The second reason why Hinduism is often rightly appreciated is because it's relatively more tolerant due to the absence of any central head or any central source of dictatorship. This actually even aids the first point. With absence of a central Vatican like structure, reforms were easy to carry out. And these reforms thus were not always nationwide but often regional, whose influence spread to other regions slowly. Thus one can say in Hinduism you have maximum freedom and democracy to disagree and keep reforming. While the ancient Hindu text has as much irrationality as all texts of all other religions, thanks to countless reformers many of those irrationalities have been removed and continue being removed.

The final reason why Hinduism has earned a more positive review from even atheists is, because in Hinduism there are almost infinite Gods. It was said Hinduism has

33 million Gods. But that was because at that time the population of India was that much. Basically it meant that everyone was free to create his or her own God. So for someone the mouse could be a God and for another the elephant. For someone the tiger could be the God and for another the clouds. This allowed different opinions to coexist, though eventually some Gods did become more followed and popular than the others. Yet, the fact remains that ever few hundred miles the most popular God is different in India. That almost gives everyone the right to disbelieve in each other's beliefs while being a part of the same overall religious system.

In fact branches of Hinduism like Buddhism, Jainism and even the Carvaka in Hinduism that originated in 6th century BC are even considered atheistic as there is no requirement to follow God as long as you are spiritually inclined. That's why when the famous Indian monk Vivekananda says you reach heaven faster by playing football than reading the *Gita* or Krishna says work is worship. It sounds as though they don't believe in existence of God. In fact in Carvaka they mention

**“If you've ever
uttered the words,
'But that was the Old
Testament' –
Congratulations,
you've just admitted
that your god is not
perfect'. ”**

clearly that there is no heaven or hell nor any soul. Of course that doesn't mean that Vivekananda didn't talk or support various absurdities of Hinduism. The truth is however much India's current PM, Mr. Modi, tries to market Hinduism as a way of life, it is a religion and has God and its associated irrationalities tainted/smeared all over it.

And like all religions Hinduism is a religion. And thus the foundation itself is based on the irrational concept of Gods and Goddesses

And that's where Hinduism eventually becomes like all other religions. I have no urge to get into the various variations and interpretations through which Hinduism or any religion can be made to look rational. Every religion has its share of good words and sermons. For times bygone they were fine. In today's day and age using irrational moral codes and pseudoscience is purely absurd.

Many Hindus come and argue about Vedas and Upanishads. Have I read them in full? No. They are

so vast, reading them in full is next to impossible. Like the *Quran* or Bible, which I haven't read in full, I have read them enough. I have read various interpretations and versions and I have read almost everything that is required to know to be well read enough to comment on them. And I can say with confidence that the four parts of the Vedas and its final part the Upanishads are irrational bronze age thoughts of people who — can be very safely said — had no clue of what was happening around them. Certain things they contain about humanity, human behaviour, rights, wrongs and emotions are partially correct because it didn't require scientific understanding. It required human goodness. And like in every society that was trying to find its footing in between warring kings and emperors, there were good philosophers even in the pre-history of man kind who spoke logical good things and spread great and humane philosophy. But the concepts of after-life that Upanishads focus upon are blatantly unsound.

The biggest claim to fame of Hindu apologists is the calculation of the number of years of the existence of



**Religion isn't required to
make and keep you a good
human being. Good
education and upbringing,
basic empathy and
humanity and a good legal
system is required
for that**

earth. That, through vague unreasoned calculations, goes as far from the actual age of the universe as the Christians go less. While the Bible thought earth was 6000 years old instead of 4 billion years, Vedas think that the universe is 156 trillion years old against the scientific calculation of 14 billion years. When you sit and talk endless absurd, some analysis might coincided with scientific truth by chance. That doesn't make existence of any Hindu God a reality nor the writings in Hindu religious texts any less unreasonable than those of all other religions.

The repeated references to various Gods and their wishes is nothing more than groundless speculation of people who knew nothing about the universe. From Brahma being the originator of the universe, to him having a lifespan of 311 trillion years, to *Shiva* coming out from a giant lotus as the original man and chanting 'Om' as the original creation etc are all too unsound and puerile thoughts. The fact that the Vedas and Upanishads constantly keep referring to various Gods to explain everything including the origin of man in his full form (and not through evolution) itself is so blatantly juvenile

that Hinduism falls flat.

It's true, originally, Hinduism didn't order one to follow temple rituals, but such mild goodnesses can't take away the massive negativity of unscientific unending verses around the Gods, the so called *Indra devata*, brahmanas and existence of a ridiculous concept of an infinite soul - however nice and philosophically pure it sounds. It's all a good read to understand how primates and unscientific mammals used to explain things around them a few thousand years back... but to try and take out a few good things here and there out of it and try to defend religion or God is, in today's age, pure insanity... it's good also to know that religions in India like in China were considered more as ways of life. But the fact that for everything unknown there was a need to worship something infantile is by itself a sign that it's really time to move on... time to look at fables and fairy tales as exactly that, instead of trying to believe that it has any remotely deeper meaning.

The most popular treatise of *Gita* is something I have read far too many times and have taken out various



**We were all created by a
gigantic winged DOG. I feel
it in my heart and know
because it answers all my
prayers. I don't need
evidence.**

elements from it to teach leadership. And I do appreciate certain good ideas in it as are there in the Bible and the *Quran*. But that doesn't give any reason to believe in any religion. One read of any part of the Vedas and Upanishads and one would realise they are filled almost entirely with unsound, incoherent stories placed one after the other. But then what else could be expected of human beings 2500 years back, even by a person of reason? Check out what science says of human beings during that phase: all they could think of was explaining everything through existence of Gods as they had no answers to anything. That's why God was invented by cavemen in the first place. Anything for which you have no answer, there is God.

Yes, given that state of primitiveness, Vedas have some profound thoughts about the world and universe. But my idea in this chapter is not to compare religions. It still remains the same. To explain intelligent human beings that days for such irrational and primitive ideas should be over. It's time to keep religions and Gods in history books and 'believe it or not museums' to explain

amusing things man did and believed in as he evolved. The pity of course is, as Sigmund Freud said (while stating religion is like childhood neurosis and calling it foreign to reality) “to anyone with a friendly attitude to humanity it is painful to think that the great majority of mortals will never be able to rise above this view of life. It is still more humiliating to discover how a large number of people living today, who cannot but see that this religion is not tenable, nevertheless try to defend it piece by piece in a series of pitiful rear guard actions.”

Like all Gods, Hindu Gods need a lot of money

Worst perhaps is the latest trend in Hinduism of making blatant business of temples and religion in India. When your temple isn't getting enough donations, put a Sai Baba statue and whoosh.. up go your footfalls and donations ten times. And Sai Baba— the man might have been a kind fellow— has another statue taking him closer towards all other Hindu Gods and Goddesses!

Hinduism created an evil that all other religions couldn't come up with— the caste system and, like all

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***“Why don't you pray
just in case there IS a
god?***

***For the same reason
you don't cover your
doorways in garlic in
case there are
vampires.” – Ricky***

Gervais.

”

religions, proved that religion, racism and divisors of human beings are inexplicably enmeshed

Religion promotes ethnic cleansing, genocides and mass murder. One doesn't even need to explain that. The publicly God believing Hitler killed 6 million Jews due to religion and racism is only one example. Hinduism has made this aspect of religion a part of its theory through its official division of people on the basis of castes—higher and lower. The shameful division that exists even today with gusto makes people of higher castes like the Brahmins look down upon the lower caste people and even today attempts to block them from reaching the higher echelons of the society. Carrying human excreta on their heads is the job of the lower caste people and 500,000 people even today earn their living through that. Marrying in different castes lower than your castes results into equally rampant honor killings. All in God's name. Hindu apologists shamefully try to defend either by telling it was more to do with dividing people on the basis of occupations (equally shameful) or just deny it as a part of the region by saying it was a negative practice

by the followers which again is patently false and irrelevant to delve into. The Hindu caste system was like a social hierarchy with a catch— you can't move from one to another. Unlike economic or social divisions, the caste system is full proof and immobile in nature. The Brahmins at the top of the hierarchy had sole monopoly on education and spread of Hinduism, so they controlled what everyone had to believe. The Dalits on the other end of the hierarchy were the “untouchables”— who literally could not come into physical contact with any other caste. They were tasked with cleaning homes, bathrooms and disposing of the dead. Your caste is inherited and so your future job is predetermined. Two different castes cannot marry (inter-caste marriages ending in gruesome murders even today) and there are no conversions allowed, so through this system the evolution of humans was forcefully stopped and this cycle of oppression still leaves behind massive economic gaps and discrimination. This is why it is so difficult to eradicate, no matter how hard you work or how much good you do, you still remain an untouchable— just that on the brighter side, you can hope to be reborn as

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**You are basically
killing each
other to see
who's got the
better imaginary
friend.” –**

Richard Jeni.

”

a Brahmin in your next life! So Hinduism doesn't just mentally handicap its followers, it also physically stops people from growing. Even today the most educated of Hindus shamelessly put out advertisements asking for a caste match for arranged marriage proposals and Brahmins have the thread ceremony for their sons to put a permanent stamp of their upper caste.

Like all religions Hinduism fans racism and discrimination

A few years back I had gone on a lecture tour to some of the best universities of America including the Harvard Business School. Crisscrossing the US of A twice from the West Coast to the East Coast, I met one after the other Indians and their families over lunches, dinners and other meetings. Most of them who were associated with these universities or were placed right at the top of corporate America. And I feel sad to say that perhaps the only thing that I found common between most of them was their hidden bias against the Blacks in America. Even before a number of times, I had heard my friends from the US speak derogatorily about the African-

American population, often even pejoratively referring to them as Negroes and saying that they wanted to stay in a locality which had no Blacks. I couldn't really accept this sentiment as a normal phenomenon, and rather used to wonder whether it was mere coincidence that I had so many friends with such an unabashed bias. But after the American journey, I realized it was not a coincidence.

Friends, relatives, consultants and professors... anyone I got talking to for more than a while almost invariably explained to me at one point of time or the other why the locality they lived in was especially good since it didn't have Black people! Or for that matter why a particular city was better because of the lesser number of Blacks! Of course, I didn't pick up fights. But it made me feel sad about the education, schooling and upbringing we are giving to our children. How could educated people, after coming to America, still discriminate on the basis of the colour of the skin? That too coming from a land where they themselves are mostly brown and a land where their own mythological characters like Krishna and Draupadi are described as being uniquely attractive due to their

“Religion is a by-product of fear. For much of human history it may have been a necessary evil, but was it more evil than necessary? Isn't killing people in the name of god a pretty good insanity?” - Arthur C. Clarke.

dark complexion!

Of course Americans are also biased and recently Trump came to power only on the basis of targeting the blue collared white Christians perfectly. Yet, education plays a great role and Americans had chosen Barack Obama also as their president, showing that although as a nation they have not yet been able to provide equal justice to Blacks, at an individual level they are educated enough to discriminate far lesser.

So am I trying to say that Indians are more colour-biased than the Americans? Well, that's what a Harvard research seems to say too. Harvard University's Project Implicit website has compiled data on the implicit biases of millions of Americans on a range of issues, such as age, race, skin tone, disability, gender, sexual orientation, etc. And it's unbelievable but true that Asians demonstrated the highest levels of bias on race and skin tone when compared to people of any other region in the world; Asian-Americans were second only to Whites in their biases in the racially and ethnically sensitive categories. Asians and Asian Americans in fact reported the highest

level of explicit prejudice on issues of race and skin tone – higher than even Whites.

The fact gets more authenticated with one look at Hindu matrimonial ads. Everyone wants a fair bride and about 98% of Indians consider themselves between fair to very fair – even in southern India, where the colour of the skin is decisively darker. Stepping up, a fairer girl requires lesser dowry while a darker girl requires more dowry. Add to this the national menace called Fair and Lovely, the fairness cream that is so heavily advertised without any government counter education programme. Of course, one can say rightfully that advertisements of fairness creams are unfortunately a huge reason behind the creation of a inferiority complex driven class of educated kids in India who nurture a shameful skin tone bias resulting into a kind of unspoken social apartheid (to make matters worse, even Indian superstars like Shahrukh Khan are being roped in to endorse similar such brands).

Colour bias in Indians runs so deep that there are multiple friends of mine who have actually told me not

If you don't love me, I'll
make sure you burn
forever



If it's creepy when he says it,
why is it beautiful when God
says it?

to use the brown coloured emojis in my messages that I send them. I said it matches the colour of my skin so I use it instead of the yellow ones. One of them even argued that it wasn't true that my skin colour was that dark. My eventual response, motivated by an old friend of mine Sabiena, was to change the colour of all the emojis I use in my electronic communication to pure black. A tribute to our ancestors from the continent that is lost to the rest of the world due to so many biases... color being the most damaging. It's now my daily tribute to **Africa**. The name I would have wished to give my daughter, if I had one.

So what are the roots of this unique Indian obsession? An obsession which starts with Fair and Lovely cream at a younger age, then progresses into an effort to get a fair partner for marriage as they grow up and keeps Indians so backward and shameful in their thinking that even after spending tens of years in the most progressive land called America, those are Indians who display more biases against African Americans than Americans themselves.

The fact of the matter is the colour bias of Indians finds its origins in the Indian caste system. The fairer skinned were the Brahmins and the darker skinned were the shudras. And with a regimented marriage system that didn't allow inter caste marriages the skin colours in Hindu India remained restricted to according to castes. Our scriptures tried to hint clearly that the corollary of being fair was that one was an upper-class member, while darker complexions were deemed to be characteristics of the lower-class – and having sex with the fair skinned became almost a matter of pride (so much so that the Indian high-end prostitution markets have now been completely taken over by fair-skinned foreigners from Eastern Europe).

Sadly, iconic books like *Roots* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* aren't a compulsory part of our education process, subsequently resulting into a case of missing sensitivities of a majority of Indians towards darker skin tones in general, leading to deep-rooted prejudices for the fair skin – unlike many other communities in the world. A long time back, Martin Luther King Jr said that he

“Religion will eventually
become as offensive and
unacceptable as racism.” –
Chris O'Dowd.

dreamt of a country where man would be judged not by the colour of his skin but by the content of his character. Somewhere in our parenting and schooling system, this one line of education must be drilled inside the brains of each child. And before that, in the brains of every teacher and parent.

But, till we believe in discriminating people on the basis of castes and religion, how do we expect that?

Like all religions exploitation of women runs deep

The exploitation and fooling of women and children remain as deep in Hinduism as in any other religion. But, when the masses are kept illiterate, how would they ever even realise this simple truth?

If anyone asks questions, the answer is, “It’s in our tradition”.

I ask with all humility, so what? Just because it’s in your tradition and culture, doesn’t mean that it’s not incredibly stupid or at times outright criminal and inhuman. *Sati* was in Hindu culture. Child marriage was

a tradition. Killing the girl child is an extremely popular tradition for many and dowry is a tradition for almost all shameless people.

So, keeping traditions aside, if we were to look at things logically we will see lack of rationale and even evil behind these traditions. Let's for example look at one of favourite traditions of Hindu women. It's called *Karva Chauth* where women keep a fast throughout a day and believe it gives their husbands a long life (and trust me I have deep appreciation for the love women have for their husbands to go through the torture). However the fact is that if we were to really believe in such absurdity for a while then we would realise that the God of *Karva Chauth* has really been very unfair. Well very unfair. After so much of devotion, fasting, singing and prayers, the unfair God makes Indian women on an average live three years longer than their men. In fact that's a global phenomenon. Women everywhere outlive men. And they outlive men in India too. The result is the same as the 3 billion women around the world, who don't keep a fast on *Karva Chauth* today!

**Atheism and Religion are
but two sides of
the same coin**



**One prefers to use it's
head, while the other
relies on tales...**

Worse, after so much prayers the average Indian man lives only 67 years (ranked a horrible and shocking 115th in the world) and what's worse is, as I said, that he still doesn't outlive his wife. Because the average Indian woman lives for 70 years. So after all these prayers the average Indian wife lives to see her husband die in front of her!!!

In contrast to the average age of Indian male, we have Norway where no wife does *Karva Chauth*, in fact they aren't even getting married much (and is one the first recorded country with more atheists than believers) and yet the men live for 80 years and are ranked at No.12. Or for that matter Switzerland which ranks No.1 with male life expectancy of 81.3 years (again the percentage of atheists there is at an all time high of 20 percent).

More pathetic is the fact that in the case of the poorer illiterate masses, where *Karva Chauth* is more prevalent in India, the average age of men is about ten years lesser—that compares to the life expectancy of the men in Sub Saharan Africa! So much for all the prayers.

So, my message to married Hindu women has been - God of *Karva Chauth* is a failure. Call it husband's day, celebrate it, dress up and look beautiful... And hope they also have a wife's day to celebrate... but please stop the irrational prayers to a non-existent God for your husband's long life. And stop keeping an equally illogical fast. It doesn't work. There is no God up there in the skies or anywhere waiting to listen to your prayers and reward you for your fast...

And my message to Hindu husbands has been— please force your wives not to carry on with this exploitative irrational ritual ever again! It's a ritual that's gender unequal and it encourages immature blind beliefs.

Sexism runs deeper in Hinduism. While wife prays for husband even mother-in-law prays for son-in-law (*Jamai Sashthi*) and sister for brother (*Raksha Bandhan* and *Bhai Duj*). However, one doesn't get to see any religious ceremony where husband fasts for wife, father-in-law does prays for daughter-in-law or brother ties a thread to his sister praying that she live long and protect him throughout his life.

"If the devil is meant to be the opposite of God, he must hate slavery, murder, child abuse, sexism and rape. This guy sounds alright!"

That's called exploiting women by treating them as inferior through religious indoctrination.

Hinduism goes a step further with its Gods divided into various need based issues

If we dig a bit deeper, Hindus do Lakshmi Puja on Diwali. Almost the whole nation participates at various times. This is done to get rich and have material plenty. Yet primarily Hindu India has more than half of worlds poor (360 million of the world's 700 million poor) though India's population is only 20% of the world. The Hindu Goddess is very unfair God too, it seems.

In fact at times looking at Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Mark Zuckerberg, Richard Branson etc. I feel worse. None of them have ever worshipped Lakshmi and yet they are downing in wealth— very bad and unfair... in fact worse news is that they are additionally all non believers. They don't believe that God(s) exists. Really unfair that Goddess Lakshmi still has still given them all the moneys while keeping Hindu Indians so poor.

In fact looking at the Hindu Goddess of Knowledge

Saraswati also gives a similar sad feeling. 270 million illiterates in India. About 40% of the world's illiterates. Worse... not even one percent of the Nobel Prizes, in literature, physics, chemistry, medicines, economics put together, could the Hindu Goddess Saraswati give to this nation with 20% of world's population. Worse... the most admired intellectuals of the world are actually atheists. From Albert Einstein and Karl Marx of past to Salman Rushdie and Noam Chomsky of present. It looks so unfair that God has made them so popular while our top Saraswati worshippers are hardly known.

The truth of the matter is Hindu Gods are like all others. All Gods seem unfair. Not just in India. It's so world-wide. Look at the unfairness of Jesus and Allah that Sub-Saharan Africans pray to. They pray so much for food, for long life and for money. Yet a large proportion of them are hungry and malnourished, die at 42 to 45 and die very poor.

Not that Jesus or Allah of Europe and Middle East are more kind. Not one man who lost his leg or hand fighting for their God, could grow back his hand with



help of his God (that would have been serious proof of God's existence because unlike a tumor it can't get cured on its own nor can doctors and medicines make that happen). The poor worshippers have to go to doctors for prosthetic limbs.

Hindus also keep a nine day semi fast called, Navaratri. During that time *Jai mata di* (Praise mother Goddess) is on all whatsapp statuses. Nine days of worshipping Mata— Mother Goddess (often at the cost of their own mother at home being most neglected and ill-treated). This Mata is also so unfair. Forget giving money, education etc, she doesn't even give happiness. The most selfless of worshippers go to Mata and say please give good health to all. It doesn't even have the minimal power to take away basic diseases. It has given actually rather created more than 4000 serious diseases and kept Hindu lives so unhappy. This despite so much pujas, chanting and singing through the loudest of loudspeakers.

One of most interesting days of worship for Hindus which has really gained a lot ground in recent times,

it seems actually removes the problem of hunger, like praying on Diwali removes the problem of poverty. On this day in every other street corner one gets to see hillocks made of with cow dung – for what is called Govardhan Puja. Praying to cow dung. One even gets a lot of Happy Govardhan Puja whatsapp wishes!

This is the new ultra patriotic and religious Hindu India. Eat cow dung as medicine, worship cow dung but yes don't mess or mock at cow dung – specially if you are a poor and marginalized dalit – there are people watching who might lynch you!!

If you want food in your stomach, and good crops every year, you got it right! This is the secret!

Like all religions Hinduism is very useful for politicians specially when mixed with another irrational blind belief called nationalism

Long back Lucius Annaeus Seneca said, “Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false and by the rulers as useful”. That seems to be the policy in the new India. The more we keep our masses

“Homosexuality is unnatural..” says this book, where snakes talk, apples set an eternal curse, people come back from the dead, a guy walks on water, and a virgin has a baby! – One of the few natural things mentioned in the Bible describes it as unnatural. ”

brain dead and tied to Govardhan Pujas the less will be the need to deliver good irrigation systems and deliver a new green revolution. Religion is useful for leaders. From Bihar to UP to the Center we can have more criminals and illiterates being elected as law makers. 25% of the elected law makers in Bihar from RJD to BJP have serious criminal charges... And the current parliament of India has 34% criminals inside the parliament (4% more than previous elected parliament in 2009) with 21% (6% more than 2009 elections) having serious crime charges against them and 9% with murder charges. Obviously no prizes for guessing which party has the lion's share of criminals – obviously the ruling party. Similar is most states... some who protect the cow and it's dung and some who make scams with its fodder!

And media keeps playing out praises of India's democracy and how it punishes previous governments. And of course keep thanking the army for keeping India's democracy alive, additionally (because in today's India, dare anyone forget the sacrifice of the army while celebrating anything). And we will be fooled to believe

that masses can't be fooled and once in five years it delivers justice!

Brain dead masses' brain dead justice. Because educating the masses is the most risky proposition for a government! Karl Marx once said, "the oppressed are allowed every few years to choose which representative from the oppressing class is going to represent & repress them" And looking at India's elections and results one couldn't agree more.

Today's India gives me a lesson. It says: You and your father's Great Indian Dream of an equitable and just society is unnecessary. Worshiping Gods and celebrating Diwali in particular, apart from keeping our government happy, is actually the best way to removing poverty and achieving socialism, equity and justice. Marx was stupidly against religion. He didn't know religion has the power to bring socialism in the world. After all on the day of Diwali, every man has 24 hours. So we all must deeply and sincerely pray to Goddess Lakshmi for her blessings! This is the magic we need. No politician is responsible for India's development. Our prayers are responsible. Equal

prayers will give equal returns and problem of poverty will disappear, equality will come and India will be well off. Indians should never look upto their PM and other leaders for prosperity and eradication of poverty. That lies in their own prayers to God. If people realise this and don't trouble their politicians then only this Hindu India progress. One politician even went on to say, if God is unable to remove your problems how do you expect me to remove them.

The political leaders instead of focusing on poverty eradication must focus on *gau mata* (cow mother) and keep whipping up nationalistic fervor by reminding everyone of the sacrifices of the army. And the media must play it up. After all the common man makes no sacrifices, is non-patriotic and must be made to feel inferior about his nationalism because he doesn't go and die in the borders at the wishes and fancies of our politicians (34% of whom are criminals – and I am not even questioning what percentage are illiterates), whose children mind you never join the army. So every Diwali day our PM goes to the borders and celebrates the day

with army so that Indians don't only celebrate but are also made to remember the army while they burn crackers – to get the ultimate mix of nationalism and religion. And of course they must pray. Pray a lot.

Make no mistake. I have absolute respect for the army. My life's first article in Hindustan Times was why conscription should be made mandatory. I believe that if every child before going to college serves for a year in the army, our politicians will be more concerned about the army and it's soldiers, because then the army will have members from all sections of the society. Today with the front end soldiers being from poor families, no one really needs to bother about their lives or living conditions. Thus, needless to say for the rest of year and non election time, the army men are the most neglected lot. For that one should go and read up about their plight and the kind of investments that are made on modernization of their weapons to bullet proof jackets to winter clothing and shoes.

At times I feel that other religions are far backward than Hinduism! They failed to teach western countries



"Education is not memorizing that Hitler Killed 6 Million Jews. Education is understanding how millions of Ordinary Germans were convinced that it was required.

Education is learning how to spot the signs of history repeating itself."

these tricks to prosperity! Shocking that Canadian parliamentarians are so less educated that 50% of the newly elected parliamentarians refused to swear by God during their oath taking in the parliament this month and 72% of Norwegians are now said to be atheists. Looking at Norway and Canada, one realises exactly all that Hindu India doesn't want. At least it surely doesn't want their No.1 Human Development Index ranking. After all how pathetic that out of a total of about 26 Human Development Index rankings Canada got Ranked No.1 a stunning 8 times and Norway a far more staggering 11 times and between them they got ranked No.1 a total of 19 out of 26 times... India must remain at at their current ranking that fluctuates between 130 and 135th rank!

When India's current PM Modi campaigned, he said he believes in "toilets before temples" and that the "Constitution of India was his most important religious book". I had rarely heard any politician say such amazing things. But guess after elections the political environment of questioning who eats what and fanning nationalistic and religious fervor became the new call of the day. For

as I said earlier, ever since it's clever invention, religion is the biggest tool globally for exploiting the poor and the masses. Till they believe in religion, you can keep them divided and fooled.

Voltaire said long back, "There is no God, but don't tell that to my servant, lest he murder me at night."

Needless to say, Religion and bogus claims go hand in hand

Looking at Hindu India's brilliant new claims of having the world's first head surgery (the Indian elephant-headed God Ganesha), rockets, TV, Wi Fi and Hinduism based solutions to all problems one feels perhaps Bill Gates needs a revision in his vision of a poverty free world by 2035. Maybe he could do well by becoming a believer and praying to Hindu Gods for development and leave politicians alone.

The problem always is of basic rationale. We go and pray to God. God please cure me of this disease. But wait, isn't it then that the so called God only who gave it? We go to God and pray for victims of earthquakes, tsunamis

and tornados. But wait, isn't it then the so called God only who gave it? We don't think.

Lottery winners aside, the truth is we are all products of our hard work. The harder we work the luckier we get... that's the rule of life. Instead of praying to God and keeping *Karva Chauth*, if a Hindu woman would actually make her husband join an alcohol addiction centre or make him start exercising or eating less and healthy, the chances are her husband will live longer. Much longer. Instead of praying to Lakshmi, if Hindus go out and work hard, chances are more moneys will come. Instead of praying to Saraswati if they study harder and work hard on our researches chances are we will get more Nobel prizes. And finally instead of worshipping Mata and keeping fasts, if they take better care of their own mata (mother) at home, the chances are they will lead a happier life.

Having said that, maybe the Hindu apologists would like to have a look at a video by Morgan Freeman as he exposes the irrationalities of Hinduism in 'The story of God' on National Geographic.

Interestingly, the last couple of years I have had Hindu apologists of all varieties coming up and giving me knowledge on the Hindu superiority— all based on a micro minor part of Hindu scriptures which completely coincidentally can be said to be somewhat similar to what we now say about the universe in terms of its age. Not that it has any logic to it or it's accurate but it's kind of similar. It's written in between so much of inane around the creation of the universe that it's but obviously coincidental. Basically instead of good meaning uneducated shepherds of other religions who claimed origin of the universe to be 4 to 6k years old. Our scriptures had something more intelligent ... 'yug yug pehle' etc (meaning many years back)... but 'yug yug pehle' what?

This is the fascinating part....

Yug yug pehle at first there was only *Vishnu*, who rests on the eternal ocean. When he is asleep, nothing exists. With his awakening, there is light and life. Out of his navel comes out Lord *Brahma* in the form of a lotus, (now we all know why India's ruling Hindu party, BJP has that as

it's symbol) who assumes the duty of creation. Then he created Lord *Shiva* with the duty of destruction... *Shiva* who captured *Ganga* on his hair lock, so that the earth is not drowned... and that's how the universe came into existence. That's what happened 'yug yugantar pehle'—which many of our Hindu apologists claim totals to about 7 billion years.

Can you believe it? Imagine explaining this in class rooms to students as to how the universe came into existence!! I mean that's the foundation of Hinduism. And people expect others to take it seriously. And now fashionably term it a "way of life".

Well, in a very intelligent and sarcastic manner this point – of guessing a closer to reality estimate of the age of the universe – that Hindus consider worth displaying to the scientific community has been blown to pieces by putting it in the right light by Morgan Freeman (don't worry he brings out the irrationalities of every religion, so like me he also isn't a Hindu basher) in the lovely video that I suggested. I will end on Hinduism by writing finally, I am sure, those who are sensible will

**“I AM THE CON, I AM
THE HOAX, I AM THE
LIE. WHOMSOEVER
BELIEVES IN ME SHALL
WASTE THEIR LIVES
AND LOSE THEIR
MONEY TO CROOKS**

realise Hindus are not above all. It's exactly as low IQ a religion as all others and while totally coincidentally Hindu illogical calculations guess the age of universe as half of its real age (which is a huge 7 billion years off the mark) everything else about the origin of universe is rank hilarious and embarrassing indeed.

Richard Dawkins on biological differences between human beings, the evolution of human beings and the key question- who should have equal rights?

Perhaps the first point to make, as a Darwinian, is that evolution by natural selection depends crucially on genetic differences between individuals. The most striking feature of human evolution during the past 3 million years since our Australopithecine ancestors is the enlargement of the brain. We are African apes and among the apes we stand out for our mental power, which has presumably gone along with the enlargement of the brain. The ancestor we share with chimpanzees lived about 6 or 7 million years ago. It certainly had a much smaller brain than ours, and presumably it was a lot less intelligent than we are. The evolutionary trend leading to us therefore included a dramatic increase in intelligence due to Darwinian natural selection. This can only have come about if there was genetic variation in intelligence in the population for selection to work on. There must have been inequality.

And there's abundant evidence that the inequality persists today.

We are not born equal, and we are not created at all!

And the equality that I passionately feel we should strive for is equality of rights.

Discrimination is the enemy. We make a grave factual mistake if we insist that we are all born equal. But we make an even greater moral mistake if we impose unequal rights and opportunities.

It is especially immoral to consign an individual to a group such as a race or a sex, and decide that they must share the (often diminished) rights of that group.

The differences between us; differences between the sexes; differences between races; differences in sexual orientation; none of these should make a jot of difference to the rights and privileges people enjoy. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees. And the source of the disagreement can often be traced to religion.

There are many countries, influenced by Islam, where women are worse than second class citizens. Sharia Law values the testimony of a woman at half the weight of a man's. Saudi women have only just been allowed to drive. In Iran it's a criminal offence for a woman to show her hair. Married women in Iran need their husband's permission when applying for a passport, or traveling outside the home. There are Islamic theocracies where a woman can be publicly beaten, given literally hundreds of lashes, if not beheaded, simply for the "crime" of being seen with a man not her husband.

Western countries, formerly known as Christendom, have only recently shaken off similar attitudes to women, albeit with less draconian punishments. It is shocking how recently women were given the vote in our democracies. The Roman Catholic church still won't ordain women priests.

The United States is not a theocracy — far from it, for freedom of and from religion is built deep into Jefferson's constitution. But still, there are powerful religious interests that want to impose theocratic governance over the lives of otherwise free people. With respect to abortion for instance.

Many highly religious Americans, with growing political power, are so passionately opposed to abortion, they think of little else when voting. And they are throwing their weight about in new laws, for example in Ohio and Alabama. Many powerful religious absolutists would like abortion to be criminalised even where the woman has been raped. And even where her life is endangered. There was a tragic case in Ireland a few years ago where the Catholic-inspired constitution prevented doctors from saving a woman's life, because her fetus was not technically dead and its life was judged equal in value to hers. Her death fortunately spurred a much needed reform in the Irish constitution.

These cases amount to a misuse — abuse, even — of the ideal of equality. Some religious influences, including the Roman Catholic Church believe that sacred human life begins at conception. A single cell zygote is equal in human rights to an adult woman.

The Catholic Doctrine of the Faith entitled *Donum Vitae* says

“From the time that the ovum is fertilized, a new life is begun which is neither that of the father nor of the mother; it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never be made human if it were not human already. To this perpetual evidence . . . modern genetic science brings valuable confirmation. It has demonstrated that, from the first instant, the program is fixed as to what this living being will be: a man, this individual-man with his characteristic aspects already well determined. Right from fertilization is begun the adventure of a human life . . .” It is amusing to tease such absolutists by confronting them with a pair of identical twins (they split after fertilization, of course) and asking which twin got the soul, which twin is the non-person: the zombie.

“It would never be made human if it were not human already.” Really? Are you serious? Nothing can become something if it is not that something already? Is an acorn an oak tree? Is a hurricane the barely perceptible zephyr that seeds it?

Would you apply your doctrine to evolution too? Do you suppose there was a moment in evolutionary history when a non-human mother gave birth to the first human baby? If a time machine could serve up to you your 200 million greats grandfather, you would eat him with sauce tartare and a slice of lemon. He was a fish. Yet you are connected to him by an unbroken line of intermediate ancestors, every one of whom belonged to the same species as its parents and its children

The ideal of equality breaks down if we apply it rigidly and attempt to define hard and fast boundaries to human personhood in places where it is inappropriate. It is inappropriate where there is a continuum. As in embryology. And as in evolution.

I have coined the phrase, “The tyranny of the discontinuous mind” to refer to this. If you apply the mantra of equal human rights in a religiously dogmatic way, you stub your toe on the problem of defining the boundaries of humanity. At what point in the development of an embryo

does it become embraced into the fold of equal human rights.? At what point in evolutionary history?

There is no time to go into this any further, so I will jump straight to my own approach to an answer. What matters above all is suffering. The ability to feel pain, to fear. Before a fetus has a nervous system it cannot suffer. Cannot fear. A young fetus should not have the same human rights as a mother whose life is threatened. Or as a doctor, murdered by religious fanatics because he performs abortions when women ask him to.

The ability to suffer, and to pursue happiness, is a continuum. It develops gradually in the embryo. Similarly, on the timescale of evolution, we are connected, via an unbroken line of ancestors, to every other species on the planet.

The concept of equality cannot be applied in a religiously rigid way but needs careful, sensitive handling. But in places where it definitely does apply, for example equal rights for men and women, and equal rights for people of different races, we need to fight with all our strength for the ideal of equality. Equality of rights and equality of opportunity.

Clinton Richard Dawkins, FRS FRSL (born 26 March 1941) is an English ethologist, evolutionary biologist, and author. He is an emeritus fellow of New College, Oxford, and was the University of Oxford's Professor for Public Understanding of Science from 1995 until 2008.

*Dawkins first came to prominence with his 1976 book *The Selfish Gene*, which popularised the gene-centred view of evolution and introduced the term *meme*. With his book *The Extended Phenotype*(1982), he introduced into evolutionary biology the influential concept that the phenotypic effects of a gene are not necessarily limited to an organism's body, but can stretch far into the environment. In 2006, he founded the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science.*

*Dawkins is known as an outspoken atheist. He is well known for his criticism of creationism and intelligent design. In *The Blind Watchmaker* (1986), he argues against the watchmaker analogy, an argument for the existence of a supernatural creator based upon the complexity of living organisms. Instead, he describes evolutionary processes as analogous to a blind watchmaker, in that reproduction, mutation, and selection are unguided by any designer. In *The God Delusion* (2006), Dawkins contends that a supernatural creator almost certainly does not exist and that*

religious faith is a delusion.

The above lines are excerpted from his speech on Equality at the Power Brands London International Forum for Equality where he launched this book in May 2019.

Conclusion

No. God didn't create man or woman. Man and woman evolved. Human kind evolved over billions of years. And there is proof for that. And no the universe was also not created by any God. And no there is no rational in the statement that there must be a creator, because then the question would be, who created the creator. It's that basic and that simple. As the famous scientist, Neil de Grasse Tyson puts it beautifully, "God is an ever-receding pocket of scientific ignorance that's getting smaller and smaller as time moves on."

And no. Religious books are no evidence of God's existence. They are as much a proof of God's existence as marvel comics are of Spider-Man's existence. Do I know how the universe came into existence with certainty? No. Do I have an idea? Yes, thanks to science. And science is the only way forward. Because unlike religion that



“It ain’t the parts of
the Bible that I can’t
understand that bother
me, it is parts that I do
understand.”

– *Mark Twain.*



tells you to live with answers that can't be questioned, science teaches you to live with questions that may have no answers for the time being. And eggs you on to find answers. When you are religious you are blinded. You ignore the science behind evolution, but believe that Mohammad split the moon into two. And that's plain ludicrous.

My son often used to ask me as a child, why don't I go to temples. And I would tell him, the day the priests inside promise me that I will see flying and levitating Gods inside, I would most certainly go—but not to see a stone idol or a wooden cross, unless it's a museum to display the evolution of human faiths. Playing with plastic toys, imaginary superheroes and doll houses is something that is best left behind in our early childhood.

I do realise my kind of anti theism isn't something common. But I have realised how if some people don't take this rationality forward strongly then sane adults will forever talk like immature medieval primitives. Thus I have realised, on religion taking a moderate view, is harmful for mankind and specially those you care

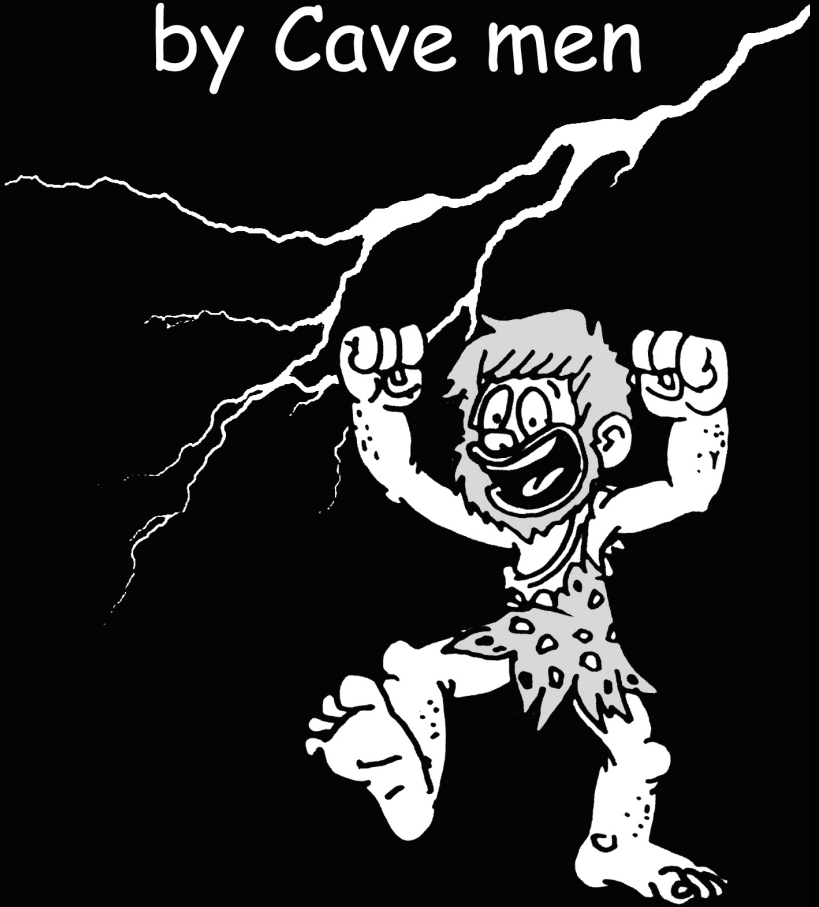
about... even any slight belief staying back is harmful. It disempowers intelligent people, makes them say something as silly as ‘touch wood’, or sit with fingers crossed. It makes them avoid certain ‘unlucky’ numbers, makes them go to temples and worship stones— the biggest harm to next generation, it makes them hope someone above is responsible for good things happening (while the only one with the power to change their life, is they themselves) and thus making them lose confidence in their own self... it’s crazy. We fight against superstition but we say we are free to practice our religion, but religion is the biggest superstition of all. And it shouldn’t stay inside anyone even in moderation... it’s exactly as stupid as believing that a black cat crossing your road is harmful.

Thus, it’s not just about wars and terrorism and genocides, it’s about basic intelligence and daily empowerment. That is why I don’t want anyone to have anything to do with religion. It’s morally wrong to make anyone believe in anything that has no evidence; just by force or authority, specially taking advantage of age, the

way we force lies upon our kids when they hardly even have developed the intellect to judge right from wrong. And then for the rest of their life make them intellectually handicapped by never allowing them to question. Thus believing in anything to do with religion is not just an intellectual mistake but a moral mistake too. That's why I have stopped taking any moderate views on it. Keeping quiet so that no one gets offended in the name of 'everyone has right to faith' is like harming friends and family knowingly. And yes it would be a shame on our belief in human kind to think that we wouldn't do good without fear of God. Humans would be as good and actually better and more intelligent. Rest laws and judicial system should take care of but most certainly we must not try to make man good through a lie (though actually the amount of bad that happens in the name of religion far outweighs the good). And everything aside, anything done, even good, based upon a superstitious lie is harmful.

A virgin giving birth to Jesus. Adam and Eve. *Manu* and *Shatarupa*. I really believe those who wrote this kind

God was invented
by Cave men



... to explain THUNDER

of fairy tales must have laughed their heads off while writing it all and had no clue that a century or so later people would actually be believing it— for records, there is no evidence of Christianity within first hundred years of Christ’s death!! And similar such load of irrationality in every mega Ponzi scheme and fraud called religion and God! A man made God. God never made man. For the former there is endless proof, for the latter there is absolutely zero proof. So I don’t even see the existence of a debate, for a debate must begin with some base logic! In 1800, the third President of America, Thomas Jefferson had the foresight and intelligence of saying that “the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the supreme being as his father in the womb of a virgin will be classed with the fable of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter.” Yet 215 years later in India we don’t have a leader courageous enough to say this about our *Gita* and other incest and immaculate conception filled stories of Gods and Goddesses.

I do understand that when man lived in darkness he had reasons to worship the sun, when man didn’t have

home he had reasons to worship the rain and thunder, when man hadn't invented medicines and was dying of basic diseases with average life around 20 he had reasons to fear God's wrath, when man didn't know of secure ways to have child births and huge proportions of babies and even mothers would die at child birth, he had reasons to pray to God... he had fear of death.. the biggest fear that is exploited in the name of God. He was ignorant, he was dependent... or so he thought... Now we have electricity, we have homes and medical science is on the verge of making us live literally forever and children and mothers don't have a reason to die at childbirth unless they live in a country ruled by political frauds like India or are born in poorest sub-saharan African region...

Science has shown how evolution made man and thus by logic, there is no God. And for a fraction of a second if I were to do the mistake of assuming God exists, I would find it totally repulsive and criminal to believe in a God who doesn't have time to take care of millions dying of hunger in Africa but has time to teach you a lesson for having pre marital sex or for masturbating.

For everything good attributed in the name of God, we must account for everything bad. All those still born kids, all those dying of curable diseases, all those babies born with cerebral palsy, all those tsunamis and devastation... and then there would be no reason to worship a sadistic megalomaniac dictatorial video gamer whom we assume to be God! The same God who is supposed to create us then also created 4000 plus diseases! Either there is thus no God, or God is a sadist not worth worshipping!

Actually I totally understand why people are unable to digest reality... when I see so many scientists actually calling themselves God fearing or most often agnostic just because there is no proof of the “fact” that God doesn’t exist. Just like we don’t have a proof of Superman not existing, or Spider-man not existing for that matter. The only proof is that they are man made stories so they don’t exist. But for many of the inane that’s not good logic. To me it’s actually stupid to be even asked to prove that God doesn’t exist. But many scientists pitifully fall into this trap and call themselves agnostic, meaning since they have no proof that God doesn’t exist so they can’t

say. At least I resist from calling myself an atheist or agnostic and rather call myself “anti theist”... because to me only the irrational could want proof of God’s non existence.

I stick to my line of believe that even if God exists she most certainly is the most sadistic creature. That’s why anti-theist. As Lex Luthor says, before the climactic battle between Batman and Superman...

If God is all-powerful, he cannot be good. If God is good, he can not be all-powerful!

This means that assuming God exists then...

If God is all powerful he isn’t good. For then it’s him who created miseries in the world, hunger, cancer in children or adults, tsunamis, ethnic cleansing and so on...

And if God is all good, he isn’t obviously all powerful. As in that case then there wouldn’t be miseries in the world, no hunger, no cancer in children or adults, no tsunamis, no ethnic cleansing and so on

So I am an anti-theist and love exposing this man made creation called God and questions around it... in any case she can't be worth it! Plus most importantly, exist or not it's behind all of the biggest crimes and genocides on earth.

To me something that was first “conceptualized by man without evidence” a few thousand years back in a billions of year old universe is good enough to disprove its existence. Thus, in my opinion even talking of God is sin, if there is a non religious definition of the word sin. As Salman Rushdie put it during Charlie Hebdo incident, ”religion - a medieval form of unreason...” That’s exactly what it is. A medieval form of “unreason”. And as I said, believing even a bit of it or arguing for it is not just intellectually wrong but morally wrong. Completely wrong. Because if there was to be a word called moral, its definition would start with the words— Do not lie.

However what is really sinister is when media propagates blind beliefs, lies and hatred all for profits and monetary gains. And this is another place where the evil of Capitalism gets embedded. Media all over the

world is guilty of promoting religious blind beliefs, in effect harming humanity.

The prime responsibility of media is to promote truth and rationale. And there isn't anything that's steeped in more lies, fraud and falsehood than God and Religion. But unfortunately, media is always not just writing on it, but promoting all its blind beliefs and fraud. And why wouldn't they? After all, peddling religion means money. So they would rather peddle Christmas, Diwali, Eid, *Karva Chauth* and Santa Claus make belief and all its related blind beliefs and make great moneys from the advertisers, than write articles educating the public to stay away from such blind beliefs and medieval practices. Educating people to stay from such outright exploitative and demeaning festivals like *Karva Chauth* would mean a huge loss of business for jewellery stores, saree stores etc. and thus huge loss of ad revenues for media houses.

While this is something I always knew, it really feels sad that we hardly have a media house, for example in India, as a recent sting operation revealed, that wouldn't even shy away from taking moneys not just for ads that

promote blind beliefs but to promote religion in a manner that would end up further polarizing this country in religious lines.

I take hours of lectures on this... and can tackle every aspect of religion flawlessly. Man has gone to space and moon and now is going to mars.. all that can be said is there is no heaven and no hell... and definitely no God. The truth about the stars and planets where we supposedly go after death is that, in this 14 billion year old universe, the 4 billion year old earth is one of the 50 billion planets in the Milky Way which is one of the 200 billion galaxies we have. Believing in Gods and religious books is like saying God created the universe 14 billion years back and then said let me sleep for a while, 14 billion years to be precise. And then some three and a half thousand to one and a half thousand years back thought let me send a Ram, a Krishna, a Christ, a Mohammad, a Buddha to teach my beliefs (all contradicting each other) to cattle rearing village bumpkins who had no basic idea of science and rationality. Hillllarrious... and then again went back home sleep for the last 1500 years!

Even if we are to argue that modern form of human beings came into being 2,50,000 years back then isn't it a shame that God watched all kinds of misery on earth with total indifference for 2,48,000 years... saw people dying on an average at the age of about 20 from malnutrition, basic fever, in fact most babies at very child birth, and then about 3000 to 2000 years back depending upon the religion you believe in came down suddenly to earth to give his set of rules and morality to medieval unscientific shepherds who at that point of time had totally no clue of what was happening really. And then went silent again as science discovered truth, prolonged life and so on! And isn't it amazing that none of the religions could tell any truth about the universe from the earth being round to how the sun and the moon rotate. In fact none of them have a single reference to any of the animals that existed before these stories were written (whose fossils we keep discovering today) and instead had talking snakes and monsters!

And for my friends who believe in astrology, let me tell you, given the above facts of the planets and galaxies,

there is no super computer invented that can ever calculate precisely the positioning of all the planets of the 200 billion galaxies!! So stop going to that rank fraud astrologer who cheats you knowingly and schemingly. On astrology far too many scientific experiments have been done by professors of science of almost all the famous universities of the world and in absolutely each one of them it has proven to have no base. Experiment after experiment has been done where dozens of famous astrologers have been given the job to predict the same thing and results have shown that astrological predictions are as good as possibility of that happening by chance. In one experiment 700 astrologers were given over 1000 birth charts and the results showed their predictions were all statistically insignificant. In fact Prof. David Voas of Manchester University examined census data of more than 20 million people in UK and checked star signs vs. marital arrangements. No effect was seen, as obviously expected.

As the greatest philosopher ever, Karl Marx— who considered religion to be the opium of the masses and

whose aim in life was not only to end exploitation but also end religion to free man— said, Religion is the impotence of man to deal with the unknown.. but now after so much advancement we should deal with the remaining unknown with a logical brain than say ‘oh its Gods mystery.’ God’s mystery: that’s the answer for anything that you can’t explain! Imagine a teacher coming inside a science class and giving his answers to all questions as God’s creation and Gods mystery! Nothing to teach. However, that’s not the truth. The only truth about everything around is it will all be unraveled if it already hasn’t been. In case we don’t know the answer to something, it’s far more intelligent and intellectual to say, ‘Sorry I don’t know the answer but there is research happening and hopefully we will know soon.’ than to say that it’s Gods creation or mystery and head off to Vaishno Devi or Shirdi or Mecca or the Vatican for that matter.

God’s mystery is reducing by the day. The day women in the west started going to universities and then to jobs and meeting other men at work and the men started

having affairs away from home, the church goers started reducing. Because men used to use the church to keep women fooled...today churches are being converted to hotels with sleaze bars inside. By no means am I trying to ask women to go and have affairs outside marriage. But they must be free to do what men are free to (and in any case exchange of vows in front of God isn't an institution that one should believe in) because after all as Gloria Stienem, a woman whom I admire most would say, "A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle." Thus, just the way with advent of electricity and cameras, ghosts disappeared, so are churches with women's emancipation... I genuinely find it most sad when women—the most exploited lot in every religion and one of the key targets of every religion—believe in religion so passionately without realising most scriptures treat them with humongous inequality and disdain. To satisfy man's unending possessiveness and urge to keep a woman as his personal property he made religious rules. Don't wear this, wear that, don't show your hair, shave off your head, jump into your husband's pyre so that even after your man's death no other man can talk to

you!! People say the *Quran* is exploitative of women, I ask what about the Bible? From women must wear head scarfs in front of God to they must never open their mouth inside church and should ask their questions only to their husbands upon reaching back home, what not it writes... and for every so called sin of woman the punishment is death.

Bible doesn't even spare the disobedient child and says parents and relatives must stone him to death if he is disobedient. Not to mention that it tells the story of the poor old man collecting woods on a Sunday— the Sabbath— who was stoned to death because that is the punishment for working on the day of rest and prayers to God. Doesn't matter if the poor man was cold, had dependent children or a loving wife at home. Talk about religious morality! Hinduism, of course can't escape its quota of shame too. From bride burning, child marriage, shoing away menstruating women from temples to exploitation of masses and poor through casteism, Hinduism has been as barbaric. Actually the day women stop believing in religion, men will be left with very less

motivation to believe anymore. Because they won't be able to keep their women in *burkhas* and *(s)indoors*. Of course education, and only education, for women and masses is the way out of religion and its exploitative sins.

THINK ABOUT IT.

If you find it funny or foolish that your son believes in Spider-man, please ask yourself. He is a kid, you are the real immature joke here who believes in as much a patently infantile, imaginary thing called God. Science will perhaps one day create a Spider-man in a laboratory; but your imaginary God will never be created! Have faith. Not in imaginary Gods. But on Godly human beings on earth around you, your parents, your friends, your spouse, your children. And your neighbours— including neighbouring countries. And if they ever betray that faith, learn your lessons and walk ahead. Not into the temple. But into your books and in search of more knowledge.

Its time to know life (about 600 million extinct species and 30 million living ones) evolved over millions

of years and human beings are a result of that; With a micro-miniscule difference in genes between each other — proven by science. For most part of the thousands of years human history we have lived only for an average of 10-20 years, with it touching levels of 20-35 years only as recently as 300 years ago (in Sweden for eg. in 1750s it was 35 years). It's science that is responsible for the modern day longer life and not prayers to God over hundreds of thousands of years. It's only in the last 150 odd years that the average human life span has started increasing by about 3 months every year, and the pace is only expected to increase. As, Prof. P. Dayanandan, puts it beautifully, "Scientists are unravelling the details of this human saga, everyday. Like many millions of Indians, I carry a mitochondrial mutation which first occurred in my maternal ancestor 50,000 years ago somewhere in the middle east. I tested my Y-chromosome and found that I carry a mutation that first occurred 30,000 years ago somewhere in the middle east. Recently I connected with a person in Pakistan who tested and found that he carries the same mutation. My family is everywhere, and my ancestral roots are in Africa."

Thus, it's time to go away from the divisive world of religion into the Intelligent world of atheism. And it's here to stay and overthrow religion immaturity faster than you can inside. For the sake of statistics if we were to look at specific regions, the highest rate of atheism exists in Eastern part of Germany where a recent survey could not identify a single youth under 28 who believes in God!! In the USA at 18.5%, those who don't believe in God is just a shade below European average of 20%. In Europe though overall France with 40% beats Germany at 27%. No wonder the French Revolution was an atheistic revolution and the word atheism is itself derived from the French word 'atheisme'. It's only many years later that the Mexican revolution alongside the socialistic revolution around the world was atheistic in nature.

As Penn Jillette said, "If every trace of any single religion were wiped out and nothing were passed on, it would never be created exactly that way again. There might be some other nonsense in its place, but not that exact nonsense. If all of science were wiped out, it would still be true and someone would find a way to figure it all

out again.”

Finally I would want to say, if all that I wrote has offended you, I am not sorry. Because religion and its numerous atrocities offend me. Casteism offends me. Child abuse offends me. Exploitation of women offends me. Religion must be mocked and truth be said, there is really no polite way of calling out the irrationalities and offensive behaviour of religious people. And above all else, offending people with the truth has never been a factor of concern in my life. It's the real pillar of democracy. As Salman Rushdie puts it “What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist”. I always tell my students, if you feel offended, argue it out. It's a democracy. Use your brains. Go to the canteen and call me names and discuss how big a fool I am. In the process use your brain and argue on the topic. If you do that one day you will learn to use your brain and automatically realise the truth. As they say, if you could argue with religious people, there wouldn't be any religious people!

In any case there won't be any soon. The internet is bringing education for all and power in the hands of the common man to create social pressure through free speech and social media. This will soon make inequalities of income far less than prevalent. Science is talking of making woman immortal and within the next fifteen years itself. Capitalism is getting destroyed world-wide, as you will read in the next chapter, which would mean every human being will have access to basic rights like education, health, shelter, basic minimum income and justice. And, in a world where your standard of living will be comparable to others and not make you jealous of them, where you will be living healthy and where you will access to basic rights; Your need for God itself will disappear— apart from the fact that better education will drive home the rational that God doesn't exist at the first place. And, God will stand dethroned.

CHAPTER-2

Destroying Capitalism

Be Intelligent

Just like I am an anti-theist, I am an anti-capitalist. With equal force and passion. I have a problem with almost everything around Capitalism and as a student of Economics don't believe that it's visible success proves anything. To understand Capitalism one has to delve deep into it. We take Capitalism for granted as the best system possible. Just like we believe God exists. But both aren't true. A system that keeps every human being in-

secure for life, a system that doesn't guarantee food to eat to everyone, a system that doesn't guarantee shelter to everyone, a system that doesn't guarantee access to health facilities to everyone, a system that doesn't guarantee basic education and dignity of living to everyone and finally a system that doesn't guarantee fair access to justice to everyone can't be a good system. And no, unlike what you are taught in 'WhatsApp University', guaranteeing health and shelter to all, even if free of cost, doesn't mean that you are creating a society of free loaders. This chapter will explain you how to look beyond Capitalism. Know all it's faults and yet try to squeeze maximum happiness from it. And since unlike God, replacing this isn't totally in your hands, it will explain you how to at least logically destroy Capitalism and live intelligently.

“The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.”

Karl Marx,

The advent of Capitalism.

Just like I am an anti-theist, I am an anti-capitalist. With equal force and passion. I have a problem with almost everything around Capitalism and as a student of Economics don't believe that it's propagated success proves anything. To understand Capitalism one has to delve deep into it.

Capitalism, like God, was a natural part of human evolution. To live, and to live better, human beings had to depend upon what he learnt in the jungles to survive. 'Survival of the Fittest'. It was need and greed over empathy and humanity. And that is also the basic fundamental pillar of Capitalism. 'Survival of the Fittest' in an economic system is Capitalism. As man escaped jungle and civilization dawned around him various forms of 'Survival of the Fittest' emerged. First was by pure physical strength. Man started becoming the ruler of a tribe. Then slowly by adding people and improved weapons, man started becoming a king and then an emperor. He defined his land and survived better by becoming fitter. And all of it was by his ruthless jungle rule. Thus like in the jungle killing his fellow beings was commonplace- at least exploiting them through fear, the rule.

Thus started the journey of exploitation of man by man. And yet civilization evolved. And laws emerged. Laws emerged and civil society kept becoming stronger. And better laws emerged. Intellectuals and scien-

tists emerged and they were ordered death. And people protested and when the rulers felt that the best way to handle was to compromise a bit so they accepted new laws. Democracies emerged but the route was filled with blood. Blood in the hands of imperialist forces in one part of the world and in the hands of brute slave traders in another part. But the process of change continued. Democracies became stronger. And they wanted ban on slave trade and fiefdoms and kingdoms. The rulers, the kings, the traders got their new costume.

They were now political leaders and businessmen. Mostly from the same breed (a few of course from the commoners).

But when the new breed of political leaders and business leaders emerged, in most cases, no one took away from these old rulers, traders and kings what they and their forefathers had garnered through murders, brute force and exploitation. Things only looked better. The fact remained that these original leaders and businessmen mostly were from the privileged families- read families with blood in their hands.

For them the logical way to carry on their process of generations of exploitative practice was inventing new looking practices based upon their old concept of 'Survival of the Fittest'. Thus emerged what we call Capitalism. The economic way of carrying on the old practice of greed over humanity. Carrying on the jungle way in the name civilized behaviour.

So they said economies should be run on the basis of Capitalism and free market. The only thing they didn't do was snatch away all existing wealth of everyone and then distribute them equally and then said now that we are all on equal playing field let's start doing business and see who wins this race. Instead the existing wealth owners used his wealth to keep earning more wealth and the marginalized kept working on the sidelines trying to make two ends meet. One or two from this segment who invented something new and made it into the league of businessmen were glorified no end to show that the free market actually was giving everyone an equal chance to reach out for the stars. The truth was this was far from truth!

Smart guys like Adam Smith defended and elaborated on Capitalism by saying human beings being greedy in nature would always try to maximize his own profits and when we leave the every individual in a society free to maximize his or her own profits, the society in turn would maximize the total profits. Gullible masses bought the premise.

Businessmen popularized the premise through the media they owned.

The truth was again that this premise was far from truth. The truth was human beings being greedy in nature is accompanied by the fact that resources are also limited in nature. And thus the powerful and the stronger would always try to corner the maximum possible leaving the weak with far less and exploited. And the biggest role of a society is not to leave greedy people free on the street to recreate the jungle. The role of a society is to maximize happiness and base itself on the premise of happiness instead of greed.

The Great Depression of 1930s proved how danger-

ous greed could be. Due to greed you pay the working class as less as possible but unfortunately if they don't have purchasing power you have no buyers for your products and there is large scale over production.

So what is the problem with Capitalism? Economics is essentially a study of allocation of the limited resources in a society to alternate uses that these resources can be put into, in an attempt to satisfy the unlimited wants of human beings. There are three key elements at work here. First, limited resources. Had resources been unlimited we would all have been well off and there would have been no need to study economics. But unfortunately that's not the case. Second, alternate uses of these resources. If we could make only bicycles with the help of steel.

There would have been very less problem. Take all the steel and make bicycles. The problem then would have been confined to how to distribute these bicycles. But unfortunately with steel we can make a million different things and that makes everything complicated.

Finally, human wants are unlimited. Had human beings want been limited to say just a bicycle. There would have been much less problem. You can make a million different things with steel. But people want only bicycles. So make only bicycles and give it to them. But human beings want everything. They want a bicycle, a motorbike, a car, an SUV, a private jet and a rocket that can fly to Mars.

So we study Economics. And try to solve the three key questions. What to produce? How to produce? For whom to produce?

That's where Capitalism fails. It wants to leave these decisions to the invisible hand of the market. It says let the markets be free and demand and supply make that decision. But the market has this ability of making dangerous decisions because it caters to those with purchasing power. So the market would make five star hotels and living spaces aplenty - there is never a short-fall for it - but leave a billion people homeless. Market would cater to high end education for a few million leave a billion without an access to basic education.

And worst the insurance and medical companies will create a mafia where a few million rich have no dearth of health amenities while a billion are left to die without treatment.

While the Great Depression was overcome and astounding economic affluence was achieved for majority of population in USA, Europe and in countries like South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia within the political economic framework of Capitalism thanks to Lord John Maynard Keynes' theoretical as well as practical policy structure. However, technological advances have led to jobless growth. Globalization has created hundreds of billionaires and possibly will bring forth a dozen trillionaires in the next few years. Certain billionaire capitalists like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are tomtomed as proof of superiority of Capitalism.

They are praised sky-high for their commendable Charity Projects benefitting millions of people of the developing countries, saving them from fatal diseases like Aids, Malaria, etc., deliberately overlooking the fact that people like Bill Gates - despite being a great

man himself- help creating a fake illusion about the capitalist system. The capitalist system actually led to massive killings in World War II and piecemeal World War III - as Pope Francis described the present wars - right now raging throughout the Arab World.

Capitalism is responsible for killing 2,500,000 Iraqis and more, massive murders in Syria and elsewhere. Saudi Arabia is protected by USA and supplied with bombs worth billions of dollars, though it is well documented that Saudi Arabia was the main patron of ISIS. Hardly any Nobel Laureate in Economics has ever pointed out the organic link between Capitalism and Wars. The fact is wars add to the wealth of billionaires aspiring to become trillionaires in the quickest possible time. Let us honestly admit that Capitalism is a negative sum game destroying trillions of dollars, killing millions of men, women and children while creating a few dollar billionaires here and there doing humanitarian work. It has destroyed merit-based democracy and accentuated concentration of wealth in the hands of 1 % or 0.1% at the cost of miseries for millions in USA

and billions of people around the world.

Surprisingly, almost all the Nobel Laureates in Economics are apologists of Capitalism. Having their bread so thickly buttered, they are not capable of thinking anything beyond smart criticism of Capitalism, believing in reformed Capitalism.

The book, “Capital in the Twenty First Century” draws on more than a decade of research by Thomas Piketty and a handful of other economists (with the likes of Berkeley’s Emmanuel Saez), detailing historical changes in the concentration of income and wealth. This pile of data allows Thomas Piketty to sketch out the evolution of inequality since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Based on historical data of three centuries (18th, 19th & 20th) of more than 20 countries, Thomas Picketty postulates that, when rate of return on capital (“ r ”) exceeds the rate of growth of national output (GDP), as it did in the nineteenth century and seems quite likely to do again in the twenty first, Capitalism automatically generates arbitrary and unsustainable inequalities that radically undermine meritocratic

values on which democratic societies are based.

With the likes of Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders in such prominence today, both in Great Britain and America, perhaps Thomas Piketty's work has stirred one of the most sought-after civilizational changes in history – where Capitalism borne inequalities will cease to exist and merit-based Socialism will take its place. After Donald Trump's role is exhausted, UK, USA and EU along with many other countries are likely to adopt socialist policies of North European countries like Sweden, Norway, etc.

Since extreme inequality is unacceptable and sacrifice of merit and democracy cannot be defended in the process of evolving humanized economic society, not only capitalists but also Capitalism is to be rejected.

Its viciously competitive, no holds-barred, financial-bottom-line approach has made many of the less-developed lands and people fall by the wayside. The market-oriented economy has caused an incredible number of job losses, land alienation, food riots and tensions of

economic disparities leading to rising organized crime, degeneration of the public support system and environmental degradation. These, of course, have been dismissed as the growing pains of a market economy with its deferred promises of a bright future. What it doesn't seem to pay enough attention to is the worsening reality of the present, affecting the internal stability of an increasing number of countries in an endless chain from Brazil in South America through the Central American countries to the erstwhile Asian tiger economies of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. These economies have been through the worst crises in their history to date.

Having been sidelined in the gold rush and deciding that enough was enough, even the natives of Southern Mexico have risen as Zapatista insurgents, in the North American continent. While Russia and certain parts of Central Asian Republics are fast becoming ungovernable, the First World bastions like Germany are deeply affected by unemployment.

In fact, even in the US, some traditional farming families have been slowly disappearing, burdened by

debt. It appears that the problems the farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab in India face have much in common with their American counterparts in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

It only reminds us of the need to realise that economic prosperity for a nation is not about Economics alone. A nation cannot be run like a Departmental Store with the only motive of profit maximization.

Economic prosperity encompasses social development, which is crucial to the soul of a nation. Today's Capitalism has to re-engineer and restructure itself so that its social face emerges without scars.

When capacity utilization fell from 85% to 70% during the 1930s in America, it caused the Great Depression. In the case of India, what do we do but bemoan our capacity utilization of 60% . . . Just improving this alone would give us the additional growth that we are looking for.

Thanks to years of corporate sector financed public relations efforts, the free market policies that encour-

age private enterprise and consumer choice have a near sacred aura around them. These policies undermine the dead hand of the incompetent, bureaucratic, parasitic government, which can do no good even if it means to. As a result, policies that get implemented in the name of liberalization, free market or benefits to the corporate sector, seldom seem to require defence. These cover-ups are used to insidiously usher in anything from lowering taxes for the corporate sector and the wealthy to disabling public education, health care, housing and employment - generation programmes. I'm afraid, I, for one, do not fall in the category of economists who would blindly buy these arguments. I have always believed that the market is a wonderful slave but a bad master.

The world has seen more violence in recent years than ever before. Had Kuwait been an apple-producing country instead of an oil-producing country, would Iraq have been bombed so ruthlessly? Again, had there been a conflict in the UK and Scotland something similar to Kosovo, would the UK and Scotland have been

bombed to stone age instead of an erstwhile communist country like Kosovo? Every country has ethnic problems and the solutions don't lie in bombing one of them. I personally think that even in the US there is a big ethnic problem. Research has revealed that if the white American population ranks first in the Human Development Index the black American ranks 37th!

The arguments against 'heartless' economics are aplenty, but it is never too late to understand that any need that gives momentary pleasure for a price has to be subjugated to the larger collective needs of a society, paving the way of harmonious, natural, socio-economic growth.

When we buy a twelfth pair of Nike shoes we may derive momentary satisfaction but when we spend time learning music, the satisfaction lasts a lifetime. But when the vulnerable human mind is constantly bombarded with new material concepts, it become exceedingly difficult to concentrate on anything other than satisfying material needs, pushing people to become more and more materialistic. It is only when a husband

presents a diamond ring to his wife that he loves her. How much has a diamond ring, washing machine or a pressure cooker to do with love? Attaching price tags to finer sentiments, robs life of its richness. Such addictive consumerism and its ripple effects have begun to show in the divorce rates of the middle class which valued the institution of marriage very highly. When you see a girl in a lingerie advertisement say, 'All my boy friends love it,' or a man in a deodorant ad declare that it is 'for a man who doesn't have to try hard,' you know the society is not promoting emotional well being, conducive to the institution of family. Let's look at some figures to justify all that I have just said. In America the number of divorces per 1000 marriages now stands at a staggering 504, and 19.3% of women in the age group of 30 to 34 are unmarried. Twenty per cent of children grow up in single-parent homes and two-thirds of black babies who are born out of wedlock live with their mothers. While white male life expectancy is at

75.3 years, the black male is expected to live only till 68.7 years.

While the richest 5% whites own 88% of private property in the US, more than 50% of the black population lives below the poverty line.

There are 15 suicides, 100 drug crimes, 15 road accident deaths per 1,00,000 people in developed countries. The do or die syndrome where success is the only byline in life has rendered more people unhappy than ever before. The suicide rate in some of the ivy-league institutions as well as premier institutions in some Western countries is shockingly high despite plenty.

We also need to realise that cross-border trade is the worst polluter among all economic activities, as it uses more than twice the amount of energy used by equivalent local production. It doesn't make much economic sense even from an ecological point of view. Importing products to improve trade with other countries when they can be manufactured locally makes little business sense. Unlimited progress in technology has also created ecological threats of nuclear war and its ensuing dangers. We need to realise that there is a limit to material growth. Growth and greed are not synonymous.

Economic growth has to be well directed.

The concept of competition in a free market has also been misunderstood.

The competition between a crippled and a healthy man is not fair. Countries like the UK used 150 years of protectionism, violence and state power to put themselves ahead of any competitor in the late 1800s before suddenly turning to propagate a free market system. When the US started catching up with them, they used protectionism. British steel was kept away from the US through huge tariff barriers so that the US steel industry could grow. It is interesting to note how after becoming a developed nation, each nation turns to the doctrine of free market in order to exploit the markets of the weaker countries through blatant aggression or through free market.

Countries like India need to realise that they need to help their industries to come up to a position first where they don't feel threatened but enjoy the satisfaction of healthy competition. During the latter part of

the eighteenth century, India, for example, was producing as much iron as the whole of Europe. In fact, British engineers were studying some of India's more advanced steel manufacturing techniques to try and close the technology gap. Bombay was producing locomotives at competitive levels when the railway boom started. But the British doctrine of market interference – read imperialism — destroyed this industry in India much like it destroyed India's textile and shipbuilding industries. Americans too, a hundred years later, saw the advantages of a level playing ground on which they could crush the competitor, much like the British did years ago. That the Americans now propagate the merits of cross-border trade, after protecting their own industries for one hundred and fifty years, is something our policy makers fail to see.

Globalization, which is typically associated with accepting triumphant Capitalism-American style, is projected as a synonym for the word 'progress', which developing countries must accept if they are to grow and fight poverty. The reality is that globalization is not

working — not just for many of the world's poor but also for those who promoted it. It seems to be achieving very little for the stability of the global economy itself. Joseph Stiglitz points out, in his book *Globalization and Its Discontents* that despite repeated promises of poverty eradication made in the last decade of the twentieth century, the actual number of people living in poverty across the globe has actually increased by almost a hundred million. This happened simultaneously, as the world income actually increased by an average of 2.5% annually.

Only strong domestic competition can build up the ability of a nation to manufacture high quality products like the Japanese economy produces. Without the experience of competing in the domestic market, countries cannot compete in a free market system with any measure of success. It is like participating in the Olympic events without any national level experience. As MNCs come in, they buy up smaller organisations. This in fact does just the opposite of what it promises to do – destroy competition instead of encouraging healthy com-

petition. Larger organisations are not conducive to an individual's well-being either, for in a very large organisation, the worker cannot relate to the final product and feels alienated from the whole work process.

In fact, as organisations grow in size, the ownership is alienated from the whole human activity or the production process, as most of the ownership today is restricted to the ownership of papers (shares).

It is the CEOs and a few senior executives who enjoy the benefits and rule. Unfortunately, management experts have done well, promoting Adam Smith's concept of division of labour (like economists have with his concept of 'the invisible hand') but have never bothered to talk about his total contempt for its inhuman effects which turn working people into objects – as stupid and ignorant as it is possible for a human creature to be – something that he felt should be prevented in 'every improved and civilized society' by government action to overcome the destructive force of the invisible hand. This clearly goes to show that even if the free market were to be considered successful, it would require many

changes, which we rarely talk about.

Finally, a few words on how bothered the West is about the needs of the developing world. The global village that America talks about is not about a village, verdant and peaceful, where people live happily. It is about a village, full of exploitative hierarchies where America wants to be the new Global Lord. At a meet in Rio de Janeiro, developing countries wanted developed countries to part with a mere 0.2% of their cross-border trade as a contribution towards eradicating poverty from developing countries. The former refused!

While basic education for all in the world would cost \$6 billion annually, expenses on cosmetics in the US amount to a staggering \$8 billion. Water and sanitation for all costs \$9 billion, while ice cream worth \$11 billion is sold in Europe annually. Reproductive health for all women costs \$12 billion; expenses on perfumes in Europe and the US add up to \$12 billion. Whereas basic health and nutrition for all requires \$13 billion, expenses on pet foods in Europe and the US amount to \$17 billion. Cigarettes and alcohol account for \$50 bil-

lion and \$105 billion in Europe, respectively. To cap it all, may I add that narcotic drugs in circulation across the world are worth \$400 billion and military expenditure is worth \$1750 billion annually!

Bertolt Brecht once remarked: ‘Those who have eaten their fill speak to the hungry of the wonderful times to come.’ The significance of this statement explicitly emerges from the data presented in the previous paragraph. More than half a century after the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, where the right to food was acknowledged as a basic human right, nothing seems to have been achieved. Forget poverty, even hunger has not been alleviated despite slogans such as ‘eliminate hunger now, poverty later’. At the World Food Summit in June 2002, as always, hunger was discussed; scholarly debate on how to resolve this problem followed, and the delegates dined in the opulent capital of Italy. The World Food Summit itself has become a meaningless ritual, where millions are spent to host and entertain those enamoured by the sound of their own voices although nothing meaningful

ever emerges. The delegates met, pledges were made to cut the number of hungry to 400 million by 2015. (One would have expected a focus on total elimination!) But now statistics reveal that 800 million people are still be hungry across the globe. People working for the eradication of poverty are more concerned about the statistical tools used for collecting the data and disproving those collected by institutions other than themselves rather than eradicating poverty.

As an Indian I have often wondered what it is that makes us completely besotted with everything American and the American visa – the Great Indian Dream for most young Indians! Even if I were to accept the reality that an individual is more concerned about his personal economics than the country's, what defies my understanding is how people in charge of a nation could ape a country with 132 times more drug crimes, 16 times more rapes and 12 times more murder crimes compared to a country like Japan. I must admit, even if they have failed in other areas, Americans seem to have marketed themselves really well! After enjoying

a cosy 150 years of protectionism for themselves, both Britain and America now demand a level playing field with developing economies like India. This is a standing example of economic double standards!

NB.

*I know my anti-theism is easier to accept than my anti-capitalist given what many of you might have read about me. Doesn't matter. If anyone has read the book *The Great Indian Dream* authored jointly by me and my father Dr. Malay Chaudhuri, way back in 2003 or my last book 'What Marx Left Unsaid' (Times Group Books, 2019) authored by the two of us again along with my son Che or for that matter followed my Annual televised Alternate Budgets for the Government of India that I have presented on behalf of the IIPM THINK TANK for the last 17 years, you would already know that I have no love lost for Capitalism. For those of you who still want a clarification about how the fancy cars I drive go with my anti Capitalism, I will become with a small clarification so that it's easier for you to read on.*

Being an Anti-theist and leading a life like that is easy in a country like India which is still secular and allows you freedom of belief.

But being an anti-capitalist and living like one isn't possible in any free market driven economy. And India for all practical purposes is a free market economy. In a free market you have to either do a job or be an entrepreneur. And I chose to be an entrepreneur. And the rules of entrepreneurial competition are simple. To stay at the same place you

have run faster than ever before. You are Jeff Bezos. All good.

But can you remain still? No. You have to fastest now. The day you let one person overtake you, it might just signal the beginning of your end. Trillionaire today, Billionaire tomorrow, Millionaire day after tomorrow and a cancer patient waiting to catch an Uber the next day with no idea who is going to foot your hospital bill.

So in a free market, where no one else is there to take care your and your loved one's health care expenses, education expenses or guarantee a decent house and dignified job or unemployment benefit; You have to try and master the art of Capitalism.

That doesn't mean that you believe in Capitalism. It might be that you live every day detesting everything around you - from the pittance at which your own peon works to the ugly excesses your top management enjoys even at a personal level; From the average income of the lowest 20 percentile of the society to the average wealth of the top 1% of the society at a macro level.

I hope I don't need to clarify further.

Happiness, through a Quantum Healing of Capitalism

Have you read any other theory of Quantum Healing? Well, am certain barring making you confused it didn't do anything to you. This is one Quantum Heal-

ing — the Quantum Healing of Capitalism — that the world actually needs. And we need to know. Once we know this, happiness would be ours.

Having critically analyzed the problems of markets and global Capitalism earlier, let me say it is not as if I do not understand some of the merits of these systems and their cohesion with human nature. Ideologies can often fire your passion enough to override natural human tendencies for a while. When you are being ruthlessly exploited and live in endless poverty, you do tend to feel closely related to your brethren and revolutions invariably follow: With growing prosperity and enough food to eat, this passion starts dwindling to a point where all you want to get is more recognition for your contribution. Competition and one-upmanship begins to rule your lives. It is certainly in human nature to welcome prosperity and better standards of living and yearn for luxuries in life — and why not? When people around you live almost as well as you do these natural human tendencies can be allowed to flourish (though we must remember that unlimited prosperity

leads to a waste economy while the aim of a humane system should be to create a sustainable world). But in these days of globalization, prosperity too should be globalized. Till then a large majority of the have-nots and a few amongst the haves like us will continue to have utter contempt for the present system of market Capitalism.

For true socialism to succeed, the state has to play a significant decision-making role which may be perceived as interfering and distributive by citizens. This often entails using a lot of value judgement to consider what is good for society from an ideal point of view. Citizens may not welcome this as it is at the cost of their freedom. Moreover, there is no reason to think that what the state does (very often it boils down to what the leader thinks should be done) will always be correct. It is only when citizens participate and interact with the state, and the state takes this seriously for decision-making on a regular basis through debates and polls, that true democracy can be established and what the state does can be taken as correct. This is why

you may notice that only countries where a majority of people live in inhuman poverty have usually opted for a socialist system by choice (revolutions). At such times people looked up to someone (state or a leader) to take decisions on their behalf in order to pull them out of their miserable situation. They welcomed state interference since they felt that prosperity was beyond their individual means. When the people in the same countries survived their massive indignities and their standard of living improved, they wanted to get rid of state intervention from their daily lives. However, power corrupts. The same leaders who brought about revolutionary changes in these countries, had got used to the habit of ruling by imposing their views and thus neglected natural human tendencies.

Then there was also the problem of those leaders failing to draw the line between ideology and dogma in their passion to impose what they thought was correct. A man begins to cherish nothing more than his independence from the moment he learns to survive with basic human dignity. The socialist states failed provide

this despite their ideological correctness. Market capitalists, on the other hand, try to leave everything on the markets including the problem of inequality, unemployment, pollution, health or education. These are all issues in which the state has to necessarily play an important role, which even in free market economies, the majority will have no objections to accepting. Further, in a globalized world, states, especially the developed ones, have to look into these aspects as world citizens beyond the narrow vision of their own prosperity. We need to first and foremost globalize the idea that development is about transforming societies into better democracies, improving the lives of the poor and enabling everyone to have a chance at success as well as access to health care and education. If the common notion of Capitalism represents freedom and democracy, and socialism represents equity and happiness, then what we need today is Happy Capitalism – Capitalism minus its inhuman tendencies of putting profit and trade above human dignity and people; Capitalism minus its efforts at reducing its citizens into submissive slaves to the hierarchy of the rich and powerful while maintaining an

illusion of democracy; and socialism minus its interfering nose in every aspect of daily life and the inhuman attempts at snubbing the freedom of speech. While the market should remain to cater to the people who have the purchasing power, the state needs to take care of those being marginalized in the gold rush and look into matters of national and global interests like environment, pollution, AIDS and peace.

Survival of the weakest and the trickle up theory:

Redefining some rules I begin my journey towards Quantum Healing of Capitalism or what I have previously called Happy Capitalism by picking up the basic concept around which free enterprise revolves. For long economists have been blindly following Darwin's theory of 'Survival of the Fittest' as the maxim for supporting the existence of the capitalist economy. The problem is, however, they forget that the whole purpose behind the functioning of an economy is to move towards a more civilized form of existence. Civilization has seen man moving out of the jungle and reaching where he is today. Sadly, however, he has not yet been

able to discard the rules of the jungle.

From the very beginning Capitalism has been based on the principle of individualism and ‘Survival of the Fittest’. Adam Smith’s theory that man is rational and will maximize profits in a free market supports this principle. The core function of a man in a capitalist market essentially revolves around competing with others and maximizing individual profit. Critics, of course, would like to point out that the returns that an individual gains in a capitalist market are not solely dependent on his efforts alone but also reflective of the wealth he has accumulated in the past. The manner in which large companies from developed nations enter developing countries and destroy their domestic industries proves the point that the capitalist economy is based on the concept of ‘Survival of the Fittest’. In a jungle, the ‘fittest’ refers to the strongest or the one who can best adjust to the existing environment; in an economy, ‘fittest’ would refer to the richest. Therefore we see that the market economy has always helped the rich grow richer at the cost of others, although whenever one tries to question this, we

are told that we should not worry because left free, market prosperity always trickles down! This trickle down theory is another unquestioned capitalist jargon which is thrown at developing countries from time to time.

This, sure enough, furthers the cause of the developed nations despite the absence of any empirical evidence to prove the same.

Men are born equal. If given the same opportunities of health, education and environment, their capacity to contribute would become nearly equal. It is the society that we have created where these opportunities are not equally distributed, thereby leading to a difference between man and man. Today when some of us have reached such high standards of living, the time is right to bring in some humanitarian aspects into our society. Quoting Marx here will get my point across: “Socialism is taking from each according to his ability and giving to each according to his contribution.” This, he said, would remove exploitation of man by man. What is more interesting and human is his definition of Communism, which he says is that ideal system, which

takes from each according to his ability and gives to each according to his need (it may be noted that Marx never talked about tormenting these societies through ruthless dictatorship as was practised later). What this means is that even though I might be contributing five lakh rupees worth of services every month to my society, but if for my happy and civilized existence, I need only one lakh rupees a month, then that is what I should get. A mentally challenged person living in the same society may not contribute anything but he will need a certain amount, perhaps as much as I do, to take care of his survival, treatment and medicine. In that case a communist society aims to provide him with the same amount as I get although he contributes nothing. Though socialistic ideology has never been put this way, what it essentially means is that to achieve a humane and equal society we need to believe in the opposite of ‘Survival of the Fittest’, i.e. ‘Survival of the Weakest.’

While my previous chapter was focused on disproving the existence of God on the basis of Darwinism and Survival of the Fittest, this chapter is focused bringing

out the evils in capitalism by focusing on Survival of the Weakest. And there exists no dichotomy at all. While evolution was based on Survival of the Fittest, civilisation must be based upon Survival of the Weakest.

Capitalist civilized societies across the world need to realise the merits of this human aspect of economics and consider and include this in any decision-making process, because civilization is all about discarding jungle rules and making humans more human. Or else we would be more like human beings who look like animals let loose in a civilized society, as predatory as wild animals.

I firmly believe, without any doubts and reasons to argue, that every human being is a born communist. Does this shock you? Perhaps this is as shocking as my admitting that many aspects of Capitalism are close to human nature. The basic ideology of Communism, as I have just explained, is also very close to human instincts. I'll tell you why I think so.

Communism as defined by Marx is “from each

according to his ability and to each according to his need”. Does that not yet make you feel like a communist? It will. Read on. Think about it and you will realise. Throughout your life you have only practiced this and when you look at the lives of everyone around you, you realise that’s what everyone has been practicing. That’s what makes us human beings.

I will explain again. In your own family what do you do? You take from everyone in your family as per their “ability to contribute”. You might be the head of the family with an ability to work for 8 hours.

So you do that. Your father might be on dialysis and has no ability to work but only tell your son stories. That’s his contribution. Your mother may not be interested in working , though very able. You let her relax. Your wife maybe more interested in taking care of your little child than joining back work. You take that from her. And your child can only laugh and play. Zero contribution. You take that.

In turn do you tell any of them that sorry guys, no

contribution no returns. No. Rather you say. Contribute as per your ability and take away as per your needs. So may be 60% of your entire earning goes in supporting your dad's treatment and medication and your child's special foods and extra care though they contribute nothing.

And from the remaining 40% rest of you live plus pay all bills.

That's from each according to his ability and to each according to his need. That's Communism. And that makes you a communist in your personal life, like all of us. And that's being human.

I will explain in greater depth about this philosophy and why extending this to everyone around us as a society in general will make us a humane society in a while. But as of now, know this. Communism isn't a cuss word and nor are you alone as a communist. Every humane human being is a communist. Just that he doesn't even know that. And This is 'Survival of the Weakest.' This is to each according to his need. It might be another is-

sue that the state can't get so emotional (though it has no business to be emotionally bankrupt) but what we can't challenge is the fact that we are all born as communists at heart!

I don't want to question the contribution of Capitalism in making this world a better place to live in. All I want to ask is this: After years of growth and development which has seen Capitalism at its materialistic peak enjoy the comforts that at one point of time would have sounded unrealistic, why doesn't this system focus on the crucial aspect of the ever widening gap between man and man, the rich and the poor? Today when every rich family in the West has five cars, can't they put their greed on hold, till the others at least come up to a situation where they don't die of hunger, before deciding to buy their sixth car? As individuals, it might be a tough choice but in civilized societies, for the governments, it shouldn't be.

When an economy reaches a stage where the fittest can live well even if their standard of living doesn't grow rapidly, it is the duty of that economy to channelize its

resources on the weakest for its survival. In our respective families we all practise Communism — to each according to his need but when it comes to the nation we question its validity. This doesn't mean I am insisting that all economies turn socialistic; what I am suggesting is that we consider extending this most human and natural concept of a family situation to the so-called global family as well! The Americans today are already spending the highest number of hours on social work every week. Let them lead the march towards imbibing the concept of 'survival of the weakest' in civilized societies. The only problem that the rich would face because of this holy march would be that their pace of growth would get just a little slower but this would accelerate the growth of the poor and the weaker. This contribution from the richer sections of the society is something that the world would be proud of tomorrow.

The stronger nations of the world should start supporting the weaker nations of the world genuinely and not for a bargain. I am sure by supporting the cause of the weak they will finally see the benefits trickle up into

their own balance sheets! The world would become a better place to live in. Hankering after 'more' has left rich society in a constant state of chasing a mirage! Perhaps in the new world order things can be different. Perhaps tomorrow's five-star hotels will be less starry but at least we won't see those miserable slums around them.

Isn't it ironical that the whole of Latin America and Africa put together don't have a single permanent member in the Security Council? India with a population of almost one billion is nowhere near a permanent membership either! Looking at this irrational situation, Fidel Castro had observed, 'The obsolete veto system and the abuse of the Security Council by the powerful nations are exalting a new colonialism within the UN. The UN was formed at the end of a monstrous war that had claimed some ten million lives. More than twice the number of people killed during the World War - II today die of hunger and curable diseases while the United Nations brags about bringing peace to the world. The rich countries enjoy a life expectancy of around 80 years

while in the poor countries it is a mere 45 years.’ This is what the ‘Survival of the Fittest’ has achieved!

Don’t the people born in poor countries have the right to live beyond the age of 45? These billions of lives are stubbed by the rich countries for the sake of a few additional comforts in their already luxurious lives. How long shall we wait for the carnage to stop?

If we want to achieve global humanism, we have to reverse the way economies function. And let me assure all the great industrialists and the capitalists of the world, this isn’t the death knell of Capitalism. Benefits of the principle of the ‘Survival of the Weakest’ will trickle up. There is enough evidence to support this belief. Without the benefits of a trickle up, one would not be able to explain the fact World Bank admitted as well... that in recorded history no other country has been able to bring as many people above the poverty line as China has done in the last twenty years. Figures stand at a staggering 200 million!

Our estimate is that it is far more than that and is

growing every day. The Chinese are even opening up northern China for tourists, indicating that they have started removing poverty from that part as well. China's efforts on survival of the weakest has resulted in a TRICKLE UP, giving the much needed purchasing power to a majority of Chinese people, which in turn has attracted large-scale foreign exchange. It is a rule of market Capitalism to invest in countries with higher purchasing power because that's where profits lie. The benefits of giving purchasing power to the poor in China are trickling up and taking the country ahead at a rate which is making the Western world extremely scared about the future domination of China.

Belief in trickle up is a thumb rule for developing economies like India. The success of Indian businesses, locally and globally, doesn't actually depend upon the kind of business strategies they have or the jargon that they have acquired. Their multinational consulting firms are their exciting marketing and sales promotional schemes. In the long run, the success of the companies will depend upon the size of the market that the

economy has been able to give them and the purchasing power the people in the country have. With Survival of the Weakest as the maxim, the people at the bottom rung of the economy would get more purchasing power along with better health and education facilities. This would not only make a huge difference in the quality of human capital in the country but would also satisfy the most important criterion for the growth of the Indian industry by becoming a part of the consuming market. The market will no longer comprise a hundred million people but one billion people because it is the purchasing power and only purchasing power of the market that determines the long-term growth of any economy, industry or company.

No marketing strategy can achieve a similar market expansion. This is pure economics and no miracle. We cannot possibly underestimate the importance of policies that strengthen the weaker sections to take care of the larger interests of the industries.

Let us resolve that we will redefine the basic rules of the capitalist economy and ensure the survival of the

weakest for our own good. An economy that wants to survive and not be swept off its feet by the giant corporations should place its faith on the survival of the weakest and the theory of Trickle Up as the saving grace for the next millennium.

The law of increasing marginal utility: Redefining satisfaction

As an economist who preaches - what I have termed as - Happy Capitalism, I have warned people not to fall prey to the practices of this competitive capitalist world for over a decade! I have always maintained that the market is a great slave but a pathetic master. I have spoken of ways that can enable us to live in this primarily capitalist world – which comes naturally to mankind – yet strike the right balance in order to maximize our happiness. For happiness, I have always believed, is the only reason for our existence, and we chase success and money also because we believe that's one of the ways to be happier.

Just discarding God isn't all that is there to intel-

ligent and happy living; For Capitalism too isn't conducive to a happy life either. A balance has to be struck with the core belief that material plenty is not the end all of life – personally or professionally. This game of winning in the market place has its positive sides as well as its negative sides. Yes it's true, if the world has not seen another recession of the kind in the 1930's, we have capitalist marketers and advertising agencies to thank. They often don't know the great service they unknowingly, often in their semi drunk state, do! Marketers keep the money rotating in the system. They convince people to come out and buy. And therefore, they keep the economic cycle rotating! For it's only when what we produce gets sold that producers produce more. Else the recessionary cycle starts. Products don't get sold, we produce lesser and fire people, there is lesser money in the markets, they buy lesser and thus we produce lesser and the cycle continues. Marketing brains – often magically – seduce people out into the markets and make them buy – a pre-requisite for a capitalist system.

This is exactly where lies the dilemma! Happiness

is about satisfaction and contentment. And the capitalist market system, while promising you an illusion of happiness, is in a constant endeavor to make you discontent and dissatisfied by selling you the idea of owning a product as happiness. Often, the idea seems to be Work, Buy, Consume, Die! Markets thrive on the manipulation of the attitudes and behaviour of the consumers and by altering the definition of what is worth emulating in life. Top authors will say that the job of a great marketer is to identify needs and satisfy them, with a rider that needs always exist and they can't be created. The truth is that by definition, a need is state of felt deprivation, and it can be created by making you feel deprived – of a shoe, a washing machine or a car – and that is what the advertiser does constantly.

Not just that... A true top notch intellectual advertiser doesn't even focus on making you satisfied... He focuses on making you temporarily satisfied from the word go, with a new plan to make you dissatisfied just some time after you have bought his product and are feeling satisfied. Nokia milked this strategy to the core

till it ruled. I believe, and my experience as a Nokia loyalist says that it would hype up a product in the market by keeping it deliberately short of one basic feature. Immediately after we bought that product, it would come up with another model highlighting the feature it didn't include, but not speaking of a feature, which it has deliberately dropped from the new model. And this game continued till it could fool no more. Of course, in this case, the consumers got bored not just of Nokia models but of Nokia as a brand on the whole, leading to their decline in sales globally – an aspect that marketers must be cautious of while dumping more and more products on their consumers. It shouldn't happen that instead of your new product, the law of diminishing marginal utility starts applying on your brand itself. Also, other competitors gave equally good and better products and exposed Nokia's lack of focus on real product improvement after one point. Such acts can continue only till your product is supreme in quality.

What Nokia did almost on a quarterly basis for years is what others do on a half yearly, annual or bi

- annual basis. Throw away your old washing machine and bring home the new washing machine! This looks better since it is front loading and top loading systems are outdated!

If you keep falling into these traps as a consumer, your life will be an endless chase. By chasing one product after the other just to remain up to date, you will only remain dissatisfied or at best jump from one individual momentary satisfaction to another. That is the job of the marketer, for he can't sell his products to a satisfied man! A satisfied consumer is a marketer's worst nightmare! He dreads to think about such a man while he talks about bringing out an ad, which will satisfy your needs though that's utter garbage! Yet it's totally necessary for business and economies to run. His message is clearly – as one of my favourite and most successful department stores in London SELFRIDGES says – BUY ME AND I WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE – at least that's the illusion he wants to create.

The onus is on us as consumers. Are we going to allow them to treat us like a dustbin and become their

product dumping ground or will we strike the right balance and spend some time with our children at the wonderful cost of not buying the latest model of another colour TV, if the last one is still working fine, and looking almost new? The marketer will always use the economic law of diminishing marginal utility to his advantage. That's why I say that economists will necessarily make great marketing guys if they want to. Diminishing Marginal Utility is that psychological law due to which we pay hugely for the first glass of water but with every additional glass of water, we are ready to pay much lesser; because it says, the more we have of something the less we want to have more of it. That's why, after the initial excitement of buying a new car, with every passing day – though it might still work as fine – our excitement dies down and we again start falling prey to a new motorcar's advertisement! And an intelligent marketer only tries to see to it that the law of diminishing marginal utility around the product he has just sold you works faster than human nature would have allowed it to, so that you come back to buy his product again!!! In this statement lies the biggest advice from my side to

every marketing man and the key to avoid being prey to the marketing man's strategies as a consumer and chose happiness from relationships, books and other finer aspects of life. Instead of products, relationships have a law of increasing marginal utility working than diminishing!

Anyway, we come back to our topic. As marketers, apart from chasing our profits and therefore being socially responsible, we must also remember that what we do necessarily have a negative impact on the society. Often, the more we win, the more we lose! That is, the more we win in terms of a business, the more we lose in terms of the society. Therefore, at least the knowledge of the societal effects of an excessively advertising & marketing driven-society is of extreme importance to not just consumers but even to us, the marketers.

In America today, estimates say a sixth of its total GDP is spent on marketing and advertising. Most of it is tax-exempt, so that people pay for the privilege of being subjected to manipulation of their attitudes and behaviour. Even four-year-olds check out with each other

what brand names they patronize. They go up to other kids and twist and turn up their collars to check out brand names. For toddlers and children below the age of five, the fashion house GAP finds that its colourful and well-designed clothes don't sell as much as a dull grey-coloured T-shirt with GAP written boldly on the chest does. After all, what's the use of buying a branded product if nobody gets to know about the brand name even if it is for your three-year-old impressionable child! So much for the illusion of being individual masters of life that the free market system is known to propagate! In his book *Profit Over People*, Noam Chomsky points out that a majority of Americans themselves haven't benefitted from market Capitalism.

Americans today live off the money that they will be earning in future, thanks to the credit card syndrome and the attractive installment schemes offered to the gullible consumer, overcome by this need to have more. A generation of credit card defaulters is growing up in countries like India as well. An endless number of young boys are falling prey to this trap and start their career

as shameless thieves, who proudly announce their intention of defaulting. The others start their careers on loans. These people had better be warned! As Martin Luther King said, “The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”

Credit card companies hire musclemen to recover the assets taken on installments. The entire system is repelling. The average American today has a negative saving, thanks to this compelling urge to finish the earth’s resources as soon as possible. There are economic problems too. The entire system of credit works till that point where all the citizens of a nation finish spending their future income today. As I wrote in my book *The Great Indian Dream* years before the 2008 recession happened, “The American economy is surviving by selling things on their future income. Imagine a society where the credit economy becomes so aggressive that all its citizens have exhausted their next 15 years’ earnings buying products, homes or cars today.

The credit-run economy will start stagnating soon with replacement credit only for those who complete their installments.”

That’s exactly what is leading to stagnation around the world. The American drama unfolds interesting scenes. The working class, about 80% of the economy, has nothing to do after work. There are four things that sell primarily. At least these are the only four industries that have seen advertising in American newspapers and television in a decent way – fast food, clothes, cars and insurance.

Fast food is making average Americans unattractive and obese. Department stores with their round-the-year sales are trying to help them look attractive and hide obesity. Car companies are giving them some action to look forward to in life and insurance companies are selling the fear of death (often due to obesity and lifestyle-related reasons) and making money. Incidentally, even these businesses were started nearly three and a half decades ago. With the exception of the IT boom, entrepreneurship seems out of reach for a com-

mon man because of the high costs involved in setting up new businesses. One look at average department stores on Fifth Avenue in New York is good enough to reveal that they are working on variable costs with the cost of infrastructure being impossible to recover. You don't need to be an economist or management expert to guess this. That is one reason why new businesses are not coming up. Infrastructure costs are becoming unrecoverable and only those with a given infrastructure are able to survive. Since they are not selling, the market mechanism also doesn't work! People in small towns everywhere in Europe and America complain that large national retailers and shopping malls have killed their small businesses and their communities. In the name of free enterprise, monopolies are established and competition (even quality) are compromised. Market Capitalism is helping a few rich to get richer, creating protectionism whenever required only for the benefit of the world's elite. Bringing Versace and Armani suits to department stores in New Delhi while the rest of India languishes in poverty is not the social justice we had longed for. Selling Louis Vuitton and Dior for the ur-

ban rich is more of Hypnotic Poison (as a Dior perfume is called) than symbolic of development in India! Years ago, Mao Zedong said that power flows from the barrel of the gun. We would have loved this world to be a better place. The truth, however, is that in the post-Cold War era, America continues to impose its ideology and diktats on the rest of the world still primarily from the barrel of the gun.

Having critically analyzed the problems of market and global Capitalism in brief, let me say that it is not as if I do not understand some of the merits of these systems and their cohesion with human nature. Ideologies can often fire your passion enough to override natural human tendencies for a while, as it happened in the erstwhile communist nations. When you are being ruthlessly exploited and live in endless poverty, you do tend to feel closely related to your brethren and revolutions invariably follow: With growing prosperity and enough food to eat, this passion starts dwindling to a point where all you want to get is more recognition for your contribution. Competition and one-upmanship

begins to rule your lives. That is the reason that Capitalism appeals to human kind and socialism in the long runs looks oppressive.

It is certainly in human nature to welcome prosperity and better standards of living and yearn for luxuries in life and why not?

When people around you live almost as well as you do, these natural human tendencies can be allowed to flourish. But in these days of globalization, prosperity, too, should be globalized. Till then, a large majority of the have-nots and a few amongst the haves like us will continue to have utter contempt for the present system of market Capitalism. John F. Kennedy had said on the price increase proposed by US Steel, “My father always told me that all businessmen were sons of bitches, I never believed it till now”.

However, we must realise that market Capitalism works very hard at keeping you tied down to the lower order needs by altering the speed of the law of diminishing marginal utility through manipulative advertis-

ing. It doesn't let us grow up the hierarchy of needs and experience happiness derived out of love and feelings. The Needs Theory of Maslow is called the 'Hierarchy of Needs', mainly because each need is placed in accordance with the happiness and satisfaction derived from it. In fact, Maslow himself called the two bottom most needs of physiological and security as lower order needs and the rest – social, self esteem and self-actualization – as the higher order needs. The lower order needs are common to human beings and all animals. Thus, I call them the animalistic needs of human beings. It is the satisfaction of the higher order needs and the ability to satisfy them better that makes human beings different from animals.

The way we eat food or crave security is quite similar to animals. It is our ability to express love for our fellow beings by showing compassion, consideration and sensitivity that distinguishes us from animals. We are also blessed with better skills to satisfy our self-actualization needs. In an ideal society, where the members of a community are happy, it is easy to perceive that the human

beings who make up the community have the scope for satisfying their higher order needs. It is the satisfaction of the higher order needs that brings long-lasting happiness to man. On the contrary, if human beings are to spend a major part of their lives in slogging for acquiring the mere basic necessities of life like food, health and education, when do they even think about higher order needs? They can do so only when the state takes the responsibility of providing employment, health, education and equity. In the way that market Capitalism is being practised now, none of the lower order needs of the weaker sections are fulfilled. This is precisely why, as businessmen, throughout our lives, we are often busy satisfying our lower order animalistic needs.

The more we want aggression in this market economy, the more time we are forced to spend satisfying these animalistic needs. At the age of eighty, we often look like a human being & talk like a human being but have never really spent quantity time (read as enough time, the opposite of quality time) to satisfy our human instincts and we don't even realise when we became like

animals. With all due respect to the animal lovers of this world (there are thousands of fashionable people for animal societies in this world today, but rarely does one hear about ‘people for people’ societies), our responses often at the age of eighty are actually as inconsequential as the bark of a street dog or the grunt of a pig in a neighbourhood drain. We become a dry-eyed money-making machine at best and we hardly have anything to gain from humanity because we have never ever experienced humanity.

Isn't it gross injustice to mankind if human beings are forced to live in societies which leave them to wallow in their miseries and stay tied down to fend for their lower order needs all their lives?

A businessman, in his constant chase for material gains, often has no time for his children. Ask him why he has no time for his children and he has a market savvy answer, like one of my friends said, “I spend QUALITY time with my children – about five and a half minutes a day – and I don't believe in interfering in their independence by imposing myself. After all, they have

to be independent human beings!” He is extremely well travelled, but ask him if he has ever managed to visit the Louvre in Paris to marvel at the amazing Renaissance paintings, he moans about the lack of time. And in a way we marketers are a lot to blame. We create a society where people are respected by what they have and rarely by the content of their character, so everything is lost. Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is actually a hierarchy of happiness. Satisfaction of the higher order non-material needs helps you TO BE while the material, lower order needs keep you in the state of HAVING. Thus, in market Capitalism, we are always forced to be in the state of having and rarely in the state of being. If I go to Geneva for a holiday, I come back with two thousand photographs because I want to permanently possess the happiness that I experienced. Instead of trying to be in the state of happiness, enjoying the beauty of nature and trying to be one with it in the time I am there, I try to bring it back with me and possess the beauty forever. What actually happens is something different though. Moments of happiness keep occurring in life – first girlfriend, first kiss, first trip to Switzerland, first marriage,

first child, first award – they all keep flashing. And the albums keep growing in numbers. As for happiness . . . well . . . when someone comes to visit you soon after your marriage, you are still enthusiastic (foolish) enough to bring the ten odd albums and force them to go through all of them assuming that your friends have nothing else to do. After a few weeks even you are scared of bringing out those boulders of memory from the stack. If somebody asks you to describe the state of mind you were in during those beautiful moments, you are unable to recall them because instead of being in the state of happiness, you were busy trying to capture the happiness for posterity. Now you neither remember the happiness nor want to have a look at those captured moments. Man's refusal to be in the state of happiness is therefore resulting in short-lived happiness (broken marriages, et al).

In this branded world, everything has to be possessed. If you possess revolutionary instincts, even those can be used for making higher profits, thanks to the revolutionary soda company's consumable drink called 'Che',

named after the great Latin American revolutionary who was the symbol of non-capitalistic pursuits. Similar things seem to be happening with education too! Being educated is not important. Having education is. Thus when I am almost 48 years of age today, having passed out of school some thirty years back, the first question I am asked (by a new acquaintance) is which school did I pass out from. If I say Delhi Public School (a branded private school in Delhi), I am looked upon as someone who has had a good education (even though I might have been a failure throughout my school life). If I say that I passed out from Government School Number 15, then high society doesn't know how to pursue the conversation further. "You must have been a brilliant student", is the response you get. Thus, young children at their most formative and impressionable years grow up with either a superiority complex about their education (in case they are from a 'branded' school) or an inferiority complex about their education in case they are not from one. Psychology tells us that for a balanced and healthy mind, both these complexes are harmful. But then who said that society cares about a balanced hu-

man being? Even something like knowledge (of medicines as well as computers) is kept under patent laws for irrationally long periods, often up to 150 years. The reason is that someone is attempting to make profits from something that can help society grow and live in good health, even if it's at the cost of people dying since they can't afford those expensive medicines. Yet the patent regime on life saving drugs continues. No wonder that today, we have the ANTI-COPYRIGHT MOVEMENT CALLED THE 'COPYLEFT'.

Let me give a nice example to explain my perspective better. One day, I was wondering why my father refused to part with his old Ambassador car while I love changing cars every two years. My friends told me that this is called the generation gap. I thought the reason for what I do was pretty apparent – the law of diminishing marginal utility at work at its best. On thinking deeply, I remembered my father's inhibitions about discarding my grandfather's old transistor and his first ever watch.

Anything old with memories was tough for my father to part with. This got me thinking and I realised

that he was operating in a different world, a world governed by the **LAW OF INCREASING MARGINAL UTILITY**. Being educated (he believes that education is the best safety net for everyone and the best gift a government can ever give its people) and holding a decent job, he rarely spends his time in satisfying lower order needs. Majority of his time is spent reading books, poems, appreciating paintings, spending time with his mother, wife and children, and often listening to music or watching *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady* or *Sholay* (a popular Indian movie of his generation) for the 50th time. He is the market and the ad man's worst nightmare. You guessed it right. He is a satisfied man. The guy who spoils the consumerist's party! He spends time satisfying his human needs in a human manner. The interesting quality of satisfying human needs is that it lets you experience the law of increasing marginal utility unlike the law of diminishing marginal utility, where the more you have of something, the less you want to have more of it. Take, for instance, Mother Teresa. The more smiles she saw on a poor man's face, the more she wanted to see more of

them and in the process, ended up spending her entire life for the cause of the poor in a land far away from her home. And look at Rabindranath Tagore – the more poetry he wrote, the more he wanted to write more of it. Beethoven – the more music he composed and the more he played the piano, the more he wanted to play more of it. Ask anyone who manages to satisfy his higher order needs of love; the more he sees his father, the more he wants to see more of him. The more time my father spends with his mother, the more he wants to spend more time with her and wishes that she lives forever. The more any loving parent looks at his child, the more he wants to see more of her. That's the beauty of spending time in satisfying non-materialistic higher order needs. You must be wondering what this has to do with retaining the old watch. When you spend the majority of your time in satisfying needs, which provide increasing marginal utility, you start superimposing the same on materialistic lower order needs. Thus used to a certain kind of life, my father superimposes the same on products. So the more he sees his old wrist watch, the more he wants to see more of it. The more he sees

his old Ambassador car, the more he wants to see more of it. For him, it's the same as how people in the midst of fast-paced market Capitalism superimpose the law of diminishing marginal utility on everything, including human needs - a common practice in the material driven capitalist world, where dry-eyed people (people who find it embarrassing to cry and give vent to human emotions in the company of others) thrive and believe that happiness can be derived from products and not from meaningful relationships and other human needs. So the more an average capitalist sees his even parents, (often) the less he wants to see more of them. He prefers to dump them in an old age home. Similarly, on a lighter note, the more an American President sees his wife, the less he wants to see more of her, and the more he wants to see his intern Monica. It's no wonder that the divorce rate is high in America. In fact, the more many capitalists see their children, the less they want to see more of them. So when the child reaches the age of eighteen, it is celebration time for parents. The children are expected to fend for themselves after that (and bring home the Christmas cake on December 25 each

year from then on). The problem with market Capitalism and the advertising and aggressive marketing-driven society is that it promotes products as substitutes for emotion. If you want to express your love for your wife, you have to gift her an eighteen-carat diamond ring. If you want to demonstrate to your child your love for him, you have to give him loads of gifts.

After all, when you don't spend quantity time with your child, how else can you show your love? The result of this quality time is, of course, extremely shocking. My friends' children in America have a room full of toy cars, helicopters, computer games, stuffed toys, guns, and what not. Do they love their parents? Not really. For they interpret love as getting more and more.

Often, by the age of fourteen, they have saturated their hunger for toys. Now they want the real thing – a real car. American laws are very strict. Parents can be convicted for giving their children cars before the right age. This is the first time when the child wants something but he doesn't get it. Parents have no other way of showing love since the child is accustomed to getting

playthings as an expression of love. So by the age of fourteen, most children are convinced that their parents don't love them, so there is no reason for them to love their parents either. In the beginner's book of psychology called 'Abnormal Psychology', there are research reports, which show that amongst the reasons behind juvenile crime in the US, what features prominently is car theft. Happiness is getting things by hook or by crook. When parents don't give, children steal! So much for giving and giving and 'more' giving – an almost certain way of sowing the seeds of a thief in your child! Of course, on the rise now is the irritation amongst the free market schoolchildren at not getting real guns in the market. So they somehow manage to steal their dads' guns and go to school with them, often killing tens of other innocent students in growing incidents of shoot-outs carried out by school students.

When I was in the eighth standard, I drafted my first love letter ten times and tore it up each time. Finally, after consulting five books on love quotations and a few of Shakespeare's classics and ten more torn letters later,

I managed to arrive at the final draft, which I thought I would dare to give her. When I was in the tenth standard, there was a shop in my neighbourhood selling a few greeting cards. I went there, picked up a card and attached it to a letter, which was the fruit of my hard work. By the time I was in the twelfth standard, a company called Archies had been opened and I had a choice of more than twenty cards, which expressed love better than I could ever have done. Often, I would take more than one card and a letter to my girlfriend. By the time I graduated I saw such shops full of young boys and girls picking up dozens of cards at one go. The letter concept went missing. The new generation was giving five to six cards at one go in one envelope in their hope to get and experience love. If you wanted to write a letter in order to try and express your innermost feelings, there were card companies who came and told you, “Stupid . . . we employ hundreds of people in our factories to produce emotions for you. . . why do you waste time trying to do the same?

Come over to our shop and buy emotions (cards).”

When a human being ceases to draw out expressions of love from his heart and is able to replace emotions with gifts bought with money, love loses its meaning; relationships lose their value. Human beings become vending machines – press a button and out comes a card for every occasion with the right words; of course, borrowed! Flowers are delivered by a five-star hotel florist on the anniversary because the husband is stuck in a board meeting or a diamond ring is home ordered by a husband who is miles away on the wife's birthday, and home delivered by a jeweller. These are all accepted domino effects of market Capitalism. We need to realise that happiness is not an object that comes free with consumer goods. In fact, unrestrained satisfaction of all needs is neither conducive to human welfare nor to mother earth. Resources are drying up faster than they are being replaced in our urge to have 'more' today. The unconcerned and selfish human race is planning to leave nothing for the future generation. The idea that is sold mercilessly is to consume 'more' even if it is beyond your means. The message is clear – be a shopaholic, it will make you happy!!

Around fifty years back, people in the West used to laugh for about thirty minutes in a day. Today they don't laugh. They just chuckle, that too for just six minutes a day, according to a survey done by a Swedish foundation on 'laughter'. No wonder that they have become dry-eyed. Many Americans are aware of the rut that they are getting into. According to another research, around 23% of the top level people in corporate America who changed their jobs deliberately opted for a downshift in their lifestyle in order to get more time for things that they loved to do, like spending more time with family, playing the piano, playing golf; all these provide increasing marginal utility. That is why I speak of Happy Capitalism.

If Happy Capitalism is about a happy and satisfied human being, then the system should deal with the advertising machinery in modern-day market Capitalism differently. While creativity and the positive aspects of advertising should be retained, consumers should be educated about overzealous sellers eager to con an unwitting consumer.

And that is the reason why I have included this chapter. It is my effort to keep things balanced in this world of a few necessary evils.

David Ogilvy, founder of O&M Advertising agency, in his book *Confessions of an Advertising Man* says, “As a private person, I have a passion for landscapes, and I have never seen one improved by a billboard. Where every prospect pleases, man is at his vilest when he erects a billboard. When I retire from Madison Avenue, I am going to start a secret society of masked vigilantes who will travel around the world on silent motor bicycles, chopping down posters at the dark of the moon. How many juries will convict us when we are caught in these acts of beneficent citizenship?”

The world of advertising changes our values and perception about things worth admiring and emulating in life. We are made to believe that a person who owns a Mercedes car is to be admired, irrespective of the quality of the human being he is. Women are sold the pathetic idea that freedom and feminism mean having a cigarette in hand or drinking alcohol. Advertising

stereotypes women as sex objects and uses their appeal mindlessly. Health problems are exploited to sell solutions and products, which are not always beneficial. While Nike may not be accessible to all in poor countries or poor people in rich countries, the Nike ads are. Discontent and greed for such products, which almost always symbolize a happy life, creep into the lives of these people who cannot afford them. Children are manipulated to believe that they should always have one better than their peers.

John Kenneth Galbraith had said, “Every corner of the public psyche is canvassed by some of the most talented citizens to see if the desire for some merchandise product can be cultivated.”

To have a new and different world, we also need new and different policies. We need to think about policies of taxes on advertisements to promote restraint in the consumption level. People must be encouraged to focus on activities that will increase marginal utility.

There should be stringent laws to monitor advertise-

ments to check that they do not target children or border on obscenity, exploit superstition or absurdity. A typical American today spends more than a thousand hours in his lifetime watching some 1,50,000 advertisements!

If this is what the future holds in store for us, we need to understand that advertising will become a key guiding factor in deciding human behaviour in a society. Mankind will benefit immensely and markets will sustain for long with a steady pace of growth, if the unending chase for more is given up by greedy market-driven Capitalism and it rather opts to support a more human, need-based and happier capitalistic society. We obviously won't see it happening soon, but being educated is always a safeguard against excess that this system can push us into. After all, the punch line of SELFRIDGES says, "I SHOP THEREFORE I AM". This is exactly what we must remember to not fall for. I am because I read. I am because I love. I am because I empathize. I am because I spend time with my children and parents. I also incidentally try to live well without

compromising on any of these things!!

Wage equality: The revolutionary must to achieve Happy Capitalism

As you might have understood by now, quantum healing of Capitalism is nothing but a need for a giant step towards Communism (yes I do call it Happy Capitalism).

While I did explain the key definition of Communism, there of course is more to it. So, what exactly is Communism all about. Well Marx believed in three key revolutions. A revolution to end economic exploitation of man by man. A revolution to end religion, which he believed was the ‘Opium for masses’. And finally a revolution to bring about equality of sexes. So eradication of gender inequality, income inequality and religion is what makes a great and happy society. This of course comes along with three key sub products in the form of access. Access to equal education, health and justice. Thus if you need a happy society, you need to bring about equality in terms of access to education, health

and justice and remove all kinds of conflicts generating out of inequality prevailing due to income, gender and religion.

In fact of late, the interest in Communism has seen a revival ever since Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty First Century*, got published in 2013 (in English in March 2014). A recent article in *The Independent* celebrating 200th year of Marx said, "In 2015, socialism was the most searched word on Merriam Webster's online dictionary. Socialism does not carry historical baggage for a younger generation left behind by the iniquities of capitalism. A Harvard study found that a majority of millennials reject capitalism and a third are in favour of socialism. This is what might be called the revenge of Marx; the rehabilitation of one of the world's historical philosophers. Marx inverted Hegelian doctrine into dialectical materialism, affirming that it was material relations that were responsible for consciousness and social relations— not the other way round. In 2011, back when it was still unfashionable to confess to being Marxist, Oxford University literary

theorist Professor Terry Eagleton boldly decreed that the bearded prophet had been right after all. Eagleton is no longer alone.”

Economists all over the world have developed renewed interest in Karl Marx – the greatest political economic thinker of our time as the world celebrates the 200th year of this man who was voted by a end of the millennium BBC poll as the greatest philosopher of the last millennium. The man whose philosophy has had such a lasting and continuous impact that it won't be wrong to say that even today, 200 years after he was born, about 50% of this world has economies running on the basis of his philosophy. They have often had faulty implementation, - dictatorship (something that Marx never ordered) being the worst fault of all - but the fact is no other philosophy has had a greater impact on humankind ever. This despite, the humongous effort to tarnish it's image by the capitalist owned mass media.

Today if one were to look – as the leading economists and thinkers even from the current generation

are unanimously agreeing- each and every prediction of his has come true about Capitalism. As Marx had said, in his theory of historical materialism, societies pass through six stages – primitive Communism, slave society, feudalism, Capitalism, socialism and finally global, stateless Communism. One look at the best societies of today and we know the first four stages are over and they are now passing through the fifth stage of socialism. Be it Sweden, Norway, Canada, Belgium or even Germany Capitalism is just a name that they still carry while their people pay incredibly high taxes and every citizen has equal rights to more or less free education and excellent health facilities. So much so, that today, a private enterprise is scared to enter these nations. After all, how do you compete against high quality excellent free facilities. The guaranteed unemployment benefits are such that youngsters are no more interested in doing a job for a few bucks more.

Luxury brands are hardly getting a new generation that is interested in designer products. These societies are creating satisfied youngsters, chasing their passions,

happy with the accommodation government provides, holidaying with the few bucks that their unemployment benefits provide and becoming better human beings since to get access to these benefits they are required to do various compulsory social work like helping old age people or people with special needs, for a few hours, daily. Even the not so generous countries like Japan and South Korea etc have terrific minimum social benefit programs. Needless to say these countries are right at the top of the human development index - year after year.

Marx's hatred for God and aim of destruction of religion is nearing completion in some of these societies. Norway, Sweden, Canada are nations with highest number of atheists. And all this have been achieved with the highest standards of democracy in these societies.

And now there is one stage that's left. The achievement of this throughout the world and finally global, stateless Communism. Yes, specially with Trump and May there in two of the key economies of the world it all might seem too impossible. Yet, just imagine

America was about to democratically elect one of the best human beings in their political environment ever – Bernie Sanders. And someone like him might soon be the President of USA. Jeremy Corbyn defeating May in Britain is also just a matter of time more than probability. And in a matter of couple of years you might have a totally different world.

In America and elsewhere as CEOs continue to earn monstrously more than their workers – in many companies 1000 times and more - which in effect means that a worker would need a thousand life times to earn as much as his CEO does in one lifetime, it is becoming amply clear that every problem even today – from America to India – is about Marx’s premise of class struggle. As he said “The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle,” in the Communist Manifesto, co-written with Friedrich Engels and published in 1848.

Today be it the plight of dalits and the marginalized in India or the struggle of the blacks to gain respect in America - despite their last president being Obama –

is all about this class struggle. And these nations are seeing emergence of Marx's other principle of – 'Dictatorship of the proletariat'. Bernie stands behind this genuine possibility of the working class gaining control of political power in the USA. So does Corbyn in UK. From Germany to the Scandinavian countries near socialism prevails thanks to strong labour rights and movements, which essentially means dictatorship of the proletariat, leaving capitalists and profiteers extremely frustrated.

Of course yes. In the name of dictatorship of the proletariat, the concept of brutal dictatorship of the politburo was practiced in the erstwhile USSR, China and many so called communist countries, which was and is inexcusably wrong. The fact is that forceful abolition of private property and the collectivization of land resulted in millions of deaths, especially under Russia's Joseph Stalin and China's Mao Zedong, bringing disrepute to the word Communism.

But the Marxian slogan of workers (masses) of the world unite, and the theory that Capitalism will self de-

struct into socialism through the forces of democracy is seen happening all around us. Thanks to the internet, today, it's shameful to be seen supporting ugly opulence.

It's Capitalists like Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and Mark Zuckerberg who are spearheading the donate your wealth movement for a more equal world. Soon there will be a time when to be looked up at, people would be forced to give up their vulgar capitalistic traits as the united world of workers (commoners and majority of the masses) on the internet, would make them feel horrible about their existence. The need to take care of the dying and malnourished millions in the developing countries of Africa and rest of the third world is today, more than ever before. And Chinese Capitalism is showing that the need for profiteering is making capitalists go and develop the African continent; For the fact remains that there will be no one to buy your products till you give purchasing power to the masses.

It is now beyond debate that the job of a state must be to promote equality by providing equal access to

education, health, employment opportunities & unemployment benefits, dignity of living & housing facilities and access to equal justice.

If there is unequal distribution of income through the market forces, then the income has to be taxed and taken away and used for genuine social causes. People must and would participate in such a process happily due to their altruistic side developed through better education. And anyone protesting against such humane thoughts are, and, eventually would be definitely looked down upon in a genuine and educated democracy.

Making the world a more equal place!

Based on my father Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's original ideas, which I have had the pleasure of teaching at IIPM and building upon, and elucidating in the book written by me jointly with him and my son Che Kabir Chaudhuri— 'What Marx Left Unsaid' (Times Group Books, 2019) here is a forceful case for an exploitation-free world with a maximum wage ratio of the Highest paid to Lowest paid worker at 3:1

What the theory basically says is simple. Human beings must earn as per their skills which determine their ability to contribute in a society. And skills must be measured fairly. All that we need, to produce skills, are two things. First, the readiness to sacrifice unskilled labour. That's what any man is capable of giving with basic education – unskilled labour. The second is certain skilled hours of a trainer. So, if one is a 12th pass student and wants to become a graduate, the society loses on an entire lifetime of class 12th pass labour and has to invest three years of a skilled teacher's labour, to make the person a graduate. And in return, the society gets from this educated graduate, 45 years of a graduate's labour (assuming the person is 20 years old and would go ahead and work till the age of 65) instead of, say, 48 years of a 12th class pass individual's labour.

The underlying assumption of this theory is that every skill is more or less reproducible. And anything that is reproducible should have a price commensurate to its cost of production; or rather, more specifically, its opportunity cost to the society.

For example, if a person who starts working at the age of 15 is categorized as an unskilled labourer, he is typically supposed to have only passed (or failed) class 10th by then. Now, if we were to make him an engineer, what exactly does society lose and gain?

Society loses 50 years of 10th pass unskilled labour; that is, it loses around 100,000 hours in 50 years (assuming a person works for 8 hours a day and 250 days a year), and instead gets 44 years, or 88,000 hours of an engineer's labour. The society has to invest six extra years of skilled labour to make this individual an engineer. Assuming that the person has to study 500 hours per year, then in 6 years he has to study 3,000 hours. If the teacher (assuming he is also an engineer) teaches, say, 25 students in a class, then the society to create a single engineer has invested $3,000 \div 25 = 120$ skilled hours.

So what the case described above essentially means is that 100,000 unskilled hours of class 10th labour plus 120 skilled hours of investment to make an engineer equals 88,000 skilled hours of an engineer's labour. Or

in other words, 100,000 unskilled hours = 87,880 skilled engineer's hours. Or value of 1 skilled engineer's hour is equal to $100,000 \div 87,880$, or, approximately 1.15 unskilled hours of a 10th pass student!!

Now, if we were to tell this to an engineer, he would literally freak out. But the fact of the matter is that as a society, that's approximately the engineer's worth. So, as per my above calculation, the maximum wage difference between an engineer and a tenth class pass person can only be 1.15:1.

In this book, what you will read is nothing but a more detailed and exact explanation of the same. For example, to teach the student for 500 hours, the teacher might himself need to do research of added 500 hours. Similarly, there are librarians, research associates etc who also invest their hours; and the actual hours invested, instead of being 500, might be 1,500 or 3,000. Perchance some teachers may have Ph.D qualifications, so their hours would be more valuable, and so on.

The society might also need to invest in hostel facili-

ties/scholarships etc.

Actually, the final figure with more detailed calculations of the hours invested by the society that we explained in our book is far less ruthless than the calculations I have used here to explain the overall approach in a simplified form. It says that the maximum difference between wages can be 3:1. And if the cost of producing a scientist is only 3 times the cost of producing an ordinary labourer, then the scientist's salary should also be a maximum of 3 times more than that of the labourer.

While Karl Marx said every human being should be paid according to his contribution in the society, the lack of a measuring tool of contribution is what left his theory incomplete. How do you measure the contribution of a scientist who invents a life-saving drug versus the man who comes and cleans your toilet? Leave it in the hands of free market and the ratio could be anything between 10:1 to 1000:1 or more.

But the reality of the matter is that the only reason the sweeper is cleaning toilets is because he wasn't given

perhaps as low as 5 to 7 years of extra education after, say, class 8th.

Post that, it's just a matter of chance which scientist invents what in the next how many years. This, of course, requires sacrifice of individual arrogance that "I am so capable because I am by myself special" and replacement of the same with "I am so good because I got the opportunity to be trained by teachers and develop my qualities".

To me, if the society believes this, then the theory outlined in this book is unbeatable and defines the foundation of a just society. In fact, every theory has a theoretical aspect and a psychological aspect. And I feel that even psychologically, a 3:1 ratio between the highest paid person and lowest paid person is a very just feeling as well. In fact, it is something that is in any case bound to happen in a free market capitalist system eventually.

Surprised? As we drift towards an economy where education actually becomes free thanks to the Internet,

soon we will have a situation where everyone could be educated and no one would want to do the job of low qualifications – say, that of a sweeper. And then we are bound to see a sweeper or driver getting paid more than an engineer. Because the market demand and supply decides prices in the free market. And with an over-supply of engineers and scarcity of sweepers, the sweepers would be costlier despite being less educated. Of course, this would eventually lead to disincentive in being educated. And finally we will have a perfect competition where engineers and sweepers will perhaps be paid the same; even if the engineers are paid more, then the figure would be a psychologically acceptable 3 times more, unlike what it is now. The wage difference was skewed and differentiated till now in the world, as we know it, because education was restricted to a lucky few. So those with education could charge a super premium – or what we call a monopolistic supernormal profit. As Internet brings about perfect competition in almost every sector, things are changing rapidly. Poverty is no more a reason for remaining uneducated. Remaining uneducated will soon be a conscious choice

we will make. After all, getting educated requires a bit extra effort than remaining uneducated. So, many people actually would not mind earning a third of what a highly educated person earns and choose to not put in the extra efforts in education. However, if he sees that the educated man earns 5 to 10 times or 20 times more, and if education is freely available, in all probabilities, he will get educated and bring down the prices of the educated lot.

One might argue, what about people with the same qualifications but who have better skills due to harder work? Well, for that, there will be wage cuts depending upon your productivity. Not additional wages.

It must be pointed out that 3:1 ratio is applicable for those completing their education in a given year. This means that we assume that a class 8th pass worker and the most educated worker are starting their career in the same year. Then they should get a maximum differential of 3:1. However after 5 years when a new set of class 8th pass worker will join along with say a worker with a Ph.D., then they will get again 3:1 though at that

point of time the ones who had started 5 years back might be earning 3.3 and 1.1 due to additional experience or rather further education at work (assuming inflation has been adjusted for in both the cases). So at this point of time the wage ratio in the overall economy between highest paid worker and lowest paid worker will be 3.3:1.

However this 3.3:1 can't become infinitely more or 33:1 or 1,000:1 because, beyond a point more experience is not equal to more productivity specially in this age of technology. That's why corporations today opt for younger workers expecting lesser pay by replacing experienced people who are expecting a pay raise - more for additional years of experience (assuming inflation has been adjusted for in both the cases) than anything else.

This model thus draws an outline of education based fair pay. And the fact is all researches point out that education is the key differentiate or when it comes to a person's income (experience is also in a way "practical education" and can be valued similarly and since we

have established the cost of education to be so less it's clear this 3:1 ratio can hardly be changed much). And if that is so, then the most educated person most certainly doesn't deserve more than 3 times pay compared to the least educated person in a society.

One might ask, what about specially and uniquely talented people?

Well, I firmly believe in a fair and just society; they will be very happy earning three times more, plus additional non-monetary rewards and recognition. That's what psychology says. No one has ever achieved greatness chasing money. People achieve greatness chasing their passions. And what they expect in return is recognition, especially if they are financially as stable as their other friends whom they studied with.

We need to have a world where the difference in the lives of highest paid people and lowest paid should at the most be 3:1 irrespective of how highly qualified and creative the people at top might be feeling they are.

One might wonder what about entrepreneurs. The

fact is Earth would be a far better place with some human beings innovating and being more productive, either for just three times more income or for awards and recognition or just to take the human race forward; Than have such infinite scale inequality, millions dying of hunger and curable diseases while just 1% of the world's richest own more than 50% of the world's wealth in the name of competition and innovation. We must never forget the reality of the world we live in, where, the bottom 70 percent of the working adult population of the world accounts for only 2.7% of the global wealth. Where, while the richest 8.4% of the world own 84% of the world's wealth, the remaining 91.6% of the world is left with the crumbs.

World can not be humane and equal if inequality of income remains. And inequality of income will remain till we don't have a world that fights for just remuneration for every individual - where there is wage equality wrt a person's ability to contribute. There was a time when women couldn't vote. Today such a concept is shameful and laughable just like the idea of public

shooting or stoning of a criminal in a functional and humane democracy is. The day definitely is not be far away when living infinite times better than others will be looked down upon and publicly shamed. Because with access to great education, the educated world of the future will have no human being who would consider another fellow human being so superior so as to deserve such infinite luxuries. In living like others and seeing everyone around us living with access to dignity as well as a fair share of luxury, is real happiness.

In this whole process many normal entrepreneurs will perhaps lose the excitement of it. That's fine. In any case the internet is taking away the monopoly power from industries, one by one. Monopolistic competition that was the rule of the game is slowly turning into perfect competition. The few monopolies like Google, Facebook etc are under server scrutiny and will perhaps be taken over by a global governments like the UN or broken down in times to come. Already, every additional unutilized capacity is being fully utilized. So a private car that was lying idle parked for 8 hours in the

parking while a man worked in the office is now being rented out. Your unutilized camera at home is being rented out. The extra room is being rented out. Thus automobile sales are going down, camera sales are going down, hotels are going out of business. Airlines are shutting down. Private entrepreneurs are already losing incentive to be in business. But there's nothing to worry. AI will take over. Only those who are passionate about some kind of work/research/innovation/creativity/ will work for their passion not to earn more money. They will work to take humanity forward. In any case the world can not take unsustainable growth. Limits to growth in any case had to be put and it will come automatically. If private players lose interest, the businesses that can't be automated and need to be run will finally go back to the public sector. And public sector will be forced to be efficient thanks to the power of social media.

But wage inequality will go. There is no two way about it.

I am sure that whether you like or dislike this theory

(which has been elucidated in detail in ‘What Marx Left Unsaid’), it will be hard for you to find a logical or humanitarian flaw within it.

Conclusion

I will conclude by saying, if we can base our own life on the Law of Increasing Marginal Utility and if we can have societies that believe in Survival of the Weakest and Trickle-up theory and can bring income disparities between the highest paid and lowest paid to as low as 5:1 or 3:1, we would have achieved Happy Capitalism. What is more important is that the day is not far away when every human being by the virtue of being born, like in the Scandinavian countries, would have access to a basic minimum income and basic happy life. It’s spreading fast and how. New Zealand is talking about a well being budget that takes cares of the most vulnerable. Canada already does. UK might just officially turn socialist soon and so can America. Even if they don’t, social media would force and internet would force the governments of come up with well being policies that aim at providing basic universal income. If that demo-

tivates people from working and encourages them to laze around, the society will have to accept that and plan accordingly. The right to access to dignified living cannot be compromised at any cost, for the world won't allow greedy capitalists to live endlessly well while millions go to bed without food every night and die early. That's how the inevitable new world will look like. After all who said that human beings were born to get up at 6am, get ready and reach office at 9am and slog till 5pm. Human beings are born to be happy. And they elect their respective governments to take them towards a life of happiness. While they should work if required, ideally they should follow their passions. Passion could be to paint, to sing, to play, to write or maybe if someone chooses- not to do anything at all but for traveling around. Each society will start by reducing the number of working hours, then the number of working days (in France, it's already about to become 4 days a week) and finally human beings will get paid to chase their passions, love, have sex, travel, eat well and sleep in peace. Not to get up at 6 in the morning and rush to work. After all given a choice who would want to

chase capitalism and become susceptible to depression? In a 2018 survey, India the so called land of happiness emerged as the country that was most depressed in the whole world. Countries will no more be judged by material richness. Not even purchasing power parity. They will be judged by “Lifestyle Parity”, a unique concept first taught in IIPM way back in 1980s by my father Dr. Malay Chaudhuri. People will be rich. Not necessarily in terms of money but in terms of lifestyle. They will lead a rich quality of life. They will be rich without Capitalism. And, Capitalism as we know today, would stand destroyed.

“

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

– Albert Einstein.

”

CHAPTER-3

Defeating Destiny

Be Successful

In this third part of the book - borrowed heavily from my previous books “Discover the Diamond in You” and “Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch”, I focus upon the key requisites to achieve success. And these requisites have nothing to do with God. Because there is no God, and thus, there is no Destiny that awaits you. That was the philosophy when I said way back in 2002 Count Your Chickens

Before They Hatch! And that's what I say now. Yes, at times, luck does play a role, but as they say, the harder you work, the luckier you get! The points that I elucidate in the following pages have nothing to do with the economic environment around you. They will work very well in a Capitalist system. And if you are lucky to have a beautiful socialist system - like in Scandinavian countries - it will work there as well, because these points are about your own characteristics and attitude. The real qualities that you need to develop within, to stop relying on the unreal God!

Go ahead achieve success and **Make Your Own Destiny!**

“I am nothing but I must be everything.”

Karl Marx

Be the alchemist who creates a golden new generation

To be successful, I believe we have to start with children. If there is anything that we need to excel as, it's as parents or teachers. We create the future. If the book *Alchemist* gave you false hopes - specially if the previous pages on God in this book dashed all your hopes of the possibility of magic - here is your chance to create magic. Read on. This is your chance

to be the Alchemist, who creates a golden new generation!!

My learning of human behaviour started in IIPM classrooms... in classes of Late Dr. N. R. Chatterjee and Dr. J. K. Mitra – both ex Deans of Faculty of Management Studies at Delhi University, my gurus, Gods of psychology and great human beings. Their classes made me so mesmerised that though I took finance as my elective, I attended all classes of HR too and became a very keen student of psychology and behavioural sciences. With time, this took me beyond classroom books to the world of Eric Berne's Transactional Analysis to books like 'Born to Win' to the world of Sigmund Freud and Karl Jung. At one point of time in my life, I went so much into this that I ended up reading semi-medical books like abnormal psychology etc! After I became a leadership trainer, the learning only kept growing. But all that was nothing till my son, Che, was born in the year that marked the beginning of the new millennium!

It's been 18 years now and the human behaviour

I have focussed upon most since the year 2000 has been child behaviour, for, I have since then almost raised four kids. No, they aren't all mine! But one can find me often with them in my free time – Che and the three other kids of my sister (Zak-7) and friends (Sarah -13, Anjali-17)! And I hope I have been raising them happily to become happy kids! Today, speaking on kids – how to bring them up – in informal and formal forums like schools etc has become one of my favourite topics, simply because the more I see parents around me – stressed and successful – the more I see their kids going wrong! I will share here only a few key things which decide if we are fit to be parents and raise happy kids or not.

I have seen we mostly bring up kids without realising that this is our biggest contribution to this earth and its well being. The kids who had a grandfather who always told them that one day they will become Presidents of the USA and gave them that confidence from their early childhood actually went on to become John F Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. At the

same time, the kid of the boy from an abusive family with constant negative reinforcements went on to become Lee Oswald, the man who murdered John F Kennedy. What I am trying to say is that we are the ones who will decide if tomorrow's world will be a happy world or a sad world. Children are what we make of them. Today, science has also proven beyond all doubts that genes decide less than a percent of human beings psychology. It's their upbringing that decides it. Genes only determine various biological aspects inside the body, and not psychological. Neither does a kid become great because of genes nor useless because of the same. We make what a kid is to become; so we parents – and to some extent teachers – are wholly responsible for what he becomes.

That brings us to the point: So what should we do to bring up great kids and become worthy of being parents? Well, if there is just one thing we must believe in and we must tell our kids – and I have always told all kids – it is, “Love is more important than material things.” I have done it with all my kids and I

insist we all do. It is almost like the magic potion for happiness. We need to believe “passionately” that love is more important than any material item in this world. If we don’t believe in it but tell our kids the same, one day they will question us about why we’re not following the same philosophy we preached. And all the teaching will go waste. But once you believe in it passionately, things will all be different. You just have to keep explaining this to your child from the age of 6 months – only this simple line. And before 6 months? Just love him endlessly through physical touch and positive reinforcements and smiles. That’s our only job as parents.

But what about the daily problems of your kids doing some things that are not right? Well, every time the child does something you don’t want her to do, your only job is to explain the same with a smile and friendly manner – whatever be the age of the child. A child’s life has to be necessarily full of positive strokes and “adult to adult ego state” conversations on every topic of importance. An adult to adult ego

state conversation is where we don't use either our "parent ego state" of making authoritative sweeping statements without feeling the need to clarify to the child, or the "child ego state" displaying excessive emotions of any kind. So, it's a conversation which is based on talks, facts and logic but explained sweetly. This is the only solution to all our issues of how to handle problems. Whenever a child knows that the parent has endless time to explain things and is free of any fear of being admonished, he expresses himself freely and then listens invariably to what's logical – just because he feels respected and loved. And it has never ever failed to work in my last one and a half decade plus of bringing up the four kids!

One might immediately question, what happens when a kid gets adamant and throws a tantrum and starts crying? Well, kids are too intelligent. They do that only when they know it succeeds! So the best way is to again take the kid in an embrace and tell firmly that whatever he wants, he will not get, however much he cries.

But that doesn't mean that you love him any less. So as long as he cries, you will keep loving him, but won't allow him to do what he wants. The kid will cry louder, will try to force himself to freedom, but all you have to do is just embrace the kid, let him cry and constantly tell him that the more he cries, the more you would love him – because you really do love him. And then tell him that though you feel bad when he cries, he still would not get his way ever adamantly, and that once he finishes crying, you will both talk logically on why you can't let him do what he wants to. Or buy what he wants to. And constantly remind the child that love is more important than anything else in the world. So, if it's a toy the child is asking for, the point to be made is that love is more important than the toy and that the kid will get all the love in the world but not the toy, as there are too many kids in the world whose fathers don't love them as much, but give them lots of toys – tell your child that he surely doesn't want to be in that kind of a home. The child starts realizing the logic sooner than you can imagine. Almost the first full sentence all the kids

around me ever said was, “Love is more important than toys.”

So that brings us to the biggest mistakes we make as parents! Well, the single biggest mistake we make as parents and teachers is to physically hit a child. The softest of slaps is absolutely unwarranted and damaging. You hit a child and you have laid the foundation stone of a future road-rage protagonist. And it’s the biggest unacceptable shame for any parent or teacher. There is absolutely “NO JUSTIFICATION FOR IT.” Parents try to justify it by saying that they are so stressed, and at times, hitting is the only way out. Nothing is a further farce. Your love for your child is actually so less at that moment that you actually take a shortcut to set things right. And this is one shortcut that is most costly in life. A child is the strongest creature possible. A child can tolerate any amount of your hits, till he is alive. And he gets used to it. It only alienates the child further, makes him more adamant and resolved to repeat the same; and damages his psychology forever. Or else, it

makes him most meek and ruins his personality. And we want neither. On an extreme end, the more a child is from an abusive family, family of drunkards, broken families, the more the possibility of him landing in a jail one day.

For all studies on criminals show only these common traits. So, the saying ‘spare the rod and spoil the child’ couldn’t be more wrong. But that doesn’t mean you should let your child do anything he wishes to. As I said, you have to make him do the right things through love and explanation. And for that, you have to believe love is the most important thing in life. If you do, you will have all the time and patience to shower love on your child and explain things to him. Thus in effect, as a parent, you end up contributing a soft, loving and peaceful human being to this world.

The second most common mistake parents do is misbehaving with the child; and then out of guilt, buying him gifts. Do that and you have taught the child just the opposite of giving love the maximum importance. It means gifts and material things are

more important. And he will learn to value love by toys. No child around me knows me for giving them gifts. However, they do know me for loving them the most. And I can assure you they love me more than their other gift giving uncles! In fact, despite my fervent requests to all my friends to get only love and no gifts on Che's birthday, they used end up getting gifts (till the time he was having kiddy birthday parties). But they knew Che doesn't get them. Che, me and Rajita (my wife, who does everything exactly the way I am writing, and more) had a pact that he would get to keep gifts of only six of the most important people in our lives – as they love him too much and their gifts are still what he wants, as they're chosen with lots of thought and they keep giving him love throughout the year. He could choose any four other gifts out of the rest of the gifts and also all the books he got. In turn, he had to give away to our Great Indian Dream Foundation kids, double the number of toys! He loved the arrangement. So much so that he started waiting for every birthday, more to go and give than to get. The same rule applied to every toy

he wanted us to buy for him. If we agreed, he had to give away two! And you bet it made him more humane and loving. I am sure his commitment towards a fair and equal world as he grows up would be tremendous now whom nor would success mean chasing material goods nor would happiness mean having more and more.

I must add, for quite a designer stuff loving dad like me, now actually as my kids are growing up, all my lessons for them have started to boomerang back on me. Three of them who are now 13, 17 and 18 have become such strong individuals (yes including Sarah who is about to be 13) that they now don't let me buy any gifts. They just have no wants. I and their parents have to forcefully buy for them basic stuff like clothes also. They just don't let us buy anything designer and quite sternly reprimand us for trying to waste money and tell us that please don't think that only costly things account for gifts. My readers won't believe it when they hear that on his last birthday my son, Che, insisted that all that he wanted were two

writing note books (copies) as gifts from me and Rajita (yes they were from a very particular online store of one of his favourite You Tube stars, but extremely low priced), my other baby, Anjali, refused to take any gifts for her last birthday (though I forcefully bought some make up stuff) and Sarah insisted that she is happy with my son's iPhone 6plus that he just gave her after using it for two years as a gift from everybody put together. I am proud and yet feel almost frustrated at times!! To make my son wear anything other than a plain 200 buck t shirt is a mammoth effort. Finally I have dumped a lot of my clothes in his almira and I insist that when he walks out with me he must wear something of my choice!!!!

The third big mistake parents do is make statements like, "I spend quality time." Well, the truth is there is nothing called quality time for a child. The only thing that the child understands is "quantity time." Yes, there will be times when one of you will be busier and you must therefore spend a great Sunday with him. So quality time is great. But you can't

become weekend parents in the name of quality time. Because then, the people whom he spends quantity time with will decide what he becomes and not you. And that's taking a huge chance unless you know that those are people with the values I just spoke about.

And the final big mistake we make as parents is to force upon them anything without explanation. As a parent I have personally made sure that the focus on health and fitness starts from the earliest age possible, because unless it becomes a part of their existence they will mess it up in later life. But always explained it to them logically. I have never touched alcohol or tobacco in my life and the credit goes to my dad for explaining it's harmful effects to me from maybe the time I was in class 2. And I am sure none of my kids will be tempted ever. Rationality is the biggest gift we can give to children. Rationally they have all been explained the reason why we need a poverty free world and why we must treat human beings equally irrespective of their bank balance. And rationally they have been explained to respect the opposite sex

equally and never ever fall prey to divisive forces of religion, racism and casteism. Similarly my children have no fear of ghosts and needles to say no belief in God. I have taken them to the darkest room and explained them that there is nothing to be afraid of. And they should never believe in anything for which we can't provide them with evidence. The 7 year old nephew of mine, Zak, now knows there is no God but because his father insists that there is, he wants to grow up and become an astronaut - even If it is for one day- because he has to go up and see for himself If by any chance there is God. The other three are now grown up enough to know there can't be any God and their friends learn from them about anti-theism.

When my best friend had a daughter, I told him to immediately get his father to stay with them. My son has to spend at least 45 minutes every day with my parents. At 18 that he does that happily is something that makes me realise he is on the right path. If grandparents are alive, that's the best gift for your

kid. Staying with them, children learn how to be more considerate in life; and you again realise the importance of your parents in your life. That's the real test to find out whether we're fit to become parents... for to be good parents, we got to become good children first. I wish lots of love and a life full of happiness to all my readers, their parents and their children.

Studies. What is that?

Throughout my son's school life, I never asked him what he was studying. No, not even during his school finals in March this year, or his tenth boards a couple of years back. All we used to discuss at the end of the day is which movie he watched that day – he had a list of the world's greatest movies, one of which he used to watch daily sometime in the day/night during his exams.

Yes that's true. I never spoke to my son about his exams or studies.

And that's not because I think studies or exams are useless but I believe it's learning and what stays back

with you for life that is more important than marks. And if he has learnt throughout the year that's the only thing that will stay with him. If he mugs up before the exams and gets good marks, that would be worthless because after his exams that would be forgotten.

The real test of parenting and our role as teachers lies in the real knowledge we have imparted to our children and how it's helping them become better human beings, and not in how they perform in the annual exams. Therefore, as a teacher and parent, my role has been to initiate him towards the quest for knowledge and leave him free to become competitive of his own volition.

This, of course, is not unique to me. Though my father wasn't this liberal, but I grew up in a home where there was no pressure to study.

From childhood I was told I should try to be good in English and Maths and rest whatever I liked. So, while my friends were going crazy studying for good

marks in school, I was enjoying my life. My pocket money depended on the number of pages of literature I read daily, and I used to get 10 paise per page from class 5 onwards. When I passed out of school in 1989, that had gradually increased to a princely sum of 25 paise per page. If I had my birthday coming up and I had to plan for the treat, I had to read as many extra pages in the months before my birthday.

The only test that used to be taken at home was on what I have read, but since my dad would see me reading most often, he didn't suspect that I was lying about the number of pages I read. So I grew up getting very average marks in school and reading more literature than any other student in my school.

While my closest friends were scholar badge and scholar coat holders (in DPS they used to get blue coats while the rest of us used to wear green coats), I used to stand without any complex in between them, knowing in the heart of my heart that I was superior to them in terms of my learnings about life.

Yes meanwhile I tried to do as good as I could in English and Maths.

English was automatically good due to my excessive reading habits (which was mostly in English or Bengali) and Maths was very good as long as we were taught practically important and interesting stuff like compound interest, statistics etc. which I could relate to. It became average the moment it went into differentiation and integration etc., stuff that I could hardly relate to. And I have no sorrow because I think my brain became quite sharp doing what I enjoyed. And I think that was the result of exceptional parenting by my parents.

In school, I wanted to become an author, a film director and even cricket player and never a teacher. And then IIPM happened. After my 12th, I wanted to go abroad to study and my dad insisted I first study at IIPM and then I could do whatever I wanted. So I joined IIPM. The rest, as they say, is history.

A week after our classes started in IIPM, I dis-

tinctly remember that in our executive communication class we were given the topic, “What I want to become when in life”, to speak upon. And while all my friends said they wanted to become entrepreneurs or top managers or CEOs etc.,

I said I wanted to see myself on the other side of the classroom as a teacher.

That was the impact just the first week’s classes at IIPM had on my life. From a boy who was never interested in studies and had scant respect for teachers or their profession, given all they could inculcate in my 13 years of school, was contempt for studies and a dreaded feeling towards going to school by trying to force upon me various subjects without being able to get me involved and excited about it; at IIPM for the first time I had seen teachers who knew how to teach. Instead of being sleeping pills, they were like movie stars who would never force anything upon me.

With exceptional communication skills and practical examples and experiential learning, they got us all

involved. The worst student started becoming good because he could relate to what was being taught in the class.

Yes, that's the role of a great teacher. When a teacher speaks the student has to get mesmerised. When a teacher speaks the student has to automatically feel like listening to her or him instead of chatting with his friend or playing video games etc. A student doesn't come to class to study. Mostly he comes as a routine. And he will follow his natural instinct, i.e., to chat with the other student sitting next to him or play a video game.

And if he does that he is not doing anything wrong. At IIPM, any teacher who would come and complain to me that students were indisciplined would get fired. To me that meant he didn't know how to teach and arouse the interest of the students in his class.

Students to me are never bad, it's we teachers or parents who are bad.

Students are never supposed to be interested in

studies... it's our job to make them interested. And that's possible only when we encourage them to find out for themselves what they are passionate about and then let them follow their passions.

Luckily for my son, he studied in a school, Sri Ram, where there was zero pressure to study till he was in Class 8, his most important formative years. Actually, the school reminded me of my childhood in away.

Once when he was in Class 3, I went to his classroom and saw a chart on the wall. The chart had names of all the children in the class and in front of that were written the names of the story books they had read at home. And the list would be regularly updated.

That brings me back to where I started off from. Yes, I never asked my son to study. During his first five years of life I only taught him one thing. Love is more important than things. And made him appreciate the value of the love he gets from all his elders. He

grew up never asking for gifts or actually getting any from me, except for one on his birthdays.

That day he was allowed to keep five more gifts from all the gifts he received and go and donate the rest to the less fortunate kids in the slums. After the lesson of love and valuing love was well inculcated, I have spent a lot of time with him as he grew up, and explained to him through various discussions the importance of education and knowledge and the importance of finding out and doing what he enjoyed most.

We have had discussions on how in life the only edge we can have over others is our knowledge. The only security we can have is knowledge.

The only thing that would enable us to become better citizens and human beings is knowledge. The only way we would live a happier life and know the real meaning of happiness is by reading more and more. We have had discussions on the importance of eating healthy, staying fit, sleeping enough and playing

games. And on the importance of being tolerant and loving. We have discussed on why we need to respect women and their independence like that of every human being. We have discussed on the importance of fighting for only one thing in life - economic and social equality of human beings. And having empathy for those marginalised by the society till he can do something for them.

And to respect human beings irrespective of their looks or color of skin based on birth; Or stupid and irrational man made separators like caste, nationality or religion. For each of our discussions I have given him good reading materials, research links from various studies so that he could understand the real meaning of our discussions.

I have done it for 18 years of his life. In psychology I was taught at IIPM, that human beings can't be changed after the age of 14 and any change that occurs has to be through an internal decision to change their already formed life scripts. And I have done my bit for four extra years. Now it's the time to see the

results.

See if he values education and learning. And if he studies subjects because he enjoys them without any pressures. And if from here in he becomes a loving, compassionate and happy human being. Yes he knows in our system there are many things we don't get to choose. Like the subjects in class tenth (unlike for example in Finland where they have started a system that from the age of 16 onwards there will be no subjects in school. Everything, from English to math to history to economics in schools will be taught in the form of discussions from history and what's happening around and these subjects would be woven in between those discussions to help students choose whatever they like). So he has to study them and try to do as well as he can by trying to understand them. I never kept tutors for him. But told him he should let us know when he needs one to enhance his understanding of the subject. In class 9th he said he needed one in math. Then from time to time he decided what he needed.

He got himself tutors accordingly. Throughout he studied on his own. And whenever he felt bored he took a break and completed a film from his list. He had no timings for studies or getting up during exams. There is no one after him asking him to study.

Through this routine of his he scored 94.5% marks in his twelfth boards (with 97% in both of his favourite papers, English and History)- results of which just came. But most importantly, I am absolutely sure whatever he got was based on a learning for life through his own free will. And it will stay with him.

I know it is late for many other parents to do the same if their child has already cleared her 10th or 12th. But if your child or student is younger, my suggestion always would be, please spend time with him/her discussing about life... in making him enjoy the process of learning... in giving him great researches and books to read that make him a better human being... spend time with him so that he can look upto you and learn from the values you appreciate in life... and leave him free as far as school exams are con-

cerned. There is no direct correlation between school results and greatness. But there is a direct correlation between chasing their own passions and living a happy life.

And that my dear parents and teachers is the aim of life and education. As parents and teachers we have on the whole miserably failed our children. Let's now start making them happy.

As my father's motto for school education goes, "Let's finally give back childhood to our children", and discover the diamond in every child around us!

Those are parents who are ruining childhood for a few marks more!

Marks can never ever determine the goodness of your child, nor the impact he will make in the world after he grows up.

In fact when one of my favourite kids, Sarah, who always used to get average marks in school, came and showed me very high marks in her class 8th term-

nal exams I truly didn't know how to react. I used to be so happy when I used to see her average marks. It made me feel more sure that she was enjoying her childhood and growing up right.

I have forever tried to tell kids growing up around me to study only if they enjoy... else just do what they want (of course I have tried to encourage them to read literature and luckily barring one all are big time into reading)... And I just can't believe that in classes like 6th, 7th, 8th etc there could be many kids who enjoy studies... Firstly that's the age to play and not study... secondly, given the below average quality of teachers in 95% of schools (with only 5% above average teachers as per my personal experience) how can kids enjoy studies.. and finally with the kind of approach to studies in most Indian schools kids just can't enjoy studies...

So I want to hear from children around me about their friends.. their sports.. their first crush etc.. if any kid has ever hit/bullied them.. and most importantly I make it a point to ask them if there is any teacher in

school who is rude to them and how to answer back fearlessly if anyone is.

But then invariably one day they suddenly come up to me with great results, like she did!

I am obviously happy. And yet I hate it. But I praise them. But I hate to. I hate to let them know that I'm happy to know that they scored high marks. Higher than some of their friends. And yet I hug them.

It's a shame on all schools that have exams before class 9th, at the least. And it's a shame that kids are given marks and are judged on the basis of these marks and are made to feel better or worse about themselves on the basis of the marks they get.

Needless to say that I remind them that they were as beautiful when they got lesser marks and will remain as beautiful in future even if they don't get good marks again. And that its great they got good marks but they must still keep doing what they love to - painting, singing, dancing, playing with Lego, watching movies, playing games.....

For I fear that the fear of being judged shouldn't be the reason they try to get higher marks. If they get it still, I accept and enjoy with a smile.

The obsession of parents with high marks and high percentage in school is legendary. More legendary in India for example is their obsession with their progenies joining India's leading technology institute, IIT and taking science streams in school and doing engineering. I remember that after I cleared my tenth boards, I had thought that was the time to watch good movies and play cricket. One morning, with much enthusiasm in my mind, I went to call out one of my friends, only to unbelievably find him taking tuitions! Perplexed, upon enquiring, I found out that his IIT preparations had already started. I actually asked him that evening why he wanted to go to IIT. His standard reply was, "Because my Papa wants me to!" Upon enquiring further, I realised his 'Papa' (father) wanted him to go to IIT because their neighbour's son was also in IIT. Thankfully, my dad during my entire schooling never put any such pres-

sures on me. The only thing he wanted me to do was to get decent marks in Maths and English in school, and read as much literature as possible. In fact, he went on to actually link my pocket money (the most important thing in our school days) to my reading literature. So by the time I was in the tenth class, I could proudly say that no one around me, including my final year college going friends, had read as much as I had.

My friend (whom I had gone to call out) unfortunately didn't have as much luck. So while during the next two years in school, I played lots of cricket, watched lots of movies, made lots of friends and read lots of good books, my dear friend locked himself up in a room and could be seen lesser and lesser as he prepared for his IIT. At last, after the IIT results came out, I asked him to finally come out for a movie; but horrors, he didn't want to, since he hadn't cleared the entrance exam, and had had to face truncheons of rebuke from his Papa. Humiliated, he found it tough to face the world and decided to lock himself up in

the same room for another year (thank God he didn't think of suicide as an option). His hard work and sacrifice for his Papa's wishes finally paid off and he did make it to IIT the next year. But three years locked up inside a room preparing for IIT, and four more years locked up inside an institution surrounded by similar quirk-ridden 'boys' (the standard IIT female population is less than 10%) had done enough damage to him for normal people to find him interesting enough to communicate with. His Papa, though, was ecstatic. Papa could finally now meet his neighbours proudly, couldn't he, eh!

My friend, of course, became a man soon and realised that he needed to live his own life. He decided to put the tax payers' Rs. 20 lakh subsidy at IIT to the drains and opted for a management course at one of the IIMs. After using up another 15 odd lakh rupees of the tax payers' money, he picked up a job in the US and disappeared forever from India... (I want the American Presidents to thank us regularly for our phenomenal education policy, which invests, subsi-

dizes and nurtures ‘A’ grade brains for America’s development). Today, Papa is an old man... and his son hasn’t come to meet him for the last five years. But Papa still proudly goes around telling his friends about his son’s achievements and how he sends him \$500 every month... Having seen all that first hand, I am proud that for those few extra marks and 90% in boards, and for that admission to IIT, my father didn’t make my life hell; and instead allowed me to be my own and have a happy and constructive childhood... And I still love him!

So am I trying to say that getting 90% is bad? Or that my friend from IIT is not doing well? No, neither! Getting 90% is terrific. So is going to IIT; and my friend and scores like him are doing great in life... but so are my friends who got 60% or below, who were with me in the commerce stream! They have as happy families and great businesses that they are managing. Many completed their MBAs and are running big companies. All I can assure you is that I wish there were a correlation between getting 90%

in school boards and having a better life at 40. Unfortunately, there isn't! Of course, there is a relation between being uneducated and not doing great. And similar is the relation between being educated and doing well. But education is not about getting 90%. It's about being a great son, daughter, wife, husband, mother or father... It's about reading books and becoming more cultured. It's about being a positive influence in the society. It's about being constructively employed and creatively spending your energies. It's about the will to achieve and succeed. And all this can be achieved equally well by any average student as by a 90 percenter.

As a management teacher, I have seen that the most enterprising students and performers in the class aren't necessarily those who have high IQs and are class toppers. On the contrary, the ones with a high emotional quotient (which often comes more from playing cricket than from being locked up in a room for the three most crucial years of your life) and the next level of students are far better material

to become great managers.

I have always believed in underdogs. They have more to prove; they have more drive; and they are great performers. All my friends who were left free by their parents didn't necessarily perform so great in their board exams, but they performed when it mattered in life. In school, they were great sports persons; they were great artists. Later in college, they were good friends and lovers. And at the right time, they became serious about their careers and changed gears, underwent the right education and training that appealed to them, and are doing great in life today. They took over their parents' businesses and made it grow; they became great social workers; even wonderful film makers; and at the same time, good husbands and wives, even if they are working in the middle management level in some companies. Truly, they are giving their children great upbringing.

I can only say leave children free to grow, and nurture their capabilities and passion. Give them a direction...on how to become great human beings

and how to make a better society. Be proud of them. Believe in them. Give them the power to believe in themselves and believe they can be winners...and they will be! Whatever their percentage! And this is exactly what I told the Principal of Sri Ram School during my son's admission on what I expected from the school. I am proud that the school gave my son freedom to nurture his creative and human instincts and had no exams till class 8th to judge him by his marks. I hope all schools look at education like this soon. Let not the mad dash for more marks by parents destroy the sanity of human character, the fabric of family values, and most importantly, the purity of what childhood was actually meant to be. Achieve this, and the world will be a better place with better citizens, I am sure!

NB

The night before my son's class tenth results were to come out, I had told him that during our childhood parents used to say that they will throw the child out of the house if they failed. I want to continue the tradition in some way. So I will throw you out if you

score above 90%. He scored 93% and I had to obviously to go back on my words!! For 13 years of his school life before that I told him to never bother about marks and only bother about being a kind human being with a heart for every one marginalized by this society. Rajita also never put any pressures on him to score high marks.. and I was very happy that during his board exams I could hear him play the guitar endlessly and finish a list of classic movies he wanted to watch for some days.

So, when his results came out, I apologized to him for never having praised him for getting good marks all these years. Because it did feel good to see him score these high marks. He worked hard. Though he never made it the whole purpose of his life. I felt great for him. And yet, I distinctly remember reminding him that marks will never define him. It never defines anyone. Goodness and love for other human beings and a belief in equality is all that defines a human being.

Secrets of success worth knowing

Does that word secret ring a bell?? Did any other secret let you down? Did the universe never conspire to help you succeed? Well, after reading this book, you know well by now that such gibberish has no chance to genuinely help you in life.

So now that you are Without God and such illusions, and know success can't be achieved through prayers.

Here are some genuinely practical research based secrets to success. For these secrets to succeed, of course there is a catch! Once you know these secrets you have to work hard and not pray that the universe conspires to make you successful.

I have taken help of my own theory from Discover The Diamond in You in the next few pages!

Let's go systematically!!

The premise of my thought process is simple. Just the way diamonds are rare, so are humans. While diamonds are found only in rare places on earth, similar is the case with life, which is found only in the rarest of rare places in our solar system – in fact, earth is the only such place known to me. And amongst the thousands of different types of life, being born as a human being is no less than being a diamond! The question therefore is not whether you are a diamond, but which stage you are in? It could even be that you are yet to discover it – in fact, most of us live life without discovering that we have a diamond within us! At times, even when we realise that there

is a diamond in us, we never bother to cut it properly; or rather, fail to get the right teachers who can cut the various edges properly and bring out the light inside. At times, we discover the diamond, and cut it too, but fail to polish it properly; for it's only when we polish a well-cut diamond properly that it starts to dazzle! And some of us are diamonds that may have just lost their sheen a little and require some more polishing. But it's my firm belief that we are all diamonds in this world! It's with this belief that we run our institute IIPM. The first day, every student is told that he is a diamond and he must believe that he is. And that in the institute, we will cut and polish him from 72 different edges – there are 72 subjects that are taught in a typical programme at IIPM – till he is finally ready to dazzle! And do they dazzle before leaving!!!

The next few pages are about the entire process discovery to dazzle! It helps you explore and discover the diamond within you – which is most important! It also tells you how to cut and polish the diamond, so that you finally dazzle like a rare gem. To believe that you are a diamond, you have to believe that you are rare. You have

to believe that you can dazzle, once shown the right path. And believe that “If you think you can, you are right!” That is what your first step ought to be. You have got to start believing that you can dazzle like a diamond and this book is going to help you realise how you can!

You must believe you can. In fact, the worst thing in life is not that many people don't think they can, but that many people despite knowing that they can, still don't! For example, so many people know that they can protest when an injustice takes place. But cynicism holds them back. “What's the use?” they ask. “Nothing will change,” they justify. I started my first book *Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch* with one quotation of Mahatma Gandhi, “Almost anything you do will seem insignificant. But it's very important that you do it. You must be the change you wish to see in this world.” To me, discovering the diamond within us is not merely trying to do well for ourselves. It's about making a difference in society and making a better society. When we see so much wrong happening around us, we can get very critical – I often do get into that mode in my editorial columns

in *The Sunday Indian*. But looking at the way our system functions, I also believe that the best way to feel good and change things around is by changing ourselves, and by being the change we want to see! Because there is hardly anything that we can't do if we want to. And that's the underlying philosophy of this process of 'discovering the diamond in you!'

Thus, if a diamond were to be the metaphor for human beings, then let's look into the four qualities which make a diamond so sought after. The first quality that makes a diamond so invaluable is its carat weight. You would have heard questions like, "How many carats is that diamond?" That's the most sought after quality of a diamond. In human beings, carats are the depth that we possess. And this is represented by two Ps: Passion and Positive Energy! These are the two most important aspects that are the hallmark of a diamond with a high carat value! All successful achievers have these two extremely important characteristics. The more the passion and positive energy inside you, the higher carat diamond you are!

The second quality that makes for a great diamond is its cut. The cut involves a lot of hard work. Thus, in human beings, the cut is about the next two Ps of this discovery process: Performance and Perseverance. If you want to have a great shine tomorrow and be sought after as a human diamond, then you have got to perform and have a tremendous amount of perseverance!

The third quality that makes a diamond visibly great is its colour. The more it refracts light, the higher it is priced. And exactly in the same way, a human being's colour is represented by the next two Ps: Personality and People Skills! The better these two are, the more light an individual refracts, the better is his colour, and the more he goes up in life.

And finally, the fourth quality that makes a diamond great is its clarity. In human beings, there are three Ps that represent clarity: Perspective, Principles and Patriotism. Without clarity, a diamond may seemingly dazzle, but under a lens, the dark spots become visible, and that takes away the value and sheen from the diamond. So,

clarity – which manifests as the perspective about where and why the person is going, correct principles in life and a tremendous sense of patriotism – is what makes the human diamond really dazzle.

But perhaps the most special aspect about the journey to becoming a diamond is the fact that a diamonds formed under a combination of high temperatures and extreme pressure in the Earth's mantle. And it's not formed overnight. If we want to shine bright like a diamond, we must never give in to pressure, too soon.

PASSION

Nothing in life defines us more than how passionately we go about doing what we believe in. Like the density of a diamond is measured by its carats, similarly the depth of the human diamond lies in his passion. It is the most important ingredient for success and happiness in life! Without it, we are worth nothing; and as human diamonds, our carats would be negligible. Passion can make anything happen.

Follow your passion and everything will follow. Take the case of the high school Biology teacher who loved playing football and left everything to go on to become a football and sports coach in a university. Many would have considered it an ordinary, thankless job. Why do you think he chose to do it?

He realised that he was quite passionate about helping young athletes improve their performance while running.

He pursued this passion relentlessly and went on to become a coach of national and international stature.

But he did not rest on his laurels. His dedication and passionate will to succeed ensured his name in the Hall of Fame gallery as one of the greatest track and field coaches in the history of the United States, having trained some of the finest athletes who went on to become record holders and Olympic champions.

The fame and everything else that went with it was gratifying, but did not reduce his passion to keep improving the athletic performance.

He pushed himself to experiment and aggressively pursue inventive approaches.

His insatiable curiosity pushed him to realise that running shoes are an athlete's best friend and if only an ounce could be removed from the shoe's weight, then, in a one-mile race, almost 200 pounds of aggregate effort could be reduced.

His research found no takers among any of the shoe manufacturers, but that did not deter him.

He went on to invent a waffle sole which was far lighter and had a better grip than the ones that were at the time manufactured.

Yet again, no one paid heed to his invention, but he knew he had to help athletes perform better and that was all that mattered. With this in mind, he went on to become a shoe manufacturer himself with the little savings that he had.

Over time, along with Phil Knight, a middle-distance runner, he overcame many trials and

tribulations and went on to establish one of the biggest and most successful brands in marketing history with the omnipresent swoosh logo. Yes, the same Biology teacher became the co-founder of Nike, and like the brand, enjoyed a cult status of his own. And still his passion remained running and improving performance of athletes.

He wanted the world to share his passion. He ignited the jogging phenomenon in the United States. The term also became the title of his book, *Jogging*, selling a million plus copies. He helped define the sport of running as we know it today and helped people lead a better, healthy life derived from the joys and benefits of jogging.

One passion: Running.

And many facets: Educator, trainer, all-time great track and field legendary coach, ultra-innovator, inventor, brand builder, successful businessman, author and change agent.

That was Bill Bowerman for you. And trust me, your

success story is waiting to happen, for there is a high carat diamond within you waiting to sparkle only if you are willing to ignite the passion within you and are ready to chase it passionately! And in this chase of your passion, there will be other powerful principles that will have to be followed. But nothing, absolutely nothing can be achieved without an unending strong passion! For chasing your passion is as good as discovering the diamond within you! You have to do what you believe in and you have to be passionate about what you are doing!

As Martin Luther King Jr. said: If you are a street sweeper, so be it. Clean your street so well that others are forced to acknowledge your existence and feel that “here lived a street sweeper who did his job well,” because anything worth doing is worth doing passionately. Else, neither will you be happy, nor will you sparkle, and interestingly, nor will you earn money.

Luckily, I have had the opportunity to interact with a lot of people who have been successful. Every meeting has been a learning experience for me. Apart from these

interactions, I have also been extremely lucky to have had a grandmother who inculcated in me the habit of reading books from as far back as I can remember. Since the age of four, every night before going to sleep she used to read to me a Russian book for children. Soon a time came when I knew the book by heart and, in spite of not knowing how to read, I would take the book and keep reading it loudly, turning the pages at the right points as if I could read. Of course, later in life my father saw to it that I further developed this habit. He is one of the most innovative men I know. He declared an incentive of 15 paise for each page that I would read when I was in the sixth standard.

This incentive system continued till I cleared my tenth board exams, and it was only when he realised that reading had become my passion that he started giving me pocket money which was not linked to my reading habit. Why I mention this incident is because it is impossible to experience everything by oneself and reading fills up this gap.

Today, I realise that I know a lot of MBAs, Ph.Ds

and engineers, yet very few are half as educated as my grandmother. Many of these brilliantly educated people begin to stammer on the mention of authors like Victor Hugo, etc., people whom my grandmother used to keep quoting every now and then! Whenever I have felt helpless about not being able to interact with a great personality in person (dead or alive), I have somehow managed to fill the vacuum by reading about the person. This is something I teach my students through one dedicated session called Leading by Reading. Because it's my firm opinion if we want to become great leaders, we have to be great readers.

It is like the story of the young boy who in 1938, while at school, had begun to develop his unique concept of a piston. He tried hard to sell his work to Toyota Corporation but was rejected again and again. He was sent back to school and his friends laughed at his crazy attempts. Two years later he got the contract. His passion and belief in what he was doing paid off since he knew what he wanted and worked hard on it till he got the exact number of chickens he had planned for. When

the Japanese government refused to give him concrete to build a factory due to wartime shortages, he along with his team invented a process to make their own concrete. At the end of the war when a gasoline crisis hit Japan, Mr. Honda attached a small motor to his cycle and later decided to build a plant that would build motors for his new invention, the motorcycle.

If you think you can, you are right. But think passionately. All stories of success have one common element: passion. **Passion** for what they want to achieve. **Enough passion** to keep their eyes from wandering away from the goal. Total passion to finally see them through.

Passionate beliefs often make great sacrifices look easy and are the foundation of success. Named Siddhartha by his family, he grew up to believe that happiness was not inside the four walls of the palace where he resided. At the age of 29, to follow his urge for knowledge, soon after the birth of his son Rahula, he left his wife, son and kingdom to be one with the sufferings of normal human beings. After going through hardship and pain he finally

experienced enlightenment. More than 1500 years after his enlightenment, the Talibanis may be out to destroy his statues, but Buddhism remains one of the strongest belief systems in the world. Gautam Buddha had the courage to revolt against the ills of Hinduism, namely the caste system, etc., and the conviction to go in search of something new.

Success comes to people who are passionate about it and passion has its own principles and guidelines.

You might be right at the top but are you one of those who constantly need to be motivated by others or do you fall into the category of people who are self-driven and passionate about their work? If you belong to the former category and have by default made it to the top, mark my words you could be a menace to your organisation. Any CEO/President, and for that matter anybody with an urge to succeed, should invariably fall into the latter category. Sadly my experience with the corporate world shows the reverse. Demotivated, overstressed, unable to strike a balance between work and family, looking for a change, feeling helpless about the environment

and feeling that, the compensation package is not good enough are some of the most common characteristics of today's managers and specially those at the very top.

What you have therefore is an organisation which is being led by people who are not driven enough and as a result we are where we are...

I feel that this problem is essentially due to the fact that modern day people seem to be passionless. **We don't work with passion, we don't play with passion, we don't eat with passion, we don't listen to music with passion, our paintings lack passion, we don't express passionately, and, as a recent study points out, our lovemaking has also lost passion.** This material world of passionless people is destroying our zeal for life.

We have stopped celebrating life. The solution lies in looking at things around us more intensely, feeling them more passionately and cultivating within us an urge to celebrate life. If you don't have a/any passion, develop it.

Therefore I always advise my clients to take people

based upon their **PQ (Passion Quotient)**, that we at Planman have developed, instead of their IQ. There is a big difference between people who just work and people who work passionately. And this difference is the difference between success and failure.

People who are passionate about their work are a boon to organisations, as they are high achievers and always remain self-driven and motivated. They are so involved in their work that once they have determined their goals they are prepared to try different approaches. They are more goal-oriented than technique-oriented. For them, the method of choice is the method which will work best, not necessarily the usual method. If the common sense approach does not work, they will invent a new one. They are creative people, not necessarily in the sense of being artists or musicians but in the sense of being ingenious, adaptable and innovative with whatever is at hand to solve the problem to achieve the objective.

In the early 50s, officials in the treasury of the Arabian Kingdom of Yemen found the main unit of their currency, solid silver coins called the Rial, disappearing

from circulation. They were all going to Aden, where a mere clerk in a British Trading Company had put an open order for all of them. He had realised that selling them after melting them down was more valuable than the value of Rial. He made some money before it was officially stopped. This money added to the money he had already saved helped him start off as a trader in polyester yarn. Today, Dhirubhai Ambani ... is regarded as the man behind India's biggest corporate revolution, the Reliance Group. All this in one generation. Because he has been innovative as well as passionate about his dreams.

Successful people may not necessarily have a clear idea of their long-term goals, they address themselves with maximum effort to the task of the moment, with an underlying feeling that in some way successful accomplishment of their task is preparing them for more important activities in the future.

Perhaps it can be said that they know they are made for bigger things. Accordingly, each current task, no matter how minor, is perceived as important in itself because of its relationship to their growth process and preparation

for the future. This feeling of destiny gives rise to a feeling of self-confidence and the willingness to make decisions and take responsibility.

It was this urge for being unique that made a young boy stand at the centre of the Sydney Cricket Ground and tell his father “I shall never be satisfied until I play on this ground” and then not just playing there but creating history. He was passionate about his game and ended his career with a record average of 99.96 runs. The Don is what people lovingly used to call **Sir Don Bradman**.

Che Guevara, the world’s greatest ever revolutionary (who was described by none other than the great Frenchman Satre as not only an intellectual but also the most complete human being of our age), always felt “**that your failure does not necessarily mean that the cause you were fighting for was not worth it**”. In spite of being an Argentine, he went to Cuba and fought its battle of independence for the sake of his ideology. And then quit his top ministerial posts in Cuba to fight for African countries before coming back to Bolivia and meeting his end. Che failed in most of his wars against

oppressors, yet he achieved what he always wanted.

A graffiti scrawl in Spanish on the wall of the public telephone office in the little town of Vallegrande in Bolivia where he was executed reads: **“Che – Alive as they never wanted you to be”**. He remains today in the heart of millions of people across the world as a revolutionary icon... a folk hero of mythical proportions. He dared to have an Utopian dream.. .and chase it. That’s what success is all about. Che failed in his mission, yet is counted amongst the world’s greatest leaders. He was successful in moving the thought processes of an entire generation with the ideology and vision he was passionately committed to.

It is often more about making an attempt to achieve what you believed in rather than achieving the goal itself.

It is about **walking thousands of kilometers for the sake of your ideals and people**. The Chinese revolution (popularly known as **The Long March**) under the fiercely committed leadership

of **Mao Zedong** achieved exactly that... and about the foresight and vision to lead the largest country in the world (Russia) out of the clutches of the tyrannical Tzars through **single -minded determination the way Vladimir Ilyich Lenin** did.

And, then, it is about dreaming of taking a country on the path to freedom after years of exploitation. It is about putting your life at stake for this cause and ending up becoming a Mahatma: **Mahatma Gandhi**.

They are not easily discouraged by failure. The underlying self-confidence helps them to carry on despite setbacks. They use failure as a learning experience. They never leave a task unfinished. They feel tense as long as there is something undone. But when it becomes clear that the odds against them have become too high they have no hesitation in quitting and shifting tactics.

These people **are never completely content**. They are not satisfied with the status quo nor are they satisfied with what they have achieved. Their standards are high and as soon as they attain one goal they set their sights

on a new goal, perhaps a little more difficult one. They also want to know the result of their efforts. They want some objective measure of what they are doing, which should be available soon after the action is taken. Not only is this feedback stimulating and satisfactory, it also helps them to adjust and improve their efforts.

They are also' said to **live “in-process”**. They do not require a complete structuring of a situation in order to function. They are better able to tolerate ambiguity. They always have some project underway with so much enthusiasm that they feel the lack of time to get it all done. Their enmity with time is very open. They look at time as a binding chain or an obstacle.

Successful people don't like being bound by routines and schedules. They exemplify this tendency by describing time as “a galloping horse”, “a bird in flight”, “a fleeing thief”. They are active, restless. They are not content to sit quietly. They like to take the initiative. They are pioneers, adventurers, willing to leave the present and venture into the unknown. It shows not only in terms of ideas but also in terms of physical action. Someone said that the epitaph

of these type of people could be:

They are always on the hunt for the chickens that never hatched...

When the dream of becoming a famous musician almost seemed lost, the only thing that drove Billy Joel ahead in life was his girlfriend. When she too deserted him, he was almost about to commit suicide when better sense prevailed and he got himself admitted into a mental hospital. He came out and went on to become what he is known for and later recalled saying “Oh I will never get that low again”.

When you chase your dreams, there can be only two outcomes. Either you make it or you give up. And when the chickens you expect to hatch don't hatch and you end up being paralysed from the neck below since the age of 14, the easier option is to give up and focus on your pain. **Ed Roberts** refused to do that. Instead he mastered how to lead a normal life battling passionately against all odds.

From his wheelchair he became the first

disabled Director of California State Department of Rehabilitation. He did not give up on his passion and believed that **“Impossible is not a word in my dictionary”** (as **Napoleon** said).

Like the great scientist who had been suffering from the early 1960s from a progressive and incurable motor-neuron disease that confined him to a wheel chair. Of this illness **Stephen Hawking** would always say that it has enhanced his career by giving him the freedom to think about physics and the universe. He proved correct what another legend **Albert Einstein** once said: “what is essential in the existence of a man of my type is **what he thinks and how he thinks, and not what he does or how he suffers**”.

It is about being blind since birth and yet having the conviction that you can make it and becoming a **Stevie Wonder**. It is about being deaf and composing some of the best and profoundest music ever, like **Beethoven** did. It is about not only being blind and deaf but also being dumb and becoming a **Helen Keller**.

It is about being kicked out of school and then becoming the world's leading business tycoon and changing the way the world works, like **Bill Gates** has done. In fact, it is about **failing** in business at the age of 21, being defeated in a legislative election at the age of 22, overcoming the **death** of his sweetheart at the age of 26, **losing** congressional races at the ages of 34 and 36, **losing** the senatorial race at the age of 45 and, again later at the age of 49, **losing** the race for the vice-presidential post at the age of 47, **and finally becoming the President of United States at the age of 52! It is about being Abraham Lincoln.** All these events – which to a common man would seem to be failures – were to Abraham Lincoln stepping stones to a future that he passionately dreamt of.

These people enjoy their work thoroughly. They laugh while at work without any guilt for they know that they give 100% to their work. Thus, they like to take personal responsibility. When they undertake a task they prefer to have it clearly understood that they will see it through. **They want to take credit for the**

success, but are equally prepared to accept the blame for failure. They are not “buck-passers”. They do not blame their subordinates or the government. They like games of skill over games of chance because they feel no control over the outcome of the latter.

They are people who might fail... , **fail 9999 times** and yet with a smile say “**I learnt 9999 times how not to make an electric bulb ...**”. And after many more such **attempts Thomas Edison** did invent the electric bulb and went on to create, way back in 1879, an organisation (General Electric) which even today stands tall. In fact, he ended up earning more than 1000 patents for inventions including the phonograph, the incandescent electric lamp, the motion picture projector, etc.

These people work not just with their brains—their eyes work, their ears work and their overall expressions work. You look at them and you know that passion is at work. They often give their work more preference over bodily needs. That doesn’t mean that they ignore bodily needs but while at work they often forget when it

is time for lunch etc. Work often is their lunch.

They know even at a tender age of 12 what they want to do for the rest of their lives like this young Yugoslavian girl knew. She worked passionately towards her goal. Her bodily needs took second priority over the hunger and abject poverty she saw in people around. She became the most admired woman of all time and served the poorest of poor tirelessly throughout her life. She went on to become a mother to all. Yes, for **Mother Teresa** work was often her lunch.

These people with passion for work usually demonstrate some interpersonal competence and enjoy long-term relationships.

They recognise the importance of interpersonal relationships in achieving most objectives; therefore they devote reasonable efforts to develop and maintain adequate relationships with others. They are often task-oriented and select experts as work colleagues. They are highly capable of working with people and become a **J.R.D.Tata**—one of the few people known for his

ability of having great faith in the capabilities of others and make them achieve success.

This is a key behavioural trait of people who achieve success. They neither like excessive odds against their success nor too easy tasks. The reasonable possibility of failure excites them to put in increased efforts. **They want to stretch to put in that extra bit to achieve their goal.**

On the other hand, people lacking passion prefer an easy task to ensure success and avoid chances of failure. Otherwise they take very high-risk tasks so that they can make it clear to the world that the task was so difficult and the odds against it so high that no one could really have achieved it. Their fear of thus is very high. People with passion at work enjoy calculated risks when they feel they are up against a worthy adversary. The element of reasonable challenge helps them maintain their passion levels at work.

Charles Dickens went through abject poverty and adversity in life. People kept rejecting his work. However, he was sure about what he was aiming for and, since he

believed in himself and he knew that he had a fair chance of making it, he could sustain his passion for writing. Success could not elude him for long, and the 15 major stories and countless short stories he wrote and the characters and places he wrote about will live with us for ever. Probably Charles Dickens is a classic example of a person who could count his chickens before they hatched. A person who passionately believed in the two words—I CAN.

“We can characterise people with a passionate attitude for work as restless, energetic, striving for, seeking and enjoying challenges. For them, life is a reasonable adventure”.

People with the above characteristics tend to be passionate, self-driven and motivated, have a positive attitude towards life and are high achievers. They can maintain their passions and levels of motivation through their own enthusiasm, restlessness and zeal to achieve more. They end up achieving what they set out for since their targets don't have high risk, but nor are these targets with no risk so as to make life dull. **Their targets**

always have moderate risks to keep the challenge in life alive and thus they are able to keep their passion levels high and don't need to be motivated by others. They are invaluable assets for any organisation.

INCULCATING PASSION

I realise that with more and more IT and AI orientation, mechanisation and division of labour has alienated man from his work. He is a small part of the final product and fails to identify himself with the final output. This is sad and therefore I have also talked about my concept of **“Happy Capitalism” in this book.** I developed this concept of Happy Capitalism, looking at the growing need for humanising the capitalistic economy in which we live.

While on one hand I appreciate many aspects of Capitalism and realise it is an inevitable force; I also feel that while chasing too much in a free-market economy, we often tend to ignore more important issues conducive to human happiness (other than material satisfaction).

Thus, happy Capitalism amongst other things

is about small-scale entrepreneurship, social sector entrepreneurship (**any social commitment invariably increases passion at work**). It is about building small organisations with high involvement levels. If you are getting paid \$20,000 at your job, maybe it is because you are giving your company \$200,000 of returns. Most likely with such abilities you could become an entrepreneur (**developing countries like India are desperately seeking your hidden entrepreneurial talent**), earn more, identify better with your work and display passion, and enthusiasm at work (in case right now you don't seem to find passion at work).

Of course this is a very simple summarisation of the concept of Happy Capitalism. It incorporates many other aspects relating to life, work and economics- which I have elaborated in the chapter on the same.

For others who for various reasons are unable to become entrepreneurs, there are other ways of achieving similar levels of passion and commitment. After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese become passionate – even one who was fixing screws on the door of a Toyota car,

not because his job was exciting but because he was passionately patriotic and he wanted to see his cars take over the American roads one day. **Patriotism enhances passion at work.**

At Honda, workers are proud to call themselves “Honda Men”. **Identification with the vision of the organisation increases passion at work.**

Martin Luther King Jr. said that if you are a street sweeper, so be it—but clean your street so well that others are forced to acknowledge your existence and feel that “here lived a street sweeper who did his job well”. We need to realise that often the job we do is out of our own choice, so it is best to do it well. **“Thus, anything worth doing is worth doing passionately.”**

If you fail to achieve passion at work due to circumstances, beyond your control, nobody can stop you from **developing a passion after work. This can often help you work with more enthusiasm,** for one can overcome the boredom of a routine by looking forward to other passions. There are doctors whose passion at

work increases because they play the piano after work; there are CEOs whose passion at work increases because they play golf after work; and there are managers who start enjoying work after a vacation at a resort (in this case appreciating nature is the underlying passion).

A man comes back home totally tired and is in no mood to do anything, yet when his friend calls him out for a game of football he plays for the next two hours as if he was totally fresh and energetic. Ever wondered why?

I want to conclude by asking you to not to be under any misconception that the people I have talked about in this chapter never knew where they wanted to be. Not only did they know what they wanted but they are people who believed passionately that “they can”. They dared to count their chickens before they hatch and script their own success stories.

SOME EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

Passion at work can also reduce the risk of getting a heart disease. A study done by Massachusetts HEW investigating the cause of heart diseases, asked the

participants two questions: Are you happy? Do you love your work? Results showed that those who answered Yes to both the questions had a better chance of not getting a heart disease.

In the early 1960s, Srully Blotnik conducted a research on 1500 people. These people were divided into two groups and were observed for 20 years! Group A made up 83% of the sample and group B the remaining 17%. While the former lot embarked on a career chosen solely to make money, the latter chose a career based upon their passions and did what they wanted to do. In 1982, he published his research findings. At the end of twenty years, 101 people went on to become millionaires. Out of them, 100 were from the group which decided to follow their passions!

I surely don't need to say more about the importance of passion. All I can say is that all the other Ps that you will read about in the following chapters are either by-products of passion or play only a supportive role in success. Passion is all important and all pervasive.

POSITIVE ENERGY

Linked very closely to passion, the other characteristic which increases the carat of a human diamond is the positive energy that lies within us. The higher the positive energy, the more our chances of achieving success. All your passion can go waste, if it is not backed up by a tremendous amount of positive energy. That's the force behind our passions. And that's what makes passionate men work wonders!

What happens when a one-tonne boulder falls on you in a freak accident during a climbing expedition, and the doctor amputates both your legs from the mid-thigh? Well, if you have positive energy, then that is all that the doctor can take when you are Warren Macdonald, an adventure enthusiast with a more than rock solid passion for living and daring beyond the boundaries of acceptance. After a successful amputation operation that took away his legs but saved his life, the doctor announced to Warren that he would not be able to walk ever again. But the doctor never said anything about not cycling, kayaking or climbing, and totally underestimated

the unbelievable power of positive energy that lay within this man! Thus, with tremendous positive energy to back up his undying passion for adventure, Warren went on to climb Africa's tallest peak Mt. Kilimanjaro, America's tallest cliff face El Captain and Canada's Weeping Wall! That's the power of positive energy for you!

This positive energy has two sources. One is external motivation. Someone else motivates you and fills you with positive energy. Then, of course, the job is easier. But what when there is no source of external motivation? Well, that's when the real challenge comes. And that's when you look inside your own reserves and bring out your positivity. As Rabindranath Tagore wrote, "*Jadi tor dakh sune keo na aashe, tobe ekla chalo re...*" ['If nobody responds to your call, then walk it alone...']. That's the spirit of self-motivated men.

They motivate themselves and go after their dreams.

"By 1980, I will be the best known Oriental movie star in the United States and will have secured \$10 million. And in return, I will give the very best acting I

could possibly give every single time I am in front of the camera. And I will live in peace and harmony.”

The above are contents of a secret letter that Bruce Lee wrote to himself. You can see it for yourself, if you ever visit Planet Hollywood in New York City.

The letter is dated 9 January 1970 and Bruce Lee died in 1973 after having surpassed all that he had decided for himself, much before the ten years’ deadline he had set for himself. How many times have you written a letter to yourself? And made yourself a commitment and motivated yourself to go after it and excel? In my workshops all over the world, I always mention, “Success occurs twice in life. Once in your mind, in your beliefs and then once in reality.” You can never be successful if you don’t have the positive energy within you to believe that you can. It is a medical fact that when medicines fail, even cancer can be cured with the help of positive energy! And the best example of this is Lance Armstrong. Positive energy can even fight real physical problems to make you achieve the impossible, let alone any other problem.

A professor of mine had an extraordinary success ratio with training students for IAS studies. He used to say that apart from academics he used to focus extensively on creating a positive mental attitude in the student. Thus, from the day anybody came to him he had to repeat the words “I can make it, I shall make it and I will make it” at least 25 times a day. He says, students later on said that this focus on “right attitude development” is what actually made the difference between them and the others who could not make it to the IAS.

While on one hand the constant positive attitude in the Kennedy family was the key behind **John F. Kennedy**'s success story; on the other hand, the constant negative reinforcements and negative family influences from his early childhood is what made **Oswald** grow up to become what he became: the murderer of Kennedy.

In his first year in the automobile business, this man went bankrupt and two years later his second company also failed... but he did not give up. His third, however, has done rather well. It's his positive attitude that helped **Henry Ford** achieve global success.

PERFORMANCE

“Continuing the same behaviour and expecting a different result,” is how the organisation Alcoholics Anonymous defines ‘Insanity’. If you keep doing what you’ve always done, you’ll keep getting what you’ve always got, and only a mad man would think otherwise. If you want things around you to change, you need to be that change agent. You have got to do something more than what you’ve always been doing. You need to act – now! You need to perform and lead by example for others to follow. This is where the hard work begins. It’s the true test of the cut of the diamond in you.

Doctors, psychologists, coaches, mentors and just about everybody maintained that it was humanly impossible to cross a mile in less than 4 minutes. Every athlete accepted this as a norm, but not Roger Bannister, who broke the barrier through sheer hard work. In 1954, hailed now as the miracle run, he defied all logic as he sped past 45 other runners and crossed the finishing line in 03:59:04 seconds. History was created that day because it was his hard work that gave shape to his passion. The

high carat diamond had been cut very well! The very next year, about two dozen people crossed the mile in less than 4 minutes. Today, this is an expected norm.

George Washington Carver, a chemist who discovered over 325 uses for the peanut, once remarked, “99% of all failures come from people who have a habit of making excuses.” Simply said, there is no short cut to success. Nothing compares to the power of sincere and dedicated hard work. The best success stories have been scripted by individuals who have never shied away from hard work, and have performed when it mattered.

The route to success is a four stage plan – if you can vividly imagine, ardently desire, genuinely believe in your dreams and act upon them wholeheartedly, there is no one who can stop you. The funny part is, most of us are very good with imagining, passionately desiring and truly believing in our dreams, but most of us forget the ‘act’ bit. As someone rightly said, “Some people dream of success. Others wake up and work hard at it.” That is the difficult part. You need to work, for the love of it.

Dreaming and believing is fine – it’s the one who outperforms others, who wins. Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop, did not stop at just believing in the fact that one needed to work for the less privileged, she also went ahead and showed the world how. Visiting remote tribal communities around the world, searching for ingredients and then bringing them back to her research department to see if a beauty product could be created to make her Western consumers look and feel better, she developed a novel way of not just doing business but of helping the community too. She did whatever it required to connect with the tribals – from travelling by elephants in India, distributing condoms to truckers entering red-light areas, to even going to the extent of dropping her drawers to show some tribal women her pubic hair just to connect with them and clinch a deal.

“You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water,” said Rabindranath Tagore. You need to be ready to go the extra mile. The secrets of success will not work until you do that.

Christopher Reeve charmed the world with his

performance in the Superman movie series, and in 1978, during the Academy Awards, wittily remarked that he had gained stardom only because he looked like a cartoon character. However, it was during the 1996 Academy Awards when the world actually saw the true ‘Superman’ Christopher Reeve, when he came to the award function in a wheelchair. A riding accident had left him paralyzed from the neck down. That day, not only did the Academy Award hall echo with thunderous applause from the audience, but the world over too, people marvelled at the man’s indomitable spirit. Even a serious injury like that could not stop him from performing. He refused to let tragedy turn him into a martyr, and became a crusader for spinal cord injuries. He spoke to large crowds of 20,000 and motivated and inspired them. In fact, it’s his ‘real’ life performance on stage that left a greater impact on the world than his ‘reel’ life ones. Truly a Superman!

You need to seize the day – make the most of every moment – for every moment matters. Bill Gates is one of the richest men in the world, and yet, even today, he works 16-18 hours every day. Malcolm Gladwell, in his

book *Outliers*, speaks of a study done in the 1990s by the psychologist K. Anders Ericsson, who studied musicians from Berlin's elite 'Academy of Music' and tracked the number of hours each top musician had practised during the past. Based on that, Gladwell reveals that it's nothing else but the number of hours of practice that differentiates world class performers from the not so good ones.

The magic number Gladwell reaches is 10,000 hours of practice. This is what is required to become a master at anything – music, painting, chess, sports... Mozart produced his greatest compositions only after he had composed music for more than twenty years – by which time, he had put in the desired 10,000 hours. If you need to succeed, you need to start early in life – to be able to clock those 10,000 hours. Warren Buffet, the financial wizard, bought his first share at 11 years of age. Bill Gates wrote his first piece of software at the age of thirteen.

When he was 15, he scored 100 not out in his debut first class match for Bombay against Gujarat. He was the youngest Indian to score a century on first class debut. He has gone on to score over 30,000 runs in

International cricket. Yes, the man is Sachin Tendulkar, whom Amitabh Bachchan called the ‘nation’s heartbeat,’ which keeps beating till he is on the field and stops when he’s out. It’s the accolades that the world sees. What they forget is, when other children were enjoying the joys of childhood, Sachin as a little boy was practising day in and day out relentlessly at the nets.

Maniram Sharma, a son of an illiterate farmer from a remote village in Alwar didn’t get deterred by his 100% hearing disability. He became a merit holder in his tenth and twelfth boards, completed his Ph.D. and tried for 15 years before making it to the IAS! Thus, the fact remains that the only place where success comes before work is in a dictionary.

As the saying goes, talent is cheaper than table salt. It is most overrated. What separates the talented from the successful is the sheer dynamism of consistent hard work. A man who is energy, enigma personified, who electrifies the stage with his sheer presence – Shah Rukh Khan – is the best example of what persistent hard work and determination can do. Way back, heroes were tall,

with booming voices. And without good connections, you couldn't survive in Bollywood. He defied all rules and sculpted his own success story – his way. He is a figure of admiration and is held in high esteem by all. Anyone who works with him knows that he has never failed to perform, and that's the proof of how well cut a diamond he really is.

PERSEVERANCE

“The only people who never fail are those who never try!” This quote sums up this ‘P’. Show me a winner and I will show you how true the fallacy of the term ‘overnight success’ is. Every winner is a winner because he has dared to fail. Consider some of these stories:

- This man was turned down by Toyota Motor Corporation in a job interview for an engineer during World War II. Soichiro did not lose hope... He went on to start Honda.

- She was rejected by 20th Century Fox as they thought she was unattractive. Little did Fox realise that even years after her death, Marilyn Monroe would remain the

quintessential Hollywood diva everyone loves to love.

•His music teacher told him that as a composer, he was hopeless. Beethoven's music lives on even now!

They all showed the world one thing – if you believe in yourself, then irrespective of what the world says, you must have the perseverance to just keep doing what you think you can – and you will surely. The difference between successful persons and others is neither lack of strength, nor a lack of knowledge, but often, a lack of perseverance. In my organisation, Planman, every individual is extremely passionate. Yet, many often fail. And I've realised that almost every single time, the reason is lack of what I call “sustained sincerity,” or in other words, perseverance. You can have a lot of passion and even deliver high value performance from time to time, but that actually is worth almost nothing in the long run. What matters is performing each and every time and with exactly as much sincerity. And then, you sure are a very well cut diamond; and mind you, it is the cut of a diamond which requires the hardest work!

Spielberg was put in a class for those with learning disabilities. Michael Jordan was taken out from his high school basketball team. Vincent Van Gogh sold only one painting in his lifetime. What made these ordinary failures into extraordinary success icons was their ability to persist – to persist when no one gave them a chance, to persevere when the world labelled them as failures.

J. K. Rowling is the world's first billionaire author; in fact, she faced such rejection that few of us would have experienced. An exceptionally short-lived marriage left her jobless – a single parent as poor as it was possible to be in modern Britain, she hit 'rock bottom'. It was this experience of hitting rock bottom that became the solid foundation of her life. Failure taught her to stop pretending and doing what mattered most to her – writing. An old typewriter, a dear daughter and her imagination were all that she had to make do with to shine, and she did survive.

Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic was a new airline with lots of promises, and a threat to its competitors. British Airways (BA) was a big, old player in this business,

yet Virgin's entry made it feel the heat and it took recourse to every possible dirty trick to kill Virgin. It snooped into Virgin's confidential data and found out which of its flights were delayed, and then hired people who, with white carnations on their lapels, would go scouting for delayed Virgin passengers to persuade them to transfer to BA. For a tiny start-up like Virgin with a fleet of only seven aircraft, this was a big blow. Every passenger lost meant losses. As Branson admitted, "Had we only had the airline, we would have gone under... The strength of other Virgin companies saved us." Yet, Branson did not give up. He fought back. He dared to file a case against this huge opponent for poaching its passengers. He won!

Kiran Majumdar Shaw started her company in her garage in Bangalore. She named it Biocon. It was in the business of making enzymes for industrial use. Back then, in the 1970s, no one understood enzymes and they definitely did not want to bet on a business if it had a woman as its head. Banks refused to loan her money without a male guarantor. She could not find anyone who was ready to work for her – not even a secretary. She

did not cry foul and give up. She kept faith and stuck on till she found a bank that was willing to take a chance on her. In 2004, Biocon went public; and by the end of the first day of trading, the company had achieved a market value of \$1.1 billion. Today, Kiran Majumdar Shaw is one of India's wealthiest women.

Life can be quite a roller-coaster and Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Computers, knew it best. At the age of 21, he and his friend Steve Wozniak made their first computer in Jobs' garage in 1976. By the time Jobs was 25, he was worth \$200 million and was featured on TIME magazine's cover at 26. In 1985, at the age of 30, he was thrown out of his own company by John Scully – the very man whom Jobs himself had recruited into Apple when Scully was the head of marketing at Pepsi.

Not many founders are made to resign from the very companies they have founded. Not to be dissuaded, Jobs immersed himself into the formation of a new company NEXT. It was a disaster. In the meanwhile, Apple realised it was a mistake to have let go of Steve Jobs and bought over NEXT, along with Jobs. The

failure of NEXT did not worry Jobs for he then went on to form Pixar Inc. which created six of the biggest blockbuster animated films of all times, which together grossed more than \$3.2 billion at box offices worldwide by 2005. These films made Jobs the most sought after man in Hollywood. The man went from success to success. His iPod and the digital jukebox iTunes changed the music industry of the world.

On 15 August 1992, Mani Ratnam's movie Roja was released. The movie was a hit, but there was something else that rocked the film. It was the music rendered by a shy quiet 25-year-old debutante, A. R. Rahman, who became a household name overnight – or so the world thought. What escaped notice was the years of hardships faced and gruelling hard work that this young lad had put in when his father unexpectedly passed away leaving the nine year old to take care of his mother and sisters.

Life sometimes proves to be a hard taskmaster and makes you put up with the worst. But as J. Paul Getty once said, “A man may fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.” Stop

complaining and take adversity in your stride.

Adversity of every kind is what Oprah Winfrey faced since the beginning. Born into a poor family, she was molested by male relatives and became pregnant at the tender age of 14. The girl carried on. Her job as a news anchor was not too successful either. She finally tasted her first success when she became the co-host on a local talk show. Her own talk show created history. It made her America's number one celebrity. Today, she is the most influential person in America. Not bad for a girl who received her first pair of shoes at age six. She's come a long way, done everything, save one – she didn't complain, or blame others or destiny.

Success teaches us very little – it is failure that makes you think and work harder.

Be prepared to fail, but have the perseverance to try again and again. Success will not be far behind.

PERSONALITY

The colour of the human diamond is determined

by an individual's personality and faith in one of the most important Ps for success – People. A charismatic and pleasing personality is one major aspect of success. Personality hones in you the synergy effect. Add a magnetic personality to your hard work and perseverance and you can reach much further than you can with hard work alone.

It's not just great talent but a feeling of camaraderie and commitment within a team that leads to its success. This can only happen when there is a leader who not only leads from the front, but also loves his team; who understands each team member the most and gives each one a task where the individual can excel.

In a leader, personality is more important than technical expertise. He has to have this ability to create an aura of dynamism around him and bring in so much good cheer and positive energy that it sets the right tone for the entire organisation and has a strong, positive impact on group performance.

Anthropologists would have us believe that there

is less than a 2% difference (what they say is DNA) between us and the ‘Chimpanzees’. Like it or not, they prove this with research. Well, it’s just that we decided to make the best of this difference and went ahead to conceive civilizations and cultures with our “genie” of communication. We went beyond the restrictive hoots and grunts to evolve a system of communication by harnessing the ability to express complex human ideas and develop a far higher level of synergy. From the primitive wheel, to the pyramids, the epics, man’s first step on moon and to the genome engineering, mankind has made the best of the 2% bestowed upon us by nature.

Today, however, because of its commonplace nature, communication more often than not gets scant attention and at best enjoys an “Oh, Well Yes, It’s Important!” status. It is this one thing that distinguishes winning personalities from the rest. Successful leaders have all been great communicators. I remember reading somewhere that Lincoln due to his poverty owned only a few books. Yet, he used to read and reread them till

the language of the books became his. And later of course his communication skills made him one of the greatest leaders and communicators of our times.

In fact the only work that we do the entire day, each day of our lives, is to communicate. We communicate verbally and we communicate non-verbally, we communicate within and without and we also communicate with people and with inanimate things around us. In the earlier chapter, we have looked at ways of motivating those around us and the only way to do so is by communicating to them and communicating effectively. So let's get this act straight, let's make the best of communication and continue to revel in the glory of civilization and make a magnetic personality a reality!

To become a great leader and develop a magnetic personality, you need to work day in and day out and groom yourself. You need to become a great communicator and relentlessly follow the LAW of personality building. Yes that's the first principle to remember!

And the law of personality stands for Looks, Actions and Words! These are the three hallmarks of a great personality. ‘Looks’ is not about how good looking you are physically – because there is nothing like good looking and bad looking (What’s ‘good looking’ in America may be bad looking in Africa; what’s good looking in Africa might be bad looking in Vietnam; and what’s good looking in Vietnam may be considered ugly in India!). ‘Looks’ is about the first impression you give of yourself to others, from the way you present yourself. A United Nations summit is the best example of how leaders of a hundred plus nations – all with different physical looks – come across as looking so good. Why? Because regardless of the colour of your skin and your physical appearance, when you stand in the UN summit wearing a white shirt, a fitting black suit, a red tie, well-polished shoes and hair neatly done, you are bound to make a good impression. It doesn’t cost much either, but it decides if the other person is interested in speaking to you. Often, during an interview, from the time you walk into the room and take your seat, the interviewer has already decided not to take you. That’s because

he is searching for a surrogate for his organisation; and just by looking at you, he might have decided he doesn't need you. And you are left wondering why you were asked only two questions before the interviewer let you go? So, the first impression that you make is very important in life.

After looks, come your actions: The way you walk, the way you use your hands while speaking, the way you take the chair to sit, the way you use eye contact while speaking... Everything is important! Because what you have inside you is first reflected by your looks and then by your actions. It's only when you have been able to make a favorable impression with your looks and actions that you are given a chance to use the 'W' of LAW, that is, your words. So, we must remember that despite having great knowledge, we might never even be heard, if we aren't able to use our looks and actions properly before uttering any words!

When STAR TV's fortunes in India were dwindling, they roped in Amitabh Bachchan, voted as the greatest actor of the millennium by BBC. He stormed into

Indian drawing rooms with his immaculate personality – a perfect example of the power of LAW of personality – and bowled us over. Talent apart, it's his personality that took him to a level no one else had ever reached before, despite there being many other very talented people before him, including some superstars too!

Looks

Looks can be killing. I had always believed this statement to be an adage used for handsome-looking hulks and sweet, lovely beauties, but realised it could be used otherwise. I learnt that Prashant Ragavnath (name changed) who was with us in the B-school, a genius of a kind in studies, but not the best person to be sharing a room with, had been given an expulsion notice from an organisation of repute as he failed to comply with the regular “proper bath, shave, clip finger nails, tie knot” norms of the organisation. Different organisations have different dress codes, and like fads and trends these do change. But our looks do a lot of talking for us since everyone around us is but human and can easily fall into the perception trap.

I don't mean that if you are born with Pierce Brosnan's or Aishwarya Rai's looks you are any better communicator, but you sure should have a pleasing, smiling personality which endears you to whom you communicate with. In China you don't open shop if you don't smile. You shouldn't anywhere else either. When I enter my office every morning, I must see a smiling face on each of the 110 Management Graduates in our office to reassure me that all is fine and business is happening as usual.

Looks are not just about expressions but also about the way one dresses up. It's not just about not going for a funeral service wearing a bright red shirt but also about power-dressing for that important meeting of yours. You look good for your interview and chances are that you will be selected because organisations are looking for impressive surrogates. Apart from a game of chess, where neither your communication skills nor the way you look matters, everywhere else it would.

And above everything else, looks are about health and level of fitness. One of the key reasons human beings - as

I have explained earlier - become weak and start looking up for help from the non-existent God is when they get into trouble related to health. And I believe most of it is in our hands. Some of us will get unlucky despite all else, and till science gets a cure for everything, will succumb. But the fact is that the round belly that you have, where all the fat and bacteria are accumulating to cause you future trouble is your own creation. You may call it body shaming, but next time you look at a fit person try to realize that she represents sincerity and hard work - because without that you can never remain fit.

I am personally a Second Dan Black Belt in Kick-Boxing. And over the years I have realised that there are four key things to remaining fit - a good diet, good sleep, regular health check ups, a bit of exercise.

A good diet means nuts and fruits for fibre. Your type of proteins depending upon your choice of food. At least two bottles of water. Three cups of green/white tea, cheese, curd and dark chocolates if possible. Regular intake of the right supplements - specially keeping a check on your Vitamin D, Calcium and Vitamin B12 levels

being very important. I don't take any grains or milk - I have scientific reasons for it - but I do take carbs from stuff like sweet potato and vegetables etc. I don't have almost any packaged food in my house and I make sure that I never forget the saying- if you don't take your food like medicines, you will soon have to take medicines like food. So everything I eat is in small portions. And finally I take minimal sugar. That's the poison you and your children must avoid. And remember everything addictive around you had sugar. From that bottle of coke to your favourite juice to the bread to the salty chips.

Sleeping for 7 hours for adults and 8-11 hours for kids depending upon their age is the most important thing every possible. Nothing can ever beat that if you want to be in good health and want to bring up healthy and intelligent children.

Regular health check-up, specially once you are 30, is most crucial. To be fit you have to detect your developing health issues before they become unmanageable. A detailed blood test every six months generally is a great idea! Know your ideal weight (depending upon your

height - you can read it up anywhere) and make sure that's what you maintain.

And finally a bit of exercise is a must. Exercise has three key benefits. One muscle building. The older you get the more you need this. And this can only be done by lifting weights. If you don't, at least make your parents do it - own body weight exercises or with proper weight training. Even once a week is good. The second benefit of exercising is cardio. Again once a week is great - but a must to keep your blood circulation and heart going good. And finally exercising is about flexibility that your body loses over time. If you can still touch your feet without bending your knees you are doing good!!

Actions

Actions speak. Our body language, non-verbal gestures and our mannerisms do a lot of talking for us. I get to watch many a presentation of my students who work very hard for my subject 'National Economic Planning'. My assessments apart, I find the other competing groups having a field time reviewing the pre-senters' hand

movements and body language besides counting the number of times he/she has used the word ‘OK’. I learnt later that they had classified one of the presenters as an **“Athlete”** as his hand movements were faster than the speed of his speech; the other as a **“Padre”** as he would speak with folded hands throughout the speech; yet another as a **“Jauhri”** as he would fiddle around with a necklace, key ring and other **“jewels”** on his person, and finally one as the **“Adam’s Figleaf”** as he would keep his hands folded in front of him as if in an attempt to protect an external agency hitting him where it hurts the most.

Have you ever come across a sweet, good-looking receptionist who is answering all your queries with a nice **“May I Help You”** tag pinned to her dress but you somehow get the feeling that she would rather have you going out as early as possible from the same glass door that you entered. Well, if you have it’s nothing new. And if you have not, then recall the last time that you were window-shopping and the counter sales person hounded you with questioning looks trying to size your credit worthiness.

Your lovely and genuine efforts in being nice to your people can be mined if your actions don't match your words. For example, a good morning wish without a cheerful face doesn't make one feel too good about the morning or for that matter talking to your colleagues without an eye contact (for that matter looking into the ceiling) can make others feel as if you are totally uninvolved.

Most importantly, if you can't display useful actions at least don't display useless actions like sneezing without covering your nose or talking to somebody with your legs up on the table and the shoes facing him.

Watch out for your body movements and gestures as others are watching you.

Perfect actions and body language have always been one of the greatest assets of great communicators. With their hand gestures and perfect expressions they have led their countries out of great miseries.

Every time **Fidel Castro** the great leader spoke, he spoke for hours. He gave speeches which lasted five

hours and millions were enthralled. In United Nations he made history by giving one of his longest ever speeches (it lasted more than three hours). What kept his audience gripped (and often had their blood boiling) was not just what he spoke but also the way he spoke. His posture, his hand movements and expressions have all added up to his immense fan following across continents.

In the same 1960 UN meet, where Castro spoke for three hours (which the press termed as the “**Greatest Show on Earth**”), the then Russian President Nikita Khrushchev also made history for his bold actions. When Harold Macmillan, the British Prime Minister, called for better East and West ties, **Khrushchev angrily banged his shoe** on the Soviet delegation’s desk. Did his actions make an impact? You bet, it did. And it was well practiced because the shoe that he banged was probably a spare shoe that he was carrying in his pocket.

It is Castro’s actions which even today keep his ardent followers excited. On the day the recent US elections were being held, Castro was seen taking a stroll on the beach in his shorts. When asked by a journalist how come he

was so relaxed on such a crucial day, he said that he was doing what most Americans do on that day (American voters just barely manage to have a turnout of 50%). **His actions made a much more powerful statement than his words ever could have.**

This reminds me of the way he had camped out in a Harlem hotel, the Thresa, on 125th street in New York (calling it a show of solidarity with oppressed black Americans) instead of staying in the five star hotel provided for him during the 1960 UN General Assembly! Everybody talks about feelings for the blacks but nobody had done this in past. His actions had won over thousands of American hearts inspite of the differences in ideology.

There are people who at times come to your office, and upon being asked if they would like to have something would say the obvious 'no'. Then you serve them a few snacks. They don't just eat it all up but also leave your room with a few oily finger stains on your most important papers.

Or have you been to a marriage party and witnessed the way people fight with the chicken leg and make a scene out of it?

Did somebody say “actions speak louder than words”?

Words

“It’s only words. And words are all I have to take your heart away”. Boy Zone thankfully reminds us of the power within us to be able to become the king of hearts.

In his early 20s, Karl Marx said, “We need to bring about changes in the world through violent revolutions.” His words stored in the book *Das Capital* were so powerful that it laid the foundation for revolutions in more than 70% of the land mass on this earth. **Words can be powerful.**

If you want to lead a progressive organisation where everyday new ideas are tried and tested, just watch your words. **The right words, however few, could trigger many a brilliant idea, bringing fresh life into your**

organisation. It's possible. After all you can count the number of seeds in an apple but you never know how many apples a single seed can bear. So sow seeds of praise, of goodwill, of wisdom and of knowledge around in your organisation and watch your organisation grow and prosper.

His actions had won over thousands of American hearts inspite of the differences in ideology

“How else would you have known unless I told you”. These few words brought such immense happiness to a colleague who was not particularly happy or sad with his work; when the other, a relatively reserved person, pointed out to him that he was doing a lot of credible work and added the above statement, it propelled him to a higher level of efficiency and the two went on to become a great team.

Words have had the power to change civilisations. History is replete with examples of battles won, Independence achieved, big sacrifices made – all because someone said a few words to make that

difference. Wrong words at the **wrong time have been equally catastrophic**. So, watch your words lest you should have to eat them.

Right words are to be said at the right time. No use trying to tell somebody about how careless he is and how he should be careful and so on when a person has just had a bad accident. Some people love calling a spade a spade. My advise to them is don't always call a spade a spade; at times you might just get one on your head.

The second principle for effective communication:

Be audience-friendly

A friend of mine on a busy Sunday morning, trying to catch a train from New Delhi, baggage in hand, rushed into the railway station and momentarily paused to ask an idle railway porter “Where is the Shatabadi?” He hurried off in the pointed direction and just about managed to catch the train. After self-complimenting his athletic skills, when, to strike a conversation with a fellow passenger, he inquired the time the train would reach Dehradun. The expression on the fellow passenger's

face said it all. My friend had got on to the Shatabadi which was destined for Lucknow. What had happened was that all the Shatabadis leave the New Delhi junction within less than half an hour of each other's departure for different destinations. My friend had asked for the Shatabadi and the porter had pointed to one which was just leaving. The porter would obviously not bother to inquire for the details. (It should have been vice versa). Ever since, the common joke between us friends is that "look the Shatabadi is coming" whenever we spot this friend of ours. One might call him a fool implying that he is reckless and should plan his schedule etc., but wait "fool" in English dictionary means a clown, a court jester. Maybe the word that we should use is foolhardy. So let's watch out. We ask incomplete questions and we will only get incomplete answers.

Over the years we work hard to improve our vocabulary; every new word learnt adds on to our storehouse of knowledge and information. Such is the power of this learning that it escalates us to great heights and puts us on a platform higher than those around us.

From “there” it might be possible that we are heard but not necessarily listened to. Because “here” are the lesser mortals who neither understand our language nor its essence. They stare blankly when we sing “Sintlet Sintlet Globule Vivesic..... thy nature specific”. Haven’t they been to kindergarten and was not this the first rhyme they learnt? “Twinkle twinkle little star...”. They don’t understand that “Residents of vitreous abodes should not hurl lithodical fragments” is one of the most simplest proverbs that they use so often – “Those living in glass houses should not throw stones.”

The point in question is not whether they should have known or whether we should have known that they wouldn’t know, but the fact that we have created a barrier between us and them which inhibits communication.

Also the power of knowledge might propel us to speak in the finest of details and craft such wordy expressions that our speeches are as long as the Brahmaputra but in reality may lack the kinetic energy.. The “Lesser Mortals” get bored with our long speeches. A particular speaker famous for his long speeches started his speech

with the usual “Ladies and Gentlemen, I will take 10 minutes of your time. Well, I was wondering where to start from”. Much to the organisers’ relief, the speaker did not hear a faint voice from amongst the back benches which quipped, “Well start from the 9th minute.”

Lest this should ever happen to us, we better follow the KISS (Keep It Short and Simple) principle.

In one of the GOTA (Global Opportunity and Threat Analysis) trips to Switzerland, I entered a shop with a few of my students to buy Swiss watches to take back home as gifts. An energetic salesperson approached us with a nice smile.

I had liked a Swatch watch and he had seen my eye savouring the beautiful piece. He picked it up as one would pick a Kohinoor and placed it on my wrist. Still with smiling eyes he waited patiently till I had my fill and politely answered all my queries pertaining to the watch. I did not bargain on the price. No one bargains on the “Kohinoor”. Does anyone? However, I thanked him and thought it is better to look around before buying

any 'Kohinoor'.

In the shop across the street, we encountered another energetic salesman who proceeded to show us a "brilliant" watch. He went on to explain the masterpiece that the watch was. The next 20 minutes, we were enlightened by the salesperson as to how the watch was. The best we could ever think of having, as it was scientific and showed the wind direction, could calculate astronomical figures, receive the FM, with the indigo dial...

At the end of a wonderful presentation that lasted a good 20 minutes, he asked me what I thought about the watch and if I had any question. I only had one and on being invited asked it right away. "Does the watch show the correct time?" Well it did sound like a joke and the salesman knew that. Thanking him on the pretext of looking around we made a hasty retreat and went back to buy the "Kohinoor" (actually I wanted it for my grandfather who was a rather simple man and believed that our forefathers lived in a better world).

Our speaking styles are different as are our accents.

Most often we encounter situations where even with the best of intentions we are not able to communicate to the recipients the essence of our contents, who in turn perceive the communication as entirely different from what we had intended. This reminds me of another interesting incident!

I am not a great tennis fan, so when I heard a young girl in the front row of a bus I was travelling in exclaim to the person sitting next to her “I wonder how at this age **Jimmy Connors** can do it so well for three . hours”,

No one bargains On the ‘Kohinoor’. Does anyone?

I couldn’t help myself from secretly wanting to know who this macho man was.

Another day, I was rather confused when a student conducting a marketing research for a particular shampoo apparently believing I would be a good respondent because of my long hair and ponytail asked me “Sir, would you rather not use a non-medicated shampoo?” I still am not very sure about the answer.

I was discussing a restructuring exercise with the “Boss” (Director) of a company when we were interrupted by a loud voice from outside. The General Manager was probably rebuking a lady secretary. “First you lie with the supervisor, then with me and tomorrow you will lie with the boss” he went on. I looked up to catch that glint in the boss’s eyes which definitely meant that he was toying with a few brilliant ideas.

Once I was introduced in a corporate party to a charming young lady. The host introduced her as a “carrier girl who is the spark plug of the whole organisation”. The lady not a trifle bit embarrassed acknowledged. My presence and drifted on to greet other guests leaving me rattling my brains. Three hours later by the end of a wonderful party particularly made interesting by the young lady, I realised that my host meant that she was a very “career” oriented girl and that she made things around her and her organisation lot more lively by her presence. I am sure we all encounter similar incidents where if a wee bit of clarity could be induced it could make a lot of difference in what the people around us

perceive.

The third principle for effective communication:

Be polite and polished

As a speaker, we need to know our audience and be empathic and polite to them.

I was travelling to Frankfurt for one of my official visits. I happened to be flying Air India. It so happened that due to bad weather conditions the flight got delayed by 2 hours. Perplexed as to why I was not informed earlier and quite uncertain as to what to do next approached a lady behind the Air India counter much to my chagrin, I realised that the lady behind the help-desk, quite oblivious to the discomfort of the passengers, sat on her seat in a semi-Natraja position with a “Sarita” in her hand.

My query resulted in a blank “what can I do if the monsoons are creating a problem” look. Resigned to my destiny I spent a good four hours stranded at the airport.

In a similar’ such incident, I was delayed in boarding

my flight to Geneva. However,, this time I happened to be flying KLM, A smart smiling lady standing behind the help-desk comforted me saying that the technical.

Problem resulting in the delay would be soon taken care of and if I could please step into the waiting lounge and relax while KLM would be too happy to offer complimentary coffee and magazines. Ever since, I have been flying KLM and so have many others but never Air India. Being sincerely tactful, thoughtful and appreciative of the other person and his viewpoint can make all the difference in how we communicate with others and leave behind a lasting impression.

It is generally a better idea to be diplomatic and say “as usual the captain was all dignity personified” than to say “the captain was sober today” implying’ as if other days he isn’t. Very often I used to feel my compliments to pretty young ladies were not getting the required response. It’s when I started saying “as usual you look very good’ instead of “you look good ‘today’” that things changed.

One of the most important things in communication is perhaps the fact that, what you talk fades over time but, how you felt remains for a long time to come. You might have a wonderful discussion with somebody today, yet after a month, what you discussed may not be as clear in your mind and after a year it may almost become vague... but how you felt, the warmth of the feelings exchanged would stay back for long time to come. That's why politeness is such a virtue... It creates lasting impressions.

The fourth principle for effective communication:

Bring In the humorous human touch

As one of 'my students, whom I met recently during a marriage ceremony, put it when I enquired how his work was, "Sir, one thing I learnt at IIPM is that you can take the skin out of the other person; but if you can humour them, they don't even feel bad!". At IIPM, the task of managing thousands of students every year and adhering to rigorous academic schedules as well as discipline levels used to be a tough task. Believe me,

at IIPM the definition of cheating during exams includes even asking for a spare pen! And the punishment for any kind of cheating is the paper being torn off. Yet, students never protest. We mix all our strictures with a lot of humour and communicate it humourously. The notice declaring the rules before the examinations begins in a very humourous way citing examples of all possible ways one can cheat. Of course the punishment for all is one line (about the paper being torn off) written in the end. It works.

In my workshops, I tell my participants to use humour effectively. It can also be developed over time even if you are not naturally funny. You don't always need to be naturally funny to have a sense of humour. Have you ever noticed people who don't generally smile much suddenly one day laughing at a joke? The effect is terrific. Our view changes completely and we feel, this fellow does have a sense of humour". Research confirms that managers who use humour in their presentations with employees come across as more approachable and people are more likely to open up with them. If you manage a lot of people, it's

easier to maintain morale and enthusiasm by showing you have a good sense of humour.

And the punishment for any kind of cheating is the paper being torn off. Yet, students never protest.

Robert Half International surveyed Vice-Presidents and Personnel Directors of over 100 largest American corporations. **The results were incredible.**

84% thought employees with a sense of humour do a better Job than people with little or no sense of humour. Robert Half interpreted the surveys as follows: “People with a sense of humour tend to be more creative, less rigid and more willing to consider and embrace new ideas and methods”. A sense of humour might actually give you an edge in your career. A survey done by Hodge-Cronin and Associates Inc. of **737 CEOs of large organisations showed that 98% of them would hire a person with a good sense of humour over a person who lacks humour.**

CULTIVATING HUMOUR

There are ways of using humour, which anybody can

cultivate. Some of the simpler ways are to use old jokes, quotes, cartoons, analogies, observations, etc. One has to have this never-ending urge to put a punch in the speech. Analyzing your audience well, talking their language, putting a punch line at the end, creating an image around the statement, putting the audience in the picture can all go ahead and make your speech humorous.

Another good way of bringing humour is by **cracking a joke on yourself**. When I ask my students to come well dressed for interviews I also tell them to have a decent hair cut for better impression and not get carried away by my ponytail.

As the CEO, Sandra Kurtzig of ASK Computer Systems Inc. describes how she built the \$200 million company from scratch, “When I started this company my long-range planning consisted of figuring out where I would go to lunch”. The executives of ASK do find her more approachable.

These kind of lines can remove nervousness or fear from the minds of your subordinates.

Then, of course, are some basic rules of being effective with humour. **One should never announce that he is going to tell a joke.** This removes the surprise element that is the heart of most humour. Secondly, it might also increase audience expectations. **Pausing** for the punch line and waiting for the laugh is also a must.

Humour is a terrific **guard against hostility** and difficult situations. My partner, Sandeep, is an expert at it. Being young and conducting training programmes for people, often double our age at times, forces us not to disclose our real age. So once when a CEO insisted on knowing Sandeep's age, he asked back "Which age? The one which I have on my birth certificate, or the one which my mother tells others when she is looking for a suitable match for me, or the one I like telling my workshop participants?".

PEOPLE

During interviews, I am often asked how I manage an institute, a media house, a film production company and a consulting firm, all together. I always say – and I mean

it – “I have got great people who run my businesses, and I just give interviews!”

The truth is that if I were to do it alone, I wouldn't have been able to do a fraction of what we do. But because I have a team of extremely passionate people, a considerable lot gets done. That's the power of believing in people. I have always believed that the most important job of a leader is to find his replacement. Only then can he grow in life. The graveyards, as they say, are full of people who thought they were indispensable and could do it all by themselves.

It's a big, bad, mad world out there, and in this rat race for success, you are competing with people who are equally, if not more talented than you, and as competitive and determined. The way to take the lead then is to have with you a great team. There is an African saying, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.” You need to have the ability and the knack of building a great team. It's easy to get good players, but getting them to play together is the hard part.

He was a railroad conductor's son, who as a child, suffered from a stuttering problem. Not many would have called him a leader, yet it's this man's might that made GE one of the top ranking companies in the world. When asked about the secret of his success, Jack Welch said, "Great people, not great strategies, are what made it all work!" 'Teamwork' works, and it's no secret. Years ago, Thomas Edison was asked why he had a team of twenty-one assistants. He replied, "If I could solve all the problems myself, I would."

Nature is at its ferocious best on the Himalayas – ask any mountain climber and he will have his share of horror stories to tell. Small and helpless, in front of the powers of nature, mountaineers rely on one indispensable ally – other mountaineers. For any successful climbing mission, teamwork is essential. It was the strong bond of friendship and trust that was, among other factors, responsible for the success of the first ascent of Everest. Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay would probably have not been able to do it alone in spite of being highly talented individually. Much similar to Michael

Jordan, who in spite of being supremely talented, failed to win the NBA championship till he got a team that complemented him. If there is one sport where success depends on the power to work in a team, it's basketball. Five players working together is a perfect setting for getting that ultimate teamwork-experience. Be it business or sports, the rules of success remain more or less the same. Look at Infosys and you have a classic example of the powers of teamwork. It was a great team (including Nandan Nilekani and Kris Gopala Krishnan along with Narayana Murthy) that, with its hard work and commitment, could build one of India's greatest companies from scratch. Many people knew that India had a vast pool of English speaking, analytically strong, technically talented personnel with great work ethics (the perfect ingredients for global success). Yet, it was only one man and his team who were able to harness this energy, this pool of talent and nurture it into a big business house. Murthy understood the benefits of teamwork very early. When his father taught him Western classical music, he also showed Murthy how in Western classical music, a group of people – maestros in their own right

– came together, overcame their egos, and worked as a team to produce something outstanding. Something that each one individually would never have been able to do. Who could understand teamwork better than Vince Lombardi, the one time football coach for NFL. He said, “Teamwork is what the Green Bay Packers were all about. They didn’t do it for individual glory. They did it because they loved one another...”

It can easily be said that are plenty of success stories with only the first four P’s. But when you add Personality and People Skills it has a synergy effect and $1+1$ is no more 2; it becomes 11!! You want to multiply your success score you got to focus on the color of the human diamond!!

Straight out of the *Gita* : A Leadership Theory to sharpen your people skills

My son, Che Kabir Chaudhuri wrote a landmark book, ‘Discover the Superhero in You’ based upon life lessons that Superhero comics leave you with. While it’s stupid to believe that superheroes or mythological characters are true; Given the popularity of such books,

it's intelligent to take out good lessons from them and use for daily life- without worshiping them as sacrosanct gospels.

Since 1994, I have been teaching Leadership principles taken straight out of the *Gita* through my Leadership Success Multiplier Model. Out of all the stories of witches, monsters and comical characters with superpowers, the main God like character called Krishna who gives out the lessons of life in *Gita* says a few interesting things that can be used to become a successful leader and sharpen your people skills.

There are three fascinating aspects of this leadership model. The model takes into consideration three key aspects of leadership viz leadership styles, types of people and followership styles.

The *Gita* basically talks of leadership as something that should always be situational with flexible styles. It talks of four key styles of leadership that people should try to adapt depending upon the situation - Saam, Daam, Dand, Bhed (I have given a little touch of modernity

to the concept, of Bhed, though. In my theory I have related Bhed with aspects of ruling/leading by dividing and delegating responsibilities) which talk about flexible styles of handling people based upon situations and backgrounds (this I have explained in my “Leadership Success Multiplier” model: figure I).

If we take a look into the *Gita* then we see that Krishna also talks about Three Types of people; The Tamas, The Rajas and The Satwas.

Tamas are the people who are least capable and also less in number.

Satwas are the people who are most mature and capable and also less in number. While Rajas are the majority. They are like most of us: intelligent, capable and ready to work but looking for the right returns. By combining the flex-leadership principles of Saam, Daam, Dand and Bhed (Saam means equality; Daam means price; Dand means punishment; and Bhed means division), with different types of people of *Gita*, one can devise a leadership strategy which suits each category of

people.

In order to explain things better, my model has divided Rajas into two categories. Category 1 comprising of Rajas with lesser capabilities, and category 2 comprising of Rajas who are more capable. A look now at figure I would tell you how to lead whom. Dand is for those who display lack of capabilities and responsibility on the job. They need Leadership by Direction in order to develop the right attitude. Those who become more mature (over time or naturally) require Leadership by Seduction. Incentives/Daam works for them. They are not the most responsible of people, therefore job insecurity still needs to be around; but if they work well human touch should be displayed.

As they become more mature, a time comes when job insecurity levels can be decreased and leadership can be by associating (Leadership by Association) them in the decision-making process. Trying to incentivise everything with this group of people can backfire, for they are looking for recognition. Those who are most mature/Satviks would be most productive with the least job

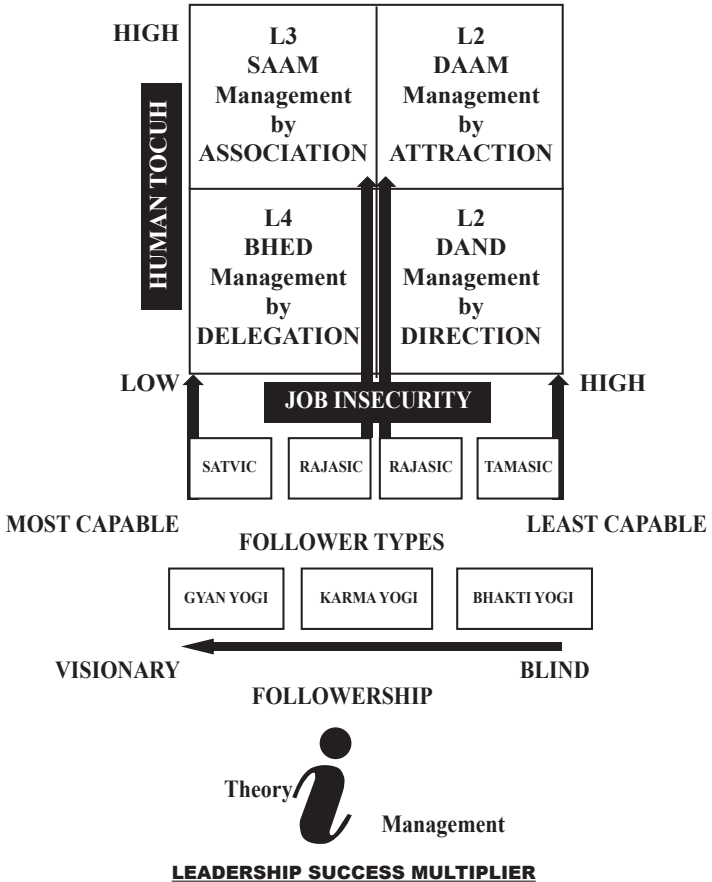


FIGURE - I
TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NEED : THE INDIAN WAY

insecurity, and perhaps even without any extra display of human concern. They need to be left alone and trusted completely. Leadership by Delegation works wonders with them (for most effective use and descriptive details of these four styles one should refer to (Figures II, III, IV & V).

When I put the theory on pen and paper I realise that even I have grown up in its shadows.

As a kid I was particularly enthralled and at the same time jealous of the stove inside the kitchen. My mother would take utmost care of me.

The only time she was not with me was when she was performing her kitchen chores. Needless to say the first opportunity I got as I began to crawl I entered the kitchen and tried to touch the beautiful red yellow flower on the burning stove. My mother's shriek and a stern warning later I realised I better be careful. I did not understand why it hurt but I knew my mom was telling me something and I better not disobey. No sweat; anyway life was good and I was happy as a lark. If the kitchen was a no-entry

zone the living room was my kingdom. All guests and relatives who would come to our house would play with me.

The guest of honour would always be me as they lifted, cajoled, played and praised me. All was well until one day I answered the call of nature as and when it came in the playing room right there on the very expensive carpet. Holding me by my arms strictly my mom led me to the bathroom and dumped me on the potty. I was told never again to do it anywhere else. Next morning almost before I got up I realised that my mother had put me on the potty. She seemed to have no concern about my feelings and my wants. And I call it the first style of leadership:

Leadership by Direction.

I grew up to go to school. Those were the best days of my life with the exception of a subject called Hindi. None of the red marks in all my report cards, mocking smiles of my classmates and the regular scolding by my parents could propel me into securing decent marks in

that subject. However, much to everybody's relief, what did the trick was my father's promise to buy me a cricket bat if I cleared my Hindi paper in the board exam. The shopkeeper may have physically sold the bat to a customer but the actual selling was done by my father. He got me attracted to the idea of finally being able to dethrone Vijay (the cricket kit belonged to him) and appoint myself as the new captain of the cricket team. I call it the second style of leadership: Leadership by Seduction.

Few years later with dreams unlimited and three appointment letters up my sleeve, I went to my father to help me make the right career decision. This time however there was no threat on me to do something he wanted nor was there a carrot hanging in front of me to pick one particular offer. Rather, he sat down with me and discussed the pros and cons of each offer. Together we went to a few counsellors, mentors, relatives in fairly high positions, analysed and came to a conclusion. He however left the final decision to me. He was participating in a historic moment of my life showing me the way and

yet letting me decide. This is what I call third style of leadership:

Leadership by Association.

A few years later was another decision time. I had worked hard and set up a fast-growing consulting firm and the day had come for me to start thinking of opening global branches. It meant more work and less time for home. This also meant lot of travelling. However, this time my father never made the decision any easier for me. He asked to be let alone happy in the company of his grandchild and delegating the task to me fully suggesting that any decision I took would be welcome by him. It was surprising that he did not even want to discuss it with me. I decided totally on my own. This is what I call the fourth and the final style of Leadership: Leadership by Delegation.

Thus, the four situation styles varied with my maturity level. My mother never tried reasoning with me as to how hazardous the fire could be, nor did she try to participate in a discussion with me, nor try to explain the fact that

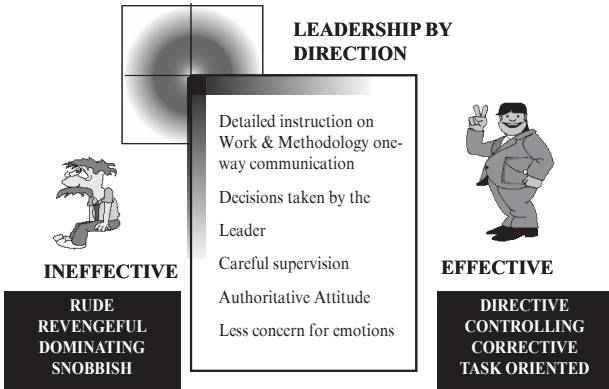


FIGURE - II

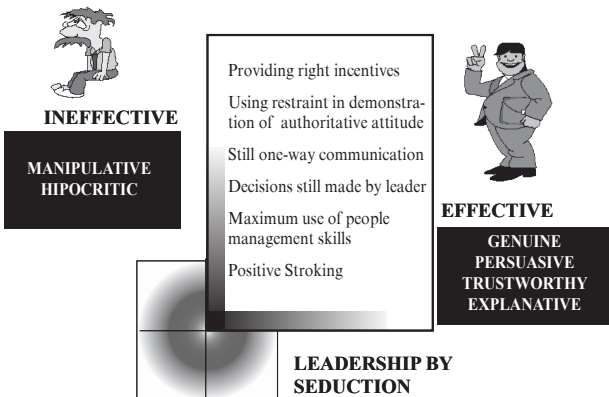
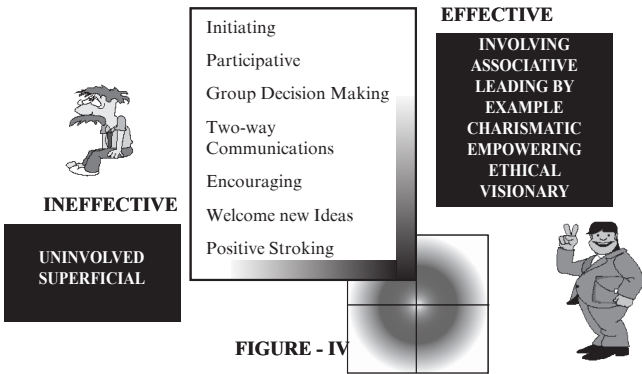
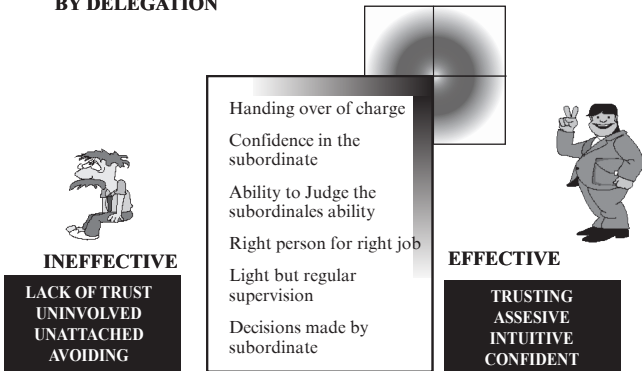


FIGURE - III

LEADERSHIP BY ASSOCIATION



LEADERSHIP BY DELEGATION



the beautiful rug was a gift by my father to her during their honeymoon. I was extremely immature and only the style of leadership by direction could have worked on me then. She knew leadership by direction was the only alternative with the immature me. When my dad lured me into studying hard he knew that it was that age when children run away from homes if parents are too directive. Thus, he used leadership by seduction.

When I got a job the style changed to leadership by association and in the later stages it became leadership by delegation, since in the later stages of life he realised that my abilities had also increased and I did not need directive or attractive styles. Parents are seen often to be great managers. They love their children too much to give them anything but the best. That's why the best theory of leadership is the "true love theory of leadership".

The idea is that a true leader has to understand that he cannot have a single style of leadership working effectively on everybody. Thus, he needs to constantly keep changing his styles to suit the situation depending upon the ability and maturity level of his people. And

situations can differ and be more complex.

The same Sachin Tendulkar who would look like the most mature person on the cricket field might be the most immature person when it comes to playing piano and his levels of maturity might differ when he is dealing with his parents or with his wife. To make him play piano better, we might need to use leadership by direction whereas to make him excel as a cricketer the right style would be leadership by delegation. To make him pose as a model for an advertisement campaign might require leadership by seduction. So, the same style will not work even with the same person all the time because situation defines leadership.

THE MANAGERIAL PERSPECTIVE TO LEADERSHIP SUCCESS MULTIPLIER MODEL

A manager, early in the morning, may be confronted by immature labourers trying to make a wooden partition and a strict approach could do wonders; but by afternoon when he meets his sales team he might find leadership

by seduction a better style. With his strategic planners, leadership by association could work wonders, while his R&D people might hate to sit down and discuss with him the medicine on which they are doing a research. These guys might be most motivated with leadership by delegation. The same man during the course of the same day might need to use different styles of leadership... and only then can he be a successful leader. I can assure you it would come automatically if you love your subordinates and are committed to them sincerely.

Frederick Herzberg in a path-breaking article titled *One more time*:

How do you motivate employees, way back in 1967, showed how KITA – the externally imposed attempt by management to motivate employees was a total failure. However, in my leadership success multiplier model, one would have observed that KITA definitely serves the purpose of leadership very well, at least in about 50% of the situations .

As an immature kid one of the best ways my parents

could have taught me a few very important things like not putting my hand inside the stove etc., was done best with the help of a KITA (Kick In The Ass – Backside). KITA may sound inelegant and taboo in organisations; however a negative psychological KITA could be a very effective way of dealing with people who are less mature. In fact that is exactly how I started using the potty. The fear of a scolding made me get up everyday in the morning and go towards it mechanically. One could not have explained to me the advantages of this good habit at that age!

Actually, this negative psychological Kick In The Backside approach is one of the ways of implementing leadership by direction! Of course we don't call it motivation since in this case the individual had no urge to do the activity and it was forced on him.

The other way of implementing KITA is the positive psychological kick in the pants. When I tell somebody do this for me and in turn I give him a reward as in the earlier example, when my dad lured me into studying hard by offering me a cricket bat in return; it was an example of

positive psychological KITA. Even in this case I have no urge to study hard on my own, I am falling for the bait. Motivation is of course when there is no external generator being used. It is a situation where the person has an internal generator urging him to put efforts (high levels at that) in order to achieve results. But this positive psychological KITA (which even Herzberg described as getting seduced) did improve my board examination results and today I don't feel ashamed to tell people about the same. So, in a way positive psychological Kick In The Pants is one of the ways of effective leadership by seduction.

Thus, leadership by direction and leadership by seduction are two ways of KITA that can be effectively used to make people achieve results.

While leadership by direction is a push strategy, leadership by seduction is a pull strategy.

The last two styles of leadership by association and leadership by delegation of course are the motivators.

These styles do create an internal generator inside

the employees to perform better, since these styles deal with empowering the employee, giving him a sense of responsibility, achievement and recognition as well as growth and advancement. These two styles of leadership can be thus successful only if the above things take place in the form of job enrichment.

This is what “Leadership Success Multiplier” is all about. And this is what Krishna was a master of.

Krishna, the perfect superhero leader!

A man standing on one leg with the other crossed over it; a flute in his hand; long locks of hair and a mysterious look in his eyes. Every time one tries to think of him, this is the picture that keeps coming back. The picture doesn't remind you of a dynamic corporate leader, nor does it remind you of a tough task master. Yet, he happens to be one of the greatest of leaders ever depicted in a book.

My professor Dr. N.R. Chatterjee used to jokingly say “this man had two great qualities which leaders in general don't—he knew how to dance and how to make

others dance!”. Everytime invariably, whatever the situation, this man used to be a winner. The man I talk about is none other than the most loved of the Hindu mythological figures, a character viewed as a teacher, a man who did not only believe in war but a man of love. While many a loving mythological character could be found here and there in the old Vedic hymns of the Aryans, but this individual named Krishna, brought about a new focus for he offered salvation without the need for ritual sacrifices* thereby posing a challenge to Hindu priests. His sayings are contained in *Bhagvad Gita* (the Lord’s song), which has become Hinduism’s most popular scripture and is read by many for daily reference. It is a work that Mahatma Gandhi described as an infallible guide to conduct. Modern times have seen many more people just tie it up with a red cloth and keep it in their puja (worship) room, hardly ever bothering to read it. My professor used to keep his *Gita* in the bathroom instead of the puja room. He used to

**Krishna said, “Give me your heart, love me and worship me always. Bow to me only, and you will find me. This I promise.” (Bhagvad Gita, 1:41)*

say, this way one gets at least a guaranteed concentrated reading time of about 15 minutes daily!

Krishna knew how to be effective. He knew when to use management by direction with Arjun (*Bhagvad Gita*!!) and when to delegate him the complete responsibility (during the war). He knew exactly how to make even Yudhishtir mislead Dronacharya and he knew exactly how to handle the other extreme ideas of Duryodhan. Like a specialist conductor he orchestrated the whole war of the Mahabharat, from managing Bhishma's temper to Bhim's lack of intelligence, from managing the illusion of the sun being still there to managing the end of Kama, from managing the guile of Shakuni to managing the anger of Dhritrashtra. He did it all with amazing smoothness. When it was required he used Dand/Leadership by Direction/negative Psychological KITA to manage someone like Shishupal. When Gandhari called upon Duryodhan and there was a fear that he might become immortal, Krishna used his intelligence through leadership by seduction and saw to it that it was not to be. While another of

Hindu mythological figures, Ram, is known for his efficient leadership, Krishna is known for his effective leadership. One can bet that neither a Manthara would have made Krishna (had he been in Ram's place) leave his kingdom nor a Dhobi would have made him ask his wife to go through Agniparikshas.

In fact, all management books as well as management gurus talk about leadership, but nobody ever talks about Followership; however, the *Gita* does (this is where essentially theory 'i' leadership would differ from a model like that of Hersey & Blanchard). When the Tamās come to Krishna in order to reach God, Krishna advises them to have blind faith that he exists and he says that this blind faith would lead them to God. Thus, he calls them the Bhaktiyogis (the faithfuls).

On the other hand when the other extreme kind of people, the Satwas, come to him he advises them to deny the existence of God and go in search of truth. And he says that this visionary journey would, help them actually discover the truth. Thus' he calls them the Gyanyogis (the visionaries). When the more common lot

the Rajas approach him he tells them to keep on doing their work in a devoted manner without worrying about results in order to reach him.

For them work should be worship and he calls them Karmyogis (the work oriented). By teaching these principles of followership, Krishna is able to manage all types of people successfully.

We must apply aspects of followership in our lives and organisations as well. By implementing the followership facilitator model (Figure VI) the roles would be better defined and work would be smoother.

I, thus, strongly feel that followership is as important as leadership, since leadership success depends upon how well the followers are trained and explained their future career path. To my mind one of the greatest learnings from the *Gita* would be followership training. People can be easily explained their optimal role in an organisation and made to be productive and cooperative. It is highly important that they are told their career path and the appraisal is totally transparent. Most importantly they

should know that the whole process is to help them mature up to the visionary level. The leader also has to facilitate the followers mature from one level to another.

The identification of the follower category is also extremely important. Attempts to make a blind follower out of a man (who might be looking for self-actualization needs) capable of making independent decisions and strategise are futile.

I know of several cases of top thinkers, researchers and journalists who left their highly paid jobs for less paid ones, only because they were treated as visionaries and given the due freedom. Understanding the people working for you and making them understand your priorities is the only way you can have true subordination of individual interests into group interests. Experience would show that till we have this, organisations can never work productively and optimally. Of course the implementation of all these models would differ from situation to situation. The philosophy should not.

MAHATMA GANDHI a case study in how to Lead

the Krishna way!

In a different age another great leader, actually put the learnings from Krishna to practice to lead a nation from the shackles of the British Raj towards independence— Mahatma Gandhi. He is said to have had the habit of reading the *Gita* regularly. Having been ruled for so many years by one foreign power or the other, the Indian populace had been accustomed and acclimatized to exploitation. There were a few raised voices here and there, a few bombs hurled around but never did a revolt of the types of 1857 end up having a nationwide impact like it happened all over the world viz. France, Scotland, USA, Russia, China, etc. India was a different nation which needed “Krishna’s Leadership”.

What succeeded everywhere else failed in India and what was never tried anywhere else succeeded with the Indians. The success of this non-violent revolution is perhaps, thus, the biggest successful implementation of Krishnas flexi-leadership theory.

A brave man Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose became

the President of the Indian National Congress defeating Gandhiji's own candidate.

But did he succeed? He came up with a war cry "Give me blood and I will give you freedom". He walked forward a few steps and turned to look back to realise that nobody was following him. To fight India's Independence, Netaji had to go to Burma and Japan to collect war veterans and freedom fighters. No one in India wanted Independence that badly or rather as a nation we refused to give blood, so what it was for the country's Independence. The Indians historically and culturally would never do it (due to the laid-back and complacent attitude). Like the Cow whom a majority of Indians worshipped, Indians would not mind sitting in the middle of a busy four-lane, high-speed road with traffic zooming past... global changes sweeping the way things work..... Indians can remain unfazed and unmoved, for they wait for things to happen instead of making them happen.

Gandhi came up with a suitable alternative. He understood the Indian psyche well. So he asked them to

THE FOLLOWERSHIP FACILITATOR

TYPE OF WORKER/ SUBORDINATE	IDEAL FOLLOWER SHIP STYLE	KEY CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Immature, Low in ability and responsibility (found in less -numbers)</p>	<p>BHAKTIYOGIS Blind/faithful/ unquestioning</p>	<p>Should display full faith in the leader, and take regular guidance from him. Should not question the ability of the leader/top management. Should have an urge to learn and grow in order to enter the next level of worker category.</p>
<p>Mature, able and responsible (majority of the people fall in this category).</p>	<p>KARMYOGIS Work is worship oriented.</p>	<p>Should act responsibly and take guidance from the leaders whenever required. They should guide their subordinates to achieve better results. Should display leadership abilities since they are the leaders or the future</p>
<p>Extremely mature and very high in ability (the rare breed)</p>	<p>GYANYOGIS Visionary, change agents.</p>	<p>Should work independently in order to achieve best results. Should be the change agents wherever they go. They should be given respect by the top management or made partners in progress.</p>

FIGURE - VI

march, with him. A wonderful hassle-free method to get Independence and so every Indian marched, walked with Gandhi to the doorsteps of an Independent India.

The world over bloody revolutions have led to independence but we attained it through “ahimsa (non-violence movement)”. Whether it was more by default than choice could be another story. (If Mike Tyson were to challenge me for a boxing bout I would tell him straight that I belonged to the land of Gandhi, and ahimsa is what I believed in!).

Gandhi not only understood the Indians well but had also analysed the Britishers correctly. He knew that by and large the Britishers were law-abiding and would only retort to brutality if law was broken, and peaceful and non-violent marching broke no laws.

The takeaway? Sharpen your people skills by becoming a leader who is ready to be flexible with his leadership styles and changes it depending upon the people he is leading. And be the leader who has the charisma to help his followers, adopt a followership style that they need to

achieve best results

PERSPECTIVE

Perspective is the first P that helps us become a spotless clear diamond! If you know where you are travelling to and what you want in life, everything else becomes clear, and your journey reaps the maximum rewards. Perspective requires personal as well as a broader vision. The unfortunate reality in our lives is that often, because we lack perspective, we choose that path which gives us short-term returns, but is harmful in the long run. Every year, during the government budget exercise, the entire Indian business community, without fail, displays its complete lack of perspective for themselves as well as for the country. They go to the finance minister and lobby for short-term gains through reduction of petty taxes here and there. Removal of poverty and providing purchasing power to the poor is never in the agenda they wish to lobby for. Such a perspective (or absence of the same) not only harms the nation immensely, but most importantly harms their own business too. Due to a total lack of perspective, our business community

doesn't realise the same. Nokia, Electrolux, HP, and similar other corporations sell far more in China than in India. Why? Because the Chinese people have purchasing power and the government works sincerely to lift them out of poverty. Today, we virtually live in a world owned by the Chinese. Indian leaders – especially in business – due to their lack of perspective, fail to realise that if the government were to focus on poverty eradication, their own products would sell tens of times more, and their profits would increase far more than what they would gain by lobbying for a percentage reduction in excise duty. That's what I mean by perspective. We all need it in life to know our way forward.

Ray Kroc was a salesman who, for a decade and a half, sold multi-mixers to make milk shakes. His largest customer was a California-based restaurant that used a mass production-cum-assembly line for making hamburgers and sandwiches. He convinced the brothers who owned the company to sell the restaurant to him. At the age of 52, while suffering from diabetes and arthritis, with his gallbladder and thyroid gland having

been surgically removed, Ray Kroc was never more sure in his life about what he wanted to do. The McDonald brothers were so busy working that they missed out on the long-term potential of their plan. It required Ray Kroc's vision to make McDonald's the way we know it today.

A clear perspective gives you the insight and the guts to believe in your dreams and carry on. It was Mahatma Gandhi's vision that helped free India. He knew it was only and only through his 'Satyagraha' non-violent movement that India could appeal to the moral conscience of Britain and make them realise the unfairness of Colonial Raj.

It was Ted Turner's vision and his ability to see the big picture that made him think out of the box to give birth to CNN. Cable news changed the way the world watched news.

Sitting in his dorm room in Harvard, Mark Zuckerberg saw the immense potential of an online 'social graph'. Instead of using the Internet to

make new friends the way Myspace does, he thought it would be more fun just keeping in touch with old friends and acquaintances. It was this plan that helped him launch Facebook, which has today become a giant new powerful model of word of mouth communication. It was like meeting friends and family and conversing with them around a dinner table – only this time, you did it online with a mouse, not your mouth.

People thought Jeff Bezos was crazy – after all, who would buy books online. His amazon.com proved them wrong. His latest invention, Kindle (the e-reader) was mocked at too. Who wanted to read from a screen? Well, too many I guess, considering the fact that Amazon ran out of Kindles in just a few hours after its launch in November 2008.

Meg Whitman saw the strong potential for technology that could “change lives” and provide a level playing field where a new entrepreneur could compete with a large corporation in selling goods. E-bay grew from 30 employees to 15,000 with \$8 billion in revenue under the visionary leadership of Meg Whitman.

One wintry day in 1990, the founders of Infosys met in a small office. The excitement this time was something new. After nine years of toiling hard, the company had received an enticing offer – a sum of \$1 million for selling Infosys. For hours, everyone discussed animatedly how this would prove to be a turning point in their careers, and how with the extra money, they could all move on. Finally, when it was Murthy’s turn to speak, he reminded them of the dream with which they had started the company and said that even if times were hard at the time, things would change if they had faith. The darkest hours came just before dawn. It was Murthy’s long-term perspective and foresight that made Infosys what it is today.

Sergey Brin was a senior in Stanford University where he met Larry Page. Even though their first meeting started with arguments, it was their common vision about the potential of the web that led them to lay the foundation of Google – the largest search engine of the world.

The right perspective often makes the real difference in the long run. “A PC on every desk in every home,”

propelled Microsoft in the right direction for many years.

On a much lighter note, after being inspired by a bout between Muhammad Ali and Chuck Wepner, Sylvester Stallone wrote the screenplay for Rocky. Many producers liked the script and were ready to pay him a lot of money for it but refused his condition to cast him as well. Even with the lure of USD 265,000 at a time when his bank balance was only USD 100, Stallone refused to lose his perspective till he got what he wanted. Rocky was a runaway success and Stallone was nominated for ten Academy Awards.

A clear perspective gives you the power and courage to face even the greatest of problems with optimism. It becomes the source of greatest motivation during your darkest hours. A clear perspective shows you the direction to follow when life brings you to a crossroad.

PRINCIPLES

The second P in our lives that helps us become spotless

clear diamonds are our principles. As a consultant to some leading organisations, I have realised that the biggest challenge at the top level that leaders face in finding a second man for themselves is the lack of principles and ethics in people. For, by the time they reach the top, they realise that those are principles that make a man stand tall in the long run, contrary to the popular belief that one needs to be street smart in life – another way of saying one needs to sacrifice principles in life – to move ahead fast. It's actually not true. All great leaders worth naming, worth appreciating, have always stuck to their principles. That's what takes them to the very top. Sacrifice principles and you've put a big spot inside the diamond that will be revealed one day or the other. That's why it's most important for us to know the real definition of success. Success is not about the results. Success is about the courage to undertake a journey that you believe in, as the title of Steve Jobs' book says, "The journey is the reward." That's the true meaning of success for a principled man. And that's what the *Gita* explains beautifully, "*Tu karm kiye ja, phal ki chinta mat kar*[Keep working without worrying about the results]." Yes, that's

what true diamonds do. They keep doing what they believe in, what they know is right, without worrying about results. Some like Subhash Chandra Bose or Che Guevara never saw success. But that doesn't mean that they were failures. They tried and chased what they believed in. And for them, the journey was the reward. We must believe this and then we can never experience failure. For the man to whom the journey itself is the reward, everything else is merely an add-on. And that's how we become clear diamonds.

For decades, this man was denied the simple pleasure of watching the sun set – a view that used to fill him with the greatest happiness. Nelson Mandela is a man who personifies struggles. He spent nearly three decades of his life behind bars, endured hardships, yet never ever did he compromise on his principles. It was this that inspired others around him and gave them strength and optimism.

Individuals and corporations need to live by a set of values. A brand becomes famous and loved only when the leader behind it shows integrity. Starbucks is so big

because Howard Schultz ensured every cup of coffee made in his outlet was of the best quality, because cutting corners could lead only to short-term success.

Her party won 82% of the seats in the 1990 elections, but the Junta regime refused to hand over power. Instead, it imprisoned and tortured members of her party and put Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest. The Junta could arrest her but not stop her, and today her struggle remains one of the most extraordinary examples of civil courage.

It's a wrong notion that to succeed you need to be unethical. J.R.D. Tata, India's most respected businessman for decades, showed the world how one could succeed in business while maintaining very high ethical standards. Never did he bribe politicians or use the black market to increase revenues. Today, the TATA group remains India's most respected business house. Contrast this to the Satyam, Enron or recently the Bernard Madoff scam – all their top men are behind bars. This only shows that in the long run, it pays to be ethical.

PATRIOTISM

The final P of this discovery of the diamond in you is patriotism! It is the final symbol of clarity of the human diamond. The most dazzling of clear human diamonds, without patriotism, will always show up dark spots, when viewed under a magnifying lens! You might be a high carat diamond which has been cut meticulously and has a great colour, but it's the love for your country and for human beings anywhere in the world that makes a human diamond perfect! Patriotism makes your success live forever. In the mid-1950s, Akio Morita, the man behind Sony, rejected a huge order of a hundred thousand units for his transistor radios at a time when he was struggling to find any takers for his products, because the buyers said he could not brand his radio. For Akio, his country came first. Five years later, while walking on New York's Fifth Avenue, Akio realised that many nations except Japan had their flags on display on top of the avenue's stores. He made it his mission to fly the first Japanese flag there. Two years later, 1962 became a hallmark year as it was the first time since World War II that the Japanese

flag was unfurled formally on American soil. What a day it must have been! Sony was able to make the world look up to Japan. And the rest, as they say, is history.

It was this patriotic fervour that made Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus start the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. He gave loans to poor women, who were the most neglected in his country!

His poor borrowers today are better at repaying their loans than many of the rich who borrow from big banks!

It's the same feeling with which Samuel Casas started Casas Bahia, an organisation in Brazil that runs with the sole aim of increasing the standard of living of Brazilians – especially of those below the poverty line. It's an organisation with its heart at the right place. Explaining his stance, Samuel says, “My talent is trusting the poor and giving them good service. Many poor have a better character than the rich. I was poor once.”

The Chinese today have turned their backs on all things

Western – from designer wear to cars. The no. 1 selling car in China is Chery, the no. 1 selling cola in rural China is the Chinese company Wa Ha Ha's Future Cola. Be it these two or China Mobile, Gree Electronics, Haier or Lenovo, behind all these success stories is a story of patriotism and urge to make the Chinese flag fly high! On the contrary, while India has amongst the maximum billionaires in the Forbes top hundred billionaires list, unfortunately India doesn't have a single brand in the top hundred list of global brands. There is no other P that is worth sacrificing more for in life, business, sports or politics than patriotism.

It is this urge to bring glory to India that made Dronacharya Award winner, Jagdish Singh, Boxing coach of Olympic medalist Vijendra Singh, start the Bhiwani boxing club with his provident fund money and a 4 lac rupee loan from the Gramin Bank. Single-handedly, he brought glory to India. Three of his students qualified for the quarter finals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The world's greatest ever revolutionary, Che

Guevara, was an Argentinian who fought for the Cuban revolution, left his ministerial post in Cuba to go and fight for Congo, and Bolivia – where he finally met his end. For him, the world where there was any exploitation was his home. He lost most of the wars he fought. But he was a sparkling diamond like no other. The great Frenchman Satre called him not only an intellectual, but also the most complete human being of our age. Che said, “Failure does not necessarily mean that the cause you were fighting for was not worth it.” A graffiti scrawl in Spanish on the wall of the public telephone office in the little town of Vallegrande in Bolivia where Che was executed, reads: “Che – alive, as they never wanted you to be!”

If you want to find that dazzling and clear diamond in you, never forget to love your country and the people of the world on the whole, especially the underprivileged and the exploited. Life becomes worth living when patriotism is what drives your passions. And the discovery of the diamond in you becomes complete!

Conclusion

I hope you now know the powerful principles of discovering the diamond in you. You are a diamond! And now, all you have to do is never miss out on any of these 9 points in exactly the same sequence. Of course, that's not to say that the last Ps are not as important as the initial ones – in fact, I mentioned in the previous chapter that patriotism is worth sacrificing the most for! But having said that, it is true that even without patriotism, you can be successful; it's just that your success won't be as glorious. And lastly, never forget that more than the final outcome – as I have written in the chapter on principles – success is about the passionate effort that you put in trying to do what you believe in. The results will always follow, especially when you have put into practice all these 9ps. Now go ahead. Practice them. And dazzle in life without ever again feeling weak or having the need to pray for success in life – to a non-existent God! Go, defeat destiny!

Beyond God & Capitalism

*Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today... Aha-ah...*

*Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace... You...*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one*

*Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world... You...*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one*

Songwriter: JOHN LENNON

IN THE ERADICATION OF RELIGION &
ELIMINATION OF INCOME AND GENDER
INEQUALITY; AND IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO
HEALTH, EDUCATION & JUSTICE TO ALL, LIE THE
SECRETS OF GLOBAL HUMANISM
- DR. ARINDAM CHAUDHURI

Can we escape the influence of God and Capitalism and yet be successful?



This book, launched by Richard Dawkins – arguably the biggest proponent of science and reason on earth & the author of #1 best seller 'The God Delusion', explains how the existence of both hampers human happiness and how to achieve success & happiness by thinking 'Beyond God & Capitalism'

Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri is an Author, Antitheist, Ph.D. in Business from University of Buckingham, Ex Advisor to the consultative committee of Planning Commission, Govt. of India in the areas of Social Sectors and Education, recipient of three National Film Awards from Govt. of India & a 2nd Dan Black Belt in Kick Boxing. He has authored 11 books and made 9 films. With almost 5 million fans, he is the world's most followed management icon & economist on Facebook!

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