

## **Invest To Acquire Good Qualities**

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source: Ramana Bhaskara, March 2013



My dear Soulmates,

The real entity in the heart requires nothing nor associates itself with anything. Sri Ramakrishna always said all religions lead to the same truth. However, human beings have imbibed the trait of hatred. To start any business venture, some investment is required. To acquire the seed of hatred no investment is required. Hatred comes when we begin to compare with

others in terms of wealth or education. If someone is wealthier than you, let it be so! Why compare? The thought process that we are inferior to others has to change. Remember, wealth is never constant at a place, as it keeps moving.

Focus your attention on the work assigned to you in this life. Before embarking on any work think by what means the outcome will benefit others. Truth must be given importance in all your endeavours. According to Lord Krishna, the clouds can camouflage the valiant sun. The clouds may not be as strong as the sun, but they can conceal the sun for some time. Similarly, if one gets agitated for every small issue then, the sense of reason and goodness will disappear from the person. That means you will lose the sense of right thinking. You will lose control of what you are talking. Hence, it is best not to get agitated at every issue and make efforts to stay with a clear mind. The Vedas explain that people have various desires. People are ready to make all efforts to satisfy their desires. However, why should one go about getting their desires satisfied? Why are people so prone to their desires for self-satisfaction? Even if the Vedas have prescribed a path to solve desires, it is better to be away from them and go on the path to reduce ignorance of the unreal. People must aim to come out of the clutches of ignorance.

According to Sri Ramakrishna, the world is gripped by three diseases, which prevents many from attaining salvation. The first is: attraction between male and female persons. The second is: running after wealth; and the third is: thirst for fame. For a few, despite earning loads of money, their intellect never grows in proportion to their wealth. The intellect has to become broader when the earnings increase. Otherwise the increase in wealth will be a disaster for the person. Immersed in

search of fame and wealth, the mind will never try to become calm and lose its desires. In other words it is difficult to bend the mind inwards.

Sri Ramakrishna would never praise anyone, as he believed that praises showered could lead to the downfall of the other person. "You have a weakness for getting praised, and hence you must make an effort to subdue that feeling. Even if you are unable to understand the cooperation extended to reduce this tendency. If you cannot then, I will reduce it," Ramakrishna said. Sri Ramakrishna is the real Guru. The summary of this is: you have certain weakness and you are unable to overcome them. If your devotion to God is complete, then God himself will erase those weak tendencies from you. For a guru to utter such comforting words require a lot of courage and conviction of the heart.

Every person wants happiness, peace and immense bliss, but is unaware of the path to reach them. Maharishis and Mahatmas emphasise that the immense bliss or the supreme happiness is one's heart itself. If you want to experience it then you must tune your mind towards the heart. Eating sugarcane will leave a sweet taste in the mouth, but will never give you're the supreme bliss. If eating sugarcane can lead you to supreme bliss, then many would have experienced it by now. Whenever your desires are fulfilled, then the mind will go to its birthplace, the heart. The heart is filled with peace and happiness, and the mind feels elated. But the mind does not stay there; it comes out of the heart. If you rely on the world for pleasure then peace and happiness will never be yours. You will have to keep experiencing unhappiness.

Keep a track on desires that give you pleasure as these cause weakness of the mind. Make efforts to reduce these tendencies so that they are not grabbed by the senses. If the senses begun enjoying these tendencies, then it is difficult to erase them completely. With the help of God, the force of such tendencies will gradually reduce and disappear. For example, you want to watch a movie. But instead of listening to the mind, think about the Lord, or read the Bhagawad Gita. Such distractions can reduce the desire to watch a film. However, to follow such an advice one requires having some renunciation and immense will power in them.

Anyone willing to gain spiritual knowledge must possess good qualities such as renunciation and a sense of discrimination. A person without a sense of renunciation cannot aspire for the supreme bliss in the heart. Through the course of life, one will witness happiness and unhappiness. These are strong emotions, and the highs and lows of life. The highs and lows of life will just drift away in the



journey of time. Sometimes, a person with no strength will seem winning while another who thinks will win may lose. This is the play of the past tendencies. Whatever happens in this life is the result of our past actions.

Ramana Bhagawan, without any knowledge of the self and spiritual practises, was bestowed with the supreme knowledge of the self. Bhagawan you were blessed with the knowledge of the self without any spiritual practice, however, we are struggling to stay focused on the path of realisation. Please let us know your efforts in realising this immense knowledge, pleaded a few devotees.

Bhagawan said, do not think I have not struggled for realising the supreme self. The struggle to gain the supreme knowledge must have been completed in the previous birth itself. For the Lord, all are equal. The person who bestowed me with this knowledge will bestow you too. This cannot be achieved through common intelligence. Your words, thoughts and deeds must be aimed to gain the grace of the Lord. Once you earn His grace, He will reveal the supreme knowledge to you.



If you are born in a wealthy or a poor family, the birth signifies that the body will have to go through unhappiness and happiness. This process is inevitable. To escape rebirth, the mind must progress beyond the temporary senses for a person. It is true that people who care for the welfare of others are born with a purpose. Such people have a body, and they have a knowledge that the present body does not belong to them. When Arjuna asked Krishna before the beginning of the Kurukshetra war, "how can I kill all great warriors and who are related to me such as Bheeshma and Drona". Krishna replied "They have already been killed. All you have to do is to kill these people who are already slayed by me." Arjuna was a great warrior. However, the work is done by the Lord for which Arjuna earns praise. The Lord is the director.

Take the examples of films. Directors of films work very hard, but it is the actors who gain fame. For every person the director is God. He is just within us. And all the work is done by him. What he has done is what we are claiming as our work. He is the reality and the body that we have is not real. It is an illusion. Krishna never lost the sense of his divinity in any adverse circumstances. That is he was well aware of his real identity. And as humans, when we get angry we lose our cool and control of our senses and body.

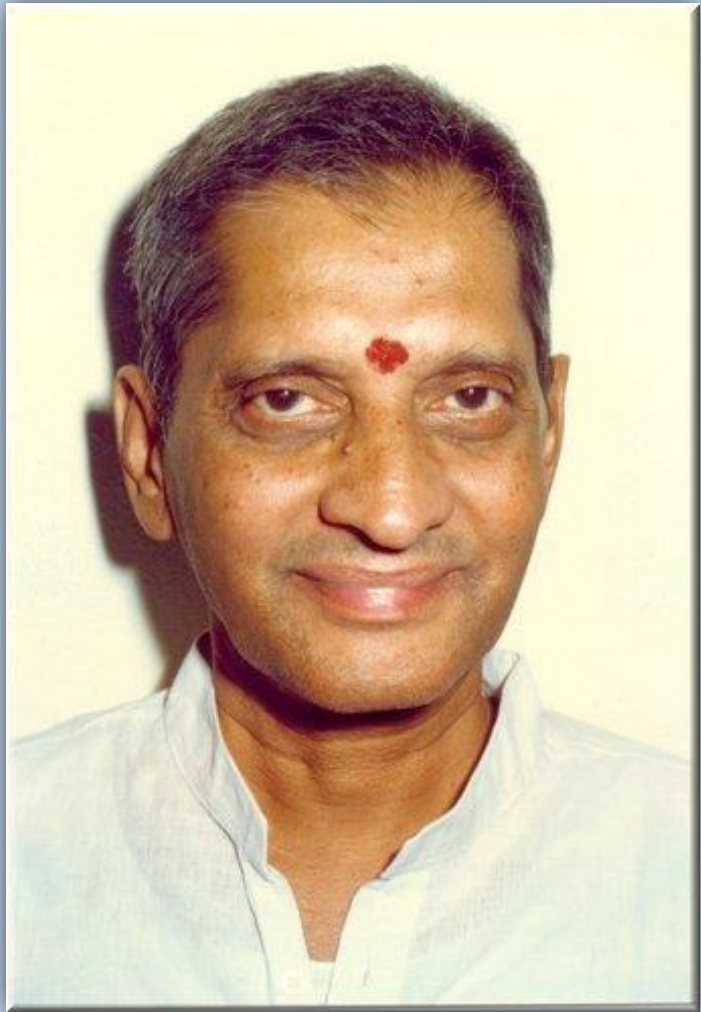
Control your feelings towards others, especially while doing any work. Your work must never reflect your likes and dislikes for others. Perform all duties to secure the grace of god. A few are more bothered about their money and assets and can never think about Krishna or Rama. There are many who get agitated. Their body is growing but there is no development of the intellect.

Today, children while rendering service to their parents expect something in return. They expect their mothers' jewellery or some token for their service. This is not true love. Jesus Christ entrusted the care of his mother (Mary) to a young disciple, before he left his mortal coil. . He told his mother that the disciple will be his son henceforth. The student to keep up his Masters' word served Mary for 11 years. This is called real love. One must have unconditional love towards any work performed. Such an action will bring about purity of mind.

Without this one cannot realise the true form of the real self. While constructing a house, the base must be strong. Therefore, without a strong base it is difficult to attain the knowledge of the real self.

You will realise your weakness while performing a task. Through gradual efforts you can overcome your weakness. However, without doing the work assigned to you, plain talking will never allow you to realise your weakness. You must be able to deliver through your work. Sitting idle will make one lazy. As long as you have strength in your body you have to continue to do your work. Once your mind becomes pure, the supreme knowledge will engulf you even without asking for it.

To understand, comprehend and find reason depends on the deeds of every person's past. In our epic Ramayana, Queen Kaikeyi adored Lord Rama more than her son Bharata. However, on the day of the coronation of Rama, after listening to Mandara, she changed her mind. But, why should the mind of Kaikeyi change on listening to Mandara? The intellect of Kaikeyi took a turn due to the actions performed in the past. Rama explained to Laxmana that Mother Kaikeyi was affectionate towards them, and she changed suddenly. This change could perhaps be the result of the past deeds as this body (Rama's and Laxmana's) has a purpose in the jungles. He calmed Laxmana, asking him not to develop negative emotions on this issue, as the will of God prevails in all deeds.





The words of Ramana Bhagawan to his mother will elevate us in times of adversity. Each person has to undergo a set of events in this life depending on their past actions. If a thing is to occur, it happens and that which is not destined to happen will never happen. India is a land of holy places. However, the deeds of my (Ramana Bhagawan) past have made me stay at Arunachalam. This is the will of god. No person is independent. Everyone is a puppet in the hands of God.



You have the right to work. You have taken birth to finish your work on earth. Even if you become lazy the lord will ensure you finish your work here. Hence, complete the work entrusted to you with happiness. Krishna has revealed a great secret. Perform all your duties with happiness. Such a process will reduce your past tendencies and disallow you from forming new ones. This is what we have to learn. Even when you do not like a person, your service towards such person should be performed with a clean heart. This process will prevent you from having another birth. For example, if you have to serve coffee to your mother-in-law, give it with love.

The fishes in order to avoid the force of gushing water jump up and fall back into the river. Similarly, if one can jump out of the mind's thoughts, then that person will go

into a world of no mind. It is because of the mind that the world comes into play. The place where there is no mind is the place where God dwells. Perform the work allotted to you with a proper frame of mind devoid of any emotions or expectations. Never think about a task that has not been allotted to you. It is the play of God to determine what is entitled to you in this life. Even if you have a strong desire to make a fortune of Rs 300 crores, you can succeed only if God wills to give you so much. You on your own cannot succeed in the task. If you are not worthy of receiving such an amount, it will never happen. Never compare yourself with others. Be content with what you have. Never believe that you have succeeded in all your endeavours. It is the grace of God that has allowed you to achieve the progress in your life.

Never expect rewards for your effort. Always adopt a balanced view in your journey of life. Despite facing hurdles or tasting success, your reaction must always be composed. The mind must never be carried away with success and sulk while facing obstacles in work. There must be action but not

reaction. Discipline is another aspect required on the path of spiritual journey. It is difficult to proceed on the journey of life without discipline.

How can you enjoy immense bliss and peace when you cannot part with a small sum of Rs 10? Learn to share. How can one aspire for peace when they cannot share with others? What will you do when you have no one to take what you have? Similarly, when you have no knowledge of the real self, do not try to preach others on the subject with mere bookish knowledge. Sri Ramakrishna would never allow people to speak on the subject and would admonish them saying “who gave you the right to speak on the subject?”

As one puts in efforts to earn money, equal if not more efforts are required to be invested in imbibing good qualities. This will help in progress of achieving a state of no tendencies. One can reach the stage wherein the person can witness the stage of no life even with this body.

**Courtesy: Ambica Udaynarayan**