

## 0.11. RESPECT FOR OTHERS

### 0.11.1. Introduction

Respect is of great importance in everyday life. As children we are taught to respect our parents, teachers, and elders, school rules and traffic laws, family and cultural traditions, other people's feelings and rights, our country's flag and leaders, the truth and people's differing opinions.

We develop great respect for people we consider exemplary and lose respect for those we discover to be clay-footed; and so we may try to respect only those who are truly worthy of our respect. We may also come to believe that, at some level, all people are worthy of respect.

Calls to respect this or that are increasingly part of public life: environmentalists exhort us to respect nature, foes of abortion and capital punishment insist on respect for human life, members of racial and ethnic minorities and those discriminated against because of their gender, sexual orientation, age, religious beliefs, or economic status, demand respect both as social and moral equals and for their cultural differences. And it is widely acknowledged that public debates about such demands should take place under terms of mutual respect. We may learn both that our lives together go better when we respect the things that deserve to be respected and that we should respect some things independently of considerations of how our lives would go.

### 0.11.2. Why Should We Respect Others?

Having been born as a human being and having been a member of the society, he has to be one with the social environment. This one can achieve only when he adjusts with fellow beings and gives respect to them.

To be a happy individual, one has to adjust with his friends, relatives, neighbours, and colleagues, etc and give due value to their ideas and actions. In fact being in society itself means a community life which calls for mutual understanding, cooperation and respect.

Without liking for others, life loses its value and charm. Whatever one thinks and does for himself and his family requires a framework of values for the society. When one values others and gives respect to them, life will be smooth and worthy of living.

Others deserve our respect, our regard, our good thinking about them. It is our moral duty to treat them with respect in order to spread joy and happiness in the family as well as the society. Without mutual respect, there will be chaos in the society in particular and the world at large.

**Comment:** When we respect others we will be making our lives smooth and sublime. Living in isolation is of no avail. Involving too much also is not desirable. One should live in proportion to one's standing in society. This calls for higher values of friendship, sacrifice, empathy, sympathy, forgiveness, generosity, patience, tolerance, equality, integrity, and contentment.

*"Three keys to more abundant living: caring about others, daring for others, sharing with others." - William Arthur Ward*



## 0.12. LIVING PEACEFULLY

### 0.12.1. Introduction

Before we discuss 'peace', let me share a story. A Legend goes that when God was creating Man he decided to bless him with exceptional talents, skills, gifts in bounty and accessible to almost everything. When it came to peace, he decided to keep it in a place where man could never reach it. There were many suggestions put forth. One thought was to place it high on a mountain, beyond the reach of man. While one was to place it deep below in the ocean where man wouldn't dare to fathom while another was to place it deep in a gorge, where man wouldn't go. God smiled and said there is no such place on earth that man would not look for and reach it. The only place he could find was in a man's mind. This is a place where man will never look and never find it. Most of us would agree with it. Our past and present tells us about mans' adventure, conquests, inventions, research, giant studies in science and technology. But when it comes to living peacefully as neighbors, as society, as neighboring countries...it leaves much to be desired.

### 0.12.2. Concept Of Peace

Peace can be said to be a passive state of mind. Yet it has its own strength and power. It has a great influence on mind, brainpower and also the environment around. An agitating mind does not work properly, while a peaceful mind can work efficiently. Good ideas take shapes in a peaceful mind giving birth to good results.

Living peacefully is not only individual, but collective. Individual peace can lead to collective peace and vice versa. Living in peace collectively is essential if something meaningful is to be achieved out of meetings, gatherings, and organizational and institutional activities.

We usually tend to be noisy in meetings and collective activities. As a result nothing worthwhile is achieved at the end of such meetings resulting in waste of time, energy, and money. Now-a-days even parliaments and official meetings the world over are sorry scenes of noise and unrest. These bodies, which are supposed to represent the society and the nation to look after the welfare, seem to have forgotten their responsibilities and missions. So also in society at large, activities of unrest, arson, loot, destruction of valuable public and private properties have become order of the day.

Peace can be achieved by rational thinking and adhering to strict moral values. Mind should be controlled and directed towards constructive thinking, ideas and working. In this direction, study of good books, lives of great men, self-respect, attitude of responsibility towards society and the nation will help a great deal.

Peace should be our way of life. Almost all regions teach the importance of living peacefully in human life. The bible tells us about 'an eternal life on a paradise earth living in peace and harmony'. Hinduism tells us "OM VISHWAM SHANTI! MASTU" which means 'let the world prevail in peace'.

*"Unless you can find some sort of loyalty, you cannot find unity and peace in your active living." - Josiah Royce*