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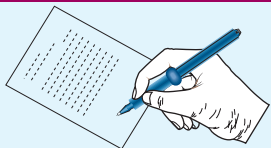
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Observe Discipline, the Path of Progress

For welfare and progress, a life of discipline is very essential whether it be an individual, a group, a society or a nation. For that matter it may be a case of the world.

It may be mentioned that for want of a discipline, most of our country men appear dejected, pulled down or without any enthusiasm. They seem to be having no goal of life.

It is a well known fact the three factors—Family, atmosphere, educational system and political thinking go to form the personality of persons.

In the family the individual learns to live in discipline, to obey elders and to lead a cooperative and tolerant life. These things go a long way in making the individual useful to the society and the nation. Aristotle has rightly said that “State is an enlarged form of the family.” The present development of civilization owes much to the good traditions and development of the families from generation to generation.

To draw out the best, specially the latent powers of the child ought to be the main function of an educational system. To make a perfect man of an individual has also always, been considered the chief aim of education. The aim of the education is the all round development of the individual. This, like the family, goes a long way in making the individual an useful instrument in giving proper and designed shape to the nation. The present system of education, which is the legacy of the British rule has been only partially useful in this respect. Although many people find faults in the present system of education yet we will say that the present system has its own merits. In case otherwise it should not have produced big persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekanand, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi and others. Looking at different aspects of the role in the development of the person and the state it may be very easily said that discipline in family and education life has a great role to play in the formation of the person, society and the nation.

In the present set up of the society, politics and political thinking have acquired top priority. From the personal life the national interests all depend on politics. We can easily say that the life of the nation has become politically biased. Herbert Spencer had foreseen the present conditions when he wrote, “You may leave politics, the politics will not leave you.”

Family, education and politics play a crucial role in the formation of a person. To play their full role all these three must have a discipline. Discipline is the only one thing that makes one's life worth-living. In both, peace and war, discipline is necessary. What is true of the individual is equally true of the society in which we live, move and have our being. No society can progress without discipline on the part of its members. History bears eloquent testimony to the fact that societies which became subject to indiscipline went ultimately to ruins.

The multi party system in our country has made confusion worse confounded. The main reason is that the party leaders have very little sense of discipline, they have little respect for the declared objects of the party and are only running after seeking self and power. The result is that they are hardly making any social or national progress and are fast losing values of life.

People are often heard to say that the present politics has no place for the intelligent or the intellectual. They often are unpalatable metaphors for the political system. Be as it may, the political life of the country has failed to make any contribution for discipline of the people at large.

We should pause a little to think how far our family life, educational system and political system have been successful in disciplining people and develop in them the human quality. The answer may be disappointing but we need not be dejected. History tells us that there were times when things had gone worse—But people of firm determination led a life of strict discipline and thus impacted their neighbourhood. In the modern times Mahatma Gandhi has been a glaring example of such people. He by his personal example made many persons to lead a disciplined life which ultimately formed a big discipline party.

Education means drawing out of all latent powers and all round development of faculties of the human being. It means that certain rules and regulations are to be followed where proper education is concerned. This is nothing but observing a certain discipline. On the path of meditation or spirituality, some discipline, namely Raj Yoga, Dhyana Yoga, Bhakti Yoga or Hath Yoga is to be followed. Where development is concerned, discipline plays a very important role.

They say that humanity has become civilized through discipline. We forget that the persons whom we call natives or man of jungle also follow certain rules of conduct and are in a way leading a disciplined life. In the community of aboriginals, certain rules of discipline and conduct are followed. In short, where there is human society, there is discipline, because without it, no life is possible.

When there is no discipline, there is confusion, disorder and ultimately war, but in war also certain rules are to be followed, the soldiers lead a life of ‘do or die’ discipline and then fight the war. In short, in both, disorder and peace, discipline is indispensable. Therefore, let us remember that discipline is the life blood of the human society, without it, no life is possible.

