

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



December 13, 2017

Diligence is Never Defeat

Human beings are blessed with different sorts of potentials and capacities. However, all their potentials can go in vain if there are no true efforts to use them for appropriate purposes and goals. Nevertheless, the consistency in the efforts and the will to stand strong in front of the challenges and problems are more important than the greatness of the objectives. People desire great achievements; they wish for greatness and even set to acquire impossible gains; nevertheless, there are only few who are actually able to reach their destinations. There are so many factors that can decide whether they reach to their destinations or not, but the role of iron will, determination and diligence is the most dominating one.

At the same time, it should also be kept in mind that there is no easy way to great achievements. People may be fooled by the stories of the heroes that can turn the hell to heaven within days, but within a social setting, determined by the social circumstance, human beings have to go through the hell to reach the heaven. They can be challenged under tough circumstance; they can lose trust and even be broken; however, not the ones who make efforts tirelessly. They may come up short at first and fall again subsequent to ascending for the second time, yet they can never surrender. Not surrendering implies that there is dependably an expectation and the ways to endowments are never shut.

An individual, with determination and iron will, needs to lose nothing. Regardless of whether he neglects to accomplish what he has set for, which appears to be exceptionally unrealistic, he loses nothing, as through the experience, he gains a significant endowment of persistence and diligence.

Additionally, such a man is never unsettled as he has had confidence and expectation alive inside himself and he has procured the nature of keeping his spirits high and his determination undefeated. As a matter of fact, "the cost of accomplishment is diligent work, devotion to the current task, and the assurance that whether we win or lose, we have connected the best of ourselves to the job that needs to be done."

You may have heard the tale of a man who was digging at a particular place looking for gold and in the wake of burrowing for some days and being just few inches far from an extensive chest of gold had surrendered. He had lost expectation and, in this manner, the open door and the reward. The reward is dependably for the individuals who sit tight for it and for the individuals who gain it. Indeed, what he had lost was not the gold but rather the assurance.

Lamentably, today the new age that is living in a quick-moving mechanical world, does not have the stamina for constancy. People in the modern world are dependably looking for alternate routes. They want to procure all the achievement and riches inside no time. They don't appear to have the demeanor to gain their prizes through untiring endeavors. That is the reason we see them lost in their creative abilities far from this present reality and more often than not we discover them engaged with such huge numbers of illicit and non-moral exercises to accomplish what they want in a limited capacity and in no time.

So as to accomplish their convenient objectives, they bring forth such a large number of other social shades of malice, which they don't appear to acknowledge as they are inebriated with the medication of their very own advantages. Such a demeanor has, in all actuality, maligned the social textures and the race for the accomplishments of individual objectives has picked up force, however, that has resulted in the defeat of ordinary social life.

People in our society resemble the individuals who used to have a hen that laid a brilliant egg each day. Yet, the individual was not sufficiently understanding to hold up and get one brilliant egg a day. In this manner, he concluded that he would butcher the hen and get all the brilliant eggs at once. Lamentably, when he butchered the hen and cut its stomach, he couldn't discover even a solitary egg.

In any case, it is additionally imperative that the steady and relentless endeavors must be guided towards the correct heading. There must be preparatory comprehension of what focus to pick and what heading to take after. Indiscriminately following a wrong way and seeking after a wrong focus with diligence would just mean wastage of hard work and even resources.

Given that the objective is appropriate and the course is legitimately picked, there is no uncertainty in the way that diligent work and untiring undertakings would empower a man to accomplish even the most troublesome focuses on the planet. Nothing is outlandish in this world. Firm assurance, it is stated, can move paradise and earth.



Reviving Moral Values

By Hujjatullah Zia

It is beyond doubt that humans show natural tendencies towards beauties does not matter whether it is internal or external beauty. In other words, one naturally feels a strong spiritual thirst which is only satiable through religious practices. For instance, honesty, selflessness, moral nobility and so on are emphasized by all religions and such moral values are praised by all human beings.

An inner feeling impels one to show kindness and sympathize to other humans and animals in one way or another. Whenever we respond to this urge positively, we feel satisfied and happy; otherwise our conscience continuously reproaches and pricks.

Furthermore, one naturally hates unethical conduct such as dishonesty, hypocrisy, falsehood, and crime and corruption. Surprisingly, even if one is deep in moral crimes, deceiving and harming others, parallel to that one does not want to be deceived or harmed at all.

Unfortunately, the simplicity and pureness of nature is eroding in the world of lust, hypocrisy, crime, jealousy, prejudice, moral corruptions, etc. People trample upon moral feelings and conscience, so gradually crime and evil become second nature for them. Then, they feel restless and guilty for committing crime, harming human beings, violating human rights and shedding blood. Gradually, their nature turns so cruel that they find solace in their inhuman and deadly actions. Yes, 'Man is man's wolf.' How correctly the Holy Qur'an says that those who yield to lust after evil and immoral ways shall become worse than animals. The Holy Qur'an also adds that those who follow their moral feelings of spirituality, they will rise higher than angels.

Currently, we live in the era of inhumanity. Human beings lack virtue and piety and moral standard is below zero. Honesty is a bogus word which is used to trick people. The sanctity of love is broken widely and it is a word which is used by actors and actresses in the cinema. In other words, love has changed into lust and descended from soul into body. Hence, love is used to prey on our fellows rather than to pray to our God.

Moreover, people are so irresponsible and unconcerned about the difficulties their neighbors and fellows suffer from. The good example for this can be the skyscrapers built among the homes which are in a shambles. Of course, those who live in the mud-built houses will suffer from serious poverty and may sleep hungry especially in the cold nights of winter. But does the rich who live in the luxury apartments know about their difficulties?

I believe that, on the one hand, some people suffer from serious hunger and on the other hand some suffer from overeating in our society.

However ridiculous this comparison seems but it shows the contrast between the rich and poor in our society. The wide gap between these two classes fills one with great dependency. Doesn't this fact reflect a society's lack of concern and moral codes?

Martin Luther King says very aptly, "All our tasks are so intertwined no matter where we are in the society, in our churches, in our factories. If one of us does not do our task well it brings down the entire group. At the same time if for some reason one of us is having a genuine difficulty in accomplishing our task, it is important for the others to pitch in and help out in order that the wheels of progress are not slowed down or stopped. Just imagine for a second how an automobile cannot move if we get a flat in one of the tires even though the remaining three tires are fine."

Human beings have a deep religious mission in their lives which must be achieved properly. They are expected to nurture their talents and use human achievements for the benefit of others. They have to upgrade their moral standards through worshipping God, respecting people's rights and performing selfless service to society.

Hence, it is time for us to revive our conscience and polish our souls from the dirt of vice. Mahatma Gandhi says nicely, "There are times when you have to obey a call which is the highest of all, i.e., the voice of conscience even though such obedience may cost many a bitter tear, and even more, separation from friends, from family, from the state to which you may belong, from all that you have held as dear as life itself. For this obedience is the law of our being."

"It wants not merely microscopic but telescopic power to know humanity in its essence; a power to discern its grandeur as well as its littleness, the infinity of its relations as well as the meanness of its pursuits. The human soul is a great deep. We must take into view the nebulous possibilities that are brooding and waiting there, and notice the buds and films of light that reveal themselves even in the darkest spaces" E. H. Chapin rightly said.

I would like to conclude my article with the nice saying of Emile Durkheim, "Man's characteristic privilege is that the bond he accepts is not physical but moral; that is, social. He is governed not by a material environment brutally imposed on him, but by a conscience superior to his own, the superiority of which he feels. Because the greater, better part of his existence transcends the body, he escapes the body's yoke, but is subject to that of society."

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The Myth of a Fossil Fuel Phase-Out

By Samuele Furfari

How the world uses energy is a hot topic for a warming planet, and fears of pollution and resource strain have produced a virtual arms race of energy-efficiency strategies. From the European Union to China, economies are vowing to reduce their energy intensity with the help of technological innovations and legislative changes.

Yet, despite these promises, consumer demand for energy is forecast by the International Energy Agency to rise until at least 2040. With the world's energy needs growing, how can policymakers guarantee supply?

To put it bluntly, the world has nothing to worry about when it comes to reserves. After 40 years of fearing energy shortages, we have entered an era of abundance. We need to guard against false narratives, not scarce resources.

The culprit of this storyline is the Club of Rome, a global think-tank that, in the 1970s, spurred energy anxiety with its absurd prophecies derived from questionable models. As devoted followers of Thomas Malthus and Paul Ehrlich, the club argued that bad things come from exponential growth, and good things from linear growth.

This idea fueled the prediction that the world would run out of oil by 2000.

By adopting this nonsense dogma, developed countries enabled resource-rich authoritarian leaders like Muammar el-Qaddafi in Libya, and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran, to use their oil reserves as tools to oppose the West – and particularly its support for Israel. This contributed to the oil shocks of the 1970s, and reinforced the erroneous perception that hydrocarbon reserves were even more limited, and largely confined to the Middle East.

Rapid advances in technology, particularly in the field of exploration and the ability to extract hydrocarbons in new places, eventually upended such narratives. Today's energy "crisis" stems not from shortages, but from anxiety over pollution.

But this anxiety has not slowed our exploration habits. On the contrary, politics and international law, like the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, have been adapted to enable discovery. Consider, for example, the Rovuma gas field off the coast of Mozambique.

Today, a consortium of international companies from countries including Italy and China is preparing production, and one of Africa's poorest countries is set to reap huge rewards.

Similarly, Israel, once thought to be the only place in the Middle East without hydrocarbons, is sitting on 800 billion cubic meters of offshore gas reserves, more than 130 years of the country's current annual gas consumption. Once a net energy importer, Israel today faces the very real challenge of exporting its gas bonanza.

But perhaps the biggest technology-driven upheaval for global energy markets in recent years has come from shale

gas and shale oil production in the United States. At 8.8 million barrels per day, US oil production is now higher than that of Iraq and Iran combined. US shale gas is being delivered to Asia, Latin America, and parts of Europe. These markets were long locked up by Qatar, Russia, and Australia, but now the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry, like the oil market, has entered a period of over-production.

Taken together, these developments have contributed to lower energy prices, and reduced the strength of OPEC. Furthermore, because LNG is favored by the transport sector (particularly freight and maritime shippers) for environmental reasons, the ability to use oil as a geopolitical weapon has disappeared. Iran was so desperate to ramp up its oil exports that it agreed to abandon its nuclear program (strikingly, the Iran nuclear deal mentions the word "oil" 65 times).

Wind and solar are often presented as alternatives to oil and gas, but they cannot compete with traditional sources for electricity generation.

If they could, there would be no reason for the EU to support renewable energy production through legislation. Moreover, while wind and solar technologies generate electricity, the biggest energy demand comes from heating. In the EU, for example, electricity represents only 22% of final energy demand, while heating and cooling represents 45%; transportation accounts for the remaining 33%.

All of these factors help explain why fossil fuels, which currently meet more than 80% of the world's energy needs, will remain the backbone of global energy production for the foreseeable future.

This may not come as welcome news to those pushing for an immediate phase-out of hydrocarbons. But perhaps some solace can be gained from the fact that technological innovation will also play a key role in reducing the negative impacts on air and water quality.

Amid the global conversation about climate change, it is understandable that developed economies would promise significant gains in energy efficiency.

But while the EU may be committed to reducing CO2 emissions, other signatories of the 2015 Paris climate agreement do not seem as resolute. It would not be surprising if most of the signatories actually raised their energy consumption in coming years, turning to fossil fuels because they cannot afford any other option.

Energy policy will remain on the agenda for advanced economies for many years to come. But as countries work to balance security of supply with environmental goals, they must also commit to getting their facts straight. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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