



A S Rajagopalan Idea Series

IDEA – Can you be late? #39

The father with palpitating heart and full of emotion pacing in the hospital waiting room. He saw a doctor entering in a hurry, after being called in for an urgent surgery. The surgeon quickly changed his clothes and was rushing into the operating room.

The dad saw that and quickly jumped on the surgeon, “Why it took so long for you to come? *Don’t you doctors know, patients are more important than your fun! * Don’t you realize my son’s life is on the edge! Don’t you have any sense of moral responsibility?”

The surgeon smiled and replied, “I was not on duty at the hospital and rushed in immediately as soon as they called me. And now, I wish you calm down and allow me to do my job.” “Calm down” the father shouted, “what if your son is on the table there! Imagine what would you do, if your son dies waiting in there for the doctor? The surgeon smiled and said, *Life is in the hand of God. We, doctors can’t prolong any one minute more than what He decides!* But we are doing our job earnestly, *hoping God’s grace will be there.”* The father murmured, *It is so easy to throw advice when you are not involved”. *

It was a long successful surgery. Finally the surgeon came out and with a rejoicing tone addressed the father. "Thank God, your son is saved. He is alive now". The surgeon as he spoke was rushing out and told, "If you have any questions, ask the nurse" and left the building.

The father with an exhaustive tone said, “Can’t he spare even a minute to update the status of my son? What an arrogant fellow!”

The nurse overhearing all these answered the father with a broken voice, “You know, the surgeon lost his beloved wife yesterday on cancer. Today he was in the middle of burial when we made urgent call for him to come immediately. And now he did and saved your son’s life. *Now he is rushing back to complete the burial.”*

Moral: *Never judge anyone,* because you never know how their life is and what they are going through!

Ps: Duty and moral obligations are very critical for any man in their life. Our sanAtana dharma put a heavy emphasis on their importance in personal life too. Starting from “sathyam vada dharmam chara” {speak the truth, follow the righteousness} which is applicable for everyone to classified duties

based on varNAsrama dharma needs to uphold by everyone. For example, sandhiya vandanam, is so essential for the male trivarnikas having the yajnopavitham. This ritual, duty of the performer is dependent on the time of the day. Our sages say, *even in the middle of antima samskaram of one's mother, it can be, and should be interrupted if the sandhiya vandam is called for at that time.* The duty (or the loan) we need to pay for devas, rishis and pitrus needs to be followed including prapannas. And with the exception of pitru karyam those are applicable for Sri vaishnava sanyasis too.

***IDEA – Hare and tortoise, the famous story, never ends!* #40**

We all know the famous hare and tortoise story from our childhood. Both had a race to determine who is faster and agreed to run on a route. The hare went ahead, but took rest under a tree and fell asleep. Meanwhile the tortoise slowly pushed itself towards the winning line and claimed victory. The hare woke up and realized it lost the race.
Moral: slow and steady win the race

Well, let us continue. The disappointed hare did some thinking and found that he lost due to his overconfidence and carelessness. So, he challenged the tortoise for another race and both agreed. This time, the hare went as a straight shot from beginning to end nonstop and won the race.
Moral: Good to be slow and steady but not always. It's better to be fast and reliable, sometimes.

We continue further. Now the disappointed tortoise did some soul-searching. So, the tortoise challenged the hare again, but slightly on a different route. Hare, as determined as he, ran fast at his top speed. But he came to the bank of a river. The finishing line is on the other side of the river. Hare got confused and sat there wondering. Meanwhile, the tortoise slowly came up and swam through the river, reached the goal and won the race.

Moral: Identify your strength and core competency change the playing field.

Oh well, the story doesn't end there. By this time the hare and tortoise have become good buddies. Both did some thinking together. They try to devise the best method for the last race. Both sought advice from a sage (noble man). He advised if they work as a team it would be beneficial for both. So, the first half the race on the land, hare carried the tortoise, and in the second half of the race on the water, tortoise swam carrying the hare. Lo and behold, both won the race, and both reached the destination at the quickest pace.

Moral: However individually the skills are great, in many times it is good to work as a group, harnessing the individual competencies of everyone. But you need a leader to show the vision and get the best out by synchronizing everyone.

ps:

To achieve success, you don't need to be a genius! Change the focus from strong enemies to your own strength. Do things on your own way rather than trying to emulate others. When we talk about sampradaya, tell the greatness of it and stop blaming or putting down others. *Concentrate on how we can be a better person than complaining about others. * That is at the individual level.

You can't achieve everything by a single man. *You need a group (gOshti). You need a leader (guru, AcAryA) and you need to have the same vision (prapatti and mOksham). And above all, you need commitment, loyalty and happiness in doing the work.*

8/17/18, 12:06 PM - A S Rajagopalan: ps: We all learn so many strategies and tactics handled by bhagavad bhAshyakArar - where to hit straight, where to move away, where to wait, where to send others, where to join the whole force, and where to tap individual strength. Without AcAryA, the general of the battalion, efforts would be futile.

***IDEA – mantra to solve all problems* #41**

There was a farmer lived with his family. He wanted to be free from all problems and worries of the world. One day he saw, his friends were all sitting down under a banyan tree and listening to an old saint. He wanted approach the saint and ask for a mantra to solve all of his problems. After the session is over, when the saint was alone at last, the farmer immediately jumped into the feet of the saint.

The farmer was pleading like a child. And the saint smiled like a father. The farmer wanted to pour down all his problems in front of him. He started saying, "I don't like my wife, she always curses me; I tell my children and they never listen to me; I work hard all day but my fields are not fertile enough; I am surrounded by people who are always jealous of me, I don't have much savings after working all these years, I.." He was about to add more, but stopped, because he couldn't control his tears and broke down.

Patently listening to all these, the saint replied, "Son, you should not be attached to the things. Leave the things that you cherish and follow the path of dhrmA."

The farmer heeded to the saint's advice, returned home and immediately packed his belongings. Very determined was he, told his wife and children in a firm voice that he is leaving everything – wife, kids, home, land etc. He imagined that he has transformed into a saint, and proud of dropping everything at a snap without a second thought.

The farmer newly turned saint was walking and walking and tired after a long day towards unknown destination. He forgot to pack food and bed. For a moment, he thought of returning, but his ego crushed that thought. Losing most of his energy and ravenously hungry, the farmer slept under a tree. In the morning someone shook him up. He saw the old saint who advised him was standing there.

The saint enquired about his condition and the new look. The farmer was angry and was lamenting to the saint. "I left my wife; I left my children; I left my land; I left my wealth;" and he couldn't continue further as tears broke out. The saint smiled and advised, "Son, go back to your wife and apologize to her; spend an entire day with your kids; seed and cultivate the land with full focus. Not all these, I wanted you to leave, but to leave the things that make your life. *I wanted you to leave the "I" that you use all the time.* The farmer was confused. The saint continued, "The best friend for you can be that "I" and unfortunately, it can be the your worst enemy too".

Some years passed, and the old saint was never seen. But in his place, under the banyan tree, our farmer was sitting and listening to the problems of his friends and was *preaching the same advice.* Moral: *Most important thing to renounce is "I" and probably that is the last thing is ever considered, if at all.*

Ps: sanyAsAsram is not leaving everything and running to forest. In fact, *a sanyasi needs to indulge more with people and things, but with a thought "na mama."* The attitude of serving everyone without any expectation in return is the core of sanyAsramam; and not the public announcement, robe or name calling. Look at *svAmi desikA – gruhastA dharmam and sanyAsi qualities.*

***Idea – anyatA sambandhA *(affinity to other things) - *{Opposite of na mama*} #42**

The efficacy of prapatti is valid as long as the prapannan is not doing bhagavad and bhAgavatAs apacArams. Among the apacarams towards bhagavAn, the foremost is defined as liking, connection, link, association, friendship to other lower devatAs (in fact all other devatAs are lower, we learned in paradevata pArmArthyadikAra in SRTS and that is why we did prapatti to Lord Srlman nArAyaNA. He is THE only one who can grant mOksham).

Now, anyatA sambandham in case of worldly pleasures is what we will discuss here. It is a *continuation of (answer to) yesterday's writing of IDEA – mantrA to solve all problems (na mama*) farmer example.

Many times, we have eluded prapatti is like the wedding – It is AtmA wedding, where bhagavAn is the purushan (husband) and we, all jlvAs are patnI (wife), similar to deha vivAham.

Deha vivAham – deha husband and deha wife {for example say sItA and rAmA}

Atma vivaham – Atma husband, Atma wife (paramAtmA, jlvAtmA)

But pAtivrata dharmam is far more important for the Atma wife than the deha wife. Will explain them here

1. sItA may love *her* profession, wealth, brother, mother, sister etc. more than rAmA. In many instances, rAmA may not care or powerless and could not do anything. Now compare that to Atma vivAham, who is the wife? We jlvAs are. What we like? Worldly things. We like worldly things more than the husband!! Unlike rAmA, the paramAtmA does care if we indulge excessively on worldly pleasures and He has the ultimate power and authority.
 2. sItA does *not care about husband* – or his relations, work etc. Again here rAmA can't do much, because he is powerless. But in Atma vivAham, who is the husband? bhagavAn. Who are His relatives and likings? bhAgavatAs, good actions and dharmA. If we, the jlvAs does not care about paramAtmA's liking and His relatives, remember He does care and He is powerful.
 3. What is the solution here?
 - a. sItA changes herself and loves what rAmA likes. That is jlvAs change themselves and love only what paramAtmA loves. [anasuya's advice to sItA in Srlmad vAlmiki rAmAyaNA – "SitA, for a married woman, husband is everything"]
 - b. Next, does rAmA changes himself to love what sItA likes? Does paramAtmA changes Himself and loves what all the things jlvAtmA likes? Not so. At least not all of them. If the jlvAtmA deserves the reward and it is good for them, then He will (remember mAyA mayam and manO mayam from Uddhava gItA).
 - c. What is the ultimate solution? The things what rAmA and sItA both like are the same thing. In deha vivAham husband has to like all the things wife likes and vice versa. almost Impossible. That is why we have family feud. In Atma vivAha, when is it possible where paramAtmA and jlvAtmA likes the same ? – When jlvAtmA likes only what paramAtmA likes. That is derived by jlvAtmA saying, "I don't have any personal liking. Whatever You like, that is my liking too" – na mama
- So any action we do, the reward is not proportional to our performance, it is derived somewhat along with your prArabdha karma.
- Will explain more in next writing.

***IDEA - The mother* #43**

It was a big fancy restaurant where you could see all well-to-do were dining. In a corner, there was an old and feeble mother with her son sitting next to her. She was very clumsy with her shaky hands

dropping the food everywhere while eating, and making unpleasant gestures and sounds etc. Others in the restaurant felt the whole scene was very disgusting.

After the dinner, the son who was not embarrassed even a tiny bit, slowly cleaned the food from her clothes, rearranged the plates on the table and slowly took her to the wash room. There he cleaned her dress, hands and face. He paid the bill and slowly was walking out of the restaurant, holding his mother.

An old man, at that time who was eating inside called out and asked, "Hey Son, don't you think you have left something behind?" The whole restaurant burst into laughter imagining the clumsy act and unpleasant ambiance. The son politely replied, "No Sir. I haven't".

The old man replied, *Yes, Son. You have left a moral lesson for every son, and a loving hope for every mother".* The restaurant went silent

Moral: However great you may be today, don't forget the past and especially those who gave you the life and shaped you.

Ps: gAyatri mantra is called the mother of all mantAs and is the one protecting our body. It is utmost important for everyone who wears the yajJopavitam (pooNal) to perform the prescribed nitya karma. However busy one may be in one's professional life, reciting at least a minimum is recommended. bhagavAn has given this wonderful sariiram for us to be enjoyed 24 hours a day, and we give *just 24 minutes back to Him saying Thanks!*

***IDEA - Money in the bank* #44**

It was late in the evening and in a park bench, a man was sitting all with alone with his hands over his head. He seems to be taken over by deep misery and was very much upset. An old man passing by stopped and enquired why he is so depressed. He said, "I am a businessman and lost most of my money in bad deals and the debt is way over my head. I can't see any way out".

The old man was patiently listening to the awful narration, then replied, "Son, I believe I can help you". The old man asked his name and wrote a check saying, "Take this money. Go and work again on reviving your business. Meet me here exactly the same time one year from today and you can pay me back at that time." Saying these words, the old man quickly moved away. The startled businessman saw in his hand a check for \$1 million signed by Warren Buffett, one of the richest men in the world.

The businessman thought that he could cash in the check and instantly erase his worries. But another mind said, that this money is a sure thing. Keep it in a safe and give a shot working hard on the business once more. With renewed optimism, he toiled hard and dealt smartly on his deals. Within a few months, he was out of his debt and the business started moving in flying colors.

Exactly one year later, he returned to the park with the uncashed check and met the old man. But just as the businessman was about to hand over the check and share his success story, he saw a nurse came running and grabbed the old man.

She shouted, "I am so glad that I caught him now. I hope he is not bothering you. He is always escaping from the old age home and telling people that he is Buffett and giving check to everyone." She slowly led the old man away by the arm.

The businessman stood there shocked with an amazement. All year long he was wheeling and dealing, buying and selling, convinced that he had a million \$ behind him. Suddenly, he realized that it wasn't the real money, but the thought of having it, turned his life around. It was his belief that drove him to success.

Moral: *Sometimes, just the perception alone can bring magic.*

ps: prapatti guarantees mOksham, as we hear, but tough to convince by science or by any video. It is the faith in the philosophy, pramANAs and the elders that makes one to do saraNagaty and be a better person (DIP & DAP). Whether mOksham is there or not after death, but surely it turns around the behavior of the those who have done saraNagati. That is the real reward one can see right in front of their eyes. It is just like reading the last page of Agatha Christie novel first, then there is no charm in the rest of the book. It is *the expectation of the forthcoming ultimate bliss, that makes one to care less on the trivial and temporary pleasures of the world. *

***IDEA - The expert* #45**

A huge jumbo jet airplane was grounded. The owners of the plane tried several technical experts to repair to get the plane going. But no success. None of them could figure out the problem and the fix for the engine.

Then came an old repairman. He used to be repairing on propeller planes at his young age. He was carrying a huge bag of ancient tools and went straight to work.

He inspected carefully the engine location, up and down and the owners of the plane were eagerly gazing at him as he is their last hope. The old man after several minutes of inspection of going around, finally reached his tool bag. He pulled out a small hammer and gently tapped on the side of one of the jet engine blades. Lo and behold, the engine started kicking and run into full speed as if nothing was wrong before. It is fixed, the owners were gleaming with joy. The old man put the hammer in the bag and slowly walked out without asking for anything.

A week later, the owners got a bill for \$10,000 from the old man. One of the owners screeched from the bottom of his throat, "What! He barely did anything and that fool is demanding a ransom now?" They wrote a harsh response letter accusing the charge is so ridiculous and demanded an itemized bill.

Few days later, the old man sent the itemized bill:

Tapping with a hammer \$2

Knowing where to tap \$ 9,998

Total = \$10,000

Moral: *Effort is essential but not any more than where to make the effort.*

Ps: bhakthi is important and so is charity, good moral character, etc. But most people are clueless and don't realize that the punyA and pApA derived from those are not the panacea for liberation. The currency to get the ticket for permanent bliss is beyond all these called prapatti. That is why *our AcAryAs are so great, knowing where to tap the hammer!*

***IDEA – The race of life* #46**

I was going on my bicycle on a long straight road, as a casual exercise and noticed someone about half a mile ahead of me was going on a bike too. I could see that he was going slower than me. Suddenly an emotional kick sets in me and I wanted to catch him. I have a mile or so to go before taking a turn.

So, I started pumping on the pedal faster and faster. I was gaining on the speed and our gap was getting narrower. Now I am just only 100 yards away, and I put all my energy and almost standing up on the pedal. If someone was witnessing me, they may think I am practicing hard for Tour de France.

Finally, I caught up with him and quickly passed him by in a flash. For a moment, I felt victory, crowned as a champion in my own mind. "I beat him", a great feeling bubbling inside. But looking at him, he doesn't even know or care that we were racing! He was going as slow as he was before and didn't notice much about me.

Suddenly, I realized in my peak of adrenaline, so focused on competing and winning the race, I had missed my turn. I overshot six blocks and now I have to turnaround and go all the way back and was already late on my other daily chores!

Moral: *Most competition and race in our lives is self-inflicted.* It is a never-ending cycle. Always someone is above you and someone is below you. Ask yourself, what you are fighting for?

Ps: *For prapannAs, the rest of the stay on earth is so miniscule.* We are all having the boarding pass and traveling on the same plane. Some in 1st class and some in business and we are in economy. What is the difference it makes, when we reach the destination? Zip. *But during the journey each one according to their affordability (karmA) enjoys the travel.*

We unnecessarily focus on competing with other bhAgavatAs, co-workers, friends, family and trying to outdo them or trying to prove that we are more successful or more important! We spend our time, energy and emotion in *running after them in an imaginary competition,* and miss out our own path, life and commitments.

Remember there is always someone is going to have a better job, bigger house, nicer car, kinder spouse, better behaved children etc.! Don't be jealous but be happy for them. After all, bhagavAn gives everyone the whole pie. But doesn't cut the slices according to our wishes!

There is no competition in the ultimate destination (mOksham). *Run your own race, at your own pace and at your own content level. Wish others well.*