

A S Rajagopalan Idea Series

IDEA #82

A drop of water

Once there was a King and he had everything. He had also some nonstop hiccups. Many doctors and astrologers came by and couldn't get rid of the persistent hiccups. One doctor had a very good suggestion. "Give the King a shock treatment. Any jolting action on his body or mind will relax the nerves and the hiccups will be gone", he said.

But who is to bell the cat? Noone was even dare to speak in front of the King, and leave alone play a trick and give him a fright! One fool without knowing the situation and the implications volunteered happily to cure the King.

He had arranged to take the King on a boat ride alone. In the middle of the ocean, the fool pushed the King into waters. But help had been arranged to rescue the King within a few minutes and put him ashore in a warm bed. The fright, the cold dip and the rest in bed cured the King's hiccups.

Instead of being happy, the King was angry on the fool for his actions. He had commanded that the fool should be executed for pushing the King into waters. But the King confided secretly to his ministers that, "I will repay the fright with a fright". He had asked the executioner not to use axe to drop from the top, but instead use only one water drop fall on the fool's neck.

The fool was dragged into the gallows. The executioner dropped a drop of water on the fool's neck, and amidst shouts and laughter, the fool was asked to rise and thank the king for his kindness.

*But the fool never moved. He was dead *– killed by his master's kindness.

Moral

Pen is mightier than the sword;

a drop of water can be deadlier than an axe.

ps: bhagavan due to our persistent and infinite AjjanAdilankanNam (trespassing His commandments), is very angry on us. He is waiting to punish the cetanan (sentient being). But a drop of water, not just any water, but a drop of tear shed under His lotus feet, realizing the countless sins we have committed, and pleading for his mercy will change His whole attitude. Tons and tons of accumulated sins will be burnt to ashes with a single unconditional total surrender.

svAmi desikan in SRTS says, "Instead of taking a sword and hitting hard and wounding us severely, He will reconcile with hurting us just with a small poking with a thorn".

*prapatti is the only single weapon * against bhagavan's unique, unlimited, and unilateral power.

Intended punishments will change to unlimited rewards due to his extreme magnanimity. To

receive that, we need to equip ourselves as the right candidate (pAtram) with *Akinchanyam* (helplessness and utter destitute) and *ananya gatitvam* (no means or rewards other than Him).

***IDEA* #83**

Merchant and a donkey

There was a merchant who used to sell groceries. Every week, he goes and buys salt from the next town and sell it in his store. He had a donkey as the transporting vehicle. There were some streams on the way to reach his town.

One day, after a huge purchase the vendor was returning to his store. The donkey was loaded with heavy salt bags. While both of them were crossing the stream, the donkey could not walk, slipped and fell into the water. Huge portion of the salt got dissolved. When the donkey stood up, it felt the load is so light.

From that day onwards, whenever the merchant returned with a huge load, the donkey played the same trick. It tumbles down in the middle of the stream and the salt load became light. The vendor got suspicious.

One other day, the merchant bought huge bales of cotton, instead of salt. He loaded them on top of the donkey and both proceeded to their store. The donkey was thinking, "This load today is unusually very light. I am going to play the usual trick, tumble down in the water and make this load even far lighter."

In the middle of the stream, the donkey tumbled deliberately and fall down into the water. What a pity! When the donkey tried to get up, it can't. The load was pulling down the donkey to the water. The cotton absorbed the water and became heavier and heavier on each fall.

The merchant started giving hard beatings with his stick and make the donkey to get up and walk. The donkey learned a valuable lesson.

***Moral: Avoiding work leads to more work. ***

ps: Every human being is commanded to do some duties according to their status (varNasramA). Ignoring the duties, only will accumulate more. It will never go away. That is the primary reason why we are struggling and immersed in the cycle of birth and death (trespassing bhagavAn's commands).

One can be egoistic by neglecting the duties, but every inaction and wrong action (akarmA and vikarmA) is entered into the log book of assets and liabilities. As aDiyEn often used say, "brahmA azhinjAllum karma azhiyAdu" [Even brahmA may die, but not our karma].*

This is true even laukika (worldly) life also. *Procrastination only adds up more work*. aDiyEn remember the quote, "If it takes less than two minutes to do the job, just do and get rid of it" *

ps2: especially when prapatti is a kshaNa kAla kAryam

***IDEA* #84**

What did you say!

Once a banker was traveling on a train. It was nice first class fully a/c coach. He was alone. Some time later, a beautiful young lady came and sat in the same coach.

The banker was happy to see an young girl. The lady kept smiling at him! This made the banker even more happy!

Then she slowly moved and came and sat next to him. The banker was ecstatic and bubbling with joy.

She leaned slowly towards him and whispered in his ears, "Hand over all your money, credit cards and other valuables to me. Otherwise, I will shout now and make a scene that you are harassing and misbehaving with me.

The banker stared at her blankly!

He took out a piece of paper and a pen from his briefcase and wrote, "I can't hear or speak. Please you write down on this paper what you want to say!"

The young lady wrote everything what she said before and gave it to him.

Now the banker got up and told her firmly in clear tone, "Now you can go ahead and shout and scream!!!"

Moral: * *Don't try to trick someone, at the end you will be the one end up being tricked!
Without written proof of documentation, sometimes it is hard to decide even the truth.

***Ps*:** Essential need of documentation is very important in our religion too. Even vedAs, the highest pramANA is just merely based on sound. Our ancestors chose to decipher that sound into Sanskrit language. Similarly, our rahasya granthams, vyAkyanams and even stOtrAs and pAsurams were very well documented and preserved in many languages. Otherwise perverted explanations, adding and deleting from the originals will modify and will lose the true intent of the author. ***We thank not only the original author, but all our AcArya paramapara* who had done a magnificent task of "well-maintained" over centuries**

***IDEA - A great piece of advice* #85**

Watching an interview with a very successful hedge fund founder in financial markets. He said, the critical thing is "Not necessarily to know what you know, *but knowing what you dont know and learning".*

What an amazing insight, which in our sampradAyA uddAlaka advised his son svAtaketu some yugAs before. ***tat tvam asi vyAkyAnam in chAndOgya upanishad*** stresses to know the cause. If you know the cause then you will know all the effects. If you know clay, you will know the pots etc. manifested from that.

Anywhere from gajendrA cried out "Adi beejam" to vedic statement " kAraNam tu deya:" our sampradAyam chalkenges to implore the root cause. And so easily the politicians and businessman make the statement easily, "We will get to the bottom of this".

*Moral: Know the cause. *

ps:

1. Not satisfied with the effects, we intend to explore the brahmam.
2. The one from which everything came, and which sustains and absorbs within it is the brahmam.
3. And that brahmam is recognized through vedAs only.
4. And if you know brahmam, that is the ultimate rewards, eternal bliss.

Those are in essence the *explanations in Srl bAshyam* for the first 4 brahma sUtrAs.

***IDEA – Relationship* #86**

Once there were two brothers who lived on adjoining farm fell into a conflict. It was the first time a serious rift happened in 40 years. They were farming side by side, sharing machinery, labor and materials etc. Everything went well without a hitch, till then.

Their long-time collaboration fell apart. Started with a small misunderstanding and blew into major difference and finally it exploded into exchange of bitter words and followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was knock on the elder brother's door.

There was a young guy standing and said, "Sir, I am looking for a job for a few days and willing to work hard and accept whatever you pay me. You may have a few small jobs here and there and could I help you?"

The older brother said, "Yes. I do have some jobs for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. Not only that he is my dear brother. You know what, last week it was meadow there. He took a bulldozer to the river levee and now there is creek between us. Well, I know he has done that to spite me. But I will show, that I am always a step above him and teach him a lesson. See the pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want to build me a fence. Not a small one, but an 8 ft fence, so that I don't have to see my evil brother at all!"

Saying that, the older brother showed the materials to the carpenter and left for the town on a business. The carpenter was so busy the whole day measuring, sawing, nailing etc.

It was about sunset when the elder brother returned and the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide and his jaws dropped. There was no fence at all. Instead it was a bridge. Not an ordinary one, but a beautiful fine piece of work with hand rails etc., stretching from one side of the creek to the other! The elder brother remarked, "You are a quite a fellow to build this bridge, after all have said and done."

He saw his neighbor, his younger brother was coming across, his hand outstretched. The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge and they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They saw the carpenter hoist his tool bag on his shoulder.

"No, please wait. Stay for a few days," the older brother requested. "I would love to stay on Sir, but I have many more bridges to build," said the carpenter.

Moral: *Love is more powerful than anger, hate or revenge.* But may take time notice and realize.

Ps: Unlike other religions, SrivaishNava sampradAyam hinges on body-soul relation (sAriraka sAstram). bhagavAn is the AtmA (soul) and everything else is his sariiram (body). No need for any part of the body hurt any other, while both belong to the same owner. Bhagavad bhAsyArar starts the Sri bAshyam with saying, *"we should love all the creations of the God".* svAmi Desikan goes one step further. He says, *"We should love more the person who does more evil to us."* That is because without realizing he is taking away and transferring our sins to him. We should sympathize and be nice to their ignorant act!!!