



# A S Rajagopalan Idea Series

## **\*IDEA – Failure? Where??\* #87**

This is a story about two guys – very close friends, Ram and Krishna. Both were in the same class and graduated together from the same college...

But you know, life is so different!

Ram got a nice job paying six figure salary; Krishna could not find any decent job.

Ram was successful and surrounded by all friend; Krishna was a lone ranger and was alone most of the time.

Ram was the center of attention and attraction; Krishna failed to make even a few friends.

Ram was promoted and Krishna was doing some menial jobs

Ram invested in stocks, bonds and real estate; Krishna hardly earned anything to invest.

Ram lost most of his money one day in the market; Krishna was saving his egg nest, though it was tiny.

Ram was broke, Krishna built a small house; call it more appropriately a hut.

Ram desperately wanted to get married; Krishna was soon to be a father.

Ram went to depression and, bad habits; Krishna was enjoying his children.

Ram lost almost everything, Krishna found almost everything.

This may be just one scenario. You can imagine all possible outcomes and you get the drift.

Moral: \*Everyone faces setback in life; it is not the same time or in the same things. But you don't give up." \*

\*If you are not failing, you are not growing!\*

Ps: \*bhagavAn gives everyone the same pie. But doesn't slice the way we want it\*. Some slices are big, and some are small. \*Accept the total as a single pile.\* Avoid looking at someone else slice and making individual comparisons.

\*"kArpaNyam is called Akinchanya anusandanam\*" Destitute is taking effort and accepting the helpless state and requesting for help. saraNAgaty hinges on making this request to the Lord, \*as we are completely useless for any means (upayam) and don't even recognize the proper reward (phalan). \*

The thinner your slices are luckier you are, (as svAmi dEsikan says), and won't get caught up on ego and will turn most of your attention towards the Lord and not on worldly pleasures.

### **\*IDEA - sanyAsi and gold\* #88**

A sanyAsai (sage) was going through the roads of capital city. That country was ruled over by a famous King. Suddenly he found a gold coin lying on the road. He bends down and picked it up. The sanyasi has no need for the gold or any other wealth. He has already renounced everything.

He decided to donate that gold coin to someone who really needs it. He was wandering through several streets, but couldn't find anyone. It was evening and the sanyasi was tired and sat on a platform outside a house.

Within a few minutes, he heard a huge noise with drum beats etc. It was the King's procession with all the army, horses, elephants etc. He understood the King was going for a war and invasion of the neighboring country. The King ordered the army to be stopped, when he saw the sanyasi sitting over there.

He came next to the sanyasi, prostrated and said, "Oh! sanyasi, please bless me to be victorious. I am going to war with our neighbor and intend to expand my country."

The sanyasi smilingly handed over the gold coin to the King. The King was surprised. Somewhat annoyed and confused on the action of the sanyasi. What is the use of one gold coin, when the King already has tons and tons of wealth! He thought the sanyasi was making fun of him.

So, the King questioned, "What is the meaning of handing over this silly gold coin!" The sanyasi explained, "Oh! Great King, I found this on the street this morning. Since I have no use for this, I want to donate to a proper person, a real needy one. And now, when I see you not satisfied with what you have but a craving desire to get more, I felt you might be the appropriate person in need of this coin".

The King realized his mistake and backed off from his plan of invasion.

Moral: \*Enjoy what you already have\* rather than chasing for more and more. There are those who have more than you and there will be some who have less than you. \*Do not try to compare and chase the unwanted things.\*

Ps: Lord krishNA advises Uddhava about \*santuSTi\* (complete satisfaction, contentment with), because most of the things people crave are nasvaram (temporal and perishable). Instead they should concentrate on permanent things. First step of sAdhana chatushtyam (4 steps of means) to understand and enjoy brahmmam is, \*nitya anitya vasthu viveham\* (having the discriminative knowledge on permanent and temporary nature of things). \*Today's gold may be tomorrow's trash!\*

1/27/19, 7:55 AM - A S R Mama: \*ps2\*

A king with all his wealth can feel poor. A unwealthy person with all his poverty can feel rich!!  
Because the yardstick to measure wealth is not based on prakriti sambhandam(worldly materials).

Remember \*lakshmaNo lakshmi sampanna\* - LakshmaNA had lakshmi, \*kaimkarya lakshmi. \*

\*na karmaNA na prajayA dhanena tyAgenaike amrta tvamanasuh\* Remember these verses recited during AcArya sambhAvana kramam. It means neither actions nor progeny and wealth, but by renunciation alone mOksham can be attained.

In the story one tiny gold coin, none of the village people deserved!! But alas! only the King, richest of rich was the only one truly deserved.

\*Measure with the right tool to realize the true richness.\*

#### **\*IDEA – Kite and the thread\* #89**

There was a little boy who was very active and playful. He saw all his friends were playing with many colorful kites. One day he asked his father to get a kite for him also. The father, being so nice and affectionate, immediately took the boy to the store and got him a kite and a roll of thread.

His son started to fly the kite outside. Soon, his kite reached high in the sky and the kid was full of joy. After a while, the son asked, "Father, I am so happy for what you have bought for me. My kite is flying so high. I want my kite to fly the highest in the town relative to all other kids'. It seems the thread is holding up the kite from flying further. Why don't we break the thread?" The father politely listened and cut the thread from the roller. That made the son very happy.

But then slowly, the kite started coming down. Soon, it fell down on the terrace of an unknown building. The young boy was surprised to see this. He had cut the kite loose of its thread so that it can fly higher. But on the contrary it fell down. He asked his father, "Father, I thought cutting off the thread, the kite can fly higher freely, but don't understand why it fall down?"

The father explained, "Son at the peak of our life that we live in, we often think that some things we are tied with and they are preventing us from going higher further. The thread was not holding the kite from flying higher, actually it was helping. The thread made the kite to stay higher when the wind slowed down and when the wind picked up it helped the kite to go higher and in a proper direction. And when we cut the thread, there was no support and it fell down.

\*Moral\*: Often we feel that we can reach to the newer heights and can progress quickly if we are not tied to the family, our home and our spirituality! But we \*fail to realize that our family, our loved ones, our religion help us to survive during difficult periods\* with their support. They are the one \*encouraging us to reach higher heights of our lives\*. They are not holding us but supporting us. \*Never let go of them.\*

\*Ps\*: Our moral values are derived from spirituality. ithihAsa, purANAs show the us value system. Our external world is like the wind, very attractive. But our internal feeling, moral values, family and home are the thread. We can survive somewhat without wind, but \*can't survive without the support of the thread too long!\*

#### **\*IDEA - guru and water\* #90**

Once a guru was walking from one town to another with a few of his sishyAs. While they were traveling, they passed by a lake. They stopped to take some rest. The guru asked one of the disciples, "I am very thirsty, can you please fetch some water from the lake nearby?"

The sishyA walked up immediately to the lake. There he noticed, many people were bathing and washing their body one one side. The other side bullock carts were passing dipped fully into water. As a result, the water became very muddy and turbid. The sishyA thought, "How could I give this dirty water to the guru?" So, he came back empty handed and told the guru what he had witnessed. "The water is so muddy, and I don't think it is fit for anyone to drink it!", the sishya exclaimed.

The guru said, "Let us take some rest here by the tree before we continue walking further". After about half an hour, the guru called the same sishyA and asked him to go and fetch the water from the same lake. The disciple obediently went back to the lake. To his surprise there was no one and the water was crystal clear. The mud had settled down and the water above it looked so fit to drink. So, he collected some water in a pot and returned to the guru.

The guru looked at the water and then looked at the disciple. He said smilingly, "See, you let the water to be and the mud settled down on its own. You now got a clear water. It didn't require any special effort on your part".

**\*Moral\*:** Our mind is also like that. When it is disturbed, its muddy and turbid. You just let it be. Give it a little time. It will settle down by its own. You don't need to put any effort to calm it down. **\*Our best decision arises only when our mind is calm\*. \*When mind is not at ease, time is the best medicine.\***

**Ps:** bhagavAn krishNA says in bhagavad gItA that **\*a man must elevate himself by his own mind\*, not degrade himself. \*Our mind can be our friend or our enemy.\* The mind needs to be trained and **\*training takes time and patience\***. If one detaches himself from the worldly pleasures, he can see the true goal and will strive towards that. There is no end for sense gratification. It feeds itself. Similarly when the mind is disturbed, any amount of external effort may not give proper solution. **\*Time is best and only medicine\*****

#### **\*IDEA – Strong roots \* #91**

Once there were two neighbors living adjacent to each other. One of them was a retired school teacher, slow and systematic. The other one was an aggressive and ambitious manager at a car dealership. Both wanted to raise garden and planted different plants in their garden.

The teacher provided only a limited amount of water to his plants and didn't pay too much attention to his plants. While the neighbor, poured plenty of water to his plants and looked after them constantly. The retired teacher plants were simple yet were looking good. But the manager's plants were much fuller and greener.

One night there was a storm with wild winds and heavy rain. Next morning, both the neighbors were out to inspect the damage to their garden. Plants at the manager's garden came off completely uprooted and was totally destroyed. But the teacher's plants were not damaged at all and were standing firm.

The manger was surprised to see that and went to his neighbor's house and remarked, "We both grew same plants together. In fact I actually looked at my plants better than you did for yours, and even gave them plenty of water. I don't understand how come my plants came off, while your s are still strong and flourishing?"

The teacher smiled and answered, "You gave your plants more attention and water and that is the problem. You made it easy for them and they didn't have to work for themselves. While, \*I gave just enough of water and let their root search for more! \* And so, their roots went deeper and made their position stronger. That is why my plants survived."

Moral: What is said for plants here can be applied for bringing up children. If everything is given to them in a silver platter, they \*may not understand the hard work required to earn those things\*. They may \*not realize the value of money, respect for the work,\* and the necessities of the luxuries. \*Sometimes. guiding may be better than giving! \* Teach them to walk, but \*let them determine, judge and follow their path.\*

Ps: In rahasya granthams, vAmi Desikan raises a question – \*Why bhagavAn expects us to do saraNAgaty to grant mOksham? \* Well, let us say if He gives to selective people only then He is partially favoring them. And it looks He is pitiless (cruel) to those He didn't select \*(vaishmya naighRNya dOshams)\*. Just like puNya/pApAs determine the course of our janmA(s), executing saraNAgaty determines our boarding pass to mOksham. bhagavAn lets us to figure out. Why He does not give mOksham to everyone \*(sarva mukti\*) ? After all He is totally, uniquely and singularly independent? Well, then, \*many won't understand the value of mOksham, and blossoming of the mindset required to be eligible for that. \* Besides, He needs some play (leelA) here. \*logavath leela kaivalyam,\* as the brahma sUtrA says, this world is created for His play.