The Goal of Life

By

Dr. Sanjay Banerji
Founder Director/Dean of Amrita School of Business

Dear Friends,

This month, I am sharing with you, a note, I wrote in January this year.

A news clip about Kazakhstan becoming second biggest crypto currency (bitcoins) producer led me to enquire about it. I did some web search at: https://www.statista.com/statistics/1200477/bitcoin-mining-by-country/

Some interesting facts led to this note.

USA, China and now Kazakhstan are the largest ‘producers’ of bitcoins, while African countries indulge the most in bitcoins trade. So, the mighty are once again out, to pump out the last drop of blood that may be available from the gullible.

This reminded me of the wars fought between ‘Dharma’ and ‘A-Dharma’ in the Treta Yuga led by Sree Rama and in the Dwapar Yuga led by Sree Krishna. The present-day seers like Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Sree Ramakrishna, Sree Saradaa Maa and our most beloved AMMA, and so many others are repeatedly pointing out that the sole purpose of the human birth is ‘God Realization’ or ‘Self Realization’. The process entails an inner struggle, a fight between the right and the wrong, and eventually the right wins.

The demons in the past acquired immense power through Tapas or difficult penance, but their ultimate motive was self-fulfilling, in search of power and all associated desires. Today’s demons are these global powers that have been tirelessly pursuing science, with a view to gaining power over others and to exploit them. At first it was the power of the gun, then came methods to extract energy and use that power, and now it is the AI, IoT, Bitcoins etc. At the base of it lies an unrelenting desire to make money; resulting into greater inequalities around the globe.

Like Prahlada, there are instances of the force for good being present within the global powers, but those are just exceptions.

The rules of the game fortunately are not decided by these powers, and ultimately, humanity has to realise the futility of chasing material wealth, power and everything else. The Creator has defined those rules, and the evolution of human beings from the simple fermenter bacteria has taken billions of years, even according to science. The very purpose of that evolution is to enable humans to realise God – says Sri Ramakrishna. That is the basic design. Finally, every human being has to come around to accept this in-built design. If not, they would suffer. Nature is giving repeated warnings, and we humans are ignoring them.
Human beings are just one form of life, the most evolved. But every single leaf, blade of grass, every virus, bacteria, insects, fish, animals and birds have a right to live on this Earth. Humanity has been killing not only other humans in their quest for dominance, but also all other forms of life. Nature is giving us a warning: this cannot go on. Humanity must leave space for all other forms of life to live. If we don’t, Nature would take action.

Environmentalists say, ‘Save the Earth’. They are totally wrong. The Earth does not require to be saved. It would continue to go around the sun for some billions of years. What is required is to save ourselves and that implies saving all forms of life on Earth. Therefore, we should say, ‘Save Life on Earth’. Some great people wonder if there is life in some other planet or elsewhere in the universe, while ignoring their duty to preserve life on Earth.

As our epics tell us, all evil forces must ultimately die.

So, what is there in it for me? I must have strong conviction about this purpose of life and carry on my personal living within the framework of Dharma – Artha – Kama – Moksha.

We can and should pursue acquisition of wealth (Artha), as a means for fulfilling all our desires, but all this must be carried out in a righteous or Dharmic manner, and always keeping in mind, the ultimate goal of Moksha – Self Realization. One practical application of Dharma in acquiring wealth is to use the minimum necessary for my own living and contributing the rest for the welfare of others who need them.

The example of Tatas comes to mind. You would not find any Tata’s name in the billionaires list. Everything is owned by the Tata Trust, and they use them for welfare. This may not be an ideal example, but in the forest of competitors, this is certainly an exception.

My prostrations at the Lotus Feet of AMMA, everything I have written has been derived from Her teachings. The errors are entirely mine, caused by my own limitations.