

Gratitude

A friend of mine is a professor and a research guide in physics. One day he was telling me about a painful experience he once had. He had an invitation to chair an international conference in the U.S.A. Those days, the visa rules were very strict. Even for a stay of two weeks, one had to have a sponsorship from some one resident in U.S.A. The sponsorship was a mere formality. My friend was not at all worried. One of his students, who got Ph.D degree working under his guidance in India, was employed as a senior scientist in a company in U.S.A. The professor had no need of any financial help. He was sure that his ex-student would only be happy to sponsor his short visit abroad. So, he sent a letter by airmail to the student requesting him to send him the necessary sponsorship papers. As an additional precaution, a copy of the same was sent to his residential address too. A month passed and there was no reply. So the professor sent a detailed telegram. (There was no e-mail in those days!). Still no reply! Luckily, he had a friend who was also a professor in U.S.A. This friend helped and sent the sponsorship papers in time and so the trip abroad was successfully undertaken.

My friend was complaining to me: “You see, I had helped him(the student) so much during the entire period of his research in India under my supervision. I had helped him even financially! Yet, he was so ungrateful. Not only he did not help me regarding the sponsorship; but he also did not send a reply to my letters and telegram”.

Hearing this, I told my friend; “Long ago, Jesus Christ cured ten lepers of their disease. He then asked one of his disciples to see whether the cured fellows were waiting to thank him or whether they were already gone. The disciple replied that they had all run away fast except just one! This man alone had remained to thank the Lord Jesus. (Luke 5,17,11-19) So, even Jesus could get gratitude from only one out of ten! You need not expect more.”

Gratitude is unusual and rare. Do not expect gratitude from any one! But if you sometimes get gratitude from some one, savour and relish it! Be grateful that gratitude still prevails sometime, somewhere!

As Mother Teresa said,
*“The good you do today,
People will often forget tomorrow.
Do good anyway”.*

Prof. C.G.R. Nair

* The author can be contacted via e-mail : profgram@gmail.com