

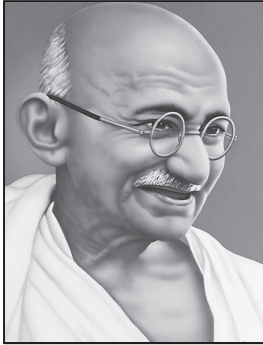
‘On the art of unethical Governance’

(A short story from internet re-written)

During an interactive session with the students one of the students asked the Professor “Do you know how to catch wild pigs? The Professor thought it was a joke, he asked the student to clarify. The student said “no sir it’s not a joke, You can find a suitable place in the jungle and put corns on the ground the pigs find it and come every day to eat the free corn. When the pigs are used to come every day, you put a fence on one side, the pigs will get used to the fence and they begin to come and eat the corns again. Then you put the fence on the other two sides. The pigs already got used to eat the free corn and they will continue to come through the open side. Then put a fence on the 4th side with a gate. The pigs which are used to free corns, will come through the gate and continue to eat the free corns and when there are sufficient pigs inside, you slam the gate and catch the pigs. The pigs may run in and around for some-time but will get settled soon to eating the free corns. They would have forgotten how to forage in the woods for themselves and they accept captivity”. The student further clarified to the whole class “Don’t you think that this is what is happening in our country. Government keeps pushing the people towards the free corn in the form of subsidies, loans which need not be paid back, free electricity, free water, free food, free salary in the name of ‘*Job security*’ and free food in the name of ‘*Food security*’ etc and so on”. Political parties compete in providing more Freebees. *Freebees* will kill any incentive to work, national productivity will stoop down and our economic position in the world will also fall drastically. It is a kind of bribing the people and slaving them and getting them to vote for the party. No one bothers about the heavy cost to the country as well as loss of dignity of the people. *People will stop working for a living but they will vote for a living*. In the long run the country will get into economic ruin and loose the hard earned independence.

Anonymous





IDEAL MORALITY

The current views of morality are not of a very high order. Some believe that morality is not something quite essential. Others think that there is no relation between religion and morality. But in examination of the world's religions shows that, without morality, religion cannot subsist. True morality covers religion for the most part. Anyone who observes the laws of morality for their own sake and not for any selfish end can be regarded as religious. There are men in Russia who dedicate their lives to the good of their country. Such men are truly moral. A man like Jeremy Bentham, who discovered many good principles for English legislation, tried very hard to spread education among the English and took a prominent part in improving the condition of prisoners, may be regarded as truly moral.

Besides, it is a rule of ideal morality that it is not enough to follow the trodden path. We ought to follow the path which we know to be true, whether it is familiar or unfamiliar to us. In other words, when we know a particular path to be the right one, we should set out on it without fear. We can progress only if we observe the laws of morality in this way. That is why true morality, true civilization and true progress are always to be found together.

If we examine our desire, we shall see that we do not wish for what we have already. We always value more that which we do not have. But desires are of two kinds: one is the pursuit of mere self-interest. To attempt to fulfill this kind of desire is immoral. The other impels us constantly to improve ourselves and to do good for others. We should never become overweening with any amount of good that we may do. It is not for us to evaluate it, but rather should we have perpetual longing to become better and more good. True morality consists in our effort to realize such longing.

If we have no home or family of our own, that is nothing to be ashamed of. But if we have a home and abuse it, or own a business and practise fraud, we stray from the path of morality. Morality consists in doing what we ought to do. We can prove the need of morality through a few illustrations. Destruction has been the lot of people or families in which the seeds of immorality, such as disunity and untruth were found. To take an example from trade and business, we do not come across a single person who will say that truth should not be followed. The effect of justice and goodness is not felt from outside; these qualities are inherent in us. If we open the treasure house of morality with this key, we shall find it in all the other principles.

Ref.: Ethical Religion by M.K.Gandhi – Chapter II.

