

Satsang

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Research in Future

(Mr. Rudolph Fuchs of Stuttgart, West Germany, sent us a summary of an article which appeared in STERN (No. 44 of 1974), the popular German weekly.)

A group of German and American scientists prophesy that a world-wide catastrophe would come if we do not change our way of life. For three years they worked on the same problem on both sides of the Atlantic. Edward Pestel, 60-year old Professor of Mechanics from Hannover (Germany) and M. Mesarovic, a 46-year old Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cleveland, Ohio (U. S.), worked on the problem. Both fed thousands of facts to their computers - facts about the increase in population, consumption of oil, reserves of raw materials, yield of potatoes in Holstein and of rice in Java. Together with 50 assistants they worked on the problem. The project was financed by the Volkswagen Foundation. They were searching for an answer to the following question: "Will mankind be able to survive the next 50 years?"

At the recent meeting of the "Club of Rome" they presented the report. The Club of Rome, a union of scientists, had already entrusted the same problem to another person, Mr. Dennis Medows, about three years ago. Medows had already submitted his report. Based on a computer analysis report, he feared that mankind would perish by the industrial and biological growth. What is the solution? Fight that growth everywhere and at once.

Medow's warning was not much heeded by the political and industrial circles of both East and West. Nevertheless, the public opinion was alarmed.

The politicians and industrialists were disappointed when they found that the new study of Pestel and Mesarovic had come to the same conclusions. Uncontrolled growth is the very cause of the most urgent problems faced by mankind today. In fact, they believe that man would come to his end even without the H-Bomb, if the problems are not solved.

The Pestel and Mesarovic Report states that even the most optimistic suggestions show the forthcoming catastrophe beginning in the early eighties and culminating around the year 2010, with an estimated number of a billion victims. Among the survivors many will be physically and psychically damaged. "An atomic war cannot be prevented if one or more of the world's regions take the weapons in despair. This is surely to be expected if man goes on exploiting and exhausting nature." The only chance to save human civilizations is to CHANGE THE WAYS OF LIFE (capital ours). The two scientists demand what normally may be described as nearly superhuman. They demand revolution in the personal and social experiences and finally a new ethical consciousness in national and social groups as well as in single individuals.

The calculation says that there is not much time left to develop a general plan. In ten or twelve years it would be too late, say the Professors. The possibilities which are given to mankind to solve the problems reduce from minute to minute.

STERN correspondent asked: "According to you, the prior conditions to avoid the catastrophe is a new ethic of the acceptance of stagnation or even recession of the economy. The industry is already complaining about sales stoppages and also about the stoppage of growth."

Pestel: "The problems cannot find the solution without a change in the structure."

Correspondent: "Do you suggest to let the economy diminish?"

Pestel: "Not general economy, but some branches of the industry that are producing more than necessary. These branches must realize that they should not aspire to reach the targets they have dreamt of."

Correspondent: "Does not the renouncing of growth also mean resigning the future to prevent further increase of the standard of living?"

Pestel: "As a matter of fact, everyone knows that a lower standard of material wealth is necessary for the sake of human life."

Correspondent: "Does that mean that the world has to stop the efforts to reach the European-American standard of life?"

Pestel: "The underdeveloped countries need to reach a minimum standard of life without need and with dignity. But even this modest aim cannot be achieved without the industrialized nations limiting their consumption of raw materials."

Correspondent: "What time do you give the world to solve the problems?"

Pestel: "The possibility to decide will vanish very soon if we don't act and change."

(We are grateful to STERN for publishing the above facts.)

Vasant's Comment On The Above:

A survey was made by German scientists to find out how long we will be able to maintain production at the present rate in view of the known raw material availability. They conclude that we cannot last beyond the year 2025. However, an important factor is sometimes forgotten and that is ecology. The rate of pollution is galloping and our capacity to deal with this basic problem of atmospheric pollution is fast running out with every ticking of the clock. It is the considered opinion of many sober scientists that human population may extinguish itself by the close of the century.

Even if we decide to maintain production at the present rate, it would involve stagnation of growth and thus we have to reset our values if we consider man only as Homo Economicus.

This is
bio

This leads us to an arena which is yet to be truly explored. Is there any biological basis for purpose in human life? Do we have to adopt a technology to suit this purpose? This involves man in a cosmic background, a part of the biosphere.

Any reduction in consumption is bound to cause hardship unless it is compensated by overwhelming factors that affect the reactions of the mind as our happiness depends on the reactions of the mind to the outside circumstances. The various pulls that drag us have to be reversed. The attachments that bind us to the series of Karma need to be examined in the light of purified intellect. The problem, "Who am I", becomes ever present.

Under the circumstances, the Fivefold Path of Vedic wisdom as it is presented in a pill form through SATSANG becomes poignant. Agnihotra, Daan, Tapa, Karma and Swadhyaya just fits in like a round peg in a round hole. These five magic words will henceforth become the beacon call, not only of the philosopher or the Yogi, but also of the mundane economist. The Fivefold Path remains not merely an adornment in the intellectual repertoire of the syllogist; it assumes an armour in the hands of the technocrat of the new age. Following is a quotation from "Grace Alone", first published in 1971.

"Any change induced in the atmosphere directly affects human mind. This fact was fully understood by the ancients who used to perform YAJNYAS, sacrificial offerings to fire. The smoke emanating from YAJNYAS performed strictly in the prescribed manner not only acted as antipollutant but induced desirable changes in the atmosphere for healthy minds to function.

A casual glance will convince that anxiety and tension are writ large on the forehead of modern man. Unbridled technology necessarily creates complicated economic and social patterns which perforce must be obeyed in society whether communistic or otherwise. The inevitable commissar in steel helmet or democratic velvet gloves must for his own survival try to put down the Yogi. The crushing burden stills the inner flame, dampens creative instincts, atrophies the body leaving man a miserable victim of tantalizing desires which fatten on satisfaction. Man has become a prisoner in his own encasement apparently unable to pull down the shackles created by his own intellect. Tranquilizers, narcotics, hippies, permissive society, induced contentment in volumetric wafts of jazz, disregard for the pledged word, juvenile delinquency, student indiscipline, evasiveness in fulfilling obligations, insecurity, greed for the acquisition of material perquisites and discontent is the order of the day.

Even if man succeeds in reducing the time cycle in plants, the population explosion will compensate for it. Reckless destruction of natural surroundings, its flora and fauna for feeding the giant industrial complex has created imbalance in the atmosphere. The loss is irreparable. If self survival dictates that these wanton sins of omission and commission should be restricted, it will amount to decelerating the growth of industrial production. A time may come when highly industrialized nations may have to think in terms of reducing the Gross National Product. This may lead to limitations on the purchasing power of created money. It will accentuate the rigours of the common man pushing him down the slough of anxiety, insecurity, disaffection, envy and violence.

How are we going to teach man to reduce consumption, conspicuous or otherwise? This is the big problem that faces mankind at the crossroads of destiny. Here physical sciences offer not solution; economics gives way to ethics. We have to delve into the realm of the spirit for the answer. The solution brooks no

delay and must be a wholesome one which treats man as an entity and not in compartments. The remedy for this malady will open the gates of the "Kingdom of Heaven within you". It will enable man to harmonize the outward glories with inner spiritual content. It will pave the way for the banishment of insecurity, anxiety and tension and produce the rhythmic balance so vital for harmonious perception. It will re-establish the state of being, the forgotten treasure to which man is heir but unable to recognize due to mind and intellect which is sullied by nescience.

Solution to this problem appears as difficult as eating a cake lengthwise, but not breadthwise. The prescription offered will enable you to eat the cake and still have it. This is the purpose of the book."

(GRACE ALONE, American edition published by Agnihotra Press, P. O. Box 13, Randallstown, Maryland 21133)

Excerpts From Satsang Correspondence

November 15, 1974

Dear.....,

Shree says that your last breath is the last opportunity given to you for liberation from the clutches of the Law of Karma. One does not know when the moment of death comes. Let us be prepared for it anytime. Everyone is bound by Karma; however, everyone has the potential to go beyond the Law. The Bible states, "Reap as you sow". It also states, "Repent and ye shall be forgiven." How to accommodate both these statements" Intense repentance is also extremely good Karma.

Some spiritual discipline is necessary. It should be within the reach of everybody. Such simple discipline given at Creation is the Fivefold Path. We are using the modern language, that's all.

Agnihotra Mantra "NA MAMA" signifies an attitude of total surrender. Whatever I possess is merely a trust and I have to act like a trustee.

In the proposed KRIYA YOGA classes atit might be interesting to connect the conclusions of Physics as given by the Quantum Theory. Physics can lead to PURPOSE. It is a big stride away from the past. When we talk of purpose, the problem of life patterns crops up. This leads to TAPA, the third aspect of the Fivefold Path. The operant conditioning of Behaviorist Psychology which is limited by itself, could be enriched by Yoga Psychology.

Modern psychiatry techniques do not solve the basic issue and what is that issue? Will power of course. In the West the technique is administered, while in the Fivefold Path it is taught. If medicine states that diseases are not accidents but cumulative effects of wrong life patterns, it should be easier to explain TAPA in this context. Subtle cosmic forces corresponding to circadium rhythms may be examined in terms of Agnihotra. The scientist will hit a gold mine if he carries his research in this direction.

Regarding meditation....., techniques are not so important. They serve only as means to undo the effect of biopsychological grooves. When the flood of devotion descends, everything works like the alchemy method. When

we talk of meditation, we have to answer the question, "Meditate on what?" You become what you think; you become what you eat. Kriya Yoga as it is taught under the Fivefold Path has a method. The unstruck music of the universe manifests. You can tell the person, "Let us not talk at present about God, soul, etc. The music you hear is true at least so far as you are concerned. Try to drown everything else in that music. Reduce the macabre dance of the outgoing tendencies of the mind. This will help concentration. After concentration comes contemplation. Seemingly, these are actions and the result is meditation, which is a condition. AGNIHOTRA helps a great deal in this process."

You might consider arranging one day or two day seminars for the general public. I have made a tape concerning this while I was at... Perhaps it may be convenient to arrange this at the beginning of the year...

When glimpses are shown to us it becomes our duty to attempt to deserve the Grace. Easiest way is shown to us because the sun has risen on a new era, and the flux of Divine Will is strong. Let us not miss this opportunity. First thing, we must learn to banish all resentment in life which comes as the consequence of the reactions of the mind to various situations.

Vasant.

SAPTA SHLOKI
(The Seven Verses)

Verse 4:

आप गीरोषु व-गु
श्रुतिः प्रामाण्यमेव च
सर्वतः सारगादद्यात्
निज कल्याण हेतवे

Arsha Grantheshu Sarveshu
Shruti Pramanya mewacha
Sarvatah Saramadadyat
Nija kalyan hetawe

Purport: Of all the literature given through the seers, Vedas is the standard reference. Extract the essence for thy benefit.

Commentary on the Verse

By Vasant

Shrutis (Vedas) were given along with Creation. Vedas state that there are numberless billions of solar systems. They are created, upheld and they peter out. They last according to the Sankalpa (affirmation) of Almighty Father. There is a great Divine hierarchy which rules the system.

The word Veda comes from the Sanskrit verb VID, meaning to know. Hence, Vedas literally means knowledge. There is no specific label attached. It means simply knowledge. We find similar words for knowledge in many European languages as all these are derived from the Sanskrit root VID to know.

When a child is born it needs a mother, a nurse, a babysitter to take care of it. When the child develops into a man, it is independent. Almighty Father created the universe in the 'mature' state, and knowledge was given

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in the form of Vedas. The word Shruti, meaning Vedas, comes from the Sanskrit verb SRU, which means to hear. Vedas were heard by the Rsis (seers). The seers are called the seers of Mantras. They did not compose the Mantras; they simply heard them. The names of these seers are not known to posterity. Only in a few cases, the names appear in the existing texts that are available traditionally through the Guru-disciple chain.

Vedas are called ANANTA, i.e. unending. The knowledge transmitted through them covers all aspects of creation. When you buy a new auto or a new TV you get the operating manual. Similarly, Vedas explain how creation was made and how it is sustained. The scope embraces all aspects of existence.

Several worlds appear and disappear in the flux of time. Vedas (knowledge) continues to exist throughout. By Divine Will, the transmission of knowledge continues unabated.

The word religion comes from the Latin word, 'religare', meaning to bind. It is the union of all into non-duality. This homecoming of man comes about by stages of understanding. Initially it is the dual aspect and then the monistic. St. John describes this in a succinct way.

"In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God.
The Word was God." (St. John, 1.1)

"The Word was with God" expresses duality and the sentence, "The Word was God" expresses the monistic aspect. For the understanding of man, sometimes certain aspects of this homecoming have to be stressed. Thus, we get various branches of metaphysics known as monism, qualified monism, pure monism, dualism, etc.

Jesus says, "I have come not to do the will of my own, but of Him that sent me." He also states, "I am from the Father and if you know me, you know Him." Again he says, "I and my Father are one." These statements are addressed to various levels of understanding the same Truth.

The Rsis (seers) may be described as "perfection in human form". Some achieve liberation in this very life while some others descend on the planet in human form to do a specific allotted task. These are known as AVATARS. The word Avatar literally means "descension", coming down. The Avatars are generally graded into four: Poornavatar, Amshavatar, Kalavatar and Vikalavatar. Poornavatar means full, complete. It is the highest, and the others may be termed partial.

For human understanding, all the Avatars, Divine messengers, Paigambers, prophets are high. To explain this fact, although partially, we may borrow a simile from mathematics. Infinity plus 10 million is infinity. Infinity plus 10 is also infinity, although 10 is not 10 million. The intellect undergoes transformation after purification and different scales are used for understanding the Avatars and their works.

Knowledge (Vidya) is divided into two: Para and Apara. The former is higher knowledge. The latter could be acquired by browsing through world-bibliothecs or by garnering the gems through the universities established by human civilizations. For Paravidya however, you have to go to a Guru in all humility.

"Gurum abhigachhet Samitpanih Shrotriyam Brahmanishtam"
(Mundokopanishad)

(You have to meet a Guru who is well-versed in Shrutis (Vedas) and who is also living the dedicated life described therein. You have to approach him with offerings to fire in hands.)

The offerings to fire indicates humility and also the process of purification of mind through the purification of the atmosphere through the agency of fire. Only a purified intellect is capable of understanding the higher Truth. The homeward journey is nothing but a series of purificatory processes. Therefore, St. Paul stated, "Be ye transformed by the renewal of the mind."

The Eternal Religion given through the Vedas, the first revelation, is now presented as the Fivefold Path. The Fivefold Path is an exercise in purification for the transformation by the renewal of the mind as stated by St. Paul. When mind is transformed, the light shines because this knowledge is ever present within us. On the day you are born in human frame, you inherit this legacy. Therefore, it is stated, "Thou are made in the image of my Father." "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you."

All scholars agree that Vedas is the ancient-most literature 'word combination' known to human race. Vedas is the first revelation and Eternal Religion was given through Vedas for the benefit of mankind.

Vedas were given in Sanskrit. Sanskrit was nobody's mother tongue at any time. It does not belong to any region or any group of people. All languages have words which come from Sanskrit. Sanskrit does not have a single word which has come from any other language. Sanskrit, even to this day, has the potential to supply the vocabulary required by modern technology and pure sciences.

When things go bad, the Almighty Father reiterates the same eternal message through Avatars. They are sometimes termed as Divine messengers, prophets, saints, etc. All of them come to re-establish the same Truth given through the first revelation. All their writings can be termed Arshagrantha (literature of the seers). It was customary in old days to use this term only to a limited area of literature which covered the Vedas, the four Brahmanas, Upanishads and some others. This limitation was introduced so that no works of an imperfect human shall find a place in this category.

However, the literature given through the seers is not limited to Sanskrit language. The Almighty Father reiterated the eternal message through various Divine messengers that trod the earth. These Divine messengers and saints gave the same message in the local languages so that people would understand them easily. They emphasize that part of the message which needed immediate stress under the conditions in which the messengers manifested. Thus, the various languages of the earth possess literature traceable to these seers. Krshna, Buddha, Moses, Jesus, Mohammed are some of the well-known names.

Whatever message was given through them was merely the reiteration of the old message. Almighty is One and His message is one. This message could be truly grasped when the process of purification of the mind gains momentum. Their messages never conflict because their words are Divine words. It is the wrong interpretation of their words, either due to ignorance or due to vested interest that brings about the conflict. The conflict accentuates when the priestly class which is supposed to interpret the message joins hands with the politician in the art of exploitation. No wonder,

Karl Marx had to say that religion was the opiate of the people. He was referring to crystallized practices of formal religions which had turned their back on the true message of the prophets in whose name they claimed to speak. The onslaught of material sciences has helped a good deal in washing out the crust accumulated around these so-called religious practices. It was, in fact, a blessing in disguise.

Practice AGNIHOTRA for purification of the atmosphere.
Practice DAAN (Sharing of assets in a spirit of humility) for generating non-attachment.
Perform TAPA (Self-discipline, austerities, purification) for fruition of thy affirmations.
Perform KARMA (Meritorious deeds) for self-purification.
Perform SWADHYAYA (Self-study) for liberation.

This is the Fivefold Path. Start the spiritual discipline today. The span of life will not be extended. What is given unto you is to utilize wisely every moment of your existence. Let us engage ourselves in meritorious deeds without expectation of reward in the form of name or fame. We live only in the present moment. The past is no more. The future is yet to be. Do not waste the precious moments in trivia.

A link will be given to you by the Divine Will when you start practicing the above. You will be a more righteous Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, whatever be your formal religious label.

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