

# The Goal of Human Life

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क्या बोलूँ, जो सोचा था वह बात तो अभी मन में नहीं है। मेरे शरीर की ओर देखने से मेरी उम्र का सही अंदाज लगा पाना किसी के लिए भी मुश्किल है। I am going to finish eighty-first year of my life. And I have worked very hard since I was very young. I entered into service at the age of seventeen, somehow putting along education, family affairs, helping others, studying, etc. It all went on, but I was always very happy, I was never depressed. What is depression, I have no experience in my life – full of enthusiasm all the time; and that is very necessary.

I have not done something very big, but, somehow, with the blessings of Sri Ramakrishna, the Holy Mother, and Swami Vivekananda, it seems to me, at least, this organization will serve a great cause. I am surprised to see its growth. After coming to this camp, I had to relate how it started. It comes to my mind and, therefore, I tell you – perhaps all of you have not heard about it: For some period, when I was in service, some *sannyasins* of the Ramakrishna Order, led by Swami Ranganathanandaji, wanted to go to our house just to meet my grandfather, who had the good fortune to be present when Swamiji, after returning to India, went to Dakshineswar. There Swamiji was requested by everyone, ‘Swamiji, please tell us something.’ Swamiji spoke for five to seven minutes, it might be. I can find out the exact time, because that matter is with me. So, they went to our house – Swami Ranganathanandaji, Swami Ananyanandaji, who is now lying very sick at Belur Math for a long time, and Swami Smarananandaji (Jayram Maharaj, presently the Vice President of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission).

At that time Ananyanandaji and Smarananandaji were at Advaita Ashrama, Calcutta, where they asked me to come. वहाँ हम जाते थे, और एक रोज जयराम महाराज और अनन्यानन्दजी महाराज ने मुझसे कहा, ‘हमलोग थोड़ा टहलने के लिए जाते हैं अद्वैत आश्रम से। आप भी ऑफिस के बाद यहाँ क्यों नहीं आते हैं?’ तो ऑफिस का काम खत्म होने के बाद मैं भी वहाँ जाने लगा। हम तीनों वहाँ से निकल कर थोड़ी दूर तक जाते थे— इटाली में एक पार्क है, थोड़ी ही दूरी पर, बहुत समय नहीं लगता था, अधिक—से—अधिक दस मिनट लगता था। फिर वहाँ से लौट कर आश्रम आना। तो, एक रोज जब हमलोग जा रहे थे, तो एक लड़का फुटपाथ के किनारे कहीं खड़ा था, वहाँ और भी बहुत से लड़के खड़े थे। The place was crowded. There was almost a rush. That boy pointed his finger at these Swamijis – at Jayram Maharaj and Ananyanandaji – and said, ‘See see, with the money from other people they eat so much that they have got such bodies now!’ देखो, देखो, दूसरों के पैसों से खा—खा कर इन लोगों ने अपना शरीर कैसा बना लिया है!

इसे सुनकर दोनों साधु भी हँसने की कोशिश कर रहे थे, लेकिन हँसी स्वाभाविक नहीं थी। उनकी भाव—भंगिमा को देखकर मुझे ऐसा लगा कि उनको बहुत बुरा महसूस हुआ है। मुझे भी बहुत खराब लगा था। तो अनन्यानन्दजी ने मुझसे कहा – ‘नवनी बाबू, देखते हैं, इन युवकों की क्या स्थिति हो रही है। इन लड़कों में भी सुधार हो सके, इसके लिए क्या आप कुछ उपाय सोच सकते हैं? थोड़ा

चिन्तन करके बताइए जिससे इन लोगों का भी थोड़ा remolding of their character, remolding of their mind हो सकता है।’

I went back home at night, took a sheet a paper, and sitting before the portrait of Swami Vivekananda made just a short planning: how to have a youth organization, which will work throughout India. And then there was a meeting at the Advaita Ashrama. One of the persons who attended the meeting is present here. He was studying in a college at that time, and he used to come to the Advaita Ashrama. Some others were also there at the meeting. They were also devotees of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission. They all said, ‘You have to take the lead. You have to do planning etc. We will help you as far as we can. Let us start the organization.’ They did not know much about organization, so gradually, registration of the organization, और कंस्टीट्यूशन बनाना, तथा इस युवा-संगठन के गठित होने का समाचार दूसरों के पास पहुँचाना, यह सब मैं करने लगा। जहाँ-जहाँ परिचित लोग थे, सभी को पत्र के द्वारा इसका संवाद भेजने लगा – ‘देखिये, इस प्रकार के उद्देश्य को लेकर एक संगठन बना है।’

वहाँ उस मीटिंग में बात हुई कि इस संगठन का नाम क्या होगा ? मैंने कहा, ‘आप लोग जो रखना चाहें, रखें। लेकिन दो चीज, दो शब्द इसमें अवश्य रहना चाहिए। एक, स्वामी विवेकानन्द का नाम इसमें रहना चाहिए and since it is an youth organization, इसलिए “युवा”- इन दोनों शब्दों का उल्लेख इसमें स्पष्ट रूप से रहना चाहिए’; इसीलिए संस्था का नाम रखा गया- विवेकानन्द युवा महामण्डल, और चूँकि इसका area of work होगा the whole of India, इसीलिए ‘अखिल भारत विवेकानन्द युवा महामण्डल’। इस प्रकार आगे बढ़ते-बढ़ते, last जो रिपोर्ट हमने देखा, उसके अनुसार इस समय पूरे भारत में इस संगठन की 315 शाखाएँ कार्यरत हैं। (थोड़ा कम-ज्यादा हो सकता है)।

Three hundred and fifteen centers are there! Can you find out any other organization with a similar purpose, of which there are more than three hundred units in the whole of India? But, it happened almost automatically, not by pushing or bullying. They came to know about this organization and the beauty and the grandeur of the plan which can really remold the life of youths who can build a new India. That India has independence is not enough. We are ashamed of the meaning of this independence nowadays. Everywhere, wherever we go, we see this is spurious independence. We don’t have real independence. That can come only if we have proper men. Who have love for the country, love for their parents, mother first and then father. And, if there are other elderly people, they must have deep respect for them, must be ready to serve them as much as possible. They must not look so much for their own happiness and ease.

This plan came to the mind, and the work went on. There are so many units now, but, when the number of units went on rising gradually from 20 to 30 and so on, it was felt that they must be brought together at least at times, at least once a year. Previously such camps were held 2-3 times a year – ऐसा कैम्प होता था, ऐसा एनुअल कैम्प – अभी जैसा होता है।

बारी-बारी से एक-एक एरिया में छोटा-छोटा कैम्प आयोजित किया जाता था; इधर ये नोर्थ इंडिया का, ये साऊथ इंडिया का, middle of India, इधर ईस्ट, उधर वेस्ट। हमलोग पहले तय कर लेते थे कि, भारत के किन राज्यों को मिलाकर इस बार क्षेत्रीय कैम्प होना चाहिए। और मेरे साथ ऐसा होता था, कि कोई न कोई कहीं से आकर मुझे हेल्प करता था। I went round the whole of India- हिमालय से ले कर कन्याकुमारी तक और ऊधर पूर्व में जहाँ तक है, वहाँ से लेकर मुंबई तक, ऐसा कोई कोना नहीं बचा है, जहाँ मैं नहीं गया हूँ।

और गया भी किस तरह ? कहीं किसी से कोई परिचय नहीं था – अभी मुझे याद नहीं आ रहा है, मेरी याददाश्त बहुत खराब हो गयी है – नोर्थ-वेस्ट में किसी जगह गए थे, बिल्कुल नोर्थ-वेस्ट में । वहाँ पहुँचने के बाद एक-दो व्यक्ति मुझसे पूछने लगे – ‘आप कहाँ जाना चाहते हैं, किनसे मिलना चाहते है ?’ मैंने कहा ‘नहीं, मैं यहाँ किसी को जानता नहीं हूँ, किसी के साथ मेरा परिचय भी नहीं है।’ Previously we didn’t have any contact. I have not informed anybody that I am going there for a purpose, which I will explain to them when I go. I had got no chance to explain these things to them. So some one took interest and talked to me for some time and said, ‘Go to the Chief Justice of the state. He is a very good man, a very helpful person.’ I went to his house, उनके दरबान ने पूछा – ‘आप कौन हैं ?’ मैंने कहा– ‘भाई, मैं बहुत दूर से आया हूँ, उनसे मिलना चाहता हूँ।’ वह फिर पूछा, ‘किसलिए ? कारण तो बताइए।’ मैंने कहा, ‘उन्हीं से काम है, बहुत जरूरी काम है।’ भीतर जाकर उसने उनको बताया। उन्होंने तुरंत मुझे अपने घर के भीतर बुलवाया। जब मैंने उनको सारी बातें बताईं, तो वे आश्चर्य से बोले – ‘ऐसा काम हो रहा है ! Very good, very good.’ He issued circulars to schools, colleges, big clubs, and also to people known to him. In three days’ time a big meeting was held. I explained our plan to them. Like that the work went on, and thus the total number of centers exceeded three hundred. ऐसा कैसे हो गया, भाई? क्योंकि इससे कोई आर्थिक लाभ उठाने की बात बिल्कुल नहीं थी, यहाँ किसी का नाम-यश, प्रतिष्ठा पाने की भी बात नहीं है। ‘देखो अमुक व्यक्ति इसका Founder है’ – महामण्डल में ऐसी कोई बात नहीं होती है, बिल्कुल नहीं !

उस समय एक फिलोसोफी के प्रोफेसर थे, जिनके साथ मेरा अच्छा परिचय था। उनको संस्था का प्रेसिडेंट बनाया गया। और ये था (श्री दीपक रंजन सरकार), देखो, यह नटखट लड़का यहाँ है ! उस समय ये लड़का था, कॉलेज में पढ़ता था। बहुत कम उम्र था। उस समय विचार हुआ : यह तो नवयुवक है, और महामण्डल युवा संगठन है – इसको सदस्य बनाना चाहिए। I am very happy that he is present here today. At least he can vouchsafe that what I am telling you actually happened. But, why did it happen?

It happened because of the unexpressed *desire* of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Jaganmata Sarada and the hero of all youths, Swami Vivekananda, ever pushing, ever helping during all these forty-five years of this movement. It is still not coming to an end. We must have that faith, that conviction: ‘Yes! It is they who are guiding us. We are nothing! We are servants of this organization! And we are very happy, we feel very lucky, that we have been chosen for this organization, to help this organization to grow further, to spread it more, to involve more youths who have remained untouched so far, and to tell them and make them understand that eating, drinking and being merry is not the whole of life, it can not be the goal of human life.’

The goal of human life is to give as much of yourself as possible for the good of others. One who can do that is the greatest person Thakur gave his all in spite of cancer in his throat. The Holy Mother, who had no ordinary education, had that feeling, motherly feeling. She felt that she was the mother – not only of human beings, but of all sorts of creatures, of all that is alive. Everything that has a tinge of life in it is the Holy Mother’s child. Brother, we must not waste our life, we must not waste our energies, our money, our education or anything just in eating and drinking and being merry. There are bigger things, higher things to do.

The Mahamandal has tried to bring this idea to the youths of India, and, a result, today about 1563 youths of India have assembled here. It is a wonderful thing, a wonderful experience. More perhaps will come, but how long can I fight? Others must come forward and take the whole charge, without leaving anything for me. Of course, they have already taken up many things. Nowadays I don't have to reply to all letters. There was a time when, after returning from office, I went to the Mahamandal's office in the evening and returned home at 10 O'clock or 10.30 or 11 in the night. After supper I used to seat with letters etc. or for writing for *Vivek-Jivan* or for other things. I am very happy that I could unload the weight that I have been carrying for thirty years or more. You all must come forward.

I hope you understand this thoroughly. Don't be allured by other things. The world is full of allurements. Therefore, first think. Forget those things which are not beneficial, not healthy, not meant for real growth of human beings. Do this work! Have your education, try to earn something, help your family, help anybody else in your neighborhood, who needs some help, and do this work, because you can not remove all sufferings of all people by giving the money, heaps of money even. Let them know something about how to live. For living, money is necessary. People must know how to earn money through honesty, not through dishonest means. Honestly you must earn money, honestly you must live. But we must know that living does not mean eating, drinking and being merry or having some offspring and then diseases and so on. Life is not for plundering the wealth of the nation. और वह सब करते जाने से मनुष्यों को न जाने कितने-कितने तरह के दुःख-कष्ट झेलने पड़ते हैं! किन्तु इन सबों में से कोई भी दुःख हमारे नजदीक आ ही नहीं सकेंगे। इनमें से कोई भी विपत्ति मुझे मेरे मार्ग से विचलित नहीं कर पायेगी। क्योंकि हमारे सामने जीवन का एक निश्चित लक्ष्य रखा गया है। And until we reach that goal, we will not stop working. Work hard for it. For what? For the rejuvenation of Indian.

और दर्द ? पैर में दर्द है, घुटनों में दर्द है, इधर दर्द है, उधर दर्द है! इसे दूर करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए। शरीर स्वस्थ होगा, बुद्धि तीक्ष्ण होगी, हृदय प्रेम से भरा होगा, यह प्रेम सबों के लिए होगा, पर दुखियों के लिए अधिक। यही तो है मनुष्य बनना, भाई!

We say, 'Man-making is the greatest Religion.' Swamiji also subscribed to this idea. Man-making means: we shall have strong muscles, a very soft heart, and a sharp brain. The combination of these three things is what we need. Every one of you can do that, and if you do that, then only you are true Indian nationals, true sons and daughters of Mother India. You will have no dream beyond serving the Motherland, serving every being that is born on this soil.

Brothers, my love to you all! I pray for you all and pray for the country and for everybody who is suffering, who has deficiencies, that they can have fullness in life, that they can understand Thakur, Ma, and Swamiji. In this *yuga*, they are the Deities who will take care of everybody. They are also more or less *murkhas*. No education, not to speak of school or college or university! लेकिन वैसी विद्या किनके पास है ? ठाकुर के पास जो विद्या थी, माँ के पास जो विद्या थी, स्वामीजी के पास जो विद्या थी, वैसी विद्या और कहाँ है ? वह विद्या उनके पास है, और वे हमारे माता-पिता हैं। चूँकि हमलोग उनकी सन्तान हैं, इसलिए उस विद्या पर हमारा भी जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है। We have the right to have that education, to have that broadness of heart, that diligence, and that self-confidence. If necessary, I will give up my body even, my life even. Let my life also go, but let people be happy.