

Dynamics of faith and development

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While India is fast becoming a modern economic power, in the process let us not forget our values, and our culture, and in the name of development let us not leave the poor behind. Only model behaviour can preserve our character — making it imperative for us not just to blindly follow development, but to practice “enlightened development.”

First, we must develop our own consciousness. Everything must start with meditation. The power of meditation helps us understand our circumstances, it gives us the power to perceive the force within us, and even to understand every person’s nature.

When I was young (I had not even developed a beard then), I had the vision that Russia would one day become a very spiritual country. I had never even heard of Russia. When I asked someone about it, I was told that anyone who took the name of God in that country was killed. But I shared with them my vision. Finally, when I went to Russia I found my vision to be true. Spiritual power was literally erupting in Russia. Evidence of it could be found in the average person. I could see dharma, I could see love, and I saw truth within each one.

Secondly, we must take a stand against conversion. Today people are talking about converting others to their religion. May I but ask, what does dharma change? The person remains the same. His features remain unchanged as well. All we need to do is just change his thoughts. Only a change of consciousness can change a person.

One may then ask — what is dharma? Simply put, it is nothing but love and faith. All those who have come in the name of God, the prophets and messiahs, have come and changed people’s consciousness. The advent of good thoughts will change the conditions of a country for the better. Bad thoughts only incite conflict and revolts in countries.

So we should take this cue and first develop our consciousness. But our consciousness can be only changed through meditation.

Next, we should understand that the scientist and the dervish are not separate. They both are in search of the supreme truth. One looks within themselves for the creator, the other searches for the essence of nature. All day the dervish is absorbed in his search for the creator, trying to explore the depths of his consciousness, and will one day find God. Similarly, the scientist is totally focused on his research on nature. When the scientist discovers the essence of nature, he extracts that power. The telephone, television, and so many other inventions have come through the mind of man. This is the work of science.

And yet there are many things which have been revealed by dharma (spiritual power) which science has not yet discovered. There is still so much to be grasped.

According to my vision, there are 14 habitated planets. There is life in the universe. The people living on those planets are very beautiful, advanced both in science and in their consciousness. And I can tell you that in a short time scientists will discover this and begin to speak about it. There is so much in the universe that we are yet to discover.

Let us learn to love each other and live in peace. We must learn to live as brothers and sisters. And learn to love each other. The prophets have told us to love our neighbors, but our neighbouring countries are also our neighbours.

But we don’t possess love so what can we do? Take love from the source that is filled with love. Jesus one day said to his disciples, you only come to me when you have nothing else to do. What kind of love is that? Come to me when you are busy and leave your work to come. I don’t need that useless love you bring when you come to me only after you have finished your work. Love comes from within. Take that love from me and then share it. This is the rarest commodity in the world today.

And why should poverty exist at all? Everyone is talking about getting rid of poverty. Every country puts forth their own representatives, all organisations put forward their own speakers, but poverty continues unabated. So let’s understand that poverty does not really exist. With full faith, I want you to realise this.

I hail from a very poor family. We never had enough to eat. But I was determined that I would not beg from anyone. I thought, ‘let’s get up and work. Share with the people and feed yourself.’ Now I can tell you that I have a surplus of everything. And everything I have is for the people. We organise medical camps, make doctors available, provide food, and I sensitise people to help the downtrodden.

I want you too to feel that you can get rid of poverty. There is no such thing as poverty. It is something we’ve created. It has no

basis and must be got rid of. The only way of putting an end to it is by sharing with the needy.

The rich are sitting comfortably on their wealth. That's not what God taught us. Share with the people. What gain will hoarding your wealth entail? If one of your children is irresponsible he'll lose all your wealth and you'll be left with nothing.

And when you die, you'll be beaten. They'll tell you, "You never did anything for the world." Here people may salute you but there you'll be beaten. They will ask, "when you received all this you were told to share, why didn't you do it?" So share your thoughts. Share your work.

So let's practice these things and the change will naturally follow. It will definitely come. I firmly believe that one fine day you will be able to witness it for your own self. It might be difficult for you to accept my faith today. But the changes will certainly materialise. Today you see darkness, and live in darkness. All you can see is the violence and corruption prevalent in the world. Those actions will stop. Evil will be crushed, and good will develop.

People are responsible for the events in the world. One good person stands up and the whole world changes. The majority has never brought change to the world. Whenever the world has changed, it is because of those of quality. What is the majority? Sheep are standing in the field. One lion appears and roars and half of them die from fear. So don't be myopic — develop quality.

As we all develop remember one simple formula: Respect those who have more Make friends with those on the same level And show kindness to those beneath you.

You will never be unhappy.

—(Baba Virsa Singh is the vision behind Gobind Sadan, the international interfaith community with centres in India, USA and Russia)