

खण्ड-A / Section-A

- Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.
यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही देख रहे हैं।
- Q.2 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.
हम उस बच्चे को आसानी से क्षमा कर सकते हैं जो अंधेरे से डरता है; जीवन की वास्तविक त्रासदी तब होती है जब लोग रोशनी से डरते हैं।
- Q.3 It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.
बोलना ज्ञान का क्षेत्र है और श्रवण करना बुद्धि का विशेषाधिकार है।
- Q.4 Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you.
यह प्रश्न छोड़ दें कि कल क्या हो सकता है, और हर उस दिन को लाभ के रूप में गिनें जो भाग्य आपको अनुमति देता है।

4. Drop the question what tomorrow may bring,
and count as profit every day that fate
allows you.

It was an unfortunate day in the
life of a teen-age girl, when she lost
consciousness in a car accident and found
herself on the hospital bed. To her
surprise, she lost her ability to move due
to permanent lower body paralysis. She
was devastated by thinking about her
future, her dreams and her life. But
soon, she realised that the positive side
is she is alive and it was a kind of
re-birth for her. She treated every
coming day as a gift in itself. She continued
to follow her passion of shooting - now
para-shooting - everyday and went on
to become youngest female to win gold
medal in Tokyo paralympics 2020 in
para-shooting (10 metre Pistol), just
at the age of 20.

This is the story of Avani
Lekhara of Rajasthan, who dropped the
question of what tomorrow may bring
after the deadly accident. And she
focused on the days, that fate allowed
her to live. This story shows us the
need to ignore the uncertainties that
the future possess before us and
to make use of the present that
destiny has offered us.

In this essay, we will see why
should we drop the question about
tomorrow and we should treat everyday
as a profit. We will go through various
events to understand the need of and
advantages of focusing on present days.
As an antithetical perspective, we will also
see the importance of the 'question
of what tomorrow brings'. In conclusion,
we shall find a way forward to a
better approach.

First of all, what is about the future that we should not be worried? The answer lies in the ultimate truth of life as demonstrated in the Bhagavad Gita i.e. Birth and Death. While 'Birth' is a thing of past, 'Death' is a thing of future. As shown in the movie 'The Final Destination', death will eventually find everyone.

This makes the future very uncertain. The COVID-19 pandemic, extreme climatic events like Uttarakhand floods of 2013 show us the vulnerable nature of life and future. Therefore, we should treat every present-day as a gift of destiny, as a profit that fate has given us. Then the major objective of our life will change to maximise the utility of every such day.

This can be manifested in various spheres of life. The lack of understanding of this very nature of existence, today's youth are wasting their precious time in online gaming, social media scrolling and by adopting very unproductive and unhealthy lifestyle. In today's globalised corporatised world, the employee's materialistic expectations from future leading to a stressful and anxious life style.

These issues can be addressed by dropping the question what tomorrow may bring. The need of the hour is to utilise every single day in a positive manner. From the lives of great persons, we can learn this.

Swami Vivekananda's life teaches us the importance of spirituality in everyday's life. He had said,

'Rise, Awake and Work until the goal is achieved'. Therefore, by utilising the profit of everyday, one should dedicatedly work for his goal.

In a similar manner, the life of Saalumarada Thimmakka teaches us an important lesson. After being childless and losing her husband, she did not worry about tomorrow by thinking about who will support her in her old age. She went on to plant more than 30,000 trees to be known as 'Mother of Trees'. She counted everyday of her life as a gift and tried to give back to the society in whatever manner.

Another such individual was D. Prakash Rao of Odisha. After staying in poverty for life, operating a tea stall as livelihood; he still provided free education to children in his extra time.

He did not get worried about what tomorrow may bring, whether he will be able to finance such an initiative or about his savings for future. He utilised every day of his life for teaching poor students till his death.

In a similar manner, at a national or international level, India should focus on the present day more than worrying about future. In political sphere, instead of talking about becoming a developed nation or global power, India should focus on the various aspects of today that will eventually lead to desired future. For example, ensuring universal health coverage, a dignified life for everyone, ensuring fundamental rights, education for all etc. ~~In ec~~

In economic sphere, by focusing on present issues like employment, controlling inflation, improving quality

of infrastructure etc will eventually reduce the uncertainties of tomorrow.

However, there is an antithetical perspective, that says dropping the question of tomorrow won't help in achieving desired objectives. Though it is essential to count everyday as a profit given by fate, the focus on future is more important.

For instances, the issue of global warming by 2°C is raising many questions on today's decisions. Our steps of today must be shaped to answer this question. Similarly, the question of tomorrow is to address the challenges of population explosion, rising air and water pollution, deforestation etc. All these must shape our today's decisions.

Apart from this, by counting everyday as profit that fate allows us make us irresponsible and consumerist. We tend to follow the 'Charvaka philosophy' of i.e.

“ Javat Jivet Sukham Jivet |
Rinam krita Ghritam Pivet || ”

That means, to live happily until we die, even if it requires us to take loans for our enjoyment.

This viewpoint may lead us to live our life in a non-productive manner like seen in today's youth.

The culture of drinking, partying, rampant use of alcohol, cigarettes in the name of enjoying life is one such manifestation. At the end, the question arises, what should we do ? How to treat our present ? Whether to drop the question of tomorrow or not ?

The answer lies in the ~~the~~ 'Golden Mean' principle provided by Aristotle, which is also resemble in Buddha's 'Madhyam Marg'. The need is to understand the question tomorrow may bring, and shaping our actions to address this question. However, the uncertainties, confusion that the future provides need to be ignored. Rather, present day's opportunities need to be utilised productively.

This can be done by inculcating values like gratitude - to be thankful for our life, humility - to recognise that we are insignificant in front of time and space, and wisdom - to utilize our knowledge of future rationally and for betterment of everyone.

In conclusion, it can be said that, like Avani Lekhara did not deterred by the uncertainties of future, we must strive for consistency and persistence to give our best everyday to achieve our goals in life.

As it is said,

~~The~~ Yesterday is past, and gone,
Tomorrow is future and uncertain,
Today is present and certain.

Therefore, we should learn from yesterday, work for today and strive for a better tomorrow.

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

- Q.5 Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.
सत्य, मशाल की तरह है, इसे जितना अधिक हिलाया जाता है, यह उतना ही चमकता है।
- Q.6 Art is I; science is We.
कला मैं है, विज्ञान हम है।
- Q.7 Only the dead have seen the end of the war.
केवल मृतकों ने ही युद्ध का अंत देखा है।
- Q.8 Act as if it were impossible to fail.
कार्य ऐसे करें जैसे कि विफल होना असंभव ही था।

5.

Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook,
it shines.

In the ancient world, the earth was believed to be flat, and the sun was supposed to rotate around earth. This notion was challenged by people like Copernicus, Aryabhatta and established that sun is centre and earth rotates around it. With time, it was found that sun is neither centre of the world, nor it is static. The solar system is part of a larger galaxy - it was thought to be the world. However, in recent times, with technological developments, NASA and various space agencies have found that there are millions of galaxies in our universe. Theoretical physicists even claim that there are millions of such universe as well, named 'multiverse'. Who knows, there might be more such

multiverse ?

This shows how the truth about our existence in this world evolved. The truth was continuously shaken by ^{new} challenges, new findings and theoretical calculations. With time, it just shined like a torch. It expanded human knowledge. ~~More~~ The more it is shook in future, the truth will shine more.

In this essay, we will see what is truth? Why the truth-like needs to be shaken? And how it shines with such shaking! We will also try to find, what happens to truth, if it is not challenged or shaken. We will also see how sometimes excessive shaking or excessive challenge to truth is harmful and may not yield desired results. At last we will try to find a way forward for walking towards a brighter version of truth.

So, the definition of truth is a never-ending debate. Generally, truth is something that is real, rational, that can be proved or verified.

Truth is something that can not be discarded. Since ancient time, there has been several efforts to find the ultimate truth of life.

In Vedic time, there were development of six major philosophies of Hinduism that tried to give the truth of life or our existence, e.g. the philosophy of Samkhya, Nyaya, Yoga, Vaisheshika etc. These were further challenged by non-orthodox philosophies like that of Jainism, Buddhism & Charvaka.

Similarly, the Advaita philosophy of Shankaracharya was shaken by Vishistadvaita, Shuddhadvaita & Dvaita philosophy. This type of challenges

have enriched the truth to shine in a brighter way. So the question arises, why should the truth be shaken?

Well, the truth is sometimes not real. There maybe a lie that is masquerading as truth, which needs to be identified. For instance, our society has many superstitious beliefs that are taken as truth. Like the practice of Sati was believed to be divine command and the way of life. However, with rationality, it was tackled by Raja Rammohan Roy. The practice of Sati is not the truth, provision of dignified life for women is the truth.

Similarly, the blind following of religious texts are leading to radicalisation, extremism and terrorism. This is because the misinterpretation is being treated as truth. These must be shaken or challenged to enable the ultimate truth of rationality to shine.

Therefore, anything that is believed as truth must be questioned, challenged to ensure that the ultimate truth shines. The judiciary has a great role to play in shaking the truth, to ensure justice. The Sabarimala judgement is a manifestation of it.

In similar manner, fake news need to be tackled. Today, the social media is flooded with false news, misleading reports etc. Many users take these as truth at face value. However, this leads to social consequences like riots, disputes etc. Therefore, the need is to challenging every form of news to establish its truth.

Now the question arises how one can shake truth? what is the way to do this to ensure that truth shines brighter?

It can be done by developing a logical mindset, finding the background of the truth, how it developed over time, looking at the alternatives viewpoint etc. Shaking a truth requires courage of conviction, as a truth is established by the beliefs of majority.

For instance, when corruption is institutionalised, it becomes the truth of administrative set-up. However, there have been individuals like Ashok Khemka, Vinod Rai who stood against this with conviction. Now the question arises, what will happen to truth, if it is not shaken?

The answer lies in the example of pre-independence India. The British have established the White Supremacist theory as a truth across India and world. When it went unchallenged, Indians accepted it for long.

However, with the rise of people like RN Tagore, Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi; the theory was challenged and discarded. However, the inferiority complex have been ingrained in the mind of Indians even today to a great extent.

Therefore, the truth should always be questioned and tested timely with rational and logic.

However, there is an anti-thetical perspective to the view.

Sometimes excessive shaking may ~~er~~ wipe out the flame of torch altogether.

Likewise, when the truth is shaken with repeated lies, it becomes

challenging for its existence. The lies

become propaganda and truth gets

hidden. For example, the repeated

portrayal of Kashmir in a bad

manner, like human rights violation,

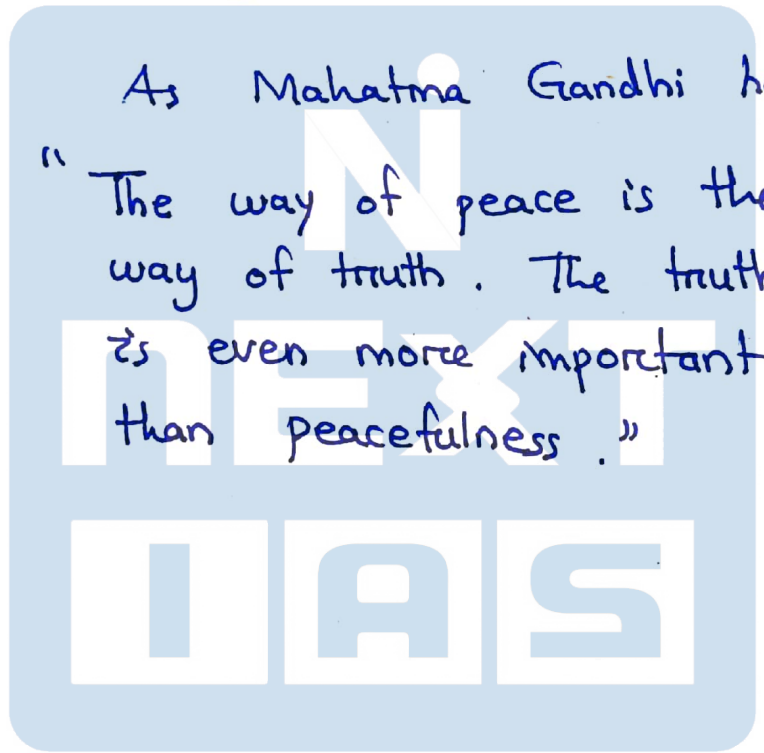
exploitation by Indian army etc had created a negative image of Kashmir among international community with the help of biased media and vested interest groups. Similar is the case with Gujarat riots of 2001, as observed by Supreme Court in Teesta Setalvad case.

To summarise, it can be said that everything established as truth must be subjected to the test of rationality, research, investigation etc. This will not only remove the 'fake-truth', but also ensure that the 'real-truth' shines brighter through public trust and public confidence.

As a civil servant, it should always be the duty of ours to uphold truth in public administration.

This should be done by creating transparent and accountable work culture. Also, civil servants have a key role to play in removing the superstitious beliefs or 'fake-truths' from society and establishing a modern and rational society.

As Mahatma Gandhi had said, "The way of peace is the way of truth. The truthfulness is even more important than peacefulness."



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