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Let us be Awake to Our Duty

We should remain awake to our duties since it is the performance of our duties that makes the social life run smoothly and promotes the best interests of all its members. As a matter of fact, some divinity surrounds duty. Performance of duty is equated with worship. "Work is Worship" is the central principle of all scriptures of the world. Even Bhagwat Gita says 'action is thy duty, reward is not thy concern'. All religions of the world lay stress on the performance of our duties. We owe duty to ourselves to keep ourselves fit physically, mentally and spiritually. We owe duty to our family, the nation, society and all our fellow beings to do our bit for what God sent us to the earth. English poet William Wordsworth correctly calls duty "*Stern daughter of the voice of God*". He describes it as "a light to guide, a rod to check the erring, and reprove." It frees the individual from 'vain temptations' and calms "the weary strife of frail humanity." There will be anarchy in society if people shirk or shun duty. It is because of this fact that all great people laid stress on the performance of duties. Western philosophers like Immanuel Kant and Hegel in Germany, T.H. Green in England and a host of other philosophers of the Idealist School of Philosophy also gave primacy to duties over rights. Let us take care of our duties, rights will take care of themselves. Gandhiji also was of the same view. Rights automatically accrue from the performance of our duties. It is utter selfishness to claim rights without performing duties. We have to pursue the path of duty for the good of all, our family, our nation and the entire humanity at large, and not for our own good only. When we keep the interest of all in mind, our own interest is automatically taken care of. Whatever we do should be pleasant not only to ourselves, but to all. This certainly is the golden principle of social life of which we are an integral part. We will, therefore, do well if we are always awake to our duty. Duty must be performed devoutly, diligently and dedicatedly.

"Duty is that which is due to Humanity, to our fellowmen, neighbours, family and especially that which we owe to all those who are poorer and more helpless than we are ourselves."

—H. P. Blavatsky

Man is said to be a unique being on this earth. He is also known as saviour, light bringer, wise, compassionate, loving, understanding when he is said to be divine or having qualities of divine nature. There have been so many on this earth who tried to live up to the qualities which prove the divine nature of man. But after their departure from this world, much of what they said got distorted and destroyed, and unfortunately, we find many animals men on the earth— there is violence, hatred, killings, greed, lust for power and pleasure in every part of the world. Man endowed with such great capacity is now misusing the same for undesirable ends. Let us—specially those, who are preparing and are pledged for service as civilians and are public servants—ponder what our duty should be.

It is indubitably true that honesty to one's ownself and to other fellow-men, has taken men much far. So the least you can do is—always keep a piece of your awareness on yourself.

In this age of glittering adventures—including adventures into space, a suffocating immorality envelops the world, which is more threatening than the rising carbon-dioxide and temperature levels. There is pollution all around, including

the pollution of the human psyche itself.

The goal, therefore, to set before the society is not *preyas* (the pleasant), but of *shreyas* (the good and the noble)—the fulfilment of the inherent potential for goodness and wisdom in consciousness. So, as a matter of fact, the 'shreyas' is the challenge before our young men and women, the beaming civilians of tomorrow, who will have to discharge their duty to the society with their full capacity and with maximum capability. In short, your duty is to try to leave your place better than you find it. To do so, you will have to bring out the best in you *i.e.*, your divine nature, with which you have been endowed by Nature or the Almighty.