The Life Flow



BRAJ KISHOR GUPTA Motivation Guru

Birth is the beginning of a Life Sublime. It symbolizes hope as well as man's quest for progeny. It is a unique event in the life of every person. It happens but once. It is a moment of joy and celebra-

BEING BORN ANEW

tion. It is a paradox; however, that such a joyous occasion brings forth excruciating pain:

My mother groaned, my father wept; Into the dangerous world I leapt; Helpless, naked, piping loud, Like a fiend hid in a cloud.

These poignant lines from William Blake's poem Infant Sorrow are quite revealing. The birth of a child comes as a bolt from the blue. Is this world truly a dangerous place to come to? Is human life all about strife and struggle, fever and fret?

Fortunately, the answer to these questions cannot be given in one word-yes or no. Every birth, according to the Hindu scriptures is considered to be extremely pious. The end of life is the attainment of Salvation or Nirvana, which means the cessation of human suffering and the beginning of a Blissful life. No one knows for sure whether one could lead such life here in this mundane world or hereafter.

But it is possible for every human being to be born again. It is a matter of choice. It all depends on one's desire to live life afresh. It takes a change of heart at times. You need to realize that life has been more of drudgery. The world is not giving you what you deserve and desire the most. You strongly feel you are cut out for something more and something much better. People around you are not being just and fair, reminding you of the beautiful lines of the Shakespearian Tragedy of Macbeth:

Fair is foul, and foul is fair, Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Indeed, throughout the history of human kind, the realization of such a sorry state of

affairs has resulted in the transformation of many lives and society. One example from the recent past could be that of Nelson Mandela, who had to wage a relentless war against the cruel system and merciless laws that kept power and wealth in the hands of whites thereby denying and depriving the aboriginal people of Africa for a long time. Mandela had to pay the price by spending the prime of his life in the prison. But he had the guts to look straight into the eyes of the Judge and say, "I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I

have cherished the idea of a democratic and free society in which all persons will live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an idea which I hope to live for and see realized. But if it need be, my lord, it is an idea for which I am prepared to die."

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Nelson Mandela did not die; he was born again. He became the father of a new South Africa and one of the world's most inspiring Heroes of all time. Each one of us is endowed with power and prowess to be born again like Mandela and his ilk. Our birth is a veritable opportunity to leave our foot prints on the sands of time.

motivationguru@hotmail.com