

Book of Enlightening Laughters

Collection of Stories & Anecdotes From the Talks of Swami Dayananda Saraswati.
(Sri Swami Dayanandaji's lectures)

(007) NO GAME WITHOUT CHALLENGE

Imagine this great man who built a new stadium. He is a great sports lover. All his savings he spent on building this stadium. It is a very grand stadium. He wants to dedicate it to the town on a particular day. Even though he is a great lover of sports, he could not make it in any of the events. Now he wants to live through others and wants to fulfill all his ambitions by building this stadium. You cannot inaugurate the stadium without a minister. So the Minister of Sports comes and inaugurates it. On the inaugural day two national teams -- Mohan Bagun and East Bengal -- are playing a football match. All gates are open. There are no tickets today. The Stadium is full. People are enjoying the games. His own uncle from the village has come. He is sitting next to him.

Now the uncle becomes sad. He has never seen a football match before. The first time he is seeing one.

The donor asks his uncle, "Why are you not enjoying this game? Do you have any problem?"

"No."

"Are you not keeping well? Are you all right?"

"I am okay."

"Then why are you sad?"

"If you want to know I will tell you."

"Please do."

"I do not understand this. You have spent crores of rupees for the stadium. Is it not so?"

"Yes."

“You have also spent a lot of money for this inauguration function. Is it not?”

“Yes.”

“Then why did you become miserly at the end?”

“How am I miserly?”

“Look. There are 22 fellows there. You have given them one football. Why not 21 balls more?! What do you lose? All are running after one ball. If everyone has a ball all of them will be satisfied.”

Think of this! There is no fun or kick in it. A football match must have only one ball. Each one has a role to play. The centre forward has to move forward. The goal-keeper must stay put between the two posts. He cannot go for a walk on the sides. It is all well-defined. There is challenge in playing the roles. Then alone there is life.

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Editor.