

Hope sustains the World

by Melkote Ramaswamy

As I came home from the hospital after being treated for a possible infection, I began to reflect on life's twists and turns. What came immediately was Hope. I realized amidst all problems one faces, Hope is the beacon, the driving force—one that never deviates from its mission of sustaining a positive attitude. Hope—we all need—driving force of life. On second thought, Hope is a product of Faith—a belief in the goodness of things and that we are not alone in our journey and we have help everywhere just by seeking. One can easily make a connection between, Hope and Faith, and likewise to prayer. Prayer is ongoing and does not wait for an answer right away.

Come to think of it, the world is built on Hope—individuals and nations project their future on the basis of Hope. But one has to be realistic in entertaining hope to avoid disappointment.

Hope by the way is a result of our unconsciously acknowledging our helplessness in controlling things and recognizing there is a higher power that guides our destinies. Hope is what we need when we have exhausted our best efforts. There are very few that don't believe in God in some form or the other. Even atheists cannot dispute the role of conservation laws in controlling the world.

Hope and prayer go hand in hand. Prayer is a deliberate action and every action yields a result—not necessarily immediately, but in its own course—sort of delayed action medicines. This is nothing but the law of causality in action.

Religion with its solid framework of ethical values refines us, makes us humble, makes us aware of life beyond what we see. It turns us toward God—in whatever form you wish to imagine, creates an anchor endowed with the quality of sustaining hope. The Hindu tradition permits its devotees a great choice of worship—God can be formless or with form, with attributes or without attributes, even in the form of sound (Om),

Hope, Faith, Prayer and God are intimately connected and in some sense sustain the universe. Let us be grateful for that.

*Melkote Ramaswamy is a physicist, writer, speaker and author of **An Immigrant celebrates America** (University of Indianapolis Press 2007) and is an active member of Hindu Temple of Central Indiana. He has attended Vedanta camps at Arshavidya Gurukulam. He can be contacted at (email: melramaswamy@gmail.com)*