

Camp at AVG by Swami Vidadatmananda Saraswati
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Value of Values Part 05 (Continuation from June 2020 newsletter)

Straight-forwardness – absence of crookedness is called *ārjavam*. Having one thing in mind, another thing in speech and third thing in the behavior is crookedness. Alignment in all the three aspects of my personality is *ārjavam*. Sainly people will have alignment between their thoughts words and deeds. When *ārjavam* is not there, that person is a split personality. There is a ज्ञाता (*jñātā*), the knower and कर्ता (*kartā*), the doer. Knower, the mind knows one thing; however, the doer, the performer of action which is different from the knower does different things. When I am not honest, these things happen. Men know what is being honest and truthful but because of some compulsion, they act the other way. If I have no price to pay, then I will be an honest and straightforward person.

Conflict arises when being truthful requires some kind of sacrifices that I think valuable to me. Those acquired values for wealth, power, fame and their attraction is so strong that they become more valuable to me than my honesty and truthfulness. In that conflict, honesty loses the battle. By nature, we are all saints. We are Brahman, and mind is saintly by nature created from sattva aspect of five elements. राग (*rāga*) and द्वेष (*dveṣa*) are incidental; they intrude us. Each one of us loves to be honest and truthful. Unfortunately, acquired values compel me to go the other way and that's where the misalignment comes. If there is no alignment, I sacrifice my inner strength. It creates a sense of dissatisfaction and guilt within me. All of this is a big price to pay in terms of creating misery for myself. We sacrifice honesty to be happy. I sacrifice these values for the sake of some name, fame, power, wealth etc; otherwise, these values are dear to me. But by creating this split, I am creating guilt and unhappiness in myself. I am sacrificing the self-goal. This is a losing game as I am sacrificing the very thing I want to acquire.

Following the value is the best policy for my peace of mind. All the stress

can be traced back to the crookedness of not following values. Honesty is a natural value and the value for some materials is an acquired value, and now, there is clash between these two. The world thinks that the dishonest fellows always get ahead but they lose by remaining honest. We think that the person has gained prosperity by being dishonest. But we should understand that it could be the result of something that he has done in the past. Let us understand this by an example. A farmer had a huge silo of grains. He grows three crops and throws them in this huge silo. First he dumps rice, then wheat and then corn on the top. But when he opens bottom, he gets rice first which is what he had put first. So, if dishonest person gains some pleasure now, let us not be deluded that dishonest persons are getting the best. Law of karma always works.

Firm conviction should be there about the law of cause and effect. The effect has to be consistent with the cause. Honesty is the best policy for harmony in my mind for an integrated personality. Following values must be the best policy for conserving my inner energy and thus becoming a strong person. If you have the inner strength, you can overcome obstacle by being honest. People compromise values because of inner weakness. They do not have that moral strength and conviction in life. As you sow, so you reap. The law always works for everyone. Therefore, dishonest people cannot be the role model for anyone.

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“The Lord is one, effulgent, all-knowledge, without a spot of ignorance. And that Lord is the one upon whom we meditate or whom we pray to, *dhīmahi*. We pray with our heart and mind to that Lord who is effulgent, all-knowing and all-consciousness and who is most worshipful.” - Swami Dayananda Saraswati