

1st April, 2020

THE JOURNEY HAS BEGUN

The lessons of wrath and the blessings of nature are competing where, we the passersby, are at the receiving end and are trying to protect ourselves by redefining our own lifestyle. Corona has surrounded us stealthily and we are caught amidst the escalating global devastation with many of the developed countries bearing the brunt, much because of their underestimation, complacency and even lack of resources. The unexpected magnitude is manifold because of human underassessment or lack of capacity to comprehend the dangerous dimensions of the pandemic in a state of almost unpreparedness. Caught almost unawares, non-adherence to medical protocol, migrations and escape journeys due to unverified suspicion or otherwise tend to supplement and multiply the spread, thereby creating fear.



Thus movements and contacts are the causes that are being attributed towards this undesirable spread.

Long ago Chanakya said that when the enemy is invisible, it is prudent to remain in the hiding. This is not to remind of the fine art of secrecy and concealed movements, but to understand that when a calamity of this nature which we are facing, strikes us generating a sort of helplessness, it is wise to remain within confines by drawing a Laxman Rekha for oneself.

I am reminded of a Poet whose verses are being sung all over now and the lines of which, with literal translation thereof, are worth quoting:

"Be wazah ghar se nikalne ki zaroorat kya hai;

There is no reason to leave your home unnecessarily;



Maut se aankh milane ki zaroorat kya hai There is no need to come face to face with death;

Sab ko maloon hai bahar ki hawa hai katil; Everyone knows that the air outside is deadly;

Yoon hi katil se ulajhne ki zaroorat kya hai;"
There is no need to engage yourself with your annihilator.

We may face adversities as by our visible movements we may be unknowingly contributing towards the strength of our opponent Corona. Shelter, protection and deceptive measures to outclass our enemy is the crying need to ensure survival and prevent any catastrophe. It costs nothing to adopt seclusion which is not isolation, but an opportunity to train ourselves to remain safe and experience solitude, understanding and contentment. The same amount of labour and effort that we invest in our professions and



calling to secure the best interest of our citizens, is required to be observed by imposing restrictions on ourselves.

We have quite successfully with cooperation from all quarters commenced our fight against Corona but quiet possibly some hard times are in the offing. Our resolve has erected a strong defence but still we cannot afford any complacency. A little loose fitting in the assembly line can dissolve the best of efforts. A constant vigil and a repetitive observance will definitely help us to sail through this unruly weather. Remember Churchill who said "No success is final and no failure is fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."

We have to continue with the tenacity we have begun with a fuller determination with an untiring effort, like a walk uphill that seems to stretch itself as we scale further and further. A stout and steady insistence will help you to



The experience of uneasiness overcome breathlessness. once overtaken by determined oath will bring a definite calm. An Olympian fortitude will overcome disappointments and catastrophes when you achieve the high-noon of endurance and resilience. You can wrestle out of yourself by observing a strict sense of proportion by remaining behind closed doors that will help you to climb a plateau of twilight existence. A single responsible act of staying back home would exhibit tolerance and display a wonderful method of developing the Art of Living or that of Yoga. The pain and the pleasure of abstinence is entirely for our benefit. The situation, unhappily does not furnish many choices. We are heading towards the threshold of our efforts. Let us not The claim of scientific explorers direction. loose somewhat half-finished and the result of their efforts to discover a vaccine is still far from more than doubtful. Yet with a new resurgence of preparedness with the untiring



efforts of our scientists, engineers and workers of all professions, a brave fight has been exhibited that in all likelihood will stem the tide. The present is of trial and may be with some possible error but with one effort we can convert it into trial and perfect success. Imagine, you will win Life itself. There cannot be a bigger conquest than conquering yourself.

(A.P. SAHI)