

Is Suicide A Crime ?

By Shri Dattabal

I recollect an incident which took place many years back, I had set out from my college with a friend of mine. We saw a funeral procession coming towards us. Humor in me crept out at a wrong place and time. Looking at the distant corpse, I said to my friend "Chum, do you know what that shaking head of the corpse suggests ? It says well I am not a sinner". We enquired about the name of the deceased person. I was nonplused to learn that one of my best friends had committed suicide. I controlled my tears, sawllowed my sob and rushed home.

The smiling face of my friend, his unflagging gusto, courage and ambitious life flashed to my mind. I knew my friend too well. He did not believe in escaping from the challenges of life. He had 'daring desire and dreams'. But circumstances must have overpowered him to an extent that he was compelled to cut short his life. People told different stories about him, gave various explanations, I was never quite convinced with them. His life was shaped in may very presence. I was drowned in contemplation, I wanted to find out why people commit suicide. I thought and thought and realized that such people adopt a very peculiar

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philosophy of life.

A disciple once said to his master "Sir, I can die for the love of God" The master replied "Son, it is very easy to die, but its' very difficult to live for the love of God" I think living in harmony with the love of God in heart is far more significant than fanatically committing suicide.

Yes, certainly suicide is a crime, committed not only against oneself but it is also against nature. Those prone to such tendencies are extremely self-centred and form a habit of magnifying their personal grievances. Self-centred, egoistic people never open themselves to multi-facets of life. Being stubborn obstinate they do not have an open mind and hence, fail to realise various way through which nature operates upon them.

Prejudice bias and egotism are the fabrics with which a person build around himself the cocoon of self-centredness. Such people never do self-analysis but live in utopian world. But when the cold touch of reality shatters their world, they are perplexed and remain helpless to meet with the new challenges of life.

So, instead of facing facts boldly and sensitively, assimilating the suggestibilities given at various stages in life, such people adopt an attitude of hide and seek, develop in themselves inferiority complex, super sentimentalism and a tall self-image. Once this image is shattered they resort to deeds like suicide.

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It is only people who are indolent and weak that are trapped in the silken cocoon of self centredness. They choose the warmth of the cocoon to the joy of freedom. By binding the life which is winged, they cripple themselves. Life moves forward swiftly and those who do not keep pace with its speed are dragged along mercilessly. Allow nature to act upon you, to perform the painful surgery on your ego, and by doing so, it is trying to bring you to state of more conscious existence. It is trying to return you to the divine kingdom, to which you originally belong.

But those, who try to defy the pull of evolutionary force and choose to remain in the warmth of their cocoon, die a stinking death. Their talents atrophy. On the contrary, those who allow the nature's surgery on themselves break-open the cocoon and obtain altogether a new dimension to their personality.

Every moment in life is a challenge, try to know the significance behind every calamity. It is, perhaps, intended to chisel out the coarse and gross parts of our being, so as to make us subtle, suitable for further journey, I personally feel, calamities can turn out to be the finest opportunities for self growth and evolution.

A suicide which is committed because of a failure in the examinations or because of a broken heart is an unwillingness to part with the ego. Psycho-analysis of such people reveals that they are un-willing to

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compromise even for rewards which are far greater than expectation.

But those who are willing to sacrifice everything while treading upon the fiery path of life really see for themselves the light of a new world.

Some people would raise a question and ask as to what is the fate of those who lay down their lives on the battle field ?

Japanese para-troopers during the world war II, dive into the cock-pit of enemy ships with the loaded bombos. Isn't the name of these martyrs written down in golden letters in the Japanese history ?"

And what about the Indian soldiers who gave up their lives in their attempt to destroy the patton tanks during the Indo-pak war ? Sacrificing life for liberty is no suicidal but is the most gallant way of dying. Didn't the ancient Rishis say that people who die on the battle field, and yogis who renounce their bodies after going in the state of samadhi, enter straightway into the Divine Kingdom ?

I can understand the plight of handicapped old people, the negligence shown to them, humiliation they have to sustain, they are treated as if they are a burden to society. Should such people attempt to commit suicide ? My answer is assertively no.

Physically handicapped persons are certainly not

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useless persons. Body is, after all, not only the manifestation of a human personality. Physically handicapped can bloom into a divine flower at the mental, intellectual and spiritual levels of human consciousness. Milton has contributed immortal poetry. Miss Harriet B. Stowe was mainly responsible for causing the American Civil War through her book 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'. Didn't Helen Kelmer, though blind, deaf and mute from early childhood raised above her triple handicap to become one of the best known characters in the modern world ? Doesn't her life continue to inspire both the blind and the seeing at every corner of the globe ?

She built her life on spiritual faith, tenacious work, infinite zeal and courage. By her boundless efforts and courage, she chiselled out her deformity into the image of the Goddess.

Had she surrendered her life because of her handicap, lakhs of blind people in the world to whom she gave a new vision, would have groped in darkness and ended in frustration.

Though nature can be cruel at physical plane, it can give a larger compensation at the mental and spiritual planes. So the physically handicapped can lift up intellectual and spiritual responsibility of society. And while doing this, inner light will be shown to them, perhaps, earlier, than the others.

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It is important to understand that everybody has a definite role to play to accelerate the forward move of the chariot of evolution. The squirrel who put mouthfuls of sand to build the 'Setu bridge' played no mean role than those who lifted huge boulders. Even the millipeds and centipeds contribute their lot to evolution by burrowing deep down in the soil and making it fertile. Then why should man, who is the epitome of evolution become diffident and attempt a suicide.

Old people must bear in mind that the evening sunshine of their life must be spent in deep meditation. This time when ground is prepared for sowing new spiritual seeds, you have to nourish these germinating seeds by your love and protect them by your good thoughts so that they may grow and bloom at least in the early dawn of your next life. "Have faith and courage. Oh ! my Brave old boys, march forward."

Love : Pain Mutated

My eyes observe pains in life :
Yet I transform them into
Love alone.

