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Say 'THANK YOU!' consciously It's not an exercise of lips

“If you serve your mother, you'll get great fame.

If you serve your father, you'll get abundant gives”

I heard a discourse to this effect. A piercing question erupted in me. “What? Do I have to be motivated by a benefit - to serve my own mother and father? Or by the ill effects, I court if I don't? Will any amount of service on my part, would equal her sacrifice for me? Do I have to count the benefits I get back to serve her when she can no more work? Am I investing in a business? How ridiculous! I saw my father, who was deputy collector (a very respectable position in those days), wearing torn bunions. He had a very hard life to support a big family such as ours. Should I be counting the riches I get to look after him at his old age? Shouldn't my heart go easily and naturally, without a second thought to see him comfortable?

There will be a friend, a brother, a sister, an uncle... any human who touches our lives in an emergency

in a helpless situation in a depression in danger. It feels that they are God-sent otherwise there is no way of meeting them at that juncture. Shouldn't we look at them with a heart filled with gratitude?

How do we show our gratitude? I asked a student of Junior Interme-

out any involvement of the heart.

I took out a saree to be given to an old lady who helped Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini (ABV). A boy, who was working for ABV said, “Ma'm! She has done what she could already. She will not help us any more. Instead, you give the



diate. “We must say thank you very much”. She instantly replied. That is the effect of modern education. “Thank you very much from bottom of my heart, from the bottom of my kidneys, liver. Thanks a trillion, a zillion.” all artificially uttered with

same to so and so lady. She is a potential source. You can expect help from her. Just say thanks to the old lady in your address. That's enough”. I was speechless for a while at this motive-driven attitude. I wanted to express my gratitude



THE UNIVERSE WORKS WITHOUT SELF-INTEREST. SUN GIVES SUNSHINE WITHOUT EXPECTATION. MOON GIVES MOONLIGHT WITHOUT EXPECTATION. THE WIND BLOWS UNCONDITIONALLY. RIVERS QUENCH OUR THIRST UNCONDITIONALLY. NO ANIMAL IS SELFISH BEYOND THE SELF REQUIREMENT. A LION DOESN'T KILL A HUNDRED DEERS AND PRESERVE IN THE FRIDGE OR HIDE IN THE BANKS. ONLY HUMAN'S AVARICE IS CROSSING THE LIMITS AND MAKING HIM EXTREMELY UNGRATEFUL.

heartily, to the old lady for her help. Here comes a Polonius advice to invest the same in the profit motive, not in gratitude.

Gratitude in my view is a state of obligation, filled with utmost love and with total awareness and acknowledgement of one's heart for the help received. Practically, you may not be able to do anything in reciprocation to the one you are obliged, owing to your own situation. But to be in a state of gratitude by thought, word and deed, is very important. Similarly, you may present someone a gold crown and have no gratitude at heart, then it's a mechanical action. You'll be blessed as much as a robot would be. Anyways, the best attitude is to be obliged in thought, word and deed sincerely to the one who has done us a favour, help or service. The one devoid of gratitude is ineligible to be called a human being.

Yogi, Vemana, in his famous "Vemana Shatakam" (Collection of a hundred poems) says :

It's not extraordinary to help the one who had helped you. Wise is the one, who helps even the one who had harmed, without finding

fault. But the whole world is functioning in selfishness mode. Thanklessness mode. Simply directing every action towards a self gain. The one who works without any self-interest is looked at as a lunatic. Discrimination is the best tool to employ in helping the one who had harmed because there are some people who are always in the harming mode, in spite of you helping them always. Helping such person amounts to incompetence or weakness.

Actually giving is receiving. I experienced in my life that charity attracts a blessing and you receive in some or other way what you give. That is the way existence says thanks to you. They said it well, "What goes around, comes around". But one shouldn't give with a mind of getting something in return.

The universe works without self-interest. Sun gives sunshine without expectation. Moon gives moonlight without expectation. The wind blows unconditionally. Rivers quench our thirst unconditionally. No animal is selfish beyond the self requirement. A lion doesn't kill a hundred deers and preserve in the

fridge or hide in the banks. Only human's avarice is crossing the limits and making him extremely ungrateful. He does business even with The God. "You see that I pass the examination. I will give my hair to You (God has to use His power in barter to his ugly hair). "Get me married. I will come to Your shrine (is He a politician to need you for support?). "Make my business successful. I will give you one per cent of the net profit (What a pitiable partnership!).

Like this gratitude has morphed into a business. When gratitude returns to its original disposition, universe assumes it's true disposition because gratitude is the DNA of it. Human has affected the DNA of the universe and now is reaping the fruit of his ungrateful actions.

Let's practice gratitude, love, compassion at least now and get back our heavenly earth, which even Angela craves to come and dwell upon.

Let's say "thank you" and "I love you" consciously!

(Author is a well-known musician, Devotional singer, writer and composer.) 