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Narayan Guruji: Greatness Simplified

My association with Narayan Guruji has not been very long; it relates back to hardly 6-7 years. It was a dinner hosted by a common friend of ours. A Former President of India, Narayan Guruji and myself were escorted to a table exclusively meant for strict vegetarians. We were introduced to each other and soon we found ourselves engrossed into hearty conversation, beginning from exchange of pleasantries and extending over to serious issues of national significance, national character and how to serve the country best.

Such was the magnetic effect of Narayan Guruji's personality that I could not afford to miss him anymore. He must have given to me not less than 50 books, most of them authored either by him or on him. I also got the opportunity of sharing a common dais with him in a few memorable events and once of touring with him in the region to which he belongs. Reading the books and indulging in dialogues with him revealed to me the great philosophy of Gita - read, digested, applied and manifested - all hidden behind a courteous profile, called Narayan Guruji, down to earth.

Shri G. Narayana, decorated as 'Narayan Guruji' by his disciples, followers, friends and fraternity is one who was born to be a leader, if not, a born leader. What has impressed me the most is that he has not learnt the western principles of management and leadership for carving out a niche in the society for himself; he has learnt Gita by-heart. Nay, he has permitted the principles and philosophy of Srimad Bhagwat Gita to flow through his heart, and having absorbed the same he has culled out, developed, expounded and took up propagating them by converting them into principles of management and leadership, purely our own but accessible to us and all.

It is said that before you earn what is called success, you must give something equivalent in return. Narayan Guruji chose to give himself for earning success and what is good to the society. He never misses any opportunity of doing something good which he can do to the society, in general, and to the one who chooses to come to him, in particular. It is his excellence imbibed in personality and practised in performance which has bestowed on him the virtues of value. His heart is full of love which invariably enlarges into light. That is the secret of his art of leading from darkness to light. Guruji is one who-to borrow an expression of his own (in a different context-'knows the way, shows the way, goes the way'.

'Humanity to Divinity' authored by him incorporates all the good principles of life relevant to any person in reference to himself, to his family, to the society in which he lives, and to the humanity in general. The principles borrowed by him mainly from the exposition of Gita make a liberal reference to several religions and philosophical thoughts of the world such as Vedas, Upanishads, Zoroaster Gita, Tao, Shinto, Zen, Jainism, Buddhism Quran-Sharif, Jap ji Saab and so on. I had the honour and privilege of releasing the book 'Spirit of Tao' authored by him.

His preachings inspire us to be on the path of righteousness and living a blissful life. Guruji has been blessed by the Divine with the capacity of expressing himself in prose and in lyrics, by words and by pictorial diagrams. His writings find their way straight to the heart of the reader. It is said that the level of leadership ability is determined by a person's level of effectiveness. That is the scale which determines the height of Guruji.

Two volumes of Gurubodh, a compilation of his thoughts and writings have been rightly defined as 'Fragrance of Love and Light' in the preface and 'Gems of Human Excellence' in the foreword.

Needless to say that in the shaping of Guruji as we see him his better-half can legitimately be credited with having made 50% contribution, if not more.

On this auspicious occasion of 50th Wedding Anniversary of theirs Mrs. Lahoti joins me in wishing them 100 years of blissful happy consortium. May God bless them so as to allow his kith and kin to celebrate the emerald, diamond, and centenary anniversaries!

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