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EXPERIMENTING HAPPINESS

It is really difficult to define the term Happiness. It means differently to different people. Let me take an account of my marathon race behind happiness.

In the childhood, I dreamt to be an engine driver of a locomotive run by coal and steam. I considered the drivers there most powerful. I rode on such an express train engine on request. The driver could not refuse me seeing my curiosity and considering my innocent look. As I travelled for few hours, I started feeling boredom and gave up the idea of becoming an engine driver.



I then dreamt at the threshold of my youth of driving my own car either on the busy roads of Calcutta maneuvering thick crowd and vehicles or go for a long drive with huge speed. Today I drive cars on the highways in India and abroad. Those give me no more happiness. In Calcutta, I drive everyday with a compulsion but not with happiness.

As I attained youth, my happiness encircled around piloting an aircraft. I was a good student in school and college. I appeared at the screening test for the position of Pilot in Air Force. Alas! After 5 days of rigorous test-screening, I could not qualify in the group discussion on the 6th day, because of my stammering. So happiness disappeared soon.

I was by then a matured young man. My happiness called me to become powerful government officer. I went through the examinations, got appointed in the coveted service in Indian Government, served there for few years from junior ranks to senior, but without satisfaction. I left the job voluntarily.

I thought happiness in employment remained in private/corporate sector when one could show ability and nurture innovations. I experimented in different position, found a bit better place than government jobs, but puppet at the whim of the boss. So I considered that freedom in work is my ultimate happiness.

At the fag end of my middle age, I thought entrepreneurship and generating employment for others could be my cause for happiness. I sincerely ran an IT organization, went through the ups and downs, went down after 09/11 and returned to my usual business height (not huge). Today at this age of 60, that also does not give me note of happiness. A bit satisfaction of mine now is that I have created such an infrastructure and atmosphere that the organization runs smoothly, even in my absence.

In Late fifty, I started thinking that happiness can be brought in by making extensive tour in India and abroad, know people – their art, cult, language and lifestyle and of course the scenic beauty and the historical importance. In last 10 years I and my wife (having no liability behind) made extensive tour within India – north to south, east to west. Went round North America time and again, went to the European Countries and far east, cruise on Amazon, Alaska, Nile, Atlantic and Pacific, enjoying the beauty of Iguassu, Niagara and Victoria – best was Noukalika in Chera-ponji, Meghalaya, deserts of Sahara and Thar, from Grand Canyon of Arizona to Gurudumba of Sikkim. Alas! My endless search for happiness and satisfaction remained unfulfilled.

But during this long period and going through different services, business, environment for last 3 decades, I grew a feeling of solidarity to others. I am convinced that the society or community has given me enough opportunity to experiment with my desire for happiness. I started deploying major part of my activities for those who wanted to grow but did not have the opportunity. A little support to them would make them achieve their target. I thought, if I retained 99 percent of what I had and gave away one percent to others. I would not loose anything. I could part with my education, experience, labor, money, expertise just by 1%. For last one decade, I have been practicing that and today when I go to sleep at night, lie on the bed and close my eyes, believe me, a smile of satisfaction appears on my face that I could do atleast one good thing for others. I started realizing that this is the true happiness I have started testing after struggling for more than 50 years.

My ultimate feeling, spare one percent of your resource to others. It is like donating blood that gets replenished in no time. And if 100 people in the society like you do so, one person gets 100 percent. So this 100 : 1 ratio will pull up 12 million of our countrymen out of 1200 millions Indians every year. Think how huge the volume is. Does that not lure you? Go ahead, experiment with your happiness.

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