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खण्ड-A / Section-A

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Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.

यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही देख रहे हैं।

Q.2 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

हम उस बच्चे को आसानी से क्षमा कर सकते हैं जो अंधेरे से डरता है; जीवन की वास्तविक त्रासदी तब होती है जब लोग रोशनी से डरते हैं।

Q.3 It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.

बोलना ज्ञान का क्षेत्र है और श्रवण करना बुद्धि का विशेषाधिकार है।

Q.4 Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you.

यह प्रश्न छोड़ दें कि कल क्या हो सकता है, और हर उस दिन को लाभ के रूप में गिनें जो भाग्य आपको अनुमति देता है।

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of light."

There are many corporates working in India. But two of them, one which is MSME working from small town of Madhya Pradesh and one which is multi-national company having its rich worldwide ^{network} came into limelight in recent past.

The MSME ~~was~~ known as Swaraj pipes which had the potential to grow ~~stayed~~ at a closure. The reason behind it was, the MSME feared or afraid of expanding its business

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outside the district or state. Due to its mere negligible impact, the case didn't attract much attention and forgiveness.

On the other hand, the Multi national company, Johnson & Johnson came to limelight due to its afraidness towards light. The company knew about its faulty implant products. However due to fear of backlash, it didn't disclosed the same to health authorities across the world.

The tragedy struck when millions of people across the globe started complaining about their pain. The pain was due to faulty implant of Johnson and Johnson. Some of the patient lost their money as well as life, just because of fear of light by the company.

From the above incidents, it can be stated that "we can easily forgive a child who is afraid of dark, but real tragedy of life is when, men are afraid of light."

In this essay, we will explore the what is the meaning of child and darkness, why they are afraid of dark. We^{will} also highlight what is the meaning of men and light, why they are afraid of light and their consequences.

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To begin with the first question that is, what is child with reference to the quote of the essay. Here child means those who are poor, vulnerable, small stakeholders, illiterate masses, powerless people etc.

Similarly, dark or darkness here means lack of courage, conviction, limited capacity, spirit of adventure etc.

The next question that comes to mind is why they (child) are afraid of dark? Child is afraid of dark because of their limited capabilities. Take an example of small farmer in remote village of India. Why the small farmer ^{does not} invest in micro irrigation such as drip techniques. This is because he or she is afraid of slow return, lack of access to capital.

Since, the afraidness of child towards the darkness have limited impact, we can foresee the same. Let us discuss the next question that is central to our essay is, what we mean by men in this essay? what is the meaning of light? why men are afraid of light?

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Men here means those people who wield significant social, economical, political power, those people who occupy key position in society, those people who have ment, knowledge, skills etc. Similarly light here means transparency, accountability, responsibility, courage, justice etc.

It is often said that - "World suffers not because of violence of few, rather silence of many." This resonates well with the fearfulness of light by the men. Let us now discuss why men are afraid of light?

Those in power afraid of light because they lack qualities of leadership. This is evident from the behaviour of those superpowers who afraid of taking responsibility of their actions. The IPCC report has highlighted that the present era of climate change is due to historical contribution made by industrial revolution of USA, UK, China, Germany etc.

This is evident in social sphere also. We all know about increasing instances of discrimination in society. There are many cases of riots such as Noida East Delhi riots, recent

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violence in Tihar, Gurgaon etc. One of the reason for these issues is afraidness of men towards light. Men like bureaucracy, judiciary, government here not taking strict accountability towards these instances.

Men are also afraid of light because lack of wisdom. Socrates has famously said that "There is only one good that is knowledge and only one evil that is ignorance." But men with knowledge are ignoring pressing issues affecting the humanity. What are these issues which are getting affected due to men being afraid of light?

Firstly, we need to look at the problem of poverty. We all know that "poverty is the biggest form of violence." But men who can strike right policies, who can spend on education, health, capacity building of these poor are afraid of taking responsibilities. Rather they are busy in putting the blame game, engaged in wars, hostility etc.

Secondly, we need to explore the tragedy of corruption. As per Transparency International

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report, 7 out of 10 people pay bribe in India to get the services done. The corruption tragedy is so entrenched in our system that 2nd ARC has termed it as regulatory cholesterol to turn the wheels of bureaucracy. Whom should we blame for?

One of the reason for sure is the afraidness of men towards transparency. They prevent transparency measures such as RTI, social audit, citizen charter etc from becoming successful. Driven by short sightedness, they fail to visualise the impact of corruption on poor, tribes, farmers, women etc.

Thirdly, we can also link the tragedy of discrimination against LGBTQ+ community, old age people, person with disabilities etc with the afraidness of men towards LGBT. The men are capable of bringing desired solutions to address these tragedies but they lack light of empathy, compassion, tolerance etc.

These vulnerable sections require continuous support of society. But they get

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in return continuous harassment, they often face violence. As per reports 9 out of 10 transgenders have suffered social discrimination, sexual assaults etc in their life. Their life is full of tragedy just because of ~~afraid of~~ ~~of~~ ~~men~~ ~~towards~~ taking right steps.

Let us now shift our focus towards India's neighbourhood. The condition of women in Afghanistan is becoming worse day by day. They are forced to leave their studies, banned from holding any public office, to name a few tragedies. They are made to remain within the households doing domestic works. This is the real tragedy of their life. What is the reason behind their plight?

Answer to the question lies in ~~afraidness~~ ~~of~~ International power, United Nation agencies, governments, civil society and HQs. They have chosen the path of mute audience than fighting the injustice against our sisters, mothers in Afghanistan.

This proves that, we can easily ¹³ forgive a child who is afraid of dark but

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real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of light. Having discussed the tragedies of LGBT, old age people, women, environment, poverty and corruption, it is also important to talk about remedies. Hence, the next question that comes to mind is how to overcome these tragedies?

To overcome the tragedies we need to focus on two aspects - One to make our children not to fear darkness and second, relatively more important is to make our men not to fear light. Let us elaborate on the first part - How can we make our child not to fear darkness?

The answer to this question lies in socialisation. As famously said by Nelson Mandela - "Education is biggest weapon one can use to bring social change." We need to give right education which builds both knowledge and skill on one hand, ethics and values on other. The Child means the poor, vulnerable section, powerless should be empowered to take participation in

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public life. They should have freedom to put question before authorities.

To achieve these objectives, Government has come up with various initiatives. National Education Policy 2020 which aims at value education, vocational education, adult education has the potential to make our children free from fear of darkness. Similarly other initiatives such as RTI, MFSM, Forest Rights Act, Citizen Charters etc aim to address the fear of darkness, among the child.

The relatively more important question that is, how can we make our men not to afraid light needs more elaboration. First and foremost thing is to cultivate among them the spirit of selflessness.

A leader or administrator or any influencer who has quality of selflessness, never has fears of light. We can take example of Mahatma Gandhi to demonstrate the same.

Gandhi ji had no fears about mighty British. He believed in light of truth and nonviolence.

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Then Gandhiji was able to convert tragedy of colonialism into freedom or independence for nation. Apart from selflessness, what else ~~was~~ we require to address fears of light among men?

For this, we need to cultivate values of integrity, empathy and compassion, honesty, tolerance etc among the men. To demonstrate this let us take example of Malala Yousafzai. She said - "When the whole world remain silent, even one voice becomes powerful."

This reflect that the men should have courage, conviction, empathy & compassion. It help them rise to the situation of tragedy.

Malala Yousafzai was hit by bullets. The bullets tried to ~~or~~ make her afraid of light.

But she stood her ground and avoided tragedy not only ⁱⁿ her life but also made a point that education is equally available for women.

She was awarded with Noble peace prize

Hence the ideal society or Ram Rajya in the words of Mahatma Gandhiji

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would become reality only when our children are not afraid of darkness and our men are not afraid of the light.

As famously said that "courage to accept and dedication to improve is to key to success." We need to accept our

mistakes and work upon them to create an inclusive, humanitarian, just and sustainable society. A society where even corporates like Swaraj pipes and Johnsons and Johnsons flourish, progress simultaneously

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.
सत्य, मशाल की तरह है, इसे जितना अधिक हिलाया जाता है, यह उतना ही चमकता है।
- Q.6 Art is I; science is We.
कला मैं है; विज्ञान हम है।
- Q.7 Only the dead have seen the end of the war.
केवल मृतकों ने ही युद्ध का अंत देखा है।
- Q.8 Act as if it were impossible to fail.
कार्य ऐसे करें जैसे कि विफल होना असंभव ही था।

"Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook,
it shines."

We have grown up with famous
idiom, that is "Satya Meva Jayate" which
means "truth always triumphs." But many few
of us have questioned ourselves that, why
it is being said so, why the ancient
saying still having its presence and significance
in 21st century?

In this essay we will find answers
not only to above questions but also to other
questions like what is truth, and why it
shines when it is shook? We will also
explore the dimension that is truth always
shine, many other perspective. Let's begin with

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What is truth?

For me, being truthful refers to 'not to lie'. But the philosophical mind questions this meaning. Truth is a subjective phenomena and cannot be restricted to only one aspect of not lying.

For philosophers like Socrates, truth is having wisdom, for philosopher like Aristotle, truth is following doctrine of mean. For philosophers like Plato, truth is having courage. Similarly we can say that truth is nothing but justice, peace, responsibility and so on. Let us discuss the meaning of truth one by one and highlight how it shines when we shook it up.

Socrates has famously said that "True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing." He equates truth with having knowledge. When one knows that she knows nothing this help in cultivating wisdom, spirit of questioning, zeal of progress etc. How it leads to shine when it is shook up?

We know that JSRO's Chandrayaan-2

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mission has ~~to~~ lead to partial failure. IRO accepted this truth and it shook it up for probable reasons behind partial failure. The wisdom of knowing the truth behind failure has led to launch of Chandrayaan 3. Thus the truth behind Chandrayaan 2 has become shining of Chandrayaan 3. Let us now move to next question that what truth means to Aristotle.

As highlighted earlier, for Aristotle truth means following doctrine of mean which is similar to Buddha's Madhyama Marg meaning. Truth here reflects that one should have balanced approach in life. It should not be in excess nor should be low. Seems very philosophical, but it can be tested in reality.

India's stand on Russia - Ukraine war is testimony to that. India has stood for truth, that is 'this is not the era of war.' It has followed the doctrine of mean by neither taking side of Russia nor taking side of Ukraine but taking side of truth.

The more we shook up our stand on truth, more it has benefited (shone) us.

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This is evident from our bonhomie relationship with Russia as well as USA. Moreover, the increase in oil trade with Russia, deepening of defence relationship with USA, highlight the same that "truth is like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines."

Why Plato called truth as having courage? Because truth acts as a mean to develop courage. Courage helps us knowing the truth, keeping the path of truth and fighting for the truth. How it can be relatable to real life?

For this we need to delve into our history. What is the most common thing between Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule? It is the truth that the untouchables, Harijan, Dalits were facing discrimination in Indian society.

All of them had courage to accept the truth behind such a social evil. All of them united to shake the truth of practice of untouchability. This has led to many

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positive outcomes (shine) in the form of abolition of untouchability, positive discrimination in favour of them in matters of education, employment, seats in parliament etc. This further demonstrates that "Truth is like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines."

Martin Luther King has famously said that "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hatred cannot drive out hatred only love can do that." Hence for Martin Luther King, truth is knowing that love is more important than hate. The more we move towards love, the more just will be the society. Let us link it to practical life.

We often hear the news of Rohingya crisis, racial discrimination, atrocities against women, plight of person with disabilities etc. Thus it is our duty of knowing hatred against these sections has led to love for them. The more we are able to develop empathy and compassion more we will be able to create not only a safer place for them but also a happy place to live for. Our efforts such as United Nations Convention

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against racial discrimination, Global Compact on migration etc are reflection of the same. This further proves that "Truth is like a torch, i.e. love, the more it is shook, it shines." But it also make us to think about our next question, Is truth always shines when it is shook?

It is often said that, "All that glitters, is not always gold." If truth is so powerful like a torch, if it always shine then why we hear about negatives, evils, etc in different spheres of life. Let us discuss this in social sphere, political sphere, economical sphere, technological sphere, international sphere and so on.

To start with social sphere, when we all know the truth that all men and women are equal, then why we hear the news of cases of rapes and atrocities against women.

Despite the truth shaking up and shining through various laws and institutions for women, the violence has only risen in recent periods. As per NFHS 5 data, 1 in 3 women faces violence,

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1 in 4 girl children undergo child marriages and more than 1 in 2 women are anemic in India. How can this be possible despite knowing the fact that Article 14 of our constitution guarantees Right to Equality.

In the domain of political sphere too, we all know the fact that "democracy is of the people, by the people and for the people." Despite knowing this fact why our tribals are having resentment, why our farmers are having resentment, why there is turbulence in North East? As per Global Democracy Index, we have been ranked at 150th. It reflects that rather than shining the fact of facing difficulties.

Economically too, we often believe in fact of compassionate capitalism, Gandhiji considered the industries as trusteeships of society. But the fact behind these concept has been given a toss during COVID-19 pandemic. We often heard about workers being left off, migrants were forced to travel by foot to their village, these are not the shining examples we were searching.

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What is happening internationally need also to be discussed. We all know the fact that climate change is real. It is shaking up mother earth by disasters such as floods in Himachal Pradesh, Assam etc to forest fire in Greece, Spain, Hawaii. Despite knowing the fact, we are not able to shine.

This is evident from issues such as non consensus over climate financing, technology or clean technology transfer, not accepting the historical responsibility, not agreeing to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

All of this reflects that despite knowing the fact, despite shaking it up, it has not led to light/shine. This makes us think then, what else is needed to make the fact to act like a torch, so that when it shoots it shines rather shine brighter?

The answer lies in ethics rather universal ethics. Philosopher like Emmanuel Kant has advocated that fact should be blended

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with conscience. Even Mahatma Gandhi said that "there is higher court than court of justice, which is court of conscience." It means that truth needs to be balanced with conscience.

Truth is only ^{one} aspect of action, it should and must be blended with conscience. When truth is mixed up with morality, with foundational values of love, peace, justice, empathy etc then it shines, shines brighter.

Truth of equality between women and men must be blended with rightful action based on values of love. Truth of discrimination against tribes, farmers, Most East etc must be blended with values of democratization, decentralization and inclusivity.

Similarly the rule of plight of workers, migrants etc must be addressed through effective actions such as labour codes, welfare schemes etc. The rule of climate change must be blended with principles of cooperation

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coordination, sense of responsibility. The action such as One sun one world one grid, Paris Climate deal etc offers hope. It is upto us to shook it up and make it shine.

Thus it requires philosophy and realism to make it shine for us. Towards this end we should be guided by a shloka -

"Sam Gachdram, sam vaddram
samvo janani, janadam." which means

"Let us walk together,
let us move together and
together we should take our world forward."

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