



Guest Editorial – Spirituality and its Significant Role to Improve the Quality of Professional Life

Recently I had the privilege of meeting Sri Chandra Swamiji Udasin, a truly enlightened soul and revered sage. Swamiji had been immersed in unbroken silence from October 1984 until August 2017, guided by divine inspiration. Since our first meeting over four decades ago, I have always sensed a profound spiritual energy emanating from his face, radiating divinity. When Swamiji entered the serene Lunch Hall in Domet, Dehradun, even for a brief 5 minutes, the atmosphere transcended to an elevated level of divinity, stirring tears in the eyes of some devotees. His message resounded clearly: *"Awake! Time is slipping away. Remember the Divine. Realize the Truth before life succumbs to death."*

His words triggered deep introspection within me. What truly drives us in life? Is it an insatiable pursuit of wealth, more and more comforts, and material possessions? Many among us already hold vast wealth, power, and esteemed positions as business owners, executives, professionals, or public figures. Yet, if we were to inquire about their happiness, the resounding answer would be a resolute "NO". They are burdened by stress, worries, unfathomable fears, and mounting uncertainties.

This reminds me of a story. A man cried out for help in the night, expressing his hunger, thirst, and suffering from the heat. People hurried to assist him, only to discover a jug of water and fresh fruits placed right next to him. The room was illuminated, but the fan remained switched off. It became clear that the man was foolishly unaware of the resources readily available to him.

Isn't this our story too? We possess everything necessary to fulfil our needs, yet we remain consumed by greed. The resources of the entire world are insufficient to satiate the greed of a single individual. We feel life is a constant struggle, but have we ever paused to question the purpose behind this ceaseless battle? Most of us are oblivious to the true purpose of life. We find ourselves running tirelessly without a clear direction or goal. To realize the Truth, we need to remember the Divine. *Let us Awake! Go back to basics and review what needs to be done. The time is running out.*

Veda: The Divine Reservoir of Complete Knowledge

The four Vedas: Rig-Veda, Yajur-Veda, Sama-Veda, and Atharva-Veda contain profound and complete knowledge about God, the soul, and the physical universe. This knowledge is pure, stored in the Cosmic Records, and has been explored by countless sages who shared it for the benefit of humanity. Great figures like Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Guru Nanak, Lord Buddha, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda, and others accessed this cosmic knowledge, as did scientists through their intuitions, leading to significant discoveries. Similar to accessing information on the internet, anyone can tap into this cosmic knowledge through meditation.

The Rig-Veda reveals the "cosmic order," where both physical and moral laws govern the universe, forbidding transgressions. Vedic philosophy draws boundless creativity, action, and power from these universal laws of nature. However, we have lost sight of these laws in our relentless pursuit of wealth at any cost. Our skewed focus on accumulating more money has caused harm, leading to a degraded physical environment, unsafe workplaces, urban decay, the fear of wars, exposure to toxins,

social discrimination, and numerous socioeconomic and political problems worldwide. Let us pause and reflect on what needs to be done as individuals, leaders, and business organizations considering this knowledge.

- **Pursuit of Excellence:** Vedic hymns and scriptures guide us to excel in life. The Atharva Veda emphasizes the mindset of striving for excellence, as it states, “अहं भूयासम् उत्तमः” (*I will become excellent*). Commitment to excellence is the key to a fulfilling life, as Lord Krishna states in the Bhagavad Gita, “योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्” (*Yoga is excellence in action*).
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as an Ethical Role Model:** To achieve excellence, everyone in the organization must perform their duties correctly and completely. The CEO plays a crucial role in exemplifying the organization's values. He should observe three forms of self-discipline: Self-Guilt (Atma-Glani), Fear of God (Ishwar-Bhaya), and Fear of Society (Lok-Lajja). The CEO's "Self-Ethics" should inspire employees to embrace these values, as the saying goes, “यथा राजा तथा प्रजा” (*As the king or CEO is, so are the people*).
- **Rule of Dharma for Righteous Governance:** Upholding dharma (righteousness) is essential for high growth. Lord Ram, known as the “*Maryadapurushottam*” or “*Lord of Ethics*,” and Pandava king Yudhishtera, remembered as the “*Dharma Raj*” or “*King of Ethics*,” exemplify this principle. The Atharva Veda states: “उदुषा उदु सूर्य मामकम् वचन। ----- प्रजापति वृषा शुस्मेन वाजिना।” (*O King! Take care of the welfare and growth of all your people. Then you will grow as the Sun grows and shines at dawn and after its rise*). A leader should consistently work towards the growth of their followers and organization.
- **Wisdom-based Leadership:** While Peter Drucker defines a leader as a “knowledge worker”, focusing on training, skills, policies, and knowledge, the Bhagavad Gita defines a leader as a “wisdom worker” who prioritizes education, values, principles, and wisdom. Successful organizations like Tata Group and Aravind Eye Hospitals attribute their achievements to upholding values. The essence of values (dharma) is expressed in the Mahabharata, emphasizing living together harmoniously and prospering by utilizing the world's vast resources, leading to cosmic peace for all.
- **Vedic Economic Philosophy:** According to Vedic teachings, money should flow continuously like a river, following the principle of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (*all living beings are part of one family*). Businesses have the responsibility to ensure the flow of knowledge, resources, and information for the prosperity of society as Atharva Veda (1-15-3) says, “Rivers continuously flow, without any stop for the welfare of others. Similarly, money should continuously flow for the welfare of others. The continuous flow of money gives new earnings every day while stoppage of flow blocks money and leads to many troubles and social problems.” Success lies in practicing selfless sacrifice, known as “**Yajna**,” for the benefit of society. The ancient texts, the Manu-Smriti and Chanakya Niti, highlight the significance of earning money with purity and highlight that the purpose of business is ‘**Serve Lok Hitam**’ or create wealth for the well-being of all stakeholders.
- **Collaboration, Co-operation, and Coexistence:** Instead of competing and satisfying egos, it is time to forgive past misunderstandings and join hands as a team to bring about positive change. The top management and all stakeholders, including suppliers, customers, collaborators, co-workers, and competitors, should unite for the well-being of humanity. Unity of thought leads to collective growth, as Atharva Veda says: “समना सदेवा” (*People with the same divine thoughts grow together*).
- **Taking Care of All Stakeholders:** In ancient times, the king and the wealthy generously donated to social causes and the betterment of society. Wealth should be procured and distributed for the universal well-being of all as Atharva-Veda (3-24-5) states: “शत हस्त समाहर, सहस्रहस्त सं किर। कृतस्य कार्यस्य चेह स्फार्ति समावह” (*O man! Procure wealth with one hundred hands and distribute it for*

universal wellbeing with one thousand hands. Thus, you attain perfection of the work done and to be done)". This transformation of the corporate world and increased profit sharing will contribute to a new world order.

- **Vision of the New World Order:** The last Sukta of the Rig-Veda, known as Sangthan Sukta, emphasizes prosperity for all. Businesses need to align with cosmic laws, develop a common vision, and take joint initiatives with customers, suppliers, educational institutions, social organizations, and society at large. Equality of thoughts and wisdom leads to collective prosperity, as the hymn says:

समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी समानं मनः सह चित्तमेषाम्
समानं मन्त्रमभि मन्त्रये वः समानेन वो हविषा जुहोमि ॥

*"O Man! Let equality prevails in your thoughts and attain wisdom
Let as equals carry further pondering, Prosperity blessed to you all is equal"*

By following this path, we can realize the truth and bring about positive change. Let us awaken to the urgency of the time.

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