

‘Love lawfully and Law lovefully’



While addressing parents, I asked them, “*Do your kids follow laws, or do they understand the language of love?*” The majority of the parents replied a big ‘NO’ for both the questions. They were of the opinion that the upcoming generation neither likes discipline and laws, nor understands the value of love.

Very often, many of us, who shoulder ‘Leadership Positions’ are also faced with similar dichotomy whether to adopt LOVE or LAW as our operational strategy. We tend to favour one over the other. Where there is love we are unable to follow laws and where we follow laws we restrict ourselves from love. The majority of us believe that laws will become paralyzed with the presence of love; while to practise love, laws need to be broken. Due to the incapability of walking along in life with both the factors hand in hand, we tend to choose either of the two.

Hence, the biggest challenge faced by many of us today is, how to keep a balance of these two factors which are perceived to be opposites. **To ‘love lawfully’ and to practice ‘laws lovefully’ is the need of the hour.** For that, it is crucial for us to go deeper and understand what is love and law in the correct sense.

Love is the only language common to every living entity on earth; be it humans, animals or any other species, irrespective of the country, caste, religion or any other barrier. It is first language that we understand, the day we are born. A new-born does not know how to speak, nor does he understand words, but feels secure and happy the moment he is in the lap of his mother or father. A pet who may not know our language, also understands a touch full of love by his master. It enables an animal to be so faithful to a human being that in his presence no one can cause harm to his master. History has many incidences where love has won wars.

It is said that love is such a power that can shake mountains. Let us think, why even then, we say that we are unable to get our work done through love? Or dealing with love does not work in today’s world? Definitely somewhere our understanding or way of practising love is incomplete.

TRUE LOVE is not the attachment or attraction to the others, but is the pure affection towards them. It is the affection that one has for others, irrespective of who the other one is. This affection does not support them in the wrong, but encourages them to again walk on the right path if they have gone on the wrong one. **This kind of True Love can only be born in our hearts when we connect to God in the depth of our being.**

But the irony today is most of the time, we look out searching for love in the materialistic world, unaware of our inner treasures. Due to materialization of love, it transforms into attachment or attraction. **These assumed but false forms of love do much harm to the society, as along with them, comes the feeling of partiality, insecurity, rebellion and in extreme cases may even lead to hatred.** We are not unaware of various incidences today where lovers do not even hesitate in doing heinous deeds like murder in the name of love. Sadly, they lack the understanding of ‘True Love’.

Talking of LAW, it is the essential force that drives this universe. Everything including nature has its own laws. We are aware of the amount of devastation that occurs with the slightest deviation of nature from its laws. In one’s life, laws are like the string tied to a kite. At once, it may seem that the string is restricting the kite to fly high, but we all know the fact. If the string is cut and the kite is left to fly on its own, it will eventually come down. This is the importance of laws in our life. They are not bondages, but the **strings of strength** that support us and guide us to always rise and achieve new heights. Laws are the roots of one’s personality and the water needed to strengthen the roots is love. Law cannot function without love as it would induce fear. On the other hand, a person, who is very

loving in nature, would be of no inspiration to the self or others if the foundation of laws and discipline in him is weak. **So, to have a complete personality and be able to do justice with all kind of jobs and relations linked to us, a perfect balance of love and law is required.**

Connecting to the ‘**divine within our soul**’ establishes this balance of love and law in our life as it automatically changes our vision towards others. We realize that, similar to me, others are also divine beings, full of virtues but unfortunately unaware of their capabilities. It is with this insight, that we start experiencing love in its true form, unadulterated by any form of attachment or desire. We stop blaming others or the world, for whatever bad happens to us. When we obey all the laws of our true nature i.e. being in the state of love, peace, happiness, power etc, we regain the inner strength to walk on the path of righteousness and lead a disciplined life.

Like a diseased person finds it difficult to balance his own body, similarly a diseased mind i.e. a mind trapped in the vices of ego, anger, attachment, jealousy etc, finds it difficult to keep a balance of the essential virtues in life. Connecting to the divine helps in re-strengthening our inner being and regaining this lost balance.

If every individual in the world re-strengthens itself, there would not be much effort required to shape the future of a peaceful and united world, where everything would be in harmony, and no one would be complaining about lack of love or law in the society. Thus a sustainable future would be achieved. Let’s start our inner journey to have a perfect balance of love and law to ensure a sustainable bright future of the earth. **HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!**

“The love of God does not supersede His laws and His commandments, and the effect of God’s laws and commandments does not diminish the purpose and effect of His love.”

Sr. Rekha Punia, UMI
Nirmala Provincialate, Greater Noida