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The best motto, the best ethical principle in life is to strive to be good within margin of human possibility. A person who is good of heart and mind is also externally good and relishes doing good to one and all. The selfish person can never be good. Hence, the first condition to be good is to be selfless to the maximum extent possible. Since we live in the world of imperfect individuals, perfection is not possible to achieve by anyone. Only God is perfect. But a good person partakes of the attributes of God, say, godliness. We have a short sojourn on this planet earth and everybody's life is rounded with a sleep (death), is it not proper for us to lead a good, pious, right and ethical life. The powers and pelf of this world will remain here when we leave the world. We will go empty-handed to the other world. But the good dead of people will go with them, while the so-called Great who hoarded immense wealth and power went away with their hands spread, with nothing on their palms. Alexander, the Great who had conquered lots of territories belonging to others; Soloman, one of the richest persons both, went empty-handed while saints like Swami Dayanand and Swami Vivekanand left behind a rich legacy of goodness and morality and went away with their hands full of goodness and beauty, something allied to goodness. Therefore, the best principle to cherish in life is to be good, to do good and serve others.

### **Goodness is in your nature**

#### **To be good is your birth right.**

To spread goodness is in your power. You want to look like a good man, and also welcome to be called a good man. Everybody wants to be so. But very few of us try to become a really good man.

Let us first ask ourselves whom we call good men and what we expect of a good man. The answer is simple. A good man is first of all a gentleman, and a gentleman is he who does not inflict pain on others or does not give any cause for offence to any one. On the other hand, he tries to be helpful and useful to all whom he comes into contact with. If you expect others to be good to you, then be helpful to others. Do unto others, as you want to be done by them. As you sow, so shall you reap. Ask your innerself—am I a good person? You would immediately know where you stand.

When you join some service—be it as an administrator, you would like to be a good officer, but people will call you good only when you do a good turn to persons who come to you to redress their grievances.

A great author has written that the secret of sound sleep is good work. He had made it a point to do a good work to atleast one person everyday, and felt satisfied when he went to sleep. You can also experience it by doing good work. So many persons suffer from insomnia because they do not do good work and do not enjoy the pleasure of self-satisfaction.

What accompanies a person when he or she goes to the other world? No money, no riches, no property, but only his goodness, and at the same time, only goodness remains and lasts forever. Even the richest of persons King Soloman, and the conqueror of the conquerors, Alexander, the Great, had to go empty-handed. But servants of the people like Swami Dayanand and Mahatma Gandhi had their hands full with goodness, when the world bade them good bye for the last time.

God is called good, because He is good to all beings, and likes all. You also begin to like all and be good to all; you too, will be called good. The first step is to like and love your own self, because you are a good person, but outwardly and inwardly you will at once experience that God and goodness will be standing beside you because goodness is next to Godliness.