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Make Struggle Your Religion

A life of action and adventure is a life worth living. Struggles and problems are part of that life. An easy life shorn of all risks, dangers, adventures is not a life worth living. Struggles and problems, adversities and challenges put our stamina, our prowess to test. We should welcome the struggles that come our way. "Welcome each rebuff", says Browning in his immortal optimistic poetry. Instead of shunning challenges of life and all the rigours of human existence, we should happily welcome them. We should put up a stiff resistance against all troubles and overcome them. This is life and it is truly ordained as such by God. All great men of the world became great after having struggled and fought against heavy odds. Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln and a host of other great personalities of the world would never have achieved what they achieved if they had not encountered difficulties, adversities, challenges and problems galore in their lives. Regard such adverse situations in life as ordained by destiny to test the stuff you are made of. If you win, life appears worthliving. Victory gained after grim struggles is worth having. Success is sweet when it comes after we have put in persistent effort, perseverance and hard work to achieve it. It is rightly said that "adversity doth best discover virtue, prosperity doth best discover vice." So gird up your loins and face bravely and heroically all struggles and problems that confront you in life so as to make your life useful, meaningful and fruitful.

A man has been gifted with free personality and will power. It is his personal qualities that differentiate him from others of his species. It is these specific differences in the thought process and mindset of a man that make him struggle at every juncture of life. Therefore, the prevention of the struggle and its cause become the Karma of his life.

We all want to live a life of comfort. Those who think that they can achieve such a life without struggling do not gain anything and end up blaming God's will and destiny. The society declares such people as jobless and worthless. Such pessimistic people either do not begin with any errand for fear of problems or leave it in midway when they encounter any. They avoid a life full of struggles. Such people are satisfied with whatever comes their way and lead a life of anonymity. Such people are not ambitious and do not have any aim to accomplish. This leads to the nihilistic way of life, where one has no reason to live. Our young readers will do well to comprehend the hazards of such a life. The wise men have defined life as a field of action; we are all born to act and achieve. Problems, sorrows and sufferings are our enemies whom we need to face and defeat in order to emerge as a winner. Shakespeare has aptly remarked, "Cowards die many times before their deaths, the valiant never taste of death but once."

The biographies of almost all the great men of the world, be it the American President Abraham Lincoln

or the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi, all teach us that the secret of greatness lies in the will to struggle. These great men had to face many difficulties in their way, but they did not lose courage and struggled till they achieved victory. One has to trace one's way through struggles all by oneself. No external source of energy comes to one's aid.

Hard work, determination and persistence and other human qualities help a man to struggle and achieve success. The life of the famous scientist Michael Faraday is an apt example of achieving success by struggling. His father put him into book binding because of their poverty stricken state. But his determination made him study the books he used to bind when all his comrades had left for home after the day's work. In this way, a life of struggle and persistence turned him into a great scientist.