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Be the Rising Sun

Glittering accomplishments are garnered only by those who think big and act big, and are inspired by lofty ideals and sublime values. Those who are mired in despondency, despair and disappointment, and are driven by negative emotions and inferiority complex are doomed to stumble at the gate of high achievements. Our scriptures exhort us to be like the rising Sun which scatters light and life all around, in every nook and corner of the universe. Great people indeed emulate the stars, nay, the Superstar which is the Sun itself. The world has produced luminaries who have adorned the firmament of history with their light, radiance and effulgence like that of the sun through their lofty ideals and sublime values. Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Buddha, Lord Mahavir and lately Swami Vivekanand shone like the Sun in the firmament of spiritual life. Men of letters, poets, dramatists, philosophers like Shakespeare, Kalidas, Leo Tolstoy and a host of other luminaries immortalised themselves with their great works which even the cruel hands of time cannot destroy. They were all like the Sun. In so many other fields of life also great celebrities have made timeless contributions for the good of the entire humanity. The great gifts of achievements they bestowed on us will endure and shine everlastingly, leaving their never-dying marks on the sands of time. Like these jewels of humanity we should also strive incessantly and unremittingly to unfold our full potential in order to attain the great heights of achievements in our chosen fields of life.

Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore has written at a place that "the morning warm Sun spreads its light throughout. In shedding this light it makes no difference between the small and the big, the rich and the poor. I was overwhelmed with this scene and was filled with the feeling of equality. This feeling of equality made me visualise the universal man and I became the singer of the universal pain and agony."

The idea lying behind the poet's statement is clear. When the outer light becomes the inner light, then the immortal poets like Ravindra Nath Tagore are born. In the absence of the inner light the outer light becomes meaningless. When the mental eyes are not opened then the outer eyes on the forehead are almost dead. They are like the eyes engraved on the wings of the peacock. Gopis had told Uddhava that to perceive the real form of Shree Krishna, we need the real eyes, the mental eyes and not the dead outer eyes, those engraved on the wings of the peacock.

The all pervading light is meaningful and of value. Light, whether outer or inner, ought to be all embracing.

A king called his three sons and gave to each a certain amount of money saying—he would give his kingdom to the boy who would bring with this money something which pervaded the whole house. With king's wishes overhead and the desire to have kingdom, all the sons started on their errand. The first son

brought a big carpet but it proved short for the whole house. The second son brought a mirror in which the whole reflection of the whole house was to be seen, but the mirror broke just after ten minutes. When the third son came back he had a candle stick in his hand. The candle stick made the whole house full of light and it continued to be so. The king declared this son as his heir because he had visualised to lighten the whole house. This is the real worth of life, if we throw light all around so that different paths are to be seen. According to an old story a blind man always carried a lighted lantern in his hand. This served two purposes : people used to see the blind man in the dark and thereby became safe and secondly it helped the people moving on the road to see their way ahead. With such things in view it has been said that instead of cursing darkness a thousand times it is better to light a candle and produce light.