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## Make The Maximum of Your Young Age

Mahatma Gandhi said that the youth are the salt of the nation; if the salt loses its flavour, wherewith shall it be salted. This saying emphasises the role that the young people play in the progress of a nation. The young age is the time when their enthusiasm, energy, courage, valour and idealism are at their highest. It is imperative for our young people to harness these traits for the welfare of the nation and the world at large. History is replete with a galaxy of great persons who acquitted themselves creditably at the young age itself. They made the most of their young age and won laurels not only for themselves, but for the entire mankind. Poets like Henry LV Derozio, Keats, Shelley, Byron in English literature and like Jai Shankar Prasad, Suryakant Tripathi Nirala in Hindi literature gave to the world the jewels of their poetry at a very young age. Shakespeare himself had made himself immortal at his young age itself. Spiritual personalities like Adi Guru Shankaracharya, Sant Gyaneshwar, Swami Vivekanand, Swami Dayanand and earlier Jesus Christ gave immortal messages to the entire mankind at a very young age. At present we are passing through a very grave scenario in our political life. Some unscrupulous politicians make a wrong use of our young persons for their selfish ends, hurling them into movements which benefit none but themselves. It is sad indeed that our young persons allow themselves to be misused by them. Time that is gone is gone for ever. The youth that is gone will never return. It is, therefore, imperative for our young people to make the best use of their young age and not allow their energy and enthusiasm to be frittered away in ungainful things. They should make the maximum of their young age.

Almost in every movement our young men are in the forefront. In a way it is most natural and proper. If our young men do not come in the forefront then who would come forward to face and surmount the difficulties. We don't expect that someone will come from the heavens to help us in difficult situations. But even then our young men should give a thought to what they are going to do. They should use their brains before undertaking any action that affects the society at large. They should think well for whom they are going to fight and who will be affected by the outcome of the struggle. We see that there are very few movements which are concerned, infact, with interests of young men. Clever leaders use them as escape goats. Our young men and women face lathi blows and bullet shots; the resultant advantage is enjoyed by the political leaders. We are fully convinced that enthusiasm in young age is not only natural but also essential but to lose sense in the flow of enthusiasm cannot be called proper on any ground. If our young men and women use their brains to undertake any job, their energies and time could not be improperly used. They have to be specially cautious and alert of those people who use the youngsters as fodder for bullets.

Every child is born with a heritage of the past and this determines and builds the future. As he advances in age, his responsibilities increase for

the building of the future. Free will is his birth right and the proper use of his energy is his responsibility. Every young man and woman is the hope of the future. That is why to build its future every nation or society looks to its young men and women. It is the duty of every young man and woman that to fulfil his or her responsibilities, he/she should use his/her energies in constructive work. It is necessary, therefore, that he/she realizes his/her relationship with his/her environment and neighbourhood and then decides his/her line of action. It is expected that as responsible citizens our young men and women will avoid irresponsible actions and will decide their behaviour. They will think with a cool mind and then make those tendencies ineffective which are undesirable and unwanted. We are not talking of some hoary past, we talk of the Indian Freedom Movement. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Sarojini Naidu had shaken the foundation of the British Rule in India. Their contribution to the freedom movement can never be forgotten. The great novelist Prem Chand has rightly written that young age is personified enthusiasm, force, courage, compassion, self confidence, magnanimity and all that is good and makes the life bright and complete.