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Become a New Man

Hamlet in Shakespeare's play of the same name describes the qualities of his father. In the end he says that he was a Man. Let us understand that Man is something greater and larger than a simple human being. We have, therefore, to strive to be a man in the real sense of the term. We can also call it a new man, meaning that we should cultivate in ourselves qualities and attributes that elevate us to a higher level of a human being, the new man. We should cultivate virtues and eschew vices. Man is a bundle of both positive and negative elements. In order to rise above the ordinary human being we should shun negative tendencies. We should be moral, ethical, spiritual, benevolent, self-sacrificing, large hearted and generous. Love, compassion and an all-embracing sympathy should characterise all our thoughts and actions. Equality, justice and humanity should be the hall mark of our actions and behaviour. And above all, we must rise above the material or the wordly progress and should aim at achieving inner development. History remembers only those who cultivated and practiced these attributes. Great seers and sages, saints and prophets became famous because they identified themselves with these virtues. They lived and died for humanity. We cannot, ordinarily, rise to that level but we can certainly make an earnest endeavour in that direction. God has gifted all of us with unlimited potential; the need is to make incessant striving, consistent pursuit and constant practice our guiding principle of life. The English poet William Wordsworth said that life is heading towards perfectibility. We can also be a part of that process. It is difficult but not impossible. Let us create a new man in us in order to make our lives more meaningful and more fruitful, not only to ourselves, but to the larger humanity.

In Vivek Churamani Jagat Guru Shankaracharya has written that a person going into the right direction makes himself a new person; thinking rightly and working rightly, he gets a new personality. Mahatma Gautam Buddha has also laid great emphasis on right thinking and right living. So the word right is of very great importance in our lives.

A disciple, who is altogether dejected, full of anxieties and with no hope, goes to his teacher by keeping constant company with Guru. He gets knowledge and wisdom and ultimately gets a new personality. Such a person gets a new personality, becomes all trouble free, gets a smiling face, becomes fearless and he finds it difficult to believe that he is the same person as before. In the words of the writer he becomes a person who is perfectly awake, living the life of a wise man and getting into the spirit of perfectibility.

Edwin Arnold in his famous book 'Light of Asia' has written that Mahatma Gautam Buddha is deeply moved by the sorrow pervading throughout the world. He renounces everything including his home, kingdom etc. and after leading a life of austerity, devotion and penance for sufficiently good time, he achieves Buddhahood, i.e., becomes wisdom personified.

With a point of result there is no difference between the above points

of view. Probability in both the cases becomes a reality or possibility. The possibility becomes the reality and the future becomes present. Both of them give the same message that the human being has to become free, fearless and without any fetters. A free human being **means a man** not bound by book knowledge and he becomes a free and absolute person. This fundamental change is not only theoretical but practical because to become a complete and integrated man is the destiny of a human being. We should understand that this fundamental change is neither by chance nor comes about by self. It depends upon certain rules.

The above example denotes that the human being may take to any path but the ultimate result is the same, i.e., the ultimate destiny.