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## Say Not the Struggle Nought Avaieth

In his poem, '*Say Not the Struggle Nought Avaieth*', the Victorian poet Arthur Hugh Clough strikes an inspirational note. According to the poet, all struggles bear fruit, all the labour done and all the wounds received in fighting the enemy succeed in defeating the enemy. And all things change with determined struggle. The poet is perfectly right. Struggle is the law of life. If there is life, there is struggle; if there is no struggle, there is no life. Hence we should not shun or eschew struggle. We should consistently strive to achieve what we want to achieve. Great achievements call for great struggles, determined struggles, History is witness to the fact that all things great, all noble missions of the world, have been achieved through struggle.

If we want to have a good life, a meaningful and fruitful life, a purposeful existence and the urge for self-realization, we have no alternative but to put in hard struggle. Human race evolves through struggle, tenacious pursuit of the goal and sustained endeavour to realize our full potential which we have been blessed with by God. A life shorn of persistent and unrelenting effort, devoid of devotion and dedication to great things of life, is no life at all.

One thing that distinguishes human life from the lives of other creatures is the propensity we possess to evolve further and further. Therefore, we shall be well advised not to fear or shun struggles in life.

Ancient India was a land of achievements. We had made great achievements in all fields of life. We had made great discoveries in the field of science, so much so that even inter-planetary travel became possible for us. In all fields of

knowledge—science, mathematics, literature, philosophy, art and culture, astronomy, astrology and a host of other arenas—we had reached pinnacles of glory, greater than any other nation of yore. It became possible through incessant hard work and untiring struggle across centuries. India was a divided nation before Chanakya, through his disciple Chandra Gupta Maurya, united almost the whole of India in one bond. It was through sheer struggle that India became a united nation and made progress in all fields of life. Progress of India in various fields of life continued through regimes like the Gupta rulers, Harshvardhan and few others before time came when negative tendencies got hold of the nation.

Progress got eclipsed due to foreign invasions and possession of India by alien rulers. Difficult times came when sloth, slumber and torpor, morbidity, actionless and helplessness got hold of India and we got enslaved.