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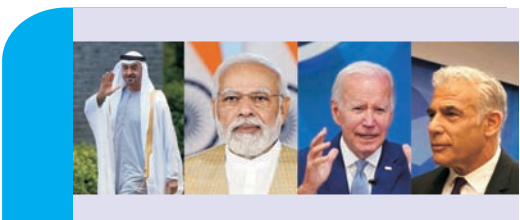
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Try to be a Real Man

The society is peopled by individuals of different varieties. No two persons are the same. But man is different from other creations of God—plants, animals, insects and insentient things. “A man is but the product of his thoughts—What he thinks, he becomes.” But among human beings even diversities prevail. In the human multitude the real men are very few. There is a crowd of human beings swayed by ordinary traits of character. All have various types of needs and desires. All want food to eat, water to drink, and urge for procreation. All have urges, passions, emotions, feelings, egos, sentiments, ambitions. Most of them are governed by greed, avarice, envy, jealousy and other negative traits. All these things are common in the multitude of human beings. But we are in search of a person whom we can call a real man. It is very difficult to locate a Real Man in the big crowd of people living on this planet. But who is a Real Man? Hamlet in Shakespeare’s play of the same name describes the traits of his father who was killed by his uncle who usurped his father’s throne. After describing his father’s qualities, Hamlet says that he was a Man. It means that he was a Real Man different from other human beings. Real man is one who is a repository of all that is positive in life. He has love, compassion, mercy, kindness, tolerance, selflessness, fellow feeling, friendliness, helpfulness, wisdom and sagacity. A Real Man is indeed the best creation of God. He is made in the image of God Himself and is therefore godly in attributes. The process of evolution is towards the creation of a Real Man. It should also be our endeavour to become a Real Man.

It is often said that man is the best creation of God. But why? Only because we say so. There ought to be some logic behind it. Is it enough to say that consciousness sleeps in the mineral kingdom, wakes in the vegetable kingdom, walks in the animal kingdom and thinks in man. It is completely manifested in man—man includes woman. Once a painter painted a portrait showing a man riding on a lion. A man showed it to a lion and jeered at the lion. The lion said “If I were to make a portrait, I would paint it otherwise, i.e., a lion riding on a man.” “But you cannot do it. Painting is beyond you”—the man said and laughed. The lion felt humiliated and went back to the jungle.

The man possesses some special faculties and possesses some working qualities which other creatures or living beings do not possess.

We act on three planes—Body, Pran (life) and Mind. Mind is guided by Atma or consciousness. Animals, too, do so. Then what is the difference between animal and man?

On the physical level, man is the only creation which can stand erect and is capable of using his hands as he likes. The lion did not possess this privilege and he could not make the painting as he wished to. On the plane of physical evolution, man is at the highest rung, as he is the only creation of God which can

stand erect and keep his head high. Therefore, the true character of the man is not to bend or hang his head or rather not to do anything which makes his head to bend towards the ground.