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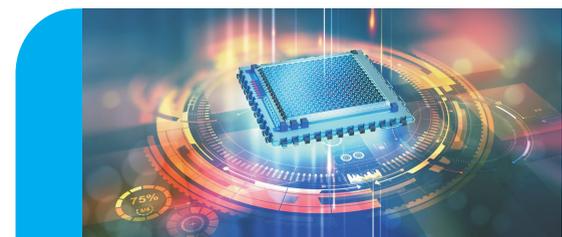
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Be the Master of Your Fate

According to a belief, man is like a puppet in the hands of fate or Destiny. He is powerless in the midst of forces destined by all powerful Nature or say, God. This view is held by fatalists' *i.e.*, those who believe in Fate only and not in their own actions. The brave, and the men of action never subscribe to the views of the fatalists. The second category of people believe in man's own actions. Certainly every individual can become the master of his Fate if he directs his actions in a positive direction. Good actions will bring good rewards and the vice versa. To be master of one's own Fate one requires to have faith in one's own actions. A person who wants to be master of his Fate must make work his own companion. He should have an ethical outlook on life. In other words he should be a man of character. Four Ps may determine anybody's Fate. They are : Perspiration, perseverance, persistence and patience. These combined with character will certainly lead him on to the road to success, on the way to becoming the master of his Fate. One more P may work wonders. This is Planning. One must work according to a detailed planning in order to reap rich fruit of one's actions. It is in the fitness of things for one to strive to become the master of one's Fate rather than to allow oneself to suffer from a heavy weight of fatalism.

Two friends—One devotee and the other a debauch—on one night went on their errands, *i.e.*, the former went to join devotional songs and the other one for wine and fun. In the morning when they were returning, a piece of glass pierced through the foot of the devotee and the debauch found, lying on the road, a hundred rupee note. Out of curiosity they went to an astrologer to know about the working of their stars. The astrologer, after making some calculations, in his own way said, "the man who got a prick of a glass piece was to face the sword and the other one was destined to get a big treasure. But their actions worked in a way that fates of both the friends were oppositely affected.

So here comes the fact that chain of actions works in a continuous manner and one gets the result of past and present actions. Some call it the play of fate, luck or God.

Obviously ignorant people say that the cause of sorrow and pain is God or luck while the wise men accept that they themselves are responsible for their ills, pains and sorrows; the other part is also true that pleasure and comforts are also the result of their actions. It has been rightly said, "as you sow, so you reap."

Wise men consider themselves only the outer cause of every action of God, *i.e.*, they consider themselves a pen in the hands of God and do the rest according to His wishes. To consider oneself as only the outer cause means that the doer is only concerned

with performing his duties and not their result or effect. So the action rightly done automatically creates favourable effect or, to put it in other words, every and any effect is accepted as beneficial.

Action is what creates an effect and the whole world works under the law of cause and effect. Actions are of two kinds, first done for one's own benefit and the other done for the good of the society or humanity. Action is like a heavy stone splashed in the ocean of space, creating endless ripples, all knocking on the shore. Nature tries to restore balance of disturbances created by different actions and this process works both at the higher and lower levels. Buddha Dev, looking at the man creating these ripples, rightly said that you yourself are responsible for creating ripples of sorrow and pain. You are your dispenser of sorrow.