



DR SHOBHA RAJU

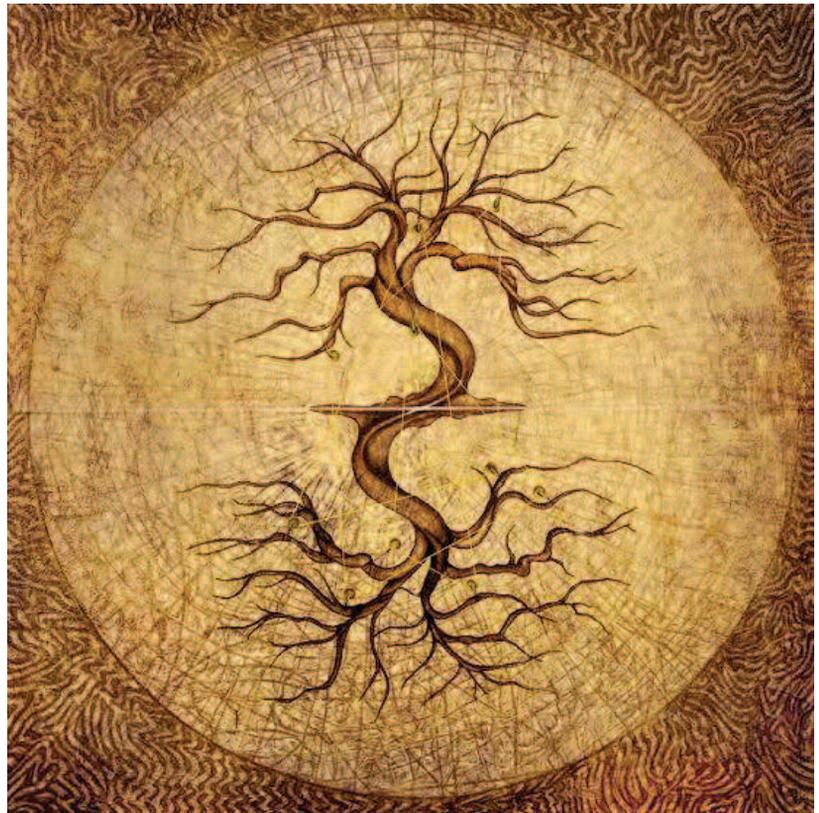
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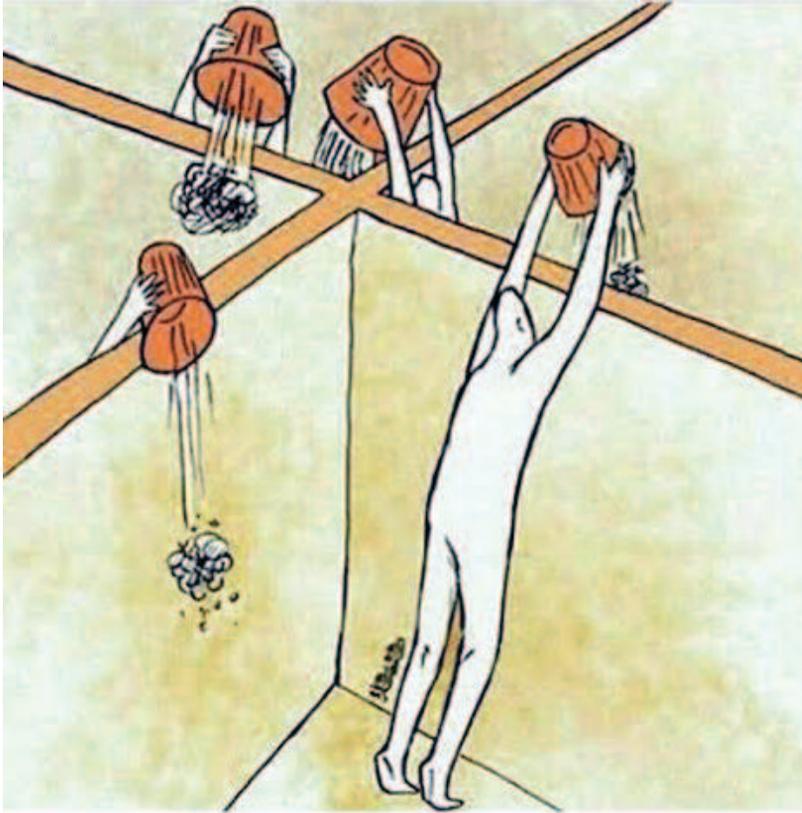
## ...the non violence

No dog needs to be told that it's a dog. No crow needs to be told that it's a crow. No snake needs to be told that it's a snake. They behave in a manner that's very natural to them. Most pathetic situation is a human has to be repeatedly reminded that he is a human and he shrugs off the reminder.

People who believe in life after death and Karma, should feel it sinful to hurt others for their own selfish gains. But many people seem to have very feeble belief in life after death and Karma. They give priority to their success in this life as they think, a bird in hand is worth two in the bush. They don't hesitate to commit any serious offences to fellow-being for making their way.

Even if they believe in life after death and Karma, their reason is





lost. Alas! They think that by doing a mechanical ritual, they can get rid of any grave sin.

There is no such provision in the universe to pardon any crime deliberately done. Kill whoever questions your unethical ways to succeed and later perform Puja (worship) to Shiva at Rameswaram (a holy place in South India) will not save you from sinful Karma. Esvara (God) is not so blind as to be pleased with our mechanical ritual and pardon our deliberate sin. Karma is the most formidable. We must reap the consequence.

Even if we don't believe in life after death and Karma, we are humans endowed with conscience and discrimination. How can we injure a fellow being physically or mentally for our own benefit? After all, the life is so short and unpredictable. We never know how and when the curtain is drawn to the

drama of our lives. We may pass away in an accident or sleep. We may quit the world as a kid, adolescent, youth or old. For such a short stay on this blue planet, do we have to injure others intentionally? When we see a movie, we empathise with the characters so much



that we tend to cry at some sequences of tragedy. How do we fail to be so in real life and hurt others? Simply because we gain by hurting others or do we get sadistic pleasure?

I can relate the consequences in my life to the good and bad I have done in my present life. A few which I cannot relate must be the consequences of good and bad I have done in my previous births.

There used to be a family friend whom I called brother. He was a healthy man and was involved in religious activity. He spoke very ill of me behind my back. I was deeply hurt.

One day, I received a phone call from him asking me to go to the hospital where he was admitted for liver cancer. I was sorry to see him not being able to move from the bed. He was in tears as he saw me and signalled to go close to his bed. He tried to touch my feet. He did Namaskaram (Indian way of saluting) with repentance and was in tears. "Don't worry. You'll be fine brother", I said. "I cannot be fine sister. My sin is not simple", said.

Very shortly I came to know that he passed away in the hospital. My husband attended his funeral and told me that lot of people attended his funeral. None could save him! I don't know..how many think of him now.

People, money and position... none can save us when Karma operates. Let's be cautious of Karma. Let's not hurt anyone in thought, with word or deed. Fear or caution of Karma is secondary. Love of humanity and life around us is primary.

Let's be in love with all life!

*(Author is a well-known musician, Devotional singer, writer and composer.)* 