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DIVORCE

...breach of "Naati charami"?

Recently I read a news that an actress celebrated sanction of divorce by court. First of its kind! Some may feel relieved of the painful experience they undergo in marriage but divorce had never been a matter to be celebrated. It's always a painful course. We never congratulate someone on getting a divorce as we do on getting

married.

Divorce is a statement that a promise couldn't be kept up. A failure of a positive agreement.

Divorce was a disgrace once upon a time. Now it has become a matter of course. A snore.. a chewing sound.. a burp.. any trivial matter can be a reason for divorce.

When the appeal for divorce

came from a girl, it was mostly domestic violence or infidelity of man. When it came from the boy, it was mostly an infatuation for another woman or extension of dowry demands. Now... anything is a reason.

In Stone Age, man had dominated the woman. She was treated like a slave. He just satisfied his sexual urge and got some work done by woman.

As time passed, human's thinking evolved and became refined. Understanding grew. He started eating cooked food instead of raw meat. He started wearing garments instead of being naked or wearing just a lion cloth. He started pursuing better enjoyments and happiness in life. Culture became integral part of human lives transforming crude emotions into finer ones. Civilization blossomed.

Human started delving into psychology. He made a deeper enquiring into life and living. He understood that the pain he experi-



ences, will be the same for others. Thus human values emerged leading to better behavior and the establishment of a code of conduct for harmonious living. Laws were formulated to prevent harm to others. Harming others for self happiness was penalized.

But there are subtle corners of human psychology, where the law fails to reach. It just remains a matter to be decided by human conscience. What could be right legally may not be right according to human conscience and vice versa.

The man with heightened intellect could perceive metaphysical aspects of physical existence. He could understand that there are higher and subtle energies which can influence the physical existence. For example, they found that the energy called "Varuna" causes rain. While the scientific process could be understood, the influence of the specific energy is what triggers the process. Through meditation, they discovered that certain sound vibrations can connect the human mind to specific energies. By uttering those syllables and performing rituals with fire and specific materials, they were able to bring rains, in times of drought. The subtle essence of the materials, offered in fire along with the pronunciation of specific syllables (called "Beejaksharas"), reaches the targeted source of energy. In recent years, a "yagnya" was performed in Tamilnadu, where there were no rains. As a result, there were heavy downpours.

Video and camera-conscious people fail to realize the true value of marriage. The sacred chants and rituals unite two lives. It requires wholehearted involvement to experience the divine union. Marriage is

about leading harmonious lives with all the differences, sharing responsibilities, joys and sorrows. It's about becoming a graceful part of society, maintaining relationships, friends, and contributing to the joy of community.

Sex is but an aspect of marriage, not solely for physical pleasure, but to express mutual love, experience oneness and to continue the human race.

*"Dharmecha Arthecha
Kamecha Mokshecha
Naati charaami"*

Translation :

In performing the duties and practicing righteousness, in earning money or realizing aspirations, in fulfilling the desires and making efforts for Ultimate Liberation... I will not go astray.

This promise is made by the groom to the bride during marriage, emphasizing the commitment. But extramarital relationships are now commonly heard of. The breach of this promise made in the sacred witness of "Agni", the fire, is not

just a breach of promise. It's disrespect to Agni and many other subtle energies which are invoked during the marriage. It's being very rude to the persons who attended the marriage to bless the couple for their long and joyful togetherness. This negation of grace will have its own ill effects.

I observe this promise being made only by the groom. Because those were the days, a woman was expected to be naturally loyal. I think, the same promise should be made by woman also these days, as we see the woman in equal status of men.

Having said all these, I also respect the divorce. In cases where a woman is physically abused, mentally tortured, there should be a way out for her to make a better living. So also men. Where there is no scope at all for talks, understanding, change and where a man is subjected to mental torture, he too should have a way out to make a better living. Here comes the context of divorce.



But I have heard a woman saying, "I am board with my husband". I know men resorting to extra marital relations or divorce simply because he is infatuated by some other woman. If it is just love, why can't it be a genuine friendship? If it's leading to physical entanglement, then it's not love... Infatuation in the garb of love! It applies to women also.

I pity the humans who get stuck in such web of infatuation in spite of their best knowledge and questioning conscience. It was in-

tion or to counter it. Study of Adi Shankara's "Bhajagovindam" helps.

A Swamiji gave a parcel to his disciple asking him to hand over the same to Dr Kamala in Bombay. He set his journey to Bombay by train. He pulled out the parcel from the bag and looked at it. It was wrapped in a paper on which symbols of heart were printed all over. The disciple grew curious. "Is it a gift of love?", he thought. He peeled off the wrap. There was a romantic shaped - perfume bottle.



evitable for Saints like Viswamitra too. We should never be over confident of our righteousness and strength. One should always be vigilant of such snares and must take immediate action to counter. Saint Annamacharya says that mind should always be ready to receive and respond to the alerts of caution given by "Buddhi" (intellect).

Humans should employ tools like "Meemaamsa" ..analysis to come out of the cobweb of infatua-

"This Swamiji is dubious", he thought. This thought gave him the strength to open the bottle and smell the scent. He didn't wait a second to throw the bottle out of the window. He realized it to be a specimen, Swamiji was sending to Dr Kamala for testing in Pathology lab, as he was diabetic. How did he throw the bottle away? By analyzing step by step. Once Truth is realized, you'll shun the infatuation.

Few are the relations that lasted long, when made in infatuation.

Mind coupled with hormones creates a world of illusion, which can disband any moment.

Moreover making pleasure at the cost of someone's tears, is courting very bad Karma. It will come back to us. If our smiles are made on the foundation of tears, it will be a horrifying danger.

When there is a scar on a saree or a Dhoti, we wash it and wear. When a mixie gets spoiled, we repair and use it. When our car has a problem, we send it to workshop and get it repaired. A relation made sacredly invoking all the divine forces in front of all the well wishers, is so cheap to get rid off at the slightest provocation?

While I appreciate the constitution that has given us the facility of divorce in helpless situations, I condemn the modern ways of irresponsibly parting with their partners, oblivious of grace and blessings involved. How can one be in the hug of another person while one's own partner suffers the pain of separation? Is humanity going back to animal status of "My wish... my will"?

Please respect the institution of marriage.

There is a popular song of renowned Tamil writer, Kannadasan :

"Kan pona pokkile kaal pogalaamaa....."

He questions,

"Should the legs follow, wherever the eyes go?

Should the mind follow wherever the legs go?

Should the man follow wherever the mind goes?

Should we forget the righteous path laid by man (wise ancestors)?

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