

1.

Pray as though everything depended on god, work as though everything depended on you.

"Karmanyee Vadhi Karaste Ma Faleshu Kadachan",

this is the saying from Mahabharat where Shri Krishna told Arjuna to just concentrate on your work without thinking about

the results and leave every thing for the almighty to take care off. Our

Hindu philosophy has several stories where it is emphasised that one should pray to god, seek his blessing and concentrate on one's work. When we

go for examination, our family member specially mother ask us to pray to god, eat curd and then go. This signifies that in our belief system God occupies a

significant place and we pray to him for our wellbeing and success, but at the last all depends upon our hardwork.

The above essay which states that "Pray as though everything depend on God, work as though everything depend on you" signifies that religion plays a very vital role in our human society.

As per Emile Durkheim, religion is a set of belief and practises relative to sacred

things ~~and~~ religion plays a very vital role in our society from time immemorial. Whether it is Animism (soul belief), Animatism (believing in supernatural power), Totemism (believing in plants, animals etc), Monotheism or Polytheism. Human beings have always tied their

beliefs to an object and worked hard to achieve. Earlier primitive people worshipped a totem and then went for hunting and believed that due to grace of their totem, they have been able to get a ~~big~~ bulk of hunt and also offer it to the totem. Similarly, in India in Bastar district Madiya tribes take their gods to the rice field seek their blessing and transplant rice seedlings. The concept of prayer provides us an internal strength that we have someone to look after. It is mere belief but ~~we~~ this provides us courage to tackle any unwanted situation.

In our hindu culture, before starting any work we do some rituals, pray to god. Even before eating our food we pray to God and thank him/her to provide us the food. Some may argue that God hasn't provided you food, it is the farmer which has provided by cultivating the crops. We also know all this but there is a belief that God is behind all this and he is taking care of us all.

Srikrishna also told to Arjuna that "Partha you do your work and I am with you". He also said after the war that I could have finished the war in a

minute but a man should achieve any feat / success through his effort and hardwork and if someone is putting hard work then I will support him/her. This is what we call "Fortune favours the braves" or "Kismat Veeron Ka Saath dehi hai".

We have come across the story of Dashrath Manjhi - The Mountain Man who broke the mountain ~~who~~ with his sheer belief and hardwork and made a road to connect his hamlet (Gehloor) with nearby town (Wazirganj). His effort reduced the distance by more than 20km. On interviewing by the media he said that he prayed daily to God to give him power to break the hill lock. This sheer

belief and hardwork worked for him.

In our surrounding, we come across so many people who go and visit their religious guru and asks for some solution to their problem. The religious gurus also provide some solutions like feeding green leaves to cows, biscuits to dogs etc.

But only doing this and not focussing on individual effort is not going to yield result. Swami Vivekananda in this context has said that "if you believe in 33,000 crore god/goddess and you donot believe in yourself, then you cannot succeed". He also said that "Being an atheist is good than being a superstitious fool". Thus, only praying to god and

not ~~help~~ doing one's karma is not going to give any result. As there is a saying also that work is worship.

Currently our world is grappling with problem of 3Cs (Climate Change, Covid-19 pandemic and conflict). If we talk about climate change, then it is impacting all facets our life from social, economic and political. The social aspects like displacement due to adverse climatic events like flash flood, cyclone etc. The economic aspects related to economic loss / disruption due to extreme weather. The political aspect as now climate change impacting our policies all around the world and with initiative like

Internal Solar Alliance, UNFCCC, UNCCD,
JTEP, MISHI etc. One can argue that
it is the God (Nature) who is punishing
us for our deeds and we should
pray for the relief. In our culture
we have seen that due to inclement
weather and to get rainfall people pray
to god, do sacrifices and even marry
the frogs. But only praying to God and
doing nothing to conserve the nature
is not going to work.

There was a case in Marathwada
region of Maharashtra which is a drought
prone area where people to get rain,
worship deed Indra and they also married
the two frogs but rain did not occur

and if occur then frequency was very less. Then came 'Paani Foundation' which dug trenches in the hills, created bunds in the fields and dig up ponds to store water. So, in a little rainfall, the villagers were able to store a lot of water and also recharge ground water. This show that only praying to god don't work if we do not combine it with our hardwork and dedication.

In case of climate change also we can't blame it on the nature that it is the wrath of nature, it is our duty to study the nature and device countermeasures. Only praying to the almighty won't work.

In our culture, there is a sect called Ajivaka who believed that every thing is previously written or predestined and we should left ourselves to the destiny. They don't even pray or they don't even work. Such philosophy is also present.

Similarly some are atheist who donot believe in god and even they donot pray to the God. They only believe in their hardwork and dedication to achieve something. There are indeed a various examples who were atheist and worked for the society and their development like Abraham Lincoln. they were of the view that God is for

Coward people . Audacious people believe
in hard work.

There are both kind of people existing in our society but there is a fact that believing in any supernatural thing or a sacred thing gives us a sense of calmness and self-belief that there is someone who is with us. That's why when Steve Jobs (Apple, co-founder) and Mark Zuckerberg (Meta, founder) when they were depressed, anxious and felt lost in their life they came to India at a place in Himachal Pradesh. The place famously a ashram of Neem Karoli Baba where they get answer to their problems,

got relief from anxiety, depression and
cluelessness and started their journey
in a new way. Thus, it is a personal
choice and thus is said that "Pray as
though everything depended on God, work
as though everything depended on you."