

Of human values, behavior and mindset

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Since eternity, from the time life forms took shape on this earth and since time immemorial when Adam took the first bite of the forbidden apple, two distinct behavioral forms emerged, the good and the bad. Climbing the evolutionary ladder, life forms with Cerebral Cortex, how so ever small or big, exercised their faculty in deciding what is good from bad. Almighty gave the gift of the brain to all life forms including humans but left the ultimate decision making to the individual self. If god made humans, he left them to steer their destiny whatever it may. The world over centuries ever since has been a witness to this great divide between the good and bad, between the privileged and the deprived, between the Exploiter and the Exploited, between the have and have not. The battle continues to this day.

We as humans are all made equals, but then why are some more equal than others? It is how we steer our brains, which dictates the fate. Why it is than that Adam could not check biting the forbidden apple? Why is it then that every human on earth is trying to outwit the other, plotting and charting intrigues? Why is it then, those having plenty continue to spend sleepless nights craving for more and the deprived have to taste the salt of their tears? Why it then that hatred and venom is spread between one another in name of caste, creed and religion and colour of skin? Why is it than that the very human whom God has created, to make heaven on Earth chooses to blow himself as human bomb killing hundreds and thousands of other children of God? Why is it then that the people fight for the very air, land and water which belongs to no one but the one above?

These and unending questions can be asked day in and day out without answers because we use our gift of thinking in a manner which has only a big SELF written in bold letters.

One can never know the joy of giving until one does it for the first time. The gift of blood can only be known when it saves life. Preservation of life and to sustain it in a dignified manner and living it in a way to take and give happiness is the way the commandment goes. If only one can realize that the real happiness lies in seeing others happy. Then only one can earn to achieve salvation.

Nothing can be more closer to the reality that our profession of practicing medicine itself. Leaving nobility of the profession aside let us not try to bury our heads in sand to the fact that choosing medicine as a career is to earn a descent livelihood and a life of respect, self-reliance and dignity. There

is nothing wrong in thinking so but do all follow this rule? Alas the degradation have gone to the extent that the finger of accusation whether it be morals, ethics, corrupt practices or deceit and neglect, have struck to our white coats like leeches sucking blood till they are bloated to burst. The Hippocrates oath taken at the euphoric phase of graduating ceremony remains only a foggy recollection. Though all should not be painted in the same brush, there is no hesitation that morals and ethics in our so called noble profession has hit quite a many icebergs and the titanic has started to sink.

Practice of ethical and evidence based medicine the only thing taught and trained to practice, to give solace and relief to the needy has become a slogan to be preached and not practiced. Why is it then that Doctors these days have become the most insatiable lot? The more they get the more hungry they become. Cars, farms, exotic destination holidays, over flowing coffers and dodging the I.T. sleuths have become the talk of the day and status symbols. Humane care and sympathy remain buried in pages of dictionary.

Empathy, Compassion, Ethical Medicine, have become connotations of a era gone by swept away by the tsunami of lust and greed.

But we go along. Blooming in the quagmire of desolation and despair are individuals who are pursuing their profession with their head held high. The world applauds their dedication and grit and perseverance to check temptation. They bend but do not break. These handfuls of people are the magical potion which still exists to purify the polluted world. These men and women of wisdom and character stand tall in the multitude of humanity whom we all salute. The responsibility therefore, of these sacred groups of people is immense because they are the one to prevent the world going over the brim of no return.

Those in the field of teaching and training have an insurmountable task to perform for they have a challenging task to lift up the dignity of profession from the morasses where it has sunk. Like a rainbow which appears after a thunderstorm lets pray that our profession shall also emerge like a goliath from the quagmire it has sunk into in not so a distant future for the good of humanity. May the brave and the bold rise. Teachers in Medical Colleges in particular have a tremendous responsibility for they are the architects of future generations of Doctors and it is their hands, which rocks the cradle today that shall rule the world tomorrow.