# GGKLI - INDIAN CULTURE GROUP II

# DHARMA

Introduction

In this world how come some people are happy and peaceful and some have horrible life? God made every human being same and He also gave same opportunities to everyone to grow in this world. Happiness and trouble are created by a person himself. Each person uses the opportunities given to him as per his own personality. E.g. Lord Krishna gave same opportunity to both Arjun and Duryodhan; his army or himself. According to their personalities, Duryodhan picked Lord’s army and Arjuna picked Lord himself. There are three types of people in this world:

1. Nar Pashu (Animal Man) – Selfish people who cannot think of anybody other than themselves. They live like animals. They feel if they share their resources, it will make their life difficult. They use their resources to fulfill their own materialistic ambitions. E.g. Most of us.
2. Nar Pishach (Demonic Man) –They even exploit and hurt others to fulfill their ambitions. They want to show off. They can never live like an average human being.
3. Dev Manav or Devatas (Divine people) – They enjoy giving instead of taking. They live like an ordinary person. They have simple living and high thinking. They are great people with divine qualities who live selflessly, sacrifice for the welfare of others e.g. Gandhiji, Swami Vivekananda.

What is Heaven? Heaven is a place where all Devatas live.

How can we make this earth Heaven?

By producing more Devatas on earth, we can transform this earth into heaven. One thing is for sure, you adopt the quality of person who you keep company with, e.g. if you have good friends, they inspire you to become good and if you have bad friends, you also eventually develop bad qualities. In the company of great people, bad people also become great, e.g. after coming in contact with Gurudev, we changed a lot. Valio Lutaro became Valmiki after he came in contact with Narad. Amrapali changed after she met Lord Buddha. Great people look like poor or cheap but actually they are not, because in spite of having all the resources, they live a simple life and use their knowledge and resources for welfare of others. That is how they spread goodness in the society. They have the treasure of divine qualities which actually makes them great. They are the only people who can lead others to the path of righteousness. People who follow righteousness get the reward of progress and the great people who inspire others to follow this path get the reward of credits for doing that. So our goal is to increase the number of great people on this earth. We can do this by transforming NarManv and Nar pashu to great people.

What makes a person Devata or Great person? By following Dharma anybody can become great.

Is Religion Dharma? What is Religion and What is Dharma?

Dharma does not mean going to temple or church or following any religion. Dharma is following individual duty and social responsibilities in an ideal way.

Basically Dharma here means becoming spiritual person, adopting good thinking and putting it into actions. One should adopt philosophy of religion in life instead of rituals and procedures. Only spiritual people can become great people. There are many religions but righteousness or Spirituality is only ONE. We want to be spiritual. Great thinking, great moral character and good conduct are the three things that make any person spiritual. That is transforming a person’s, Personality, actions and character. Dharma is Sanatan, one for everyone, good for all time. We must understand difference between Spirituality and religion. Spirituality is like Sun and religion is like rays of sun. Spirituality is like ocean and religions are rivers who ultimately meet in the ocean. Religions are different paths to become spiritual. When people consider religion everything, they do not accept other people who follow different religion and they fight among themselves. Whereas spiritual people believe that all are kids of same God. People become great on the base of Dharma.

What are the characteristics of Dharma? What are those properties of Dharma by adopting which person of any religion can become Dharmic or Spiritual or a great or divine person?

There are 10 properties of Dharma, by adopting which a person can become divine. These 10 properties can be combined in 5 couples;

1. Being Truthful and have Discriminative wisdom
2. Have strong Self control and Being dutiful,
3. Restricting self and Being modest in behavior, speech and dressinglowing Social restrictions and
4. Being Courteous and valiant
5. Being cooperative and sacrifice for welfare of others

**“They are not following dharma who resort to violence to achieve their purpose. But those who lead others through nonviolent means, knowing right and wrong, may be called guardians of the dharma.”**

--- Lord Budhha