

# **HARMONY WITHERING AWAY...**

**An english transcript of :**

**“MANUKH DEE MANUKH NAAL DOORI KYON”.**

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**PRESENTED BY  
THE LIVING TREASURE**

## **HARMONY WITHERING AWAY....**

Once in a while when someone treats us kindly and respectfully, we feel so delighted with his affectionate treatment of us. Such a person leaves an indelible print of his warm and friendly deportment on our minds. We often narrate the happy experience to our folks at home if only to perpetuate the precious memory of his good behaviour.

Unfortunately, today, man has veered away from such a noble course of promoting mutual harmony and welfare among his fellow beings, perhaps because of his renewed priorities of acquiring more and more wealth, which leaves little time for him to reflect upon and emulate the good deeds of his elders.

Saving grace, however, is that he is still acutely aware of this shortcoming in his newly acquired lifestyle but somehow feels hamstrung to do justice to his social obligations.

Let's try to find out why we cannot get along with each other harmoniously as before. Not only our will good for each other is on the decline but it seems to be disappearing altogether. It is affecting not only a particular religion or family, caste or creed, community or country; rather it is a matter of sorrow for the entire humanity. By taking no notice of the mutual suffering we are going through, or by avoiding to foresee its sorry consequences ....., we might well be accused of .... Not dousing the fire in time. Let us not waste time passing the buck to find out who is at fault for this unhappy state of affairs. Nor can we afford to feel smug in self-satisfaction that all is well with the world and it's best to leave such trivialities alone. This way we cannot cure ourselves of the malaise we are suffering from. Some ailments are suppressible, some might be ignored for a while, but to understand the nature of this malignancy (disharmony our relationships with fellow brethren), we have to delve deep into its root cause.

Our relationship and attitude towards a person depends upon the image we have been carrying about him. It is not necessary that whatever image we have conjured up about others or even for ourselves, can bear the scrutiny of

logic. More often than not, the image created by us is solely to suit our own viewpoint, right or wrong. As long as we feel secure with such an image, it ought to be right, so we presume ! We do not give much credence to the actual truth but prefer to follow the indices of our own presumptions. The basic reasons for disharmony among us is the 'creation of image'. This is the first milestone on the road to misunderstanding, which reminds us of the ever-increasing gulf and aloofness in our relations with each other. But, is it humanly possible that we do not form any image about others or ourselves in our day to day life ?

This question keeps cropping up in our mind so often. Yes, it is possible. We only have to learn to restrain ourselves from forming any hasty judgments or having pre-conceived notions about others as well as of ourselves. Within the limited scope of average human caliber, the range of sight or vision, it is well nigh impossible for a man to be able to correctly plumb the real depth of the truth. Consequently, our flights of imagination become the basis of our image formation; fancy edging out fact, illusion getting the better of truth. The litmus test of 'believing' as per the old school of thought was 'seeing with your own eyes and listening with your own ears'. But the new philosophy being propounded by the smart thinkers of the day warns us, ostensibly for the benefit of mankind, that even what you see with your own eyes and hear your own ears might not be the real truth but merely a figment of your own imagination based upon various misconceptions.

It is said that our perception of things gets conditioned by the way we like to think about them, not the way they actually are. Similarly we judge people and situations depending upon the images we are already carrying about them in our mind. This means that thinking creates an image regarding others, or, 'the image gets created as per our thoughts'. This is a very significant point for evaluating people. In other words, whatever thoughts we carry about a person in our mind, get fixated as our judgment of him, the rationale of which we cannot satisfactorily explain without inviting some awkward queries and embarrassing consequences.

We now understand that good or bad image about someone is created by our own 'thinking'. But, then, how do these 'thoughts' originate in the first place?

Our thoughts are produced by the impressions left deep in our mind either of instincts from childhood or the incidents taking place in our daily life as also the environment that surrounds us. Hence, it is quite clear that our thoughts are based on scenes which have got indelibly etched in our memory. This means that the image gets created due to thinking, but the thinking takes place because of our memory, which itself is but a reflection of our past, experiences.

It does not matter whether we are educated or not, whether we have been studying religious books or not but nonetheless, we do keep gathering and storing some or other knowledge on our memory pad subconsciously from anywhere and everywhere. Every little experience of life adds to our storehouse of knowledge, whether through reading or from the incidents occurring in our daily life. But we can never claim to be omniscient, knowing everything about every subject under the sun. We will, therefore have to concede the unpalatable truth that we can never be completely aware of everything around us.

However, it is entirely a different matter that some elderly scholars and erudite intellects keep reading and acquiring more and more knowledge till the very last day of their life. But even after acquiring such vast knowledge about everything they still cannot claim to have encyclopedic knowledge about everything. We forever remain novice and incomplete without imbibing the knowledge of truth as stated in Guru Nanak's philosophy. In nutshell, although being acutely aware of our insufficient knowledge due to various limitations, we somehow keep clinging to our opinion about others.

Hence, image takes shape because of our memory and memory is the cumulative reflection of the so called knowledge we have acquired in the past. But, ironically, this very knowledge, which in itself is incomplete becomes instrumental in giving shape to our judgments about others ! How so very prophetic is an old maxim : 'There is nothing good or bad but thinking making it so'. Because of our insufficient knowledge, our thinking capacity also remains dwarfed, thus bringing discontentment in our lives.

On account of living such discontented and unsatisfied life our mental state also becomes coward and insecure giving in to the perception of such feelings as happiness/ sorrow, piety/ impiety or appreciation/criticism. Only people with such insecure and feeble minds hanker after futuristic

predictions, astrology, palmistry, tarot cards (for forecasting our future), vaastushashtra, feng shui, etc.

Perhaps that is what has also been stated by a philosopher –

“Discontentment and dissatisfaction for materialistic achievements throws such people in the dragnet of astrologers and palmists, etc”. Therefore unsatisfied and discontented people can never ever be our role models. But, ironically, those with patience and contentment at heart are not in the least interested in knowing hand before what lies in store for them. They believe in crossing the bridge when they will come to it, and as such abhor all such subterfuge and blind faith.

As explained above, those with incomplete knowledge live discontentedly, and never feel fully satisfied with their life. They feel empty, helpless, scared and remain transfixed in despondency. Having to live such a state of life gives rise to another problem : that of putting the blame on others. We thus become accomplice to such mean and worthless living. We feel no compunctions when we blame others for all and sundry problems knowing full well that we might also be equally responsible for giving rise to such a state of things. We therefore forever remain victims of misunderstanding. In such a state of mind it is just not possible for anybody to think straight and rationally. Under these circumstances, any dispensation of opinion about others is bound to be flawed.

We want to remain oblivious of our own shortcomings and do not listen to our inner conscience, thus falling prey to misunderstanding others for the rest of our lives. In nutshell we need to take stock of our real self : that our incomplete knowledge was responsible for our incomplete living and incomplete thinking, which in turn led us to think unkindly and unfairly about others. Entrapped in prejudice, one can never think clearly and fairly.

Let's therefore understand that fear, anxieties, sorrows, pleasures produce images in our mind. One can never stop the designing of such images, until one stoops to read one's own book. 'Know thy self', before you attempt to know others.

Guru Nanak extols :

**O'MAN, YOU HAVE THE LIGHT OF GOD IN YOU,  
LOOK FOR THE TRUTH IN YOUR OWN HEART.  
IF YOU ARE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH,  
DON'T BLAME OTHERS, LOOK FOR YOUR OWN  
SHORTCOMINGS.**

Thus harmonized relationship between ourselves can be resurrected once again if only we desist from the practice of building preconceived opinions and images. A tall order perhaps ! But that is the only way to re-establishing harmony and love amongst ourselves.

If we can resuscitate harmony and love within the mankind through the gospel of true living as exhorted by Guru Nanak's philosophy, we will automatically realize the presence of God that dwells in every heart and desist criticizing anyone or form uncharitable opinions about others.

Shared by :  
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