

India Begins With I

Energising Organisations through Wholesome Leadership

A few senior managers from one of the India's leading organizations were chatting with each other on top of Sinhagad fort (near Pune) on Friday morning last week. They were discussing the amazing cultural, ethnic, culinary and artistic diversity of India. They talked of the enormous intellectual talent that exists in the people of this great nation. They mentioned President Clinton's tribute to the potential of global leadership that India has. All of us who were listening deeply are blessed to have been born here.

On and around Sinhagad fort we saw Garbage littered all over. There is hardly a town or village in India where you can escape this. Ugly heaps of unclear garbage lying by the roadside. Plastic bags, old wrappings, and other forms of dry and wet rubbish littered almost in all parts of the beautiful land.

This is just one example of the many unsolved problems that are faced by our nation today. Enormous talent and resources on one hand, and problems crying for action on the other, where exactly is the disconnect? What is the missing link in this deceptively simple situation?

I believe that many of us are waiting for someone else to do something. We eagerly look forward to a leader like Chandrasekhar who mobilized people to transform Thane. Or, may be someone like Shri. Pandurang Shastri Athavale who has inspired thousands of village folks in the western states of India to renew their lives and villages.

There are many shining examples of such heroes / heroines all over the nation. However, waiting for them is not the answer. You are the person India is waiting for. She is waiting for your creative action guided by awareness. She waits for you to initiate something positive no matter how small it is but, inspired by your own inner calling. She waits for you to relate to other people and nature, with love and responsibility. She waits for all of us to shake off our waiting and act with the firm belief that we can make a difference. Let us remember that India begins with I. So, believe in initiative, integration, innovation and inspiration.

Let us therefore, look to our own innermost I to draw upon for our inspiration, and enthusiasm.

We do not have to do everything. In fact, that would be impossible. But we can see what makes our heart dance. We can sense what brings a natural joy to our body - mind, and act on that inner voice. Listen to this guidance, and act on it. Let us not delay. Let us have full

faith that where God guides, she provides whatever we need to do, what we are called upon to do. What's the miracle? Nature comes and supports you on all sides when you align with her work. Let us all remember that nature's work is our own most joyful work. They are exactly identical.

Imagine what would happen if each adult in INDIA would plant and look after 2 trees, and teach 2 other people to do the same. S/he would also ensure that the next 2 not only plant their trees but, in turn, teach 2 others to do the same. A few simple calculations would show the number of trees planted in just twelve moves away from the original source leading to an astronomical increase in the tree cover of this nation. There is much such possibility. Let us draw upon the source of all possibilities and act in a practical way to make a difference and do our creative bit. Let us remember that the greatest power in the universe is your own inner most "I". It is the source of unbounded peace, creativity, power and love. It is an absolutely free source of infinite inspiration. It is this spirit which is held India together of thousands of years. It is the same spirit, which can guide us all to make India a world teacher, which is its destiny. It is the same I, which witnesses all your thoughts, feeling and action. Trust this sacred 'I' and act with courage. Do not wait. Remember India waits for you and remember it begins with an "I".