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Simrandeep Kaur

Essay Edge-Test-5

Section - A

4. A Tree that does not bear fruit may still provide shade.

There is a tradition in India to worship shady trees like Peepal. The trees like Jamun, Mango are loved but Peepal and Banyan are considered sacred.

We may wonder that our

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ancestors understood that one (tree
in this case) should not be judged only
by loud outcomes - bright fruits and
flowers. But there is hidden or
subtle meaning in silent processes -
dense shade and immense Oxygen
of Non-fruit bearing trees.

It underscores the idea that
Existence is prior to essence. Before
expecting conventional success, we must
acknowledge uniqueness of every species.
Moreover, it is our vision and mindfulness
through which we can be contented
with given bliss and amplify the
essence of shade to achieve unconventional
fruits.

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Let us begin with addressing a common cognitive error we may be holding. Mostly, society expects conventional success. It becomes a rigid conformity that a tree must bear fruit or a student must choose science stream and earn high salary.

In the glamour of such fruits, sometimes the shine of shady trees become dim. But story of Dr. Sanduk Ruit shows that in world of materialism there can be shades of humanity.

Dr. Sanduk Ruit is Nepali Ophthalmologist whose cataract surgery is not so fruitful in terms of high salary.

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But by treating one lakh Afro-Asian
underserved patients, this Nepali,
~~for~~ Tree of sight, has provided shade
of vision.

It helps us in envisaging
the unique capabilities of everyone and
everything. But to appreciate that if
tree is not faithful but it has shade
to offer, we need open vision and
mindfulness.

This vision helped Net Chand
to see ~~also~~ discarded waste from the
perception of Art. He crafted beautiful
rock garden which is a famous tourist
site in Chandigarh with nothing but garbage

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But if one narrowly desires
for fruits only, s/he may fail to
enjoy the shade of tree. Fruits are
mostly seasonal gains but shade of
tree protects the wanderers from rain,
heat and snow.

To illustrate, Indian foreign policy
since independence has avoided seasonal
fruits by opting out of bloc politics. Our
strategic autonomy sometimes does not
bear fruit such as contemporary trade war
with USA ; but it has always provided
shade to shield from cold war, great
power-rivalry and war-entanglements.

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Moreover, it is not always about winning fruits. Derek Redmond, for example, was well predicted to win medal in 1992 Barcelona Olympics. But ~~he~~ while running, he encountered with Hamstring injury. He might have quitted because he was not going to get any medal.

But he demonstrated the spirit of resilience, kept running, joined by his father, completed the lap. He came last but he became symbol of Olympic spirit, perseverance and Resilience.

Even without winning medal, Derek Redmond achieved timeless shade of true sportsmanship.

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Apart from above discussion,
there is no limit to what trees
can provide us. If they are not
providing ~~fruits~~ ^{shade}, they may be providing
~~shade~~ oxygen or habitat for birds.

It points towards the concept that
'It is not how many resources you have,
but how much resourceful you are''.

This can be learnt from a Malawian
boy whose school education was snatched
because of famine.

But if he didn't get the shade
of school, he chose ~~to~~ local library for
self-education. Despite of poverty, Williams
Kamkwamba was curious to learn.

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This curiosity yielded fruits in the form of ~~win~~ wind-power plant. Yes, William made it himself by reading library books.

This discovery led community empowerment with energy security. Thus, ~~the tree~~ William lost shade of school tree but the shade of library tree, yielded the fruits for his community.

Moving further, we must reflect and introspect on what we are doing with our trees. Yes, trees are resourceful. But the greed of man is not satisfied by just shade and fruits. In the garb of Industrialization and Urbanization, we have destroyed

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billions of trees. This has led to global warming and ecological destruction.

The same trees those were lungs of earth are burning under Forest fires. Thus, when we fail to acknowledge and preserve, the provisioning services of Nature; Trees become disasters.

So, if Tree is providing fruits, enjoy it. If Tree is providing shade, cherish it. If you want to cut tree for basic needs then multiply it. Because Gandhi ji said "Mother Earth has everything for everyone's need but nothing for anyone's greed."

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In conclusion, we have explored how resources to be judged individually. It is established that every existence has diverse meanings to be explored, recognized and respected.

In the world of materialism, conformity and scarcity, we must never lose hope to express ourselves uniquely. Let us build a society where trees are not forced to bear fruits but their shade is equally acknowledged.

As our ancestors recognized

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the value of Peepal tree ; we must
take a pledge that ~~all~~ all trees
are considered sacred for their inherent
value.

As Albest Einstein had that
" Every one is unique. ~~If~~ It is not
the fault of fish if you judge it
by the idea that it cannot climb a
tree!"

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Section - B

⑥ Freedom is nothing but chance to be better

The renaissance movement in Europe came as a chance to get freedom from the shackles of feudal society. Did they use this chance for betterment? Yes, there came scientific and industrial revolution that enhanced

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the living standards of Europeans.
But not all Europeans became better
due to evils of inequality, industrial
exploitation and degradation. But they didn't
let go off their freedom as it gives
another chance to be better.

Freedom in Europe has provided
numerous chances such as waves of
democracy, education, formation of European
Union. Their civilization has taught the
world that 'Freedom is nothing but
chance to be better.'

Freedom is the most cherished
value which provides wings to the individual
to fly on his/her own terms. Along with

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autonomy, it also make one accountable for his/her destiny. It depends on his/her will, vision and capability to make best use of this chance for betterment.

It is famously remarked by J.S. Mill that "genius can only breathe in atmosphere of freedom". Such an atmosphere require tolerance for new ideas and sense of agency on individuals.

In the absence of such atmosphere, societies loose the chance of improvement or knowing the truth better. The suppression of Socrates who was chance of political betterment and Galileo who

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was providing a chance for heliocentric truth — are classical examples of denial of progress through freedom.

The desire of self-determination and indigenous progress has fuelled anti-colonial freedom struggles in third world countries. India in 1947 made this tryst with destiny to become a better nation day by day.

Freedom of individuals in a democracy provides scope for good governance and enhancement of rights. To illustrate, Right to Information, Act, 2005 was a dawn of transparency that led to reforms in MGNREGA, PDS and ~~etc~~

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Electoral Bonds.

Further, Freedom also provides opportunity to overcome the tyranny of society.

It ensures either social reforms ~~or~~ like Civil rights movement in America or counter-hegemonic discourses such as Buddhism and Jainism against Brahminical supremacy.

We must also understand that Freedom is only a chance but not a guarantee of betterment. If freedom is not equally distributed it can cause "Freedom of wolves, death of the sheep".

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As Neo-liberal globalization has provided opportunity for better ideas such as Industrial Revolution 4.0 with Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Machine learning. But if AI freedom leads to automation and massive job displacement, then how it can be a better chance?

To make outcomes of freedom inclusive and resilient, it must be come with necessary condition of Accountability. The AI revolution must accommodate AI capacity building for new job creations and Human oversight to prevent biases and prejudices.

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Conversely, we may be cautious that not always freedom is chance to be better. It can be a chance to spread hatred, violence and destruction. Nuclear Weapons is the epitome of how freedom can be misused.

Thus righteous freedom is more empowering for individual and social progress. It was demonstrated by freedom of South-Africa under Nelson-Mandela's leadership. He had freedom to either choose resentment towards white or forgiveness. He chose latter and that has made all the difference.

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This underscores that we not only require free choices but right choices to create a better world.

Free choices can be provided when external impediments are removed.

For instance, In Nartej Singh Johar Judgement, homosexuality was decriminalized providing scope of free gender choices.

The right free choices, on the other hand, requires removal of internal impediments of selfishness, hatred, ignorance and arrogance. This was

demonstrated by Baba Nanak who was given Rs 20 by his father to make a rewarding deal. But when Baba

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Nanak came across a village of hungry people, he used all money to feed them. He answered his angry father with calmness — "True business is that of humanity".

To sum up, Freedom is an opportunity for self-development, scientific advancement, and social progress. Its outcome of betterment is mostly determined by resolute will and righteous intention.

Today we ~~have~~ are cherishing freedom in homes, societies and in digital spaces. But we should not

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forget that the same freedom is
aspired by a Taliban apatheid women
and hungry child at Gaza. They
need a chance to be empowered.

Moreover, when algorithmic empires
and unexamined ~~tasks~~ technologies
try to steal our freedom, we
must stand unbound, unbent and
unbroken.

As Alfred Tennyson wrote

To strive, to seek, to find and not to
yield".

Freedom is not only a gift to
cherish but opportunity to endure and
realize our rightful purpose in life.

Essay Edge by Farees Rahman