

Traditions in the Modern World

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Inspiration is drawn from another's aspiration through which we eventually end up inspiring lives.

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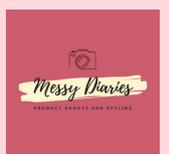
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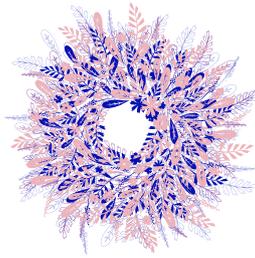


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DEAR READERS,

2020 has been a roller coaster to a few and an eye-opener to the rest. It left me resolved to inspire lives, to make a difference, and cherish life in its entirety. This edition has taken the form of all those hopes of instilling this positivity into every eye which lays on it.

Knowledge is a two-way street. If you find yourself moved or if you learned something new and would want to share more with us, the stage is all yours! Write to us on our main and we await your valuable insights.

Your love and support have kept us going and I wish to extend the same to you. This year, Yugoday's gift to you is a perspective, of reliving traditions in the modern world.

Jayanthi Shailendra

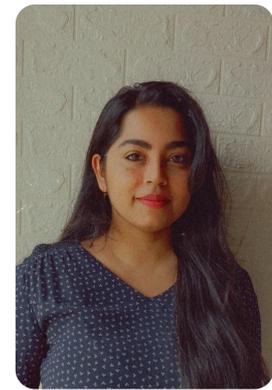




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There often comes a time when we are in need of a helping hand but not always do we find it. Kindness is one of the most fulfilling ways of bringing a smile to a face. Transforming your thoughts to words and words to hope is the way of blooming in life!



Art by **Ajinkya Raverkar**

Manpower without unity is not a strength unless it is harmonized and united properly, then it becomes a spiritual power.



Photograph from Canva

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

By Vidhi Singh

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, also known as the iron man of India was born on "31 October 1875" in the city of Nadiad, Gujarat. He was part of the Indian National Congress and was a renowned freedom fighter; one who assembled all the states and provinces of the Indian subcontinent to forge a new, united India. There is a reason why he is called the iron man of India, for he was a one-man army. He imposed army-rule in the princely states (back then) and brought the reins of these areas under the control of the government of India, back in those times when our country was going through major civil unrest, political turbulence, and economic chaos.

Sardar Patel was and always will be a statue of inspiration and learning. From his ways of working, he has always taught us that to bring about a change no matter how big it is, we don't need hundreds of people to support or agree with us. We can't always make everybody happy and content with the work we do; surely there are going to be people and sections of society which are going to oppose you, but looking at the bigger picture, and striving for holistic development and learning should be our goal.

Sardar Patel is also known for his adherence to "practice what you preach". He always walked on the paths he designed for himself, no matter how difficult the roads were or the hurdles put forward by the people who did not believe in his ways. He was a man of his word and actions. He had an absolute belief in the concept that unity is strength. He wanted to provide for this country, a better place for those who live in it. He had a dream, a vision of an India where death doesn't find its cause in hunger or illness.

His dreams and ambitions for the country are being passed on to generations after him, and now it is our time to shine and take his legacy forward.

**Art
is the
only place
you can
do what
you
like,
that's
freedom.**

PAULA REGO

Photograph from **Canva**



Aspire to Inspire

Inspiration comes to those who look for it.

Aspiration draws those who work for it.

Life is a roller coaster ride, It has its ups and downs, lefts and rights, rights and wrongs on all fronts. But what does that mean? What do these struggles, the difficulties, the sorrow, the grief, the regret even mean? Does it mean there is no hope for light? Or that this is what life is all about? To become our perfect selves, to live the way we want to, we need to work hard. We need to build ourselves to build the future because we are the future.

Inspiration is what helps one hold onto hope. One can never fail to find anything inspiring at all in life unless they do not want to look for it. Inspiration can be drawn from anywhere be it from a multibillionaire's lifestyle or a vegetable vendor's struggle. Every person's life story has at least one inspiring aspect about it; one just needs the eye and the will to see it. Believe in yourself, believe in the fact that you are meant to bring change in this world, a positive change. Aspire to inspire lives in ways no one could ever imagine. But to do so, you first have to believe in yourself.

If at any point in life you feel you can't do it, then believe that you are stronger than this and no matter what you will get through it and trust me just believing in one can do a lot and the entire journey would be worth it.

Because

"Inspiration is drawn from another's aspiration through which we eventually end up inspiring lives."

Jayanthi Shailendra
FOUNDER & EDITOR IN CHIEF



AMBA

A TALE OF DETERMINATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

By Priyanka Raina Sharma

Amba, the eldest daughter of the king of Kashi who, along with two other sisters, was abducted by Bhishma to get them married to his brother Dhritarashtra. Bhishma in pursuit of abducting her, defeated her lover, Salva, the king of Saubha .

At the wedding ceremony, Bhishma got to know that Amba was still in love with Salva, and decided to let her go, hence setting her free of the marital commitment. But jilted by her lover, who considered her lost in a battle, she went back to Bhishma in hopes of marrying him, who also rejected her as he was promised to be celibate. Feeling rejected, she went to every throne and kingdom to support her in defeating Bhishma, the mighty Ganga-Putra; whom she considered to be the source of her misfortune. But all in vain as Bhishma's combat prowess was famous far and wide.

As the last straw, she went to the forest to please the Gods to aid her in her attempts at seeking revenge from Bhishma. Amba gave up food and sleep and practiced asceticism (तपस्या) standing still for six months in Yamuna river valley. Deprived of food and water she became emaciated and developed matted locks. After that, she stood in the waters of the Yamuna, without food and practiced austerity. Pleased with her efforts, Lord Shiva appeared before her and granted her a boon that she will be reborn as a man and become a great warrior. In this new life, she would remember her time as Amba and hence would be the cause of Bhishma's death.

Amba was reborn as Shikhandini, the firstborn of King Drupad. Shikhandini was born a female but her gender was not disclosed at the time of her birth and was raised as a man consequently trained as a warrior. She was then married to the princess of Dashrana. On the wedding night when the princess got to know about Shikhandi's gender. Learning that his daughter was tricked into marrying a woman, the king of Dashrana waged a war against King Drupad. Shikhandini went into hiding in a forest to fast unto death but was saved by a Yaksha (forest deity) Sthunakarna, who helped her by offering his gender in exchange for Shikhandini's female gender.

Thus, Shikhandini transformed into Shikhandi, a man. Meanwhile, the second daughter of Kind Drupad, Draupadi, was married into Pandavas but the rivalry between the Kauravas and Pandavas had also intensified and the war on the land of Kurukshetra was declared. Shikhandini was on the side of her brothers-in-law.

a tale of determination and righteousness

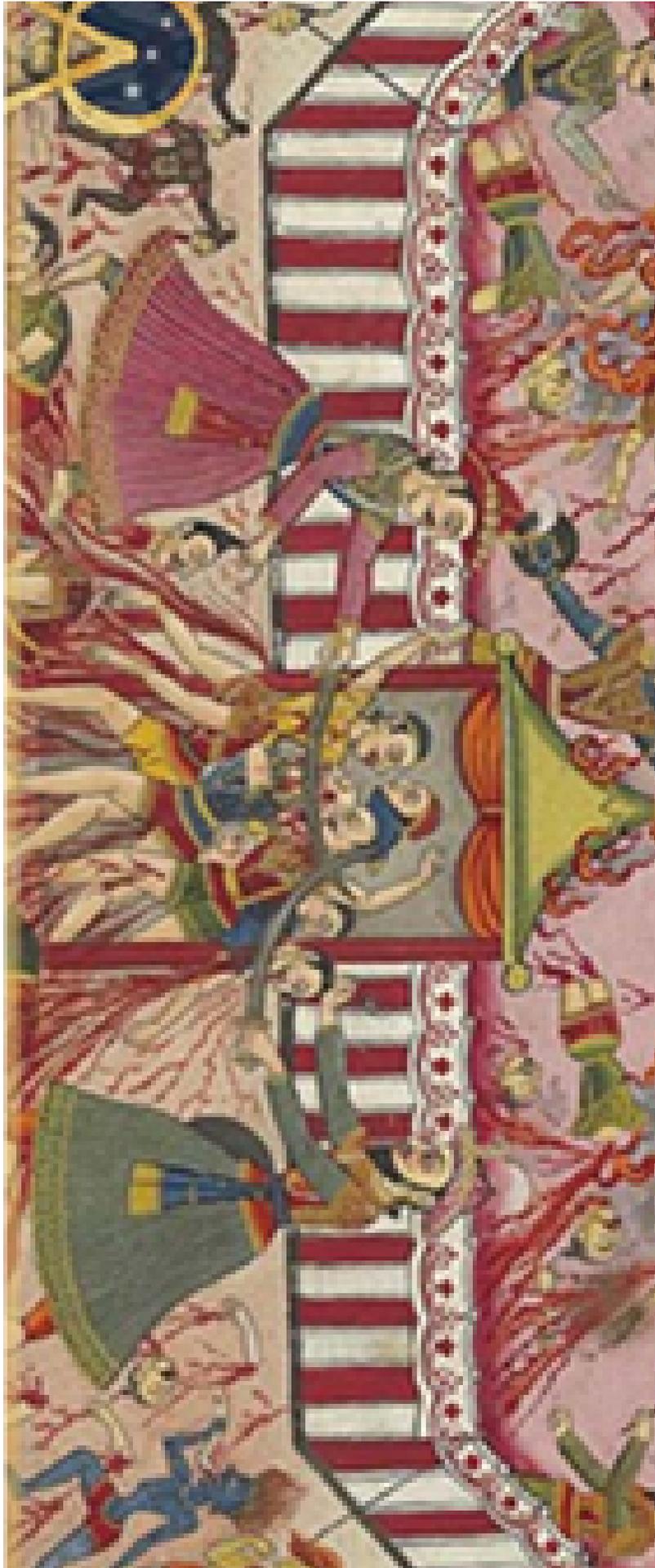
Bhishma was a man skilled in the art of combat both physically and emotionally. However, he vowed that he would not lift his sword against a woman or someone who used to be a woman, thus exposing the dent in his armor. As soon as he saw Shikhandi, he recognized her as Amba and refused to fight her.

Knowing Bhishma's vow, Krishna made Shikhandi stand in front of Arjuna, "I think, Shikhandi should ride into the battlefield on my chariot. Let Arjuna stand behind him," said Krishna. Behind Krishna stood Shikhandi, neither man nor woman, or perhaps both, or possibly neither, followed by Arjun in the third position. Bhishma was furious to see a woman on a battlefield and refused to fight the war. Krishna explained to him that Shikhandi might have been born as a woman, but her father has raised her as a man and had also exchanged her gender with the Yaksha and hence is as much a man as any other in the war.

However, Bhishma still refused to fight him, Krishna asked Shikhandi to shoot the arrows and later asked Arjuna to take charge, which Arjuna was hesitant to do. It is at this moment that Krishna explained

"while paving the path of 'Dharma' which the world desperately needs, one is often faced with conflicting decisions. However, it is only through these that new and fresh ideologies take over the old and stereotypical ways of society."

Amba or Shikhandi's life story is a tale of a person's never-dying determination to restore one's dignity and self-worth against all odds. Time and again, we face situations where we may have to fight the expiry and primitive ways of life to pave the path of the world in the right direction. This tale, albeit a thousand years old, will always be remembered as an example of a person's inner strength, determination, and Dharma which includes all.





CLEAN MEAT

NOT WHAT YOU
THINK IT IS

By Bhargav Pakhare



Meat, a luxury once restricted to the novelty contributed a great deal to the breeding of animals in the past. Nowadays we have streamlined animal factory farms where animals are born, raised, forced to breed and slaughtered for their meat. Irrespective of being smarter than dogs, pigs are forced to live in cages that barely fit them, without a sight of grass. However, this is not what one likes to hear when they are relishing their pork gravy or chicken burger. This cruelty has continued, unchallenged for a long time. Since the demand for meat has shot up tremendously over the last 10-15 years, small-scale animal farmers have now considered burning down forests and other green patches of land to create more grazing land, a prime example of this being Amazon Fires of August 2019 in Brazil. As for the large-scale animal factory farms, the same patch of greenery is burnt to cultivate crops to feed the animals. On an average it takes about 8 calories to make one calorie of meat (beef), and the emission of harmful gases produced by the entirety of the meat sector equals, if not dominates the overall emission that human beings produce, and this is not going to recede any time soon by the looks of it

Naturally, alternatives to meat are the need of the hour. Plant-based alternatives have been under study where patties, nuggets, sausages, etc that looks, tastes, smells, sizzles, and feels like real meat. However, one particular meat category caught our eye, lab-grown chicken. Yes LAB grown chicken! Developed by an American start-up 'Eat up', this variety of meat made its culinary debut in a restaurant named 1880 in Singapore on 19 December, 2020. This newly marketed meat is termed as "clean meat", for its very obvious reasons that there was no killing involved in procuring this meat. It is prepared and grown in the laboratory using chicken muscle cells and are more efficient than their traditional sources of chicken meat, as the energy supplied is used solely to create the muscle tissue and not bones, cartilage and poop as a normal chicken would. This again is beneficial in terms of the food, shelter, maintenance and well-being of the chicken since those costs drastically go down, after all the meat is cultured in a sterile, pathogen-free environment.

There are challenges in this operation as well, the pricing of the chicken meat was around \$50 a piece initially, although the price has come down since then, it would still be as costly as premium chicken. However, it is an excellent alternative for all those who love chicken meat without the horrible killings behind procuring that meat. It brings a peaceful alternate to chicken meat to the table.





By Shubhangini Singh Mahecha

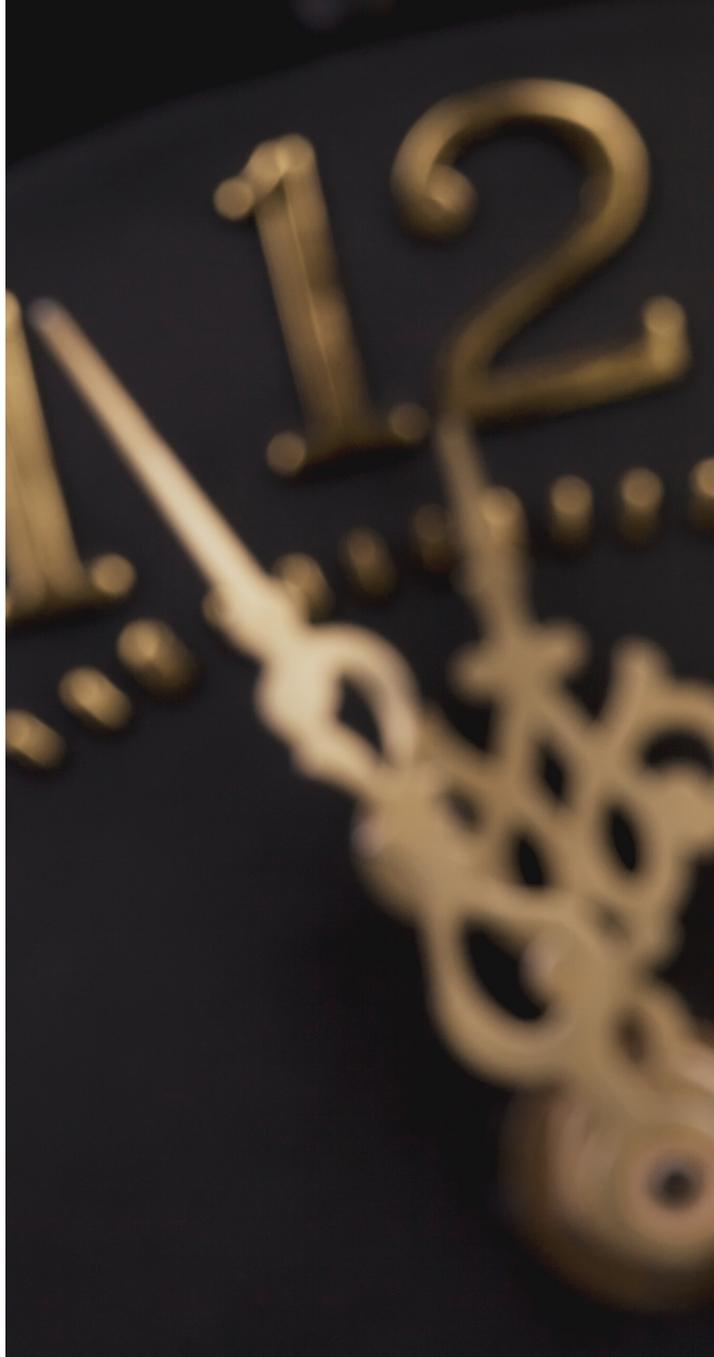
New years are all about new opportunities and a fresh start but this year would be about a new normal. Though is it really new for us? With 2020 ending, we've grown used to this new way of living.

While proceeding towards the end of the year we became accustomed to this new normal. It is as though the moment we find ourselves settling down, something or the other comes rolling over, and honestly, that is probably because one should never just settle but always move forward in life to experience great adventures.

The Pandemic of 2020 was a life changer not just for one person or country but for the entire world. But things sure do seem to be calming down now, with schools and workplaces opening, and no more curfews. We wouldn't have to sit at home anymore. Do you think this would be an easy transition?

Working from home which was once a dream for many has now turned out to be a double-edged sword. What was once fantasized as a relaxing retreat from the hectic office environment has now ruined the peace of our homes. With all the brawls with our boss, colleagues, and co-workers home doesn't feel home anymore, does it?

We have seen a new cultural wave amid 2020 but how would things be in the new year? Will things remain the same? Gradually one has to accept the dynamically changing situation and move on with life. This change can be a little overwhelming as we have soaked the essence of being at home and enjoying the comfort. One interesting outcome of this is that people will now be cautious and alert about their health and hygiene.



New years are a sign of new beginnings; so rise and shine to begin a new chapter of your life. Be a source of happiness for someone in pain. Aspire to inspire! Don't forget the lessons of the past because they are an addition to your treasure of experiences and wisdom. Learn to balance your personal and professional space. Carry a smile and radiate a positive aura because there will be struggles and there will be frustrating moments but you can get through it by being just a little stronger! Make your time worth it and put all the new skills you learned to work. This will add a new perspective to your life and career. Your home would still be a warehouse of productive ideas, peace restored.



Reliving the 70s: Denim goes Retro!

By Soumyaa Jain

Fashion is one of the strongest ways for a woman to make her presence felt as soon as she walks in the room. Baggy or straight, boot cut or flared, a good pair of jeans is quite the staple for every woman's wardrobe. As we brace ourselves for the next decade, one cannot help but ponder over the transition in the ever-evolving world of fashion, a factor that governs the lifestyle of every age. 2020 might have hit many never-seen-before records, but when it came to fashion, the trends seem to be reliving the 70s. Denim has always led the fashionistas into driving the age's trends, and these days it seems to carry a vintage influence. The high-rise wide-legged jeans are exerting their dominance over most landscapes, with women all around the world flaunting straighter silhouettes to the handsome legs. But if you think this off-the-rack beauty is a modern raise, you have got another thing coming!



First coming into style in the 1970s, the denim manufacturer Levi's, came up with the idea of turning the traditional pants into jeans for women working on the land and factories for the war effort in the 1940s. In the words of Levi Strauss, "We consider May 20, 1873 the 'birthday' of blue jeans, because although denim pants had been around as work-wear for many years, it was the act of placing rivets in these traditional pants for the first time that created what we now call jeans." Fascinating? An out-turn to the backlash against hippie fashions, the members of Generation X opted for 'higher' rise pants. An initial taste for the low-rise skinny jeans drifted to the high rise denim in the past decade. However, it is in the past 2-3 years that a change in the taste of silhouettes resulted in the straighter stretch, also called the "boot cut" pants.

When I say “Denim”, the natural tendency is to picture a woman in her 20s somewhere in America sporting a pair with an Espresso in hand. Well, indeed it should be so, considering that blue jeans owe their origin to the Americans. However, colonization sure did leave an imprint of Western fashion on Indians. In ancient times, some Indian philosophers would object to the idea of Sarees, on account of the exposure of the midriff, which went against the Dharma-sastra stating that women should be dressed such that the navel would not become visible. One can see how the outset of high rise fashion would have an upper hand on those grounds, especially for an Indian woman. But there was more to it than living up to the ideal dress style. In the process of defining women’s rights, their own choices, Indian fashion itself witnessed a shift from the understated shy traditional looks to modern bold choices. The 60s were ruled by heavy chunky ornaments, embroidered sarees whereas the 70s saw a lot of bright colors, polka dots, bell-bottoms, and oversized sunglasses. The salwar was replaced by jeans, the kameez by tops and t-shirts. Instead of the traditional chikankari, benarasi, and other handcrafted fabrics, people started adapting more to types of denim and other westernized materials. Over the years international trends played a major role in defining the way an Indian woman dresses. No wonder one can see top Bollywood actresses like Zeenat Amaan and Shabana Azmi in the 60s and 70s, flaunting those snazzy bell-bottoms with top hats. The denim you wear today is a legacy of the retro70s fashion.



While the image of the American woman in Denim may be a stereotype, there’s practically no end to the ways these denim pants can add up to the perfect look. Wear it with a simple white t-shirt and a pair of high heels in the summers or rock the vintage look with a cashmere sweater and high waist denim in the winters. Women’s fashion has always been labeled under the heads of ‘what-goes-with-what’, however in this decade, pairing your apparel from crop tops, shirts, and V-necks to blazers and sweaters with the right pants is the way to go. As long as it is high waist and you find the right inseam, you’ll rock the look!\







THE ESSENCE OF *Ayurveda*

BY VIBHORIKA KUMARI

The history of Ayurveda is deep-rooted in the Indian subcontinent. It is believed by some scholars that Ayurveda existed since the inception of the Indus Valley Civilization or even before that. Ayurveda is one of the oldest forms of traditional medicine that originated in India and has been practiced for thousands of years. It is used to treat health problems using a holistic approach.

Ayurvedic treatment is about nourishing the body, mind, and spirit when dealing with health issues. Ayurveda is a Sanskrit term that translates to “knowledge of life”(Ayu-life, Veda-knowledge) It lays emphasis on good health, prevention, and treatment of diseases through the right lifestyle choices including meditation, yoga, massage, and a well-balanced diet.

It is believed that ayurvedic medicines are based on the idea that the world is made up of five elements which are Aakash (space), Jal (water), Prithvi (earth), Tej (fire), and Vayu (air), the combination of which results in doshas, which in turn influence the person’s physical and psychological health.

The three main energies or doshas that constitute a person’s physical, mental, and emotional characteristics in Ayurvedic medicine are Vata, Pitta, Kapha

VATA, the energy of movement.

Those with Vata dosh are said to be creative, energetic and immensely moody by nature. They have a quick learning ability, are highly sensitive and multitaskers. Since people with this dosh can get overwhelmed easily and are quite anxious, it is advisable that they stick to a daily routine to keep them grounded. Engaging in calming activities especially meditation, yoga will be beneficial to the body and consuming warm food or drink that will ultimately provide warmth to the body. These people are advised to consume lentils, oats and rice cooked in butter or ghee and fresh fruits to be consumed on an empty stomach. Nuts and seeds are also beneficial when soaked and then consumed.

PITTA, the energy of digestion or metabolism.

People with a dominant pitta dosh are said to have the elements of fire and water. Those who come under this category tend to be athletic, and are great leaders. They are highly motivated, goal-oriented, and immensely competitive. Self-determination, quick learning skills, above-average intelligence and quick metabolism are some of their strengths. They are mostly impatient, have crazy mood swings when hungry and are prone to conflict. Summer is known to be the pitta season. Their natural aggressiveness tends to reduce when pitta people consume cool food. They should stay away from hot and spicy food to maintain their calm. However, consumption of coconut and sunflower seeds are highly recommended. Pitta skin is sensitive, prone to inflammation, redness, acne and psoriasis.

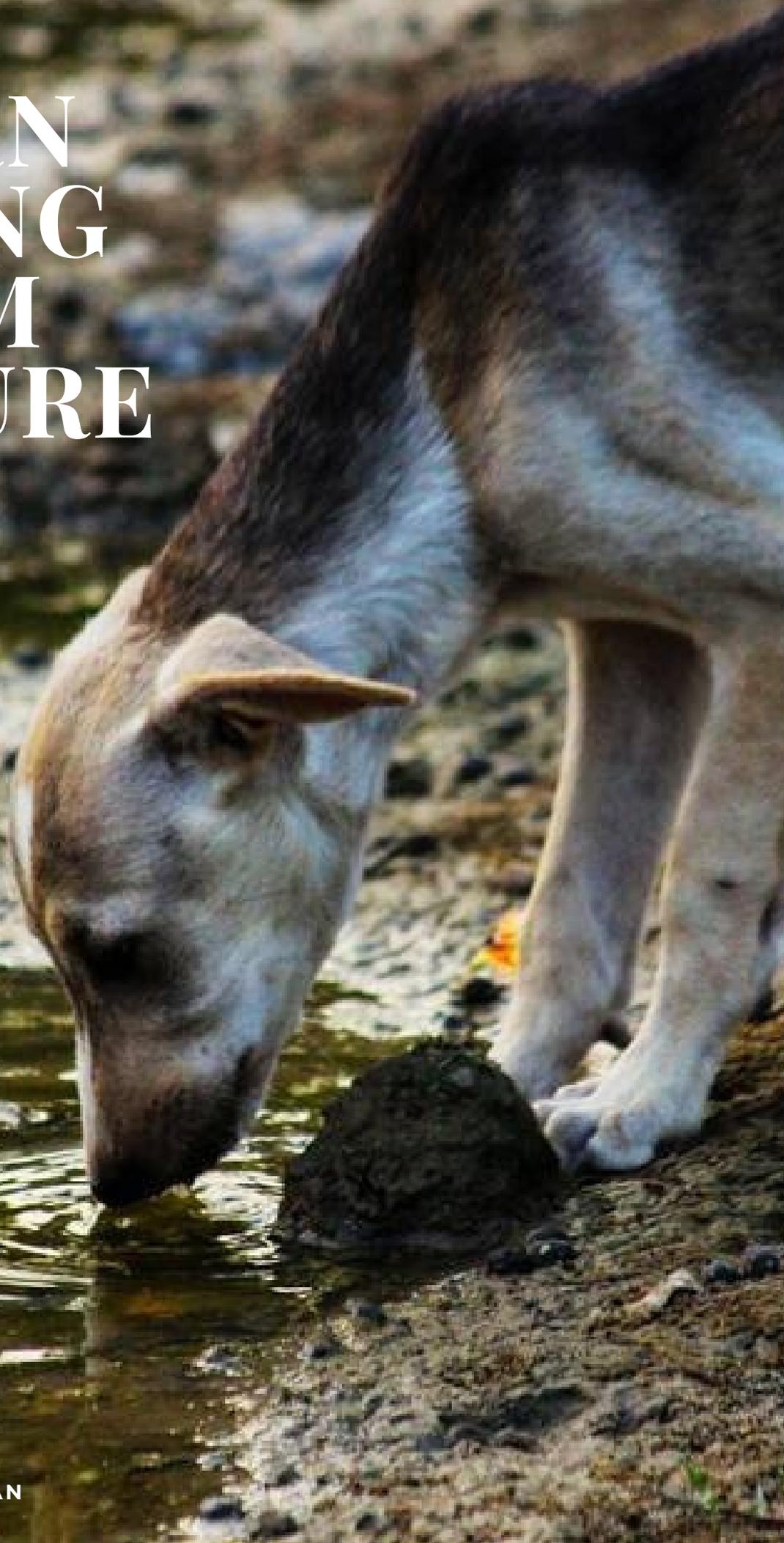


KAPHA, the energy of lubrication and structure.

Kapha is based on the elements of water and earth. People with kapha dominant dosha are said to be emphatic, patient, calm, wise, happy, romantic, and generally have a healthy immune system. When they go off track, it is advisable that they have a healthy diet, establish a regular sleeping pattern and maintain a warm body temperature. Since kapha dominant people need less grain as compared to vata and pitta, it is advisable to consume beans and lentils. Very sweet or sour foods should be avoided but fruits like apple, mangoes, peaches and pears must be included in their diet. Kapha skin tends to be thick, oily and prone to cystic acne hence it needs regular detoxification as it is prone to accumulating ama, or toxins under the skin.

In Ayurveda, a disease or a disorder in humans is caused due to the accumulation of toxins in the body. Our body is said to have one of the three dosh, the dominance of which categorizes each one of us in accordance with it. An excess or deficiency of any of the dosh leads to improper cellular functioning of the body. Hence a balance between body, mind, and consciousness is the key to a healthy life. So, when the three dosh are in balance, that person experiences a harmonious lifestyle. There have been debates on the medicinal relevance of Ayurveda. To make it clear, Ayurveda is nowhere meant to be a substitute for western medicine. However, Ayurveda can be used alongside the medicine to help rebuild the body after treatment or surgery and reduces the chances of being afflicted with the disease in the near future. To wrap it up, it can be said that Ayurveda is complementary to healing and not a substitute.

LEARN GIVING FROM NATURE



PHOTOGRAPH BY
AKHILESH BACHCHAN

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF

Forgiveness

By Vidhi Singh



Easy to read, easier to understand, and the hardest to apply, such is the duality of forgiveness. As life progresses, we meet a lot of people, some good some not so good; some become friends, some become family, some stay while others leave, and some become, if said brutally, enemies. We just can't stand the sight of these people. Apparently for most of us these people have done something extremely woeful, which has made us inculcate this feeling of dislike or hatred towards them. Every time we catch a glimpse of them, we have this feeling of severe agitation in the gut and would go to any lengths to soothe the inner chaos caused by their aura. Our mind loses its peace, at that very moment. We get stressed about things that were once upon a time inflicted on us. We punish our peace because of someone.

Easy to read, easier to understand, and the hardest to apply, such as the duality of forgiveness. As life progresses, we meet a lot of people, some good some not so good; some become friends, some become family, some stay while others leave, and some become if said brutally, enemies. We just can't stand the sight of these people. Apparently, for most of us, these people have done something extremely woeful, which has made us inculcate this feeling of dislike or hatred towards them. Every time we catch a glimpse of them, we have this feeling of severe agitation in the gut and would go to any lengths to soothe the inner chaos caused by their aura. Our mind loses its peace, at that very moment. We get stressed about things that were once upon a time inflicted on us. We punish our peace because of someone.

"When you forgive someone you forgive yourself"

You liberate your body, mind, and soul from that diabolical incident which enables you to move on in life. You don't turn your head to the horrible instances each time you come across that certain someone. It becomes easier to look back in the past and smile. The baggage from your chest is lifted. But often we fail to acknowledge and understand this liberation. Revenge and the feeling of wrongdoing bring the best of us to our knees, that forces our hand to make unforgivable mistakes in the long run. They impale our souls with a spear of self-loathing and whips of vengeance, this is when we are damaged. That's when we start building walls around ourselves. That's when the demon of depression slowly slides in and starts manipulating our brain.

Another important aspect of forgiving someone is the change in perspective that you acquire towards a story. You can see both sides of the coin without any bias. You can achieve this only when you have freed yourself from self-imprisonment. You can never be a part of the story and then clearly see what's right and what's not. It's human nature to consider one-self to always be right.

As rightly quoted by Lewis B. Smendes "To forgive someone is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." Hence, forgiveness is the key to immense peace and salvation of mind, body, and soul. It will set you free from your own demons and will bring out a person in you that you never knew existed. You won't cling on to the past anymore; you will be the best version of yourself.

"To forgive someone is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."





ikigai

By Kavya Shah



When we enter a world that has pivotal elements of competition, strategies calling shots, and acing opportunities which are a motivation for some and pressure cooker for others; which is not a big deal for its instigators but has created a huge fuss for people.

In this era of chaos, it is essential to choose the right direction in life, to choose a path that leads you to your destiny. The best possible way to sort out this path from the rest is to find and follow your IKIGAI. It is basically a Japanese concept that says when your passion, your mission, your profession, and your actions are centered around a single goal, then that is your ikigai.... The purpose to live, an inspiration to work, your skill to enhance and your will to grow propels you faster towards achieving the objective that you've always dreamt about. It is also believed that following your ikigai changes your vision towards the worldly experiences and reinforces the sacred bond between you and your loved ones.

To take a trip down memory lane, back to the Heian period (794-1185), where the word ikigai came into existence, derived from the word "Shell" that were and are still considered to be extremely valuable just as our lives. As a matter of fact, if you don't have the drive in you to accomplish your purpose, life becomes bland and boring; but if you have a purpose to fulfil, you have a reason to live and through all livelong day this is what matters to you, to your beloved and to this society.

But the million-dollar question arises," where and how do I find my ikigai?". There are days in our lives where we are so excited to spend the day while some are the days worse than lost. But both teach us that whatever we love, whatever we crave for are the things that will never make us tired and thus to convert them into opportunities for making a living as well as helping your society for good. So, when you're able to connect all these dots together, you've found your ikigai. It is the reason for being and living fully to each and every moment of your existence. Amongst all, many might have seen the movie - 3 idiots, where Rancho had a passion for machines and Farhan was captivated by his love for wildlife photography. In the end, when they followed their real passion which resulted in a successful and happy life.

A person who has the skill to apply perfect strokes with perfect colour combinations finds their ikigai in painting, A person who loves technology and can code his whole life finds their ikigai in computers, a person who can survive sharks and can find peace in oceans finds their ikigai in underwater diving. There's a lot of non-treaded pathways, pick the one that suits you the most because living off of something that you don't even care for is as good as already death.

An 'Ohsaki' study conducted on 43,391 Japanese adults regarding the presence of an ikigai unveiled a lot of information." Do you have ikigai in your life?", Over seven years of their hard work, patience and money was invested in studying people, out of the 3048 subjects died, to which their study said that the people who died without finding a sense of ikigai were more compared to ones who accomplished a sense for ikigai. The study also concludes that who died without an ikigai were more prone to cardiovascular disease. Ikigai brings you a sense of belongingness and ecstatic emotions. Never should you belittle your capabilities and expertise just for the sake that people will never believe in you, instead you should stand strong for yourself and overcome these obstacles to indirectly help the community by your talents and perseverance.

In the end, it is all about desiring and achieving your aims for being and do not consider self-denying deeds that come your way for attaining pleasures of life. Always remember -

- I - I should be
- K - Known for
- I - intersecting my
- G - Goals and vocation with
- A - Admiration of society to
- I - idealize my life





Art by **Ajinkaya Raverkar**



School warned me about the things out there
About the monsters that run about
About all the consequences that will follow
When I put a cigarette into my mouth
Make sure you face the bully
With strength and pride they said
But they never said the biggest bully
Was the one inside my head
They never talked about feeling lonely
In a room so full of friends
Or about how someone could cut thin lines
All over their hands
And they called me selfish
When I said I wanted life to end
But I knew I wasn't selfish
When I put the pills into my hand
But now I guess I'm stronger
Because my family, they cared
But still there are people out there
Whose voices need to be heard
So instead of teaching us fucking algebra
Or making us stand in straight lines
I think you better teach us
How to recognize the signs
I didn't know anything
But now I'm well aware
And I think we need to drop the stigma
And start showing that we care.

In
attaining
our
ideals,
our
means
should be
as pure
as gold.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad



RANJITSINH DISALE

By Priyanka Raina Sharma

Ranjitsinh Disale a school teacher from village Paritewadi, Maharashtra, made India proud on 3rd December 2020 when he was declared the winner of the 1 million USD Global teachers award 2020 founded by the Varkey foundation and organized in partnership with UNESCO. He was acknowledged for head starting QR based knowledge system and supporting girl child education in the village. Just not an innovator but also a man of golden heart he distributed half of his earned prize to the other nominees to help in their initiatives.

Disale hoped to become an engineer but a tryst with the teacher training institute made him realize that the role of a teacher goes beyond that of only imparting the textbook knowledge, a teacher can definitely change the course of his student's life.

I Joined as a government schoolteacher in the year 2009, at that time, the turnout of students was very less. Yet being determined to bring a change, rather than giving up on the situation he thought of making learning more interactive and engaging for the students. Looking for solutions online he came across the technology-based learning system of QR codes, wherein the QR codes were added to the books so the kids could get links to the audio poems, video lectures, assignments and stories.

WINNER OF GLOBAL TEACHERS AWARD 2020

Over the years he worked on the thought and In 2015, the Maharashtra government had adopted Disale's idea and made QR codes available in Balbharti textbooks. Subsequently in 2018, Government of India decided that all National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks will have embedded QR codes. Due to his efforts to bring girls to the schools, his village has seen drastic decrease in child marriages and child labor and as a result his school has achieved 100% attendance of girls.

His journey is a living example of belief and determination, wherein it seems that if we set our heart at right place and believe in our cause even the sky is not the limit. Every path to success has its own odds and obstacles which can create doubts initially but what leads us to the destination is our belief, in our own selves and our passion to follow our heart certainly.

be the
change.
be the
bridge.

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