

Importance of Attitude

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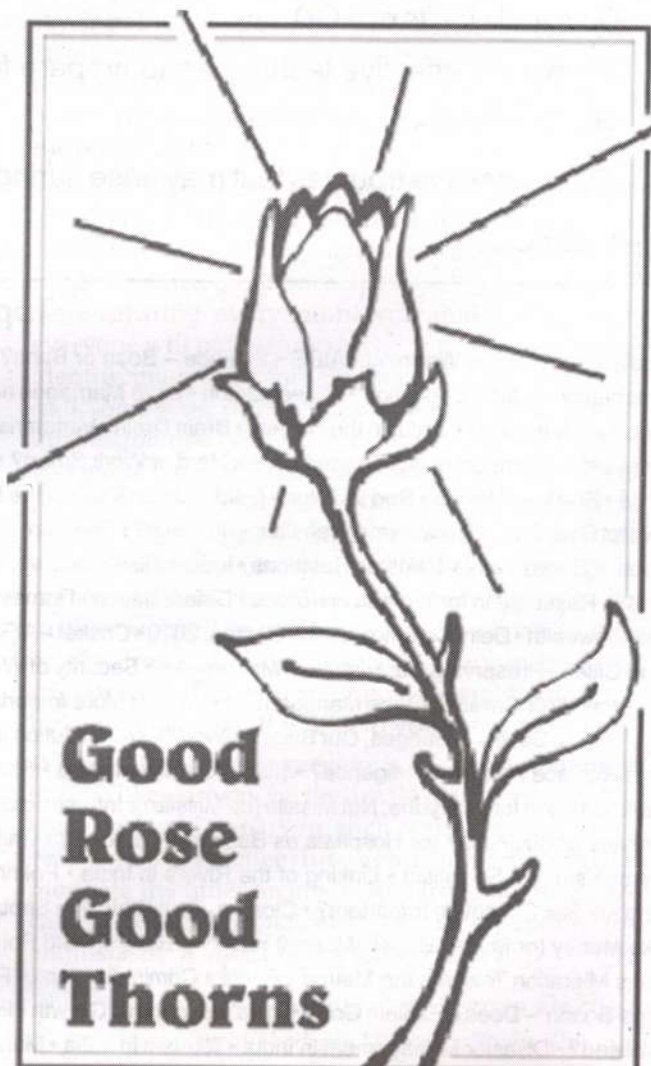
*Do Not Grieve That Rose Bushes Have Thorns
Rather Rejoice That Thorny Bushes Have Roses*

Attitude reflects the true essence of a person. Your living is determined not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens. Contentment is not the fulfilment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.

Unfortunately, the greatest weakness for many people is that they don't realize their own strength. Chesterton has said, "One sees great things from the valley. Only small things from the peak." Your perspective, your values will define the way you perceive life and your approach to life. But one thing you should strongly bear in mind is that it is impossible to change the value system of a person. Attitudes can change, but not values. In all your relationships, know full well that a person might well accept all aspects of your viewpoints but certainly not an opinion on his/her 'value' system. And values differ for different individuals. Not necessarily, they will be same as yours. Hence never ever attempt to discuss on issues like belief in God, religion or economic issues, for they will not be kindly taken.

I recall a story where a traveller hired a donkey to carry him to a far off place. Being a hot summer day, the traveller stopped to rest and sought shelter from the sun under the shadow of the donkey. As this gave protection only for one and as the traveller and the owner of the donkey both claimed it, a fierce dispute arose between them as to which of

them had the right to the shadow. The owner said that he had let the donkey only, and not his shadow. The traveller asserted that he had, with the hire of



the donkey, hired his shadow also. The quarrel proceeded from words to physical blows, and while the men fought, the donkey galloped away. From the anecdote you can deduce that when you quarrel about the shadow, you are bound to lose the substance. And each value is bigger than the shadow for every individual. Let not your precious life be wasted in mundane trivia.

Life still is beautiful, including broken dreams. Continue with your actions; don't be bothered about the results. The earth has every right to reject the seed, howsoever confident the seed may be of its acceptance.

Gibbons has said, "If we examine the source of our troubles and agitation, we find that they almost invariably spring from a desire of appreciation or a fear of contempt." Once we soar away from these desires or fears we have truly liberated ourselves. Go for your true dreams. The wish is father to thought. Your dreams are your own creation and only you will know deep down how much they mean to you. Nobody else can define their depth.

Thoreau has aptly said, "Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it." Of course there are costs and risks to any action, but they are less, far less than the long term risks and costs of comfortable inaction. There are two ways of getting home and one of them is to stay there. That is the safest option and for some the only option. The window of opportunity won't open by itself. Seneca has said, "While we are postponing life speeds by." Luck is the residence of design. The greatest secret of success in life is for a person to be ready when their opportunity comes.

Picasso has mentioned, "It takes a long time to become young." Lose not your youth, you may be getting older as years pass by but that should not deter you from pursuing the dreams of a young person. Van Gogh has beautifully mentioned, "I dream my painting and then I paint my dream."

There is always a valley before a hill. Somebody has said, "We do not stop playing because we are old, we grow old because we stop playing." Every production of genius must be product of enthusiasm. And youth is always full of enthusiasm.

True success is built on failures. Know full well that one machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man. In life you either have to be first, best or different. Or then just contemplate on what a wise man has said on age. "Age gives good advice when it is no longer able to give a bad example." If need be take advice. Seek direction from one who's already there. But most people prefer to stay with problems they understand rather than look for solutions they are uncomfortable with. The difference between an amateur and a professional is that an amateur gives up when encountering difficulties while a professional speeds up. Professionals are people who can do their job when they don't feel like it. Amateurs are people who can't do their job when they do feel like it. I remember a dancer who once said, "I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself."

Shakespeare has said that the best men are moulded out of faults. Dicken's implores us to think when he says, "Minds like bodies will often fall into ill conditioned state from mere excess of comfort." Visualizing future could help you, as you are going to spend your time there. Don't live in the past, you have already been there. But do check your ammunition before you decide your aim in life. And like great love, great achievements involve great risks.

Finally, to come back on attitude and its importance just remember, "Ability is what you are capable of doing, Motivation determines what you do, and Attitude determines how well you do it."

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