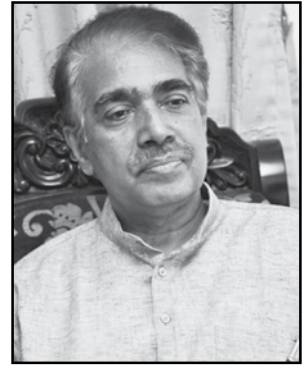


EDITORIAL



Aspire and Achieve 'Pancha Dhanam'

(Vitham, Vidya, Vivekam, Vinayam, Virakthi)

On the occasion of the New Year 2022 let me wish all our dear and respected readers a happier, more prosperous and more peaceful year ahead. Everyone wants to be rich and happy. But all rich people are not happy and conversely many financially poor people are happy. Rich and happy do not necessarily go together and are not complementary to each other. Happiness is a state of mind and money cannot buy happiness. Let me share my thoughts on "*Pancha Dhana*" – five types of wealth.

Vitham - Material wealth such as money and properties. Many think that material wealth is the most important possession as it bestows power over others and enables the person to enjoy worldly pleasures. ***Vitham*** is certainly not the most important of all types of wealth. Material wealth becomes an asset when one has love and compassion and uses it to help others by eliminating their sufferings. One must see God in oneself and in others – a self realisation of universal brotherhood in the true spirit of India's Heritage Vedic Philosophy of "*Vasu dhaiva Kutumbakom*" - World is one family.

Vidya – Knowledge is a very important wealth. ***Vidya*** can create material wealth. It is knowledge of science and technology and their applications which led to spectacular inventions and developments contributing to economic growth and prosperity. An important characteristic of ***Vidya*** is that it does not reduce when you give it to others unlike money and properties. However, knowledge and technology can be used for good or evil deeds. For example, splitting atom can be used for power generation and radiation for treatment, but can also be used to make Atom Bomb for mass destruction. Exploitation of minerals, metals and materials, burning of fuels for energy and automobiles pollute air, water and ground causing deforestation, global warming and environmental disasters. So ***Vidya*** must be used wisely and this requires another important wealth. ***Vivekam*** - Wisdom This gives us the ability to analyse what action results in 'good' or 'evil' for the community and enable avoiding unethical use of ***Vidya*** in the name of progress. It enhances our Conscience and ability to get guidance from our inner voice to control our thoughts and actions. ***Vitham, Vidya and Vivekam*** – these wealths should not lead

one to excessive pride, which causes the rise of ego, which would surely lead to a fall from grace. One must acquire the great wealth of *Vinayam* – humility. As the saying goes *Vidya Vineyana Shobitham* (Knowledge shines with humility).

The last but not the least of the important wealths is *Virakthi* - '*Isa Vasyamidam Sarvam*' from *Isa Vasya Upanishad*, meaning “Whatsoever in this ever changing world, all these are enveloped by God. We are only custodians for short periods of time”. Practice renunciation and detachment to all material wealth. Do not covet another person’s assets.

Each one of us should aspire and achieve all the five important wealths – the *Pancha Dhanas* to be successful in our personal and professional life and grow as responsible and ethical human beings, create and sustain peace, harmony, prosperity and happiness in our home, Society and the World.

Dr. Chandrathil Gouri Krishnadas
Chairman – Editorial Advisory Board



Quote from ‘Hitopadesha – Upanishad’

**Ayam Nijah Paro Vetī gaṇanā laghu-cetasām |
Udāra-caritānām tu vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam ||**

It is only the petty minded who thinks like ‘This person is from my clan. This person is an outsider, etc.’” In contrast the large hearted look upon “The entire world as their own Family.”

Prayer from Karshastak Upanishad

**Sarve bhavantu sukhinaḥ
Sarve santu nirāmayāḥ
Sarve bhadraṇi paśyantū
Mā kaścidduḥ khabhāg bhaveta**

May all be Happy/ May all be free from disease.
May all realise what is good, May none be subject to misery.