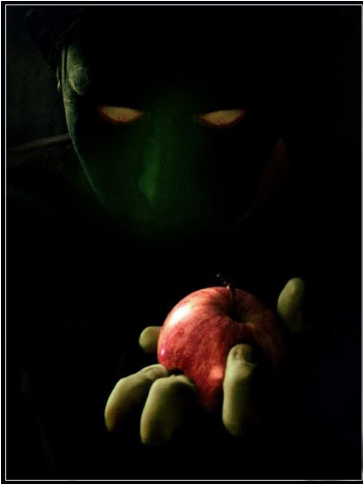


The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

Moral Muscles To Fight Corruption



Question: If God wants us to be moral, then why has he created so many temptations that allure us toward immorality?

Answer: Temptations are intended not to make us immoral, but to test and toughen our moral muscles.

Consider a teacher who sets a multiple choice question paper. Suppose a student chooses the wrong alternative, fails in the exam, and then accuses the teacher: "I failed because you provided so many wrong alternatives." It's true that the teacher provided the wrong alternatives, but the teacher also taught the right alternative during the classes prior to the exam. As the student didn't study to assimilate the lesson, the blame for the failure rests with the student – not the teacher.

Similarly, the world is like a school; we, the students; God, the teacher; life, the exam. The many temptations that allure us – the impulse to indulge in corrupt practices – are like the multiple choices in the question paper. God has provided the scriptural wisdom to help us tick the moral alternative in life's exams. But if we fail to assimilate the scriptural wisdom and then blame God for succumbing to temptations, how are we any different from the student who blames the teacher? We may be different in one way: the student doesn't assimilate what is taught in the classes, whereas we don't even attend the classes.

Most of us have a convenient alibi for our spiritual truancy: we claim to be too busy preparing for worldly success. Could we be unwittingly becoming like a student who claims to be so busy preparing for the exams as to have no time to attend the classes that reveal the key to pass the exam? The key to life's success lies not just in honing our talents but in making right choices during moments of test. And the intelligence to make those right choices comes from scriptural wisdom, as is illustrated in the *Bhagavad-gita*. The famed archer-hero Arjuna had toiled for decades to hone his archery skills, but just before the moment of the ultimate contest, his moral radar started going haywire. Fortunately, the *Gita* wisdom that he submissively heard from Lord Krishna saved the day.

History is repeating itself in our current news, but with the opposite result. Morally bankrupt politicians are falling from the glory of political power to the ignominy of imprisoned powerlessness, all because they never cared for spiritual education to overcome their moral bankruptcy. Sooner or later, all those who choose immorality in life's exams will get their karmic suffering.

If we can learn from history the empowering potential of scriptural guidance in strengthening our moral muscles, then we can pave the way to a morally vibrant and a corruption-free nation and world.



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