

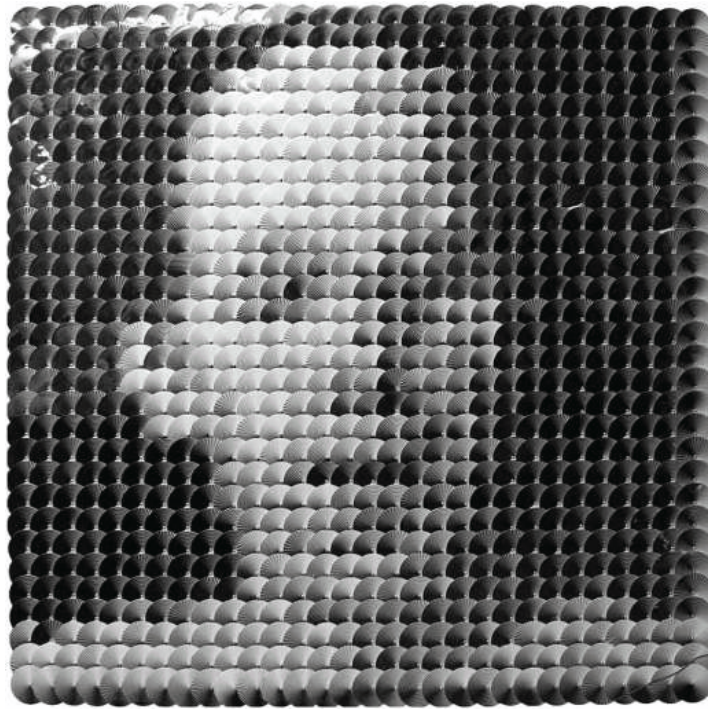
Changing Faces

Let's face it. Do you know what happens to many people when their commitment to a cause is put to test? They put up a false face. They are unable to speak with precision and certainty. Most conversations seem to be carried out on two levels. A lot of trash has accumulated in our head ever since we came home from the maternity ward. Many people dwell in a state of conspiracy and falsehood in their lifetime. They respond by putting up another face and become a walking, talking and breathing contraption that cannot talk with a straight face.

If we do not exist as real people, if we are not deeply ourselves, then our relationship cannot be real! A real person is one who acts spontaneously in a rational and trustworthy way with a decent consideration for others. How many times have you come face to face with someone and somehow felt emptiness in the relationship? It takes courage and conviction to be more honest, especially with friends. The cowardice of omitting inconvenient subjects has made people put up a double face.

Every single person leaves a legacy when their life on this earth comes to an abrupt end. During that short span of time the person's existence has an impact on the people, whether they like it or not.

Their character tells their story. What qualities do people remember in you when you are alive or dead?



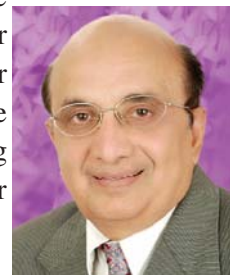
The Hidden Face.

Gandhiji remarked, "A person cannot do right things in one department whilst attempting to do wrong in another department. Life is one indivisible whole." When people become members of service organisations such as Rotary, the first lesson to be learnt is being truthful. Our 4-Way Test is a simply superb guideline for every new entrant. Not that it should be forgotten subsequently. It must be adhered to in letter and spirit throughout the lifetime of the individual. The bane of a noble movement, a service organisation such as Rotary, is that there have been frequent calls to temporarily suspend the good qualities a human being should have. When the organisation totters,

there is a call to revive the spirit. You cannot build an organisation with alternate layers of trust and mistrust. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging hatred. The destiny of every human being is decided by what goes inside his head when he is confronted by what goes on outside.

Charlotte Cushman, America's greatest actress during 1800's, said, "No artist's work is so high, so noble, so grand, so enduring, so important for all time as the making of character." What is needed is the power and determination to remould, through experimentation, our institution and

practices. We have to re-establish the sanctity of our association and dignity of friendship. In the haste to nurture the bloated egos of themselves, people sacrifice those around them just to go up the ladder or get few benefits. But, when people despise your conduct, even after many years, your past crimes will bring present shame. There is nothing noble in being superior to some other person. The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self.



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