

Humility

A Sanskrit verse says, “Just as the fruit laden tree bows low, so does the accomplished person in humility.” Do champions apologise to the loser? This is what the tennis star Nadal did when he defeated Federer in the Australian open. These two men recognise and respect each other’s talent and pain. Boxer Muhammad Ali once said, “Champions are made from something they have deep inside them.” Nadal and Federer are two champions who showed their essential connectedness. Shrimathi M S Subbulakshmi, the all time great carnatic musician from India, was world renown, not only because of her captivating voice and mastery of music in many languages, but because of her humility. She is probably one of the few non-political individuals whom various heads of States wanted to meet when they were in India. These are just two examples of greatness achieved by being humble.

Life today is highly competitive. Competition means that there will be winners and losers. In Rotary too there is competition to excel in service. This is welcome but the greatness of the project done will be appreciated only when the doers are humble and do not use their service activities to project a different image of themselves. An election to offices in Rotary always has winners and losers. Winners seldom show their humility and the celebrations have assumed

the stature of a general election with the victor being crowned with endless felicitation meetings. The loser and his supporters have been often

that is lacking in us and in not exalting ourselves for that which we have, seeing that God had freely given it to us.”



relegated to a corner resulting in hurt and a bad blood being spilled at every conceivable occasion. We are all in Rotary to make life less difficult for each other. If not what do we live for? A single act of kindness throws roots in all directions and if we are humble there is an opportunity for kindness. He who allows his day to pass by without practicing humility and enjoying life’s pleasure is like a blacksmith’s bellows — he breathes but does not live.

Great minds have purposes, others have only wishes. If we can replace Love for Power with Power of Love, this world would be an abode of peace for all. This is true for our organisation too. Lacordaire said, “Humility does not consist in hiding our talents and virtues, but in possessing a clear knowledge of all

Many people who lose feel they are victims in life and they often point to past events. A person who sets his or her mind on the dark side of life and lives over the disappointments of the past prays for similar disappointments in the future. When they see failure as a stepping stone to success they will find life more challenging and enriching.

Sometimes people who win, tend to become arrogant. What they forget is history that has time and again showed that victory can be short-lived and people will only remember a victor for his humility even when he or she has demitted their post which was won through an election. A person, who is not humble, writes his destiny which can often be a tragic tale, of lost friends and solitude during the years when he needs people around him.

I do not know what the destiny of everyone will be, but one thing I know is that those who are happy are those who have sought and found how to serve with humility.



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