

Vocational Service

Dear Leaders in Rotary,

Vocational Service is the best understood service and the least stressed service too. This avenue of service deals with ethics, honesty, fair play and truth. This activity connects us to people and makes us think about the welfare of all, not just ourselves. This time in our earth is the most exciting time in history. We are seeing the impossible becoming possible, in every field of human endeavour and in every subject. Ethical standards are now more important than ever.

Understanding ethics is more important than expressing it. What is ethics? It is the concept of behaviour based on a system of moral principles. What are the moral principles we cherish? What are the principles we respect? Our scriptures call it "Dharma." It is a standard of behaviour laid down by all religions. If ethical standards are valuable to me we must follow it with passion and enthusiasm. We must do it throughout the day.

Vocational service underlines the fact that we are all connected and we are all part of one energy. Hence the welfare of others becomes our responsibility. When you compete to put others down you are saying that there is not enough for everybody and that you should get things first. The universal law says that when you

do this you will attract many people and circumstances to compete against you in every single aspect of your life.



When the entire world is passing through a period in which virtually all the values and morals of our society have been severely tested and some have fallen by the wayside, our role as practitioners and promoters of ethics is facing obstacles. Today's affluent businessman or a professional is impatient with delays in fulfillment of often unreasonable expectations and is cynical of the word ethics. We are travelling on a collision course and when a collision occurs, mankind will suffer profoundly. Too many expectations, fast results and little or no integrity are going to be instrumental in precipitating a catastrophe.

We need a vision – we need to restore faith in Honesty. We need a complete re-orientation of our values.

The elite of businesses and professionals are in Rotary. It is, therefore, our obligation to start the ball rolling. I believe that people are good at

heart. Let's show a glimmer of intelligence and realise that if total dishonesty, lack of ethics, corruption and untruth should takeover, nobody and I mean nobody, will survive the holocaust.

We are leaders, we are the elite, we are compassionate, and we are tender hearted. Remember that if we are unable to be truthful, honest and ethical, who else can? Such expectations from people, who are neither as privileged nor as affluent as we are is asking for the moon. Let's all dream together of a civilisation, where honesty and ethics are not as rare as a three-leaf clover and if we want to *Make Dreams Real*, we must *lead the way*.

Your purpose in Rotary is what you say it is. Your mission is the mission you give yourself. There is no end to the topic of Ethics, but there is a beginning. Let us all begin at the beginning and the beginning begins with you.



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
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