

Hurts To Heights



PROF BRAJ KISHOR GUPTA

To hurt is rather human. To mitigate the hurts is simply divine! It often hurts to be hurt but do we also feel the pangs of suffering, while hurting others? The pain, we experience, is more mental than physical. Hurts are much deeper than just scratches and bruises that we inflict on the

psyche of our loved ones. We do it deliberately and sometime inadvertently. The peculiar thing about hurts is that they do not heal with time; they remain etched in our memory for a long time. The only way to deal with hurts would be to counter it with compassion, care and forgiveness. It was only last week that a student of mine broke down while talking to me on phone. She was in agony caused by her parents. How could any parents cause much of hurts to their own children? I could hardly fathom the depth of her sorrow until I realized that it was a classic case of the assignation of her dreams. My mind was filled with questions. Was it her fault to be born a female or to be born in a Muslim family? Was it the rigid social norms of her village of which she was the latest victim? It was tough on my part to accept any of these excuses. She had lived in that environment for more than two decades and yet nothing could dampen her spirit to become an educator of substance. It was her sheer grit and determination that she could pass her graduation with distinction. Now, she found herself at sea. Though she had qualified a national level test to pursue higher studies in Hyderabad, she was not permitted to leave her sweet home. She was pretty upset and disturbed. I too felt agitated to see her predicament but at the same time, got inspired by her die-hard-spirit and struggle to succeed in life despite all odds.

Human life today is moving at a bewildering pace--at times veering upward and many a time backward. In this process, we often hurt the sentiments of our loved ones, making them feel both hapless and helpless. We may also be humiliated sometime without any rhyme or reason. I had the first-hand experience just a month ago, when a sensible neighbor of mine went berserk and hurled abuses. I was saddened, as never before. In such situation, how do we keep cool and proceed ahead without any baggage of hurts and grief? It is important to know that words in all languages remain neutral till we give certain meanings. That means, in case someone uses an idiom that you feel is hardly befitting you, you can always reject the particular connotation of the words used for you. Moreover, our history is replete with examples of how hurts often paved the way for achieving heights. Can we ever forget the way in which two stalwarts of the century--Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi were hurt and humiliated at the hands of the white and the cruel and merciless laws of the British regime? Both had remained undeterred and rather defiant throughout, as a result, they could create rich legacy for mankind. It is only when you are pushed to the wall by society, you discover the best of your power and prowess. This often marks the beginning of your journey of hurts to heights.