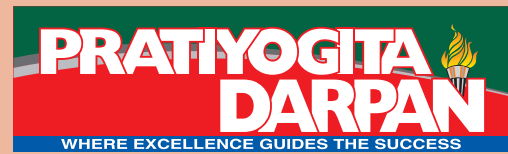




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DO NOT PROCRASTINATE

Procrastination is our enemy no. 1. We can accomplish great things in life only when we do not postpone things till tomorrow, for who knows tomorrow will at all come to us. But we must put off doing bad things. Procrastinating doing good things or putting off executing good plans till another day in future means burying our plans altogether. Ravan hastened to earn enmity with Ram but procrastinated erecting a ladder to the heavens. The consequence was his destruction before he could execute his good plans into action. So the motto should be : Procrastinate doing evil things, but do not procrastinate doing good things.

Have you ever noticed that the longer you put off something, the more difficult you find it 'to do' [Nightingale E. Art]

The opportunity is nothing but to do a thing here and now. So opportunities multiply, when they are seized, they die when neglected. Obviously, to seize an opportunity is to make the best of the present. To do otherwise, is to disown the future, as behind an opportunity, there is the bald head. Opportunity can be held only by the forelock. A columnist, one Mr. Ray Kishore, wrote in a paper that the present is not the time to write elegies or the condolence messages on the dead past, but to see such dreams as may make the future worthwhile.

There is a story of Mahabharat. Once a needy person went to the Emperor Yudhishtir and demanded some help. "O.K. the needful will be done tomorrow." The man felt fully assured and satisfied. In the meantime, the second brother of the Pandavas, Bhimsen struck the gong declaring some great victory. Naturally, on hearing the uncalled for gong, Yudhishtir was taken by surprise. He asked Bhimsen as to why he had done so. "My brother, you have got the better of death by making sure to do something tomorrow—usually, one cannot be sure of his life even in the next moment....." Yudhishtir realised his over-enthusiasm. He called back the man and disposed of his demand. The moral is—whatever you have to do, do it here and now for it may be too late to do it tomorrow, which may never come. Our young examinees know better than anybody else, the evils or bad effects of postponing or putting off things. When they postpone their homework, it piles up and makes those responsible for it,

shudder with fear to look at it. All sorts of apprehensions and vagueness haunt them and they resolve not to repeat the mistake. As a matter of fact, to postpone means to shirk and avoid work. But, one cannot avoid things indefinitely, and the person concerned must face its consequences. Procrastination is a cruel master and brooks no repentance. Those who do not postpone their homework and finish the day's work before going to bed are like the slow and steady tortoise, who ultimately win the race.

Not only in regard to the examinations or their counterpart, competitions, but also in other walks of life, postponing things never does any good. Many office workers are punished because by postponement they accumulate arrears which at one stage become difficult to clear. Postponing means bringing the inevitable nearer and nearer. In the case of those who do not postpone and are up-to-date, this unpleasant situation never arises. On the other hand, they are always full of self-confidence and come much near their superiors and get promotions at times even out of turn.

Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, said that by learning by examples is the easiest and learning by experience is the bitterest. Unfortunately, people choose the bitterest way. Our readers, as wise persons, would like to learn by example and also by precept and not try to set a bad example to their younger brethren, by learning things the bitterest way. When faced with a difficult situation, many persons do not face it boldly and find a solution thereof, instead, they postpone it somehow, and delude themselves and others that they have well

acquitted themselves. Our national leaders and the administrators at the helm of affairs have been doing so. The result is obvious. Our country has become a hot bed of problems—overpopulation, corruption, poverty, terrorism, lawlessness and what not ! Someone has very aptly said that by postponing things, one does not arrive at better decisions or solutions. In our courts of law numerous legal cases are lying undecided, some of them for about 50 years, due to this malady of postponement or procrastination. Shall we call it dispensing of justice ? In such cases if justice is done at all, it does not benefit anybody—mostly this anybody is not in this world to hear the judgement. Our courts of law have become the living examples of justice delayed is justice denied. If you do not like this state of affairs, then you must not postpone things in your life. For those, who want to do the work here and now, tomorrow's life is too late, live today. Some people procrastinate under the pretext of being very busy. But they forget the old saying that a busy man has time for everything, because he has a plan for doing things. Such a man is always busy and always free, because he knows how to do things in a systematic way. Procrastinators kill time, and ultimately time kills them.

Do you know what Ravan said when approached by Laxman at the time of his death ? He said do not procrastinate doing a good thing till another day, for no one know that another day will come at all. He procrastinated executing his plan to erect a ladder to the heavens and he was dying with his plan unexecuted, repenting that he couldn't do a good thing.