

Compassion Is The Highest Virtue

By Sadhguru



People's idea of virtue is a deed, and if those virtuous deeds are not carried out then one is not virtuous. Yes, this is virtue, but it is not life virtue, it is social virtue. Society's virtues are different, they serve society; life virtues serve life. I am somebody who serves life, not society, so my virtues are of life.

The basic virtue for any human being, man or woman, is to be true to oneself. When somebody is really true to themselves, then functioning in the world is just a question of adjustment; adjusting to the situations that we have chosen to live with. What is virtue? Only when you are truly empty you are virtuous. One's idea of virtue is a deed, and if those virtuous deeds are not carried out then one is not virtuous. Yes this is virtue but it is not a life virtue, it is a social virtue. Society's virtues are different, they serve society; life virtues serve life. I am somebody who serves life, not society, so my virtues are of life.

Virtue implies that which takes you beyond in a certain way. You can go beyond only if you are an open and unlimited being. When you create a vast emptiness within you, and you do not associate with every thought, every emotion, every sensation that you experience, then that is virtue. If you do associate or identify with your sensations, thoughts, opinions or emotions, then you cannot be virtuous as that leads to bias. If you are truly virtuous,

you must be beyond all bias.

When you are identified with something, body, mind or emotions, there cannot be any virtue. Do you know in Tamil Nadu one of the greatest titles that could be conferred to a hero is, "The one who has slayed a thousand elephants", like Paramvirchakra. The late forest brigand Veerappan had slayed almost five to six hundred elephants and was he close to becoming the greatest Tamilian ever? No. Our values and virtues have changed. Today, if you kill a thousand elephants you are a criminal who has to be put to death, but a thousand years ago, you were the hero of the highest order. So society's virtues are biased to life.

Bliss

When you do not identify with anything, you will be absolutely virtuous, only then you are truly capable of compassion. When you are compassionate, you are always virtuous. People being sympathetic to certain causes, to certain people, is not compassion. When you are passionate about everything, when your passion has become all encompassing, then you are compassionate. When you are able to just look at life as life itself and nothing more, only then can you be compassionate.