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## 'Patience'–Through The Eyes Of Vidur Niti And Chanakya Niti

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### ABSTRACT

There have been so many great philosophers, visionaries, great poets and scholars of Sanskrit literature but the name of Chanakya will always be taken as the greatest scholars of his genre. He is also called as Vishnu Gupta. His father was Chanak; and he himself was a great scholar of Sanskrit literature. Due to father's name, he is also called Chanakya. Acharya Chanakya is also known as Indian Machiavelli. His many common names were prevalent according to different ancient documents like – 'Vatsyayana', 'Mallanam', 'Kautilya', 'Dramila', 'Pakshil Swami' and 'Angal'. Because of his famous book on Niti-Sutra, he is called as 'Chanakya'. 'Kautilya' name popularised because of his world famous treatise on politics named 'Arthashastra'.

Today also Kautilya's 'Arthshashtra' is taught in many universities of India and the world. Acharya Chanakya has himself separated the 17 Chapters as 'ChanakyaNiti' from Kautilya Arthshashtra.

These 17 Chapters of Chanakyaniti focus on multidimensional topics like –society, religion, politics, crooked and gentle men. He has given along relevant examples also.

Acharya Chanakya has collected the ocean in the river, if one takes a look at it in just one of shlokas (Chapter 2, Verse 15) will understand how much depth was there in his thoughts.

*Naditeere chh ye vriksha pargeshu kamini/*

*Mantrihinasch rajanah shighram nasyantyasanshyam//*

The above verse means that the trees on the bank of a river and the lustful women in other people's house; the kings without intelligent counsellors are quickly devastated or destroyed. A woman if lives in others' house means being married but stays somewhere then she will always be stigmatized by the society.

So, similar is the king without a minister, he will always be on the verge of destruction. Same way, the beauty of a tree is not on the shore but in a forest. Due to natural flow of water, such trees will definitely fall due to not able to cope up with surroundings. Same is the condition for a married woman. She should never reside in her parental place after marriage as her real place is with her family i.e. with husband, her children and family members of husband side.

Vidurniti by Mahatma Vidur is an ancient Nitishashtra; it's a wonderful book of wisdom. Mahatma Vidur is one of the prominent personalities in the epic Mahabharata. He can be considered as a great sage, learnt wise man, a great politician of his times, a righteous person who himself was endowed with great knowledge and wisdom.

Vidurniti is a strict code of conduct which contains the fundamental principles and elements of politics as well as contains sermons that elevate the human character. These principles focus basically on the life of common men.

These words of virtues tend to make all of us wise and adapt to the required situations in our lives.

Keywords: Pleasant, good behaviour, danger, restrain, virtue, Vidurniti, Chanakya, success.

Patience is a virtue that cultivates the inner strength and builds the character of a person. This is the ability to wait calmly and to tolerate the adverse circumstances. A person learns to overcome all the hurdles and yet remains peaceful. It leads to exercising self control rather than becoming impulsive.

Acharya Chanakya elaborates the behaviour of highly patient and calm people-

***Pralayebhin'maryada bhawanti kil sagarah/***

***Sagarah bhedmi'chanti pralaye'api nasadhavah//***

(6<sup>th</sup> Verse, Chapter-3)

So, according to him, a person having quality of forbearance, is calm and composed; he can be compared or stands superior to an ocean. Even an ocean breaks its limits and crosses the banks when there are heavy floods, rain or deluge and leads to chaos in nearby areas. But on the contrary, patience is such a quality in saints and gentle people that they do not lose control on their senses even in times of adversities. Thus, such men who have immense patience are greater than ocean. Noble men protect their character, their generosity even when they see a troublesome situation. So, these gentlemen should always be respected in the society.

***Daridrata dheertaya avirajate***

***Kuvastrata shauchataya virajate/***

***Kadannata choshan'taya virajate/***

***Kurupta sheel'taya virajate//***

(14 Verse, Chapter-9)

***Datri'tatvam priya'vaktra'tavam dheer' atvmuchitagyata/***

***Abhyasen na labhyante chatvaarah sahaja gunah//***

(1<sup>st</sup> Verse, Chapter-11)

Acharya Chanakya very aptly here explains the major striking quality of people who possess patience. Even poverty looks adorable and beautiful, similarly even if little clean then also ordinary ones also look good.

Moreover, after heating stale food also looks tasty and attractive; and above all good behaviour and pleasant nature compensates the ugly looks of a person. So, shortcomings of a person are enhanced by the virtues of a person.

Chanakya expounds in the above verse that there are four innate or natural qualities of a person and these cannot be attained even by any practice. These qualities are nature of giving donations, alms or charity. Second, sweetly talking or interacting with all. Thirdly, patience is a greatest virtue and lastly, having proper intelligence or knowledge to deal with situations and act accordingly. These qualities or virtues cannot be borrowed or taught or learnt by anyone. These are anyone's inherent values and ethics.

***'Dhairya sarvatra sada sahayakam/***

Means -

Patience is useful in every situation.

Mahatma Vidur also has same insights on patient behaviour as of Acharya Chanakya.

***Trinolakya gayate jaatroopam vritenbhadro vyavharen suduh/***

***Shurobhayesvarth'kri'chereshu dheerah,***

***krichre'swa'ptsusuhridaschharyasch//***

(49<sup>th</sup> Verse, Chapter-3)

Just as gold can be identified by the fire in which it's burning; same way a good person can be identified by his good nature; a saint is easily recognised by his behaviour; a courageous person is identified when there is a danger; a person who will have patience will be easily recognised during turbulent times of financial instability; last but not the least enemies and friends are identified during difficult situations.

***Sukham cha dukham cha bhavabhavo***

***Cha labha'labhao marnam jeewitam cha/***

***Paryayashah sarwamete sprishanti tasmad***

***Dheero na cha hrishyen shochet//***

(47<sup>th</sup> Verse, Chapter-4)

According to Mahatma Vidur - happiness or sorrows ; evolution and destruction; profit or loss and life and death-these things a person experiences one after another but a person having patience should neither be over-joyous or over- sad nor should worry about these things. These are just phases in one's life.

***Sanni'yachati yovega'mutitham krodh' harshayoh/  
Sa shriyo bhaajanam rajanya'schapatsu na muhati//***

(51 Verse, Chapter-5)

Mahatma Vidur says to king Dhritrashtra -

A person is the real proprietor of wealth and abundance who restrains the storm of anger and overjoy. Moreover, he does not lose patience even during adversities or in times of extreme distress.

***"Tyajyam na dhairyamn vidhurepi kale,  
dhairyat'kadachit' gatimanap'nutyatsah/  
Jate samdraeapi paotbhange,  
Sayantriiko vanchhati tartumev//***

- Nitishatak Bhartrihari

Tulsidasji also adds on -

***"Dheeraj dharm mitra our naari, apad kaal parakhiyahin chaari"//  
"Vishame parishthiishu suyesham, chetansi na***

- Ramcharitmanas

***Vikriyante teyev dheerah//***

***Nityam santah kule jatah pavkopamtejasah/  
Kshnavanto nirakarah Kasthe'agniriv sherte//***

(14<sup>th</sup> verse, Chapter-6)

According to Mahatma Vidur,

A person born in a good family; is the one who radiates like fire, has forgiving nature and without any evils or shortcomings; such person remains calm and composed just like a fire in the wood.

***Dhritih shamo damah shaucham  
Karunyam waagnishthuru/  
Mitranam chanabhidrohah saptetah  
Samaidhah shriyah//***

(38<sup>th</sup> Verse, Chapter- 6)

Mahatma Vidur says that patience, control on mind and senses, purity, compassion, soft spoken, loyal towards friends. These are the seven qualities in a person who is blessed by Goddess Laxmi herself.

***Mardavam sarvabhutanaam'ansuya kshma dritin/  
Aayushyani budhah prahur mitranam chavimanana//***

(52<sup>th</sup> Verse, Chapter-7)

According to Mahatma Vidur, the virtues which increase the life span of a person told by learnt men are - seeing all with feeling of gentleness, ignoring faults and seeing only virtues, forgiving others, having patience and above all no animosity towards friends. These values increase the life of a humble person.

***Uthanam sanyamo dakshyam' pramado dhritih smritih/  
Samikshya cha sama'rambhi viddhi, mulam bhavsyatu//***

(68<sup>th</sup> Verse, Chapter-7)

One should practice great restraint with regards to his duties, his efficiency and practising extra caution; patience in all dealings, good memory and wisdom and above all starting a work only after a proper and careful thinking and consideration. Therefore, Mahatma Vidur feels that these conditions are the foundation or stepping stones for a good progress.

***Dhritva shishnodaram rakshet panipadam cha chakshusha/  
Chakshuh shrotre cha man'sa manovacham cha karmana//***

(24<sup>th</sup> Verse, Chapter-8)

Mahatma Vidur elaborates that one should always deal with sexual desires and hunger very patiently. Same way one should protect their hands and feet with their opened eyes & eyes and ears should be taken care by mind and lastly mind and speech should be taken care with good actions.

So, a person who possesses the quality of patience his other flaws are just ignored.

***Eko hi doshoguna' sannipate,  
Nimajatindo kirno'swakeshwi wakam//***

Just like moon's blemishes (shadow or dark spots) hide in its beautiful rays of light same way beauty of a person is enhanced because of these qualities.

Self-immersed poets and great saints like Kabirdasji, Surdasji, Tulsidasji, Meerabai, they all had inherent talent of Bhakti Ras poetries in their minds. They did not take any formal training for these things. They did not took any degrees or go to study in any universities. They faced the adversities and yet remained grateful due to patience and perseverance.

Kabirdasji said because of this -

**'Mashi Kagaz chhuo nahi, Kalam gahi na hath' /**

Tulsidasji further added on –

**Kavi na houn nahi chatur kahaun,**

**Mati anuroop raam gun gaaun//**

(Ramcharitmanas)

So, it very evident that one's speech, their knowledge, prudence, patience, etc. are innate natural qualities.

The first knowledge of worldly Sanskrit, this world got acquainted when Brahmrishi Valmiki accidentally spelled these words out of compassion -

**'Maa'am nishad! pratishtham 'tvamgamah shashwati sama'**

**Yat' kronchmithundekam awadhi kaam mohitam||"**

- Valmiki Sanskrit Ramayana

**'Jal kar cheekh utha woh kavi tha'/'**

- Shri Sumitranandan Pant

**"Viyogi hoga pahla kavi, aah se upjaa hoga gaan' /**

**Nikal kar adharo se chup chap, bahi hogi kavita anjaan" //**

- Jaishankar Prasad

Thus, qualities hidden or innate within a person start manifesting on their own just like the water from a waterfall starts flowing on its own from the tap of the hill or a mountain.

**'Surma nahi vichalit hote, kshan ek nahi dheeraj khote,**

**Vighnon ko gale lagate hain, kanto mei raah banate hain /**

- Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

So, patience is the key to success according to both Acharya Chanakya and Mahatma Vidur.

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