

SRI SRI THAKUR ANUKULCHANDRA : THE REJUVENATOR OF DEGENERATED HUMANITY**UTTAM KUMAR MANDAL**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research article is to analyze the life and literature of Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra, its relevance and application in our daily life to lead a harmonious and peaceful life. When the world is being degenerated, lack of tolerance, greed, avarice, lust and hatred reigned, and deep cries to rescue the troubled world roused, at the very moment Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra has showered His divine love and blessings which has been flowing like flood to lead mutual understanding, tolerance, peace and prosperity in the trouble world. The primary problem of the present age is the paucity of proper men. For this Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra has established Satsang, a man making institution where Acharyadeva is the living guide, regulator and controller of the masses.

Key Words: Degeneration, Satsang, Humanity, Rejuvenator, Acharchyadeva

It is said that "God has created man after his own image". "Hence as God is ever pure, perfect and benignant so is man ever pure, perfect and benignant." But in reality we cannot corroborate with this maxim. On the contrary we see modern man confronts with savaging attitude, atrocities, inhuman cruelty, unadjusted and unsympathetic behaviour. Man seems to have lost the last drop of love, mercy, decorum of life and the sense of humanity ingrained in his very being itself. We see innumerable people burdened with frustration, a sense of insecurity, a sense of self-alination and an unprecedented dark desolation in the depth of almost every human being. Science and technology seems to have reached the zenith of it and are trying to provide man with the best of comfort and luxuries. But modern man has been tossing with excruciating pain due to disharmony, anomaly, treachery, ungratefulness and dragonic sense of despair and despondency in every sphere of life.

Dr. Alexis Carol in his book "Man the Unknown" remarked, "Man has sunk into indifference to almost everything except money." "Modern civilization seems to be incapable of producing people endowed with imagination, intelligence and courage. In practically every country there is a decrease in the intellectual and moral calibre of those who carry responsibility of public affairs."

After being reported about the atomic destruction of Hiroshima Albert Einstein regretted, "The problem is not with physics but with ethics."



Dr. F. Peterson of New York Academy of Medicine remarked, "The science of life has progressed more slowly than those of inert matter, our ignorance of ourselves. "

But why people who are the replica of Almighty God are not following the divine laws of life and growth? Why are they not following the divine path of the Supreme Fulfiller the Best, Almighty Love Lord?

Sri Sri Thakur says it the distorted libido or disease. It has to be treated with love and compassion and attachment to the Ideal like Sri Krishana, Lord Ramchandra, Jesus Christ, Sri Chaitanya, Lord Buddha, Sri Ramakrishna like that. Many examples we know, as hardhearted criminal like Ratnakar with the attachment to Lord Sri Ramchandra became a great saint, like that of Mary Magdalene or Jagai, Madhai so on and so forth.

Dr. Alexis Carrol opined, " It is impossible to love an instruction, one will sacrifice oneself for one's leader but not for an idea, man will never enthusiastically obey the laws of rational conduct unless he considers the laws of life as the commands of personal God. We need a God who hears us, loves us and responds to us.

Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra confirmed :

" The degeneration of humanity began at that moment when the unseen God was made infinite and, ignoring the Seers, the worship of their Sayings began. Oh Mankind! If you desire to invoke your good, forget sectarian conflict. Be regardful to all the past Prophets. Be attached to your living master or God and take only those who love Him as your own. Because all the past Prophets are consummated in the divine Man of the present. " So we see we require a living master or God to rejuvenate the humanity.

Introduction to Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra

Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra Chakraborty was born at Himaitpur a remote village in the district of Pabna in undivided India on 14th September, 1888. He did not want to write any literature, but His solutions to the problems of mankind have become a vast great literature.

His works contains total messages in Bengali prose form 11164, poetic verse 8749, letters 180, messages in Hindi 14 verses, in English total 2758 verses and complication of discourse in Bengali total 40 volumes.

From His very childhood boy Anukulchandra showed signs of His mysterious uncanny abilities and tendencies. Once when He was very young His mother was about to visit a neighbour's newborn baby. Child Anukulchandra remarked that it was worthless seeing the baby as it was to live very short. The boy's word came true as the child did not live more than eighteen days. One day a doctor of Ayurvedic left some tablets made of the extracts of poisonous herbs to be used for medicinal purposes in the sun to dry. Suddenly the child Anukulchandra came running and picked up a handful and chewed before sending them down into His stomach. The physician was horrified and utterly panicked as one single tablet was enough to take away a life. But the boy showed no symptom of any disorder or disturbance, nor did He fall ill even. So many miracles happened in His life. With deep inquisitive mind and a wonderful power off insightful observation that He possessed as inborn faculties, He could grasp things very easily and see the very roots of them. He had an

innate leadership quality even in His childhood. His friends would very fondly call him "Rajabhai" (king brother) and someone used to address Him as 'Prabhu' (Lord). He earned the loyalty and trust of His friends with love, sympathetic fellow feeling, courage, sharp Intelligence and superior mental faculties. He would actively try to mitigate the suffering of the sufferers. He could not complete His matriculation as He donated the money of His examination fees. After that He went to Calcutta to study medicine but returned home without the diploma and started practicing medicine. Medicine worked wonders at His hand. His name and fame spread like wildfire far and away. Rumours spread that he could revive the dead. Gradually, people from different sects, cults, creeds, communities and nationalities who found Sri Sri Thakur indispensable in their lives and got solutions of their individual, social, political and spiritual problems of life assembled around him as the centre of their lives.

In the year 1910 at the age of twenty two Sri Sri Thakur in the course of one night wrote down "Satyanusaran" (The Pursuit of Truth) 417 messages unfolding everlasting life and light. Sri Sri Thakur declares in clear and concrete terms that the function of Dharma is to uphold, sustain and nurture the all-round, harmonious life and growth of the individual along with those of the environment. In fact, it comprehends the totality of life, individual and collective with a meaningful adjustment of the past, present and future. Dharma has nothing to do with escapism, isolationism, exclusiveness, over worldliness or lack of enthusiasm, as is often erroneously assumed. Time and again Sri Sri Thakur asserts, illustrates and demonstrates that God is one, Dharma is one and Prophets are the same. His life and teaching normally promote mutual understanding and amity. Sri Sri Thakur has shown and explained in detail how one can grow in spiritual life through daily individual practices of prayer, repetition of Holi Name, meditation, propagation of the Lord's message, devout offering, self-analysis, self correction, formation of good habits, pure and proper diet, imbibing the character and conduct of the Lord, resisting evils, devotion to existential culture and tradition and many other kindred points.

Dharma as Perceived by Sir Sri Thakur

There are many controversies regarding Dharma and its exigency in real life. In general sense Dharma means some spiritual enterprises that help man attain what the secular aspect of life fails to provide. Many people believe that Dharma is something that human being will practise in their later lives to pave the path for a better place and position in the after life. For this many want to escape from real life in the world. According to Sri Sri Thakur, "What makes anything stand on with life and growth is Dharma." To practise Dharma implies to observe the basic laws and principles that govern every detail of life to maintain its healthy progress towards becoming. Dharma is not restricted to one's personal growth alone, it is extended to the life and growth of the environment too, as we cannot live alone. Hence, "Dharma is to uphold one's own life and growth with that of others. Dharma is always one it can never be many. To practise Dharma first we need "Ideal" and initiation to the Ideal and to follow Him wholeheartedly.

Living Ideal and His Function in Human Life :

In the literature of Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra an 'Ideal' is He in whom all the virtues that human beings can exhibit, have been embodied and those have been demonstrated in their

perfect order. He is the complete and most evolved man in this plane of matter. 'Ideal' makes Dharma meaningful to the life of the people. He is the embodiment of Dharma. His character and conduct demonstrate the divine laws and principles that uphold our being and becoming. Through His (Ideal) life and message man gets the essence of existential nurture. Sri Sri Thakur nevertheless believed in abstract Supreme God, He recognises the concrete personal God who involves himself in personal relation with individual beings in the context of human history. He is the immanent aspect of the transcendental ultimate in flesh and blood. Man can relate himself with Him to his day to day life and living. He acts as a man but with a complex consciousness of His divine nature. So He is the Divine in human form and characteristic. He is the man like Lord Sri Ram Chandra, Sri Krishna, Jesus Christ, Hazarat Mohammed, Lord Buddha, Sri Chaitanya, Sri Ram Krishna. When a man follows the 'Ideal' through love and attachment, he follows the principles of life and growth in his own life with his environment. To establish Dharma means to make man habituated to the observance of the divine laws and principles for being and becoming of life. For this one must be initiated to the Ideal. Only after that he starts to love and follow the Ideal and tries to become a divine man like the Ideal.

When the Ideal is not present in the mortal body, Acharyadeva becomes the guiding ideal. Acharyadeva is the person who knows the Ideal and practices all the qualities and sayings of the Ideal in his character and behaviour. He is the leader and controller of the masses. He is the living God who hears us, loves us and responds to us as Dr. Alexis Carol has said.

The five simple prescription for Life and Growth (Being and Becoming)

According to Sir Sri Thakur Anukulchandra human energy manifests through passions. Without passion man becomes a sub-human with poor intelligence and low efficiency. He is half-dead, even though alive. Passions are Lust, Anger, Greed, Pride, Infatuation and Jealousy, etc. But when a man has no control over his passions, he becomes worse than an animal. Without control, passion becomes obsession. Obsession after some time brings distortion and perversion. Life becomes full of agony. Sir Sri Thakur has prescribed five simple methods of Jajan, Jaajan, Istavriti, Swastyayani and Sadachar for adjusting the passions for fruitful use.

Jajan (Self culture to recharge the dormant energy within, self development):

Passions can be brought under control by repetition of Holy Name, and along with it by meditating on the Ideal. This is known as 'Nam-Dhyan. The Holy Name is imparted at the time of initiation. The initiated then learns the technique of repeating the Holy Name. While repeating the Holy Name meditation on the Ideal is essential. He is the personified form of the Name. Repetition of Name and meditation on Ideal generate energy by stimulating our psycho-physiological system.

Jaajan (Imparting the Ideal to environment, betterment of environment):

Jaajan means to come in contact with people and infusing in them the desire to follow the path of discipline as shown by the Ideal. Jaajan becomes the best form of social service if, by our conduct, we can influence people to follow the Ideal and adjust their passions for their 'life and growth.' One has to serve the environment in such a way that every individual

becomes inspired and exalted towards the Living Ideal, God. Through the practice of Jaajan, a harmony is achieved among Ideal, individual and environment.

Istavriti (Devout Oblation to the Ideal):

For our existence we are grateful first to the Ideal and then to the society, which has taken the responsibility of our life and growth, and the all-pervading nature. So before thinking of our maintenance we should nurture the Ideal. When the disciple gets up in the morning, before starting any work, he must remember his Ideal, offer what little he can to Him and then starts his day.

Swastyayani (balance development and continued progress) :

The body and mind should be kept healthy and tidy so that while performing the worldly activities to the best with our satisfaction, finer sensibilities can be perceived and enjoyed by the individual. For this one should keep in mind the principles of Swastyayani :-

- a) The body is to be regarded as a temple of living God and it should be kept healthy. For this pure and proper diet is essential.
- b) All good thoughts should be put to action immediately without delay because pious thoughts are valueless unless they are materialized into actual deeds. Once a good thought is put into action, it provides the impetus and energy to take up another.
- c) Passions are energy but in crude form. The energy of anger, greed, lust and ego is to be converted into the soothing energy of love and compassion. This can happen when we transform our personality to be useful to others. By serving others without selfish interest, we slowly infuse in them the Ideal and His teachings. So one should be instrumental in the existence and growth of others, because his own existence and growth are entwined with those of others.
- d) One has to increase his earning capacity and keep a little part towards offering to the Ideal and for the development of self and environment.

Sadachar : (Hygiene)

Sadachar refers to those habits of hygienic which keep one healthy and disease-free. The food, the place of eating, the person serving food should all be clean and pure. Stale, spoilt and spicy food should be avoided. We are taught these principles in our schooldays but we do not practice them in our day-to-day life. By taking a vow of sadachar, we make ourselves conscious of these good healthy habits and follow them without fail. Now we realise the value of Sadachar for the pandemic Covid -19.

Every human being, Sri Sri Thakur asserts is pure and perfect in nature as a replica of God. The sinful or evil traits in human character are due to his diseased mental condition and these can be cured. And for these He has wanted to cure human beings and has established Satsang Ashram, (a philanthropic organization) a man making institution at Deoghar in India. Now the centres of Satsang are spreading all over the world. Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra's divine philosophy of "Being and Becoming" has reached to the different parts of the world.



Satsang movement has been flourishing in the USA, the UK, the UAE, Japan, Canada, Africa, Australia and all other parts of the world, and has been appreciated and accepted by the people from different walks, culture, caste, creed, religion, nationality and all other varieties and diversities across the globe, who are spontaneously accepting this universal and unique way of divine life shown by Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra.

Conclusion

Throughout His life and literature we see Sir Sri Thakur Anukulchandra has asserted the life and balanced progress of life. He has been guiding us to royal path of harmony forgetting the sectarian conflict and hatred. His teaching and preaching is to lead a happy and healthy life with family and environment. The philosophy of Sri Sri Thakur has to be practiced in our daily life to lead a happy and peaceful life. He is the Supreme Fulfiller, the Best. He is Rejuvenator of the humanity.

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