

Akshaya Tritīya Margdarshan



Transcript of Margdarshan delivered on:
26th April 2020

Shri. Dhiraj D. Shah Mananeeya Sanghchalak, HSS (UK)

Sevika bhagini and Swayamsevak bandhu. Namaste.

Last half an hour we participated in a wonderful ceremony of Yajna. The essence of this Yajna was explained by Nawalkantji really well. In short words, I would say the essence was "**Idam na mama**". Which is a core principle of our Hindu Dharma; it is selfless living - it's not for me, it's for others.

Today the whole world is facing an unprecedented crisis of humanity. Almost 1 in 2 human beings is in a lockdown situation. Thousands have died.

In this horrendous situation the spirit of human soul; of humanity comes forth and we can see it around us. Thousands of people; almost 600,000 people came forward to volunteer when an appeal was given by the government for the NHS. Thousands are still giving their time at the local level.

This spirit is seen as nothing but a feeling of one family. Our scriptures have said that the whole world is one family. Vasudeva Katumbakam.

I would just like to quote an example of how this spirit is epitomised. Just one person, Captain Tom, a hundred year old veteran, moved by the calamity that was going around decided to do one small act to raise a small amount for the key workers. The nation took that spirit into their imagination, to such a height that over £25 million was collected.

In this spirit, our swayamsevaks and sevikas are not behind. For the DNA of Sangh since its genesis, has always been sewa and sacrifice. Through various sister organisations like, SEWA day, SEWA UK, INSA, FISI helpline, countless swayamsevaks and sevikas are giving their time.

I would just like to give one example; one of our normal swayamsevaks, in the midlands, as soon as the lockdown happened and he saw the need for the key workers, for the last 4 / 5 weeks he almost gives around 6 to 8 hours, supplying food and essentials to NHS / foodbanks. This has been going on for the last 4 / 5 weeks. This is just one example. There are others where sevikas and swayamsevaks are doing this.

Why are they doing this? Because it is in-built in a swayamsevak. Every day we do a prayer in shakha where the last stanza basically teaches us;

**twadiye puṇya kāryesmin, viśva kalyāṇa sādḥake
tyāga sevā vratasyāyam, kāyo me patatu prabho**

Which means in the pursuit of the welfare of humanity, by the noble virtues of service and sacrifice I lay my body and give my whole time at the feet of the lord. This is the sentiment we recite in our prayer.

So as a message on this day, I would appeal to all swayamsevaks and sevikas to contribute as much as possible in this hour of need by the society and make it a habit - "**Idam na mama**", it is not for me it is for others.

I hope with today's Havan and Yajna that this message is taken seriously and we all contribute our might to fighting the ongoing calamity in the country and the world.

Namaste.



Speaker Parichay

Shri. Dhiraj D Shah was born and raised in Mombasa, Kenya.

- He came to UK in 1969 and graduated from Aston University as a pharmacist in 1972.
 - In 1973, he started his own pharmacy business with his family members
 - He has been a swayamsevak since childhood and has made valuable contributions to Sangh work in both Kenya and UK
 - He has initiated many new activities in Sangh and helped in founding many sister organisations e.g. VHP, KAT, Samiti, NHSF etc.
 - He started the Sangh Sandesh (once a monthly but now quarterly magazine) in 1977
 - Dhiraj-ji was instrumental with others in founding the 'the Friends of India Society' in 1977 that became a very strong voice outside Bharat during the infamous emergency of 1975. The FISl, with other pro- democratic forces, helped in restoring democracy in Bharat
 - He started the monthly VICHAR MANTHAN lectures in 1986. The activity has now spread worldwide
 - He is a founding member of Hindu Council of Birmingham and Director and Trustee of Sewa International (UK)
 - Presently he is UK Sanghachalak (President) and Trustee of HSS (UK).
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