



THE ART OF EXCELLENCE



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Excellence: An Introduction

The Art of Honest Work is the Art of Excellence. Excellence is a quality where one works with love, takes pride in work, and pays attention to details. It is said that the quality of labour reflects the maker's character. The art of excellence is gaining expertise in a specialized field of study such as cooking, gardening, dance, acting, writing, music, musical instruments, photography etc. It is not possible for a human being to know everything about everything. It is said that a master of all is a master of none. But it is possible to know everything about a particular subject. Specialized knowledge that is accumulated through formal academic training, life experiences and observations is of great value in attracting a successful life. Knowledge is power when it is organized and intelligently used for the benefit of the mankind. At the same time, foolishly used little knowledge is a dangerous thing. A Burmese proverb goes like this, "A man with little learning is like the frog who thinks its puddle a great sea." Excellence always moves forward. Mediocrity always lags behind.



What is Diligence?

Diligence is absence of sloth or laziness. Diligence believes in the dignity of work. According to the Christian Scriptures, sloth (laziness) is a cardinal sin, a non-virtuous action. It is said that an idle mind is Devil's workshop.

Diligence Leads to the Art of Honest Work: We all believe in work. We were taught that hard work is the key to success. Hard work is honest, smart work; a work done with full integrity. When a work is done with a devoted mind it becomes our worship. Remember the old adage, work is worship. In ancient Hindu Scriptures, one can find karma yoga as one of the purposes of a human life. Karma yoga is nothing but seeking God in our work just as we seek God in our prayers and meditations (i.e. Bhakti Yoga, 'Bhakti' means 'devotion to God').

We all have a birth right to lead an abundant life which lacks nothing. The key to this abundant life is honest work. Diligence is the value that propels us on the path of action. There is nothing beautiful in poverty. Poverty is the result of laziness and inaction. In fact, poverty is a social evil. Crime breeds when people desire for higher needs that they are unable to meet with their limited resources. The only solution to such situations is eradicating poverty through employment generation and empowering people through education.

Employment or work is the major financial source for most of us; therefore we all need to believe in honest work; we need to do our work, however small it is, with a great pride. Work makes a person financially self-reliant. And this self reliance instils a great sense of self respect in a person.

Laws of Honest Work

5 Laws of Honest Work are as follows:

1. Find a work that you love and then work with love and honesty.
2. Be proud of what you are, however small your work is.
3. Believe in quality of work rather than quantity.
4. Incorporate a service mentality in your work. We serve the Universe through our work.
5. Be excellent at what you do. Wealth follows excellence.



What is Personal Excellence?

Personal excellence means presence of all superior qualities in a person. The diagram below explains the personal excellence in detail:



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