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Welcome to Chicago Chautari Times - 88th Edition



Tenth Anniversary Puja - Our Common Success

After the 10th anniversary program in the temple on Saturday June 4, 2016, I was thinking about our accomplishment. It was a moment for all of us to be very happy, as the reality is that it was our common accomplishment.

Many of us contributed in several ways for this to happen. I believe, our inner wisdom and the strength of our character motivated us to begin and organize the program for so long. We also understood the importance of our age-old religious tradition that benefits each of us and our community. We now know that organizing this event helped us creating very congenial environment for our unity and for our brighter future.

Each and every one of us played many different roles at different times. While we respected individual contributions equally, our focus was always on the positive aspects of our actions and used occasional minor mistakes for improvement of the program. We acted like one UNIT and succeeded to establish our own tradition here in Chicago. This is the main reason why we were so happy on June 4, 2016. Inspired by this, I am certain all of us will continue for our greater success in the future.

Sharmila and I are so happy to be part of this group and its success. We feel like we are one single family. Both of us were so humbled with your recognition during the anniversary puja event presenting us with a beautiful trophy. We will cherish it for our life as a token of your love. We are extremely grateful for your thoughts upon us.

Finally: "... If what we are now has been the result of our own past actions, it certainly follows that whatever we wish to be in future can be produced by our present actions ..." – Swami Vivekananda

Thank you,

Sharmila and Bishnu Phuyal

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अनुभव के हो

अनुभवको सिमा हुँदैन। यसको परिभाषा पनि साधारण देखि जटिल सम्म हुन सक्छ। जन्मे देखि मृत्यु सैयासम्मको भोगाई र अनुभवको सम्पूर्ण संगालो नै जीवनको वास्तविक अनुभव हो जो लाखौं साना साना अनुभवहरूको योगफलबाट प्राप्त हुन्छ तापनि पूर्ण हुँदैन। हाम्रो जीवनमा यसको कस्तो महत्व छ त्यो नै हाम्रा लागि प्रमुख बिषयवस्तु हो। सबै किसिमका कामहरूलाई सजिलो, सफल र उत्कृष्ट बनाउन अनुभवको ठुलो खाँचो पर्छ चाहे सानु काम होस् वा निक्कै ठुलो अनुसन्धान नै किन नहोस। समय र संलग्नता बिना अनुभव सम्भव हुँदैन। मानव जीवनमा आईपर्ने कामहरू सम्पन्न हुने वा नहुने कुराले नै जीवन सफल हुने वा नहुने कुरासंग प्रत्यक्ष सम्बन्ध राखेको हुन्छ। जीवन सफल बनाउन चाहाने मानिसहरूले पटक पटकका असफलताबाट पाठ सिक्दै बिगतका अनुभवका आधारमा त्रुटी र समस्याहरूलाई नयाँ सैली अनि तरिकाले किनारा लगाउँदै सकारात्मक सोचका साथ आधि बढेर सफलतामा परिणत गर्न सक्दछन। अनुभव कसरि प्राप्त हुन्छ भन्ने कुरा प्रष्ट पार्न भात पकाउने कामको सानो उदाहरण दिने प्रयाश गरेको छु।

पहिलो पटक भात पाकाउन लागेको सिकारु मानिसले कति चामल हाल्ने कति पानी राख्ने कतिबेर पाकाउने आदि आदि सबै पढे पछि घडी हेरेर काम सुरु गर्छ। भात पकाउँदै जाँदा भात उम्लिएर आगो निभाई दिन्छ, छडकिदै गरेको भात चलाउँदा उसको हात पोल्छ र केहि घाईते पनि हुनसक्ने सम्भावना प्रसस्त हुन्छन, फलस्वरूप भात काँचो हुन सक्छ वा गुणस्तरीय नहुन सक्छ। त्यहि मानिसले दोश्रो पटक भात पकाउँदा दत्तचित्त भएर पहिलो पटक भात पकाउँदा आए जस्ता समस्याहरू आउन दिँदैन वा त्यस्ता समस्याहरूलाई निराकरण गर्न सक्षम हुन्छ, जसको कारण पहिलो पटकको भन्दा गुणस्तरीय भात पकाउन सफल हुन्छ। तेस्रो पटकमा अझै गुणस्तरीय पकाउन सक्छ। पटक पटकको अभ्यासबाट त्यो मानिस भात पकाउन जान्ने हुन्छ। पहिलो पटकमै भात पकाउने काम त असजिलो रहेछ भनेर दोश्रो प्रयास नगरेको भए उसले भात पकाउन जान्ने नै थिएन। यो उदाहरण बमोजिम भात पकाउन पहिलो पटक गरेको प्रयाश देखि भात पकाउन जानेसम्मका समपूर्ण क्रियाकालाप नै भात पकाउने कामको अनुभव हो।

मानिसहरूले बिगतमा गरेको अनुभवलाई अधिकतम उपयोग गरेर क्रमिक रुपमा कौतुहलता पूर्ण ढंगले परिष्कृत गर्दै निरन्तर र अथक परिश्रमका साथ अनुसन्धान हरुलाई अघाडी बढाउन सकेकाले नै अनेकौं बैज्ञानिक आविस्कार भई आजको बिश्वीले अधिकतम सेवा र सुबिधाहरूको उपभोग गरिरहेको छ। विश्वविद्यालयको कोरा ज्ञानको पछि नलागी वा समयको बर्बाद नगरी अनुभवको ज्ञानको आधारमा विल गेट्सले कम्प्युटर बनाएको उदाहरण पनि बिश्वी सामु ताजे छ।

सिकारु मानिसले अनुभवका साथमा काम सिक्न पाउनु पनि ठुलो अवसर हो। कुनै पनि सकारात्मक काम गर्ने मौका पाउनु अनुभव संगाल्ने सुवर्ण अवसर हो। तसर्थ कामलाई ठुलो सानु, यस्तो हो उस्तो हो भनि अति मुल्यावान अनुभव संगाल्ने अवसर गुमाउनु कदापि राम्रो होईन। चेतना भया!

- सत्यदेव न्यौपाने



The Pollution in Nepal

At the start of this summer, my family and I visited Nepal. In the short three weeks we spent there, I realized one thing about the country that I had never noticed before- how polluted it was. The

busses released so much carbon dioxide that it looked as if black smoke was being pushed out. Rivers, even little ones were dirty and brown, with garbage being dumped into them.

As I did more research, I came to find that Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, was ranked third in the 2016 Pollution Index, making it one of the most polluted cities in the world. This was evident in the people there, who were wearing face masks just to be able to filter out the dust in the atmosphere, and the places, such as the streets, which were filled with a combination of dirt and pieces of trash that were thrown on the ground. This not only causes damage to the environment, but also makes it look filthy and untidy to any visitors.

I am aware that Nepal is a developing country and it will take a while for their problem to improve, but I hope that one day they will be able to decrease the amount of pollution they are emitting into the air, the water, and the ground.

- Shikha Adhikari

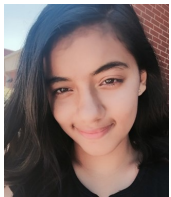


Independence Day

Independence Day is a federal holiday celebrating the adoption of the Declaration Of Independence, which took place on July 4th 1776.

On this day the Continental Congress declared the thirteen American colonies as a new nation, The United States of America, and therefore no longer apart of the British Empire. This holiday is also called July Fourth or the Fourth of July. Some even say that this day is considered the "birthday" of the United States of America. This holiday is also a national holiday, often celebrated by fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies. So Independence Day is a holiday with much history behind it, and many facts. It is truly a memorable day that changed the world.

- Aarya Rimal



Feminism

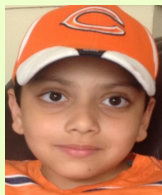
Feminism. The word has become synonymous of an opinionated, authoritative, domineering, melodramatic woman who speaks too much for her own good. One thinks of a feminist as someone who doesn't know what they're talking about; someone who blows things out of proportion. No one thinks about what feminism really means, what it stands for, and why people fight for it. The word "feminism" is defined in the Merriam Webster dictionary as either; *the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities, or, the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes*. In a word; equality. Equality of the genders. Equal opportunities, and a level playing field. That's it. That's all we want. Like many other beliefs and movements today, it's an idea of humble, simplistic, and true values that has become distorted by perception and grown into a symbol of something entirely different. If equality is what feminism truly represents, why is the word met with such immediate distaste? Why is it that one sees an almost reflexive dismissal of anything remotely related to feminism?

But I still haven't gotten to my favorite way people regard feminism. That it's 'unnecessary.' That no one needs feminism. There is no imbalance in the scale of life regarding gender; that feminism is subjective and a frivolous waste of energy. To quote one of the greatest literary individuals of all time; "[They] are worse than provincial; [they] are parochial (Edgar Allen Poe)." To think that women have the same opportunities that men do in any walk of life, one must have lived a privileged life indeed.

For twelve years, that was me. I thought that women had the same opportunities as men. I didn't know about things like office gender politics, and literacy rates, and the evils of society. I didn't know that in nepal, the literacy rate of men is 71.1% in comparison to women; 46.7% in our own country. All of that changed when I went to Nepal. Living in a country where it's socially and culturally acceptable to lament the birth of a daughter while rejoicing over the birth of a son really changed my views on things. I'm not trying to say that all Nepalese are prejudiced against women. I'm trying to shed light on the fact that you can go to places like Kapilbastu, Nepal, and see a clear divide in the world of men and the world of women. Let me give you an example. I have a second cousin who lives in Kapilbastu. She has one younger brother and she is fourteen years old. Her name is Durgawati. Durgawati is passionate about learning. It's her favorite thing to do and she loves to learn. She works hard, and goes much more than the extra mile to learn as much as she can with the resources provided to her. Now let's look at Durgawati's younger brother. Like most of the other kids in the village, he doesn't take the time to really focus on his education. He doesn't consider it important and would rather play outside than study for a test. He is nine. His parents have enrolled him into a private school and pay for his education, despite his clear disinterest in the idea. Durgawati, on the other hand, goes to a public government school on the outskirts of her village. When I questioned her mother, asking why Durga didn't go to a private school too, I received an answer that sent me reeling in both disbelief and a fierce frustration. "What will we obtain from educating a girl?"

Now, the real question I want to ask is this: Is feminism really nonessential after all? Is it a frivolous fabrication? Or is it something worth fighting for?

- Rhitom Mishra



Father's Day

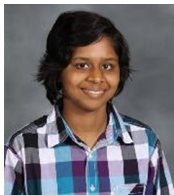
My baba is a lot of meanings for me. He is my role model and he is a superhero. He is my best friend. When I have a problem he is always helps me. My baba can't see tears in my eyes. He always make me happy. He is the one who helps me study. He always motivated to do the best that I can. When I get good reports and they are good he is going to be happy a lot. If I bring bad reports and that are bad he is going to be sad or he is going to be disappointed a lot.

My baba likes to house made foods. He also likes to spend time with the family. I am happy and lucky to have a great dad. My baba teaches me how to ride a bike and to walk, read, write and eat. I like to do stuff like watching a movie at the theater. Thanks baba for everything nice that you did to me!!!!

HAPPY FATHERS DAY EVERYONE!!

- Aarogya Regmi

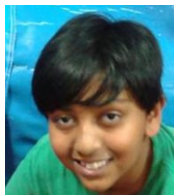




Teenage Life

"The best days of your life" they say, "what I wouldn't give to be your age again" they tell you. What do they know? Teenage life is a critical days for teenagers. Teenagers face real world problems more and more often, as well as encounter their first serious challenges and problems: at home and in their school. It is the time wherein we experience identity crisis. We are troubled of so many things around us. The physical changes that occurs commonly to a teenager, also we experience some emotions or feelings that is difficult to explain. In this stage some of the teenagers fall in love in which some find it difficult to handle. They become obsessed and others become rebellious to their parents thinking that their parents could not support nor will be against with what they want. Teenage life must not be confused. Teenagers should not make the flow of his life too fast. Explore the path, but remember there's limits or boundaries that should be consider. The restlessness can lead to good as well as bad things. Being careful with everything is more important than regretting one single wrong action done. As we move further with our teenage life, taking advices and listening to someone older help us have a good understanding on how to face certain problems. Sometimes it is full of joy and happiness whereas in other hand it can be painful. Although the life we have is like two sided coin, it is better to enjoy it to the fullest rather than regretting. We teenagers always have a curiosity on our life. We question our present and our future. To become a better person in future take challenges, but take it simply and do not rush on any decision. At last, everyone has ups and downs with their lives but conquering it and moving along can make it fun and enjoyable.

- Kajal Jha (9th Grade— Naperville North High School)

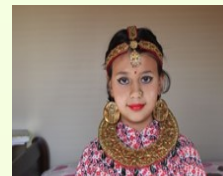


This Summer, no Shopping - Yaiy

This year I am spending summer with my aunt and uncle in England. You know when I was on the plane to England I was thinking to myself, "Ahh no more shopping." And I don't mean the fun shopping like going to GameStop or toys R us, no I'm talking about grocery shopping!! Whenever I go somewhere like the library or a fast-food place it's always the same story. My dad is driving me to the library to get books and I'm playing on my kindle waiting for us to reach the library. Then suddenly WHAMO, it's like a bomb just hit me. Why you may ask, well 12 words "Alok, we have to pick up some grocery before we go home." So I'm sitting in the backseat thinking, " ehh might not take so long." This is basically the time where parents say things they don't mean. For example, if they say it will take a little bit then it will most likely take more than 45 minutes. So my dad says, " okay we only need to get about 3 things." Next thing I know we are in the checkout aisle with a cart full of vegetables and snacks. So I ask my dad, " dad why do we need all this, you said we only needed 3 things?". So he replies, "Alok we need all this stuff, its important!" Next thing I know part of the stuff is in the freezer for the next 2 months and I'm like, "what just happened." Do you know what happens when we buy too much food? Exactly. My mom is getting mad at my dad, my dad is annoyed at my mom but tries not to show it and my sister is whining because her kindle doesn't work. See the problems shopping can cause? So moral of this story is simple... don't go shopping. It is so much fun when you don't have to go shopping.

- Alok Das

Summer



Summer, summer
Now it's here
Time for fun and
Swimming gear

Summer, summer
Time for fun
Let's all play
In the sun

Summer, summer
It's a blast
But it goes by
Really fast

Summer, summer
Nice all daylong
Nothing will
Ever go wrong

- Simran Adhikari

Sisters



For this month's article, I've written an across-stick poem. I wrote it using the word - sisters

Special bonds we share
Inspiring each other, everyday
Smart, together
The unique relationship we have
Every day, we are working hard
Responsible as a pair
Springing towards happiness

- Isha Mishra