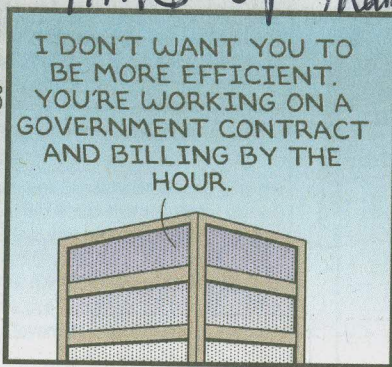




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Sacredspace

Full of Faith

He who has faith has ... an inward reservoir of courage, hope, confidence, calmness, and assuring trust that all will come out well – even though to the world it may appear to come out most badly.

BC Forbes

Expand Knowledge And Embrace Wisdom

Vijay Vancheswar

Education focuses on expanding our knowledge of the visible, observable and provable. It deals with logic, deduction, experimentation and inference. Fields of history, science, mathematics and arts primarily constitute this. Applied sciences and research widen the boundaries of this knowledge. But by itself, knowledge does not adequately equip us with the ability to face life and its uncertainties.

Scriptures and lives of masters act as timeless guideposts if we choose to delve into them with faith and conviction. They prompt and guide us on the road to wisdom. Wisdom is not the product of schooling, but a lifelong attempt to acquire it. Lao Tzu says, "To attain knowledge, add things every day. To attain wisdom, remove things every day!"

Wisdom dawns when we sensitise our reflective and intuitive learning

skills. This is honed when we unobtrusively introspect, reflect and learn from what we observe around us. We can learn the virtue of patience and tolerance from mother earth. Many trample her; yet she bears all this patiently. The wind picks up an object or even a fragrance, deposits it elsewhere; teaching us the wisdom of non-attachment. The moon waxes and wanes, reminding us of the impermanence of life. The python reinforces the virtue of satiation, resting content after getting its due. The bee is ever busy gathering and collecting honey, only to lose it to a clever intruder; the honey collector. This can happen to our carefully hoarded and guarded wealth. The desire for more tempts the fish to abandon its peaceful trail and fall prey to bait.

Reflecting, thinking and introspecting can help expand the

horizon of knowledge and build our wisdom bank. Lao Tzu's philosophy of Taoism advocates 'Wu-Wei' or effortless action based on naturalness, simplicity and spontaneity garnished by the three wise traits of compassion, frugality and humility. Viktor Frankl, Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist and



the speaking tree

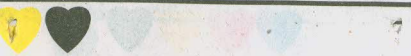
for someone and courage in difficult times. These add meaning to life. We cannot control what happens to us in life. But importantly, wisdom lies in how

Holocaust survivor, recounts the wisdom and life lessons that dawned from this terrible experience – life is not primarily a quest for pleasure or power but a quest for meaning. Most who survived the Holocaust did so because of a deeper connect with their inner Self and spiritual freedom.

Inner wisdom springs from three sources: doing something significant, love through caring

we choose to respond to situations and circumstances. The wisdom born out of experiential insights is far beyond the realm of conventional knowledge and intelligence.

Meaning to life gets enriched when we take up something enduring and worthwhile with passion and dedication. This is rarely obtained through external pursuits. A spiritual quest tempered with an inner connect provides an immeasurable storehouse of treasure which none can wear away from us. All the teachings of spiritual masters mention the importance of adopting a higher purpose as the wise route to seeking meaning in life. The wisdom that will accrue through this, especially to young minds, will be of immeasurable benefit. It will spread the wisdom of seeking an answer to the why rather than the how of what they pursue. In turn, it will unify and strengthen human consciousness and its creation expressed through its diversity.



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