

My dear parents as we herald into the second month of the year, I write this note especially for you.

“ Live life afresh with children,  
Your children should do something  
That you never dared to think  
Of in your life. “

The first thing we should do as parents when God has blessed us with such a Divine privilege, is to become a child again and see life from the eyes of our children. Believe me, it would make life much simpler dropping the desire to thrust our feelings on them. The problem arises when we start fulfilling our unfulfilled desires through him or her.

Every child has the necessary intelligence to live his life fully. I use the term 'him' for convenience which could imply any gender. We are just an instrument as chosen by God to parent the child. We have to create a conducive environment for him to grow his physical, intellectual and spiritual abilities from a young age. This should start right from the pre natal stage. It is very important for us as adults, to be in touch and aware of our innate feelings. We may not know but in reality, children are very sensitive to a parents feeling. If we are happy and make efforts in making the environment happy, we shall contribute in giving the world a HAPPY CHILD. While if we are unhappy and exhibit tension, anger, fear, anxiety and jealousy we can never expect a child to be free from these negative emotions. So everything depends on us and we should never attribute an external reason for it. As Revered Mahatria says,

“ My life is my responsibility and no blaming is allowed. “

We should exhibit the same in the way we look at our lives. Children always emulate their parents. The responsibility is primarily ours, that is “ TO RESPOND WITH ABILITY. “ Why blame someone else, especially children who are made in the image of God, so innocent and pure... We are the co authors of our destiny, we are responsible to create it or destroy it.

I would say, if we really have the intention of bringing up our children well, we must change our way of BEING. Everything begins from the 'BEING' domain. We shall be able to magnetise most and more first by being, then by doing, followed by having and finally in the exhilarating feeling of giving. There is nothing more ecstatic than in GIVING. As quoted in the famous hymn, “ It is in giving that we receive. “ We shall be able to give, only when we are capable of transforming ourselves. As a parent and above all being blessed with the privilege of a human birth, we have an incredible responsibility to give back something worthwhile to the world. If we are able to create another being through our parenting especially with love, then we fulfil one of the most beautiful responsibilities.

By parenting with love, I do not mean to give the child everything he asks for. That is not love, it is mere foolishness. LOVE is to show him that in whichever situation he is put in, he is able to live through it ' joyously.' That is the way we should bring the child up.

It is very important to realise that our children need not do what we did in life. They should be taught to take that daring step to tread into a path unknown unheard of. Only then will this world progress!!! We have to be worthy instruments by nurturing young minds and creating LEADERS who can lead the world from darkness unto light!!!

To end with the following prayer of St. Francis of Assisi dedicated to all the young readers. Keeping this prayer in mind, I wish our children would be the new world of aspiring young minds.

“ Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there is despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there is sadness, ever JOY. “

Manisha Lohia