

## **Precious Pearls**

**Swami Chinmayananda**

### **THE FIRST PEARL**

#### **Love and Work**

Love is the heart of religions, the theme of all classical works of art and literature and the song of all devotees. Scientists know only what love does... not what love is. Love can indeed empty our asylums, perhaps all our prisons, may be all our hospitals. People suffer in life due to lack of love. Love is to human hearts what sun is to flowers!

Love grows with knowledge of the beloved. To love, therefore, is to know... yet, to know is not necessarily to love.

We may often give without love, but we can never love without giving.

Love is at once noun and verb... Love is something to be sustained and fulfilled, by loving. By loving alone can love be made to grow and thrive.

And our work is love made visible! When love is made to manifest, work is done. When we work only to produce profit or wages, work becomes crushing, sweating, joyless labor.

With love in our heart, let us put forth effort and flood the world with our work!

### **THE SECOND PEARL**

#### **Find Love, Not Fault**

It takes two to make a quarrel. Also, it takes two to make up (patching up) after quarrel. Without invoking love, this can never be accomplished.

Flood your mind with love, look into the eyes of the other and embrace the person with whom you had quarreled. Words are not necessary. Both will have eyes flooded and joy-tears will wash away all quarrels for the time being. Try this. You will find this true every time. This is the power of love. This is the strength of love!

Faults become thick when love is thin. When love rises to swirl around us, and when we review in this clear light of love, the very faults get transformed into the essential beauty in them. This is the magic touch of love, the miracle played by love.

When our hearts are full of love, life is a smiling valley of beauty and joy, romantic and divine!

### **THE THIRD PEARL:**

#### **Open Up and Receive**

Very often we hear some people complaining that "nobody loves me." The world is full of love. But generally our hearts are not open for the love to gush in to us. And the door of

your heart ever remains closed. Nobody other than you can ever throw it open, for the door of your heart cannot be locked from outside and it can be open only from within.

You alone are in your heart. You unconsciously got locked in and you cry out to others to open up and release you. Nobody can. Stop crying. Find the handle and turn - Lo! It has opened, and you get immediately a blast of the life-giving reviving breeze of fragrant cool love from all around. Open up and receive all love.

#### **THE FOURTH PEARL:**

##### **Balance Head and Heart**

In life to handle yourself, use your head but to handle others, use your heart. Be strict and intelligently critical about yourself and your own weaknesses and follies. But to manage others, be critical, but cushion your words and attitudes with love. Love is the greatest persuasive power we know in life.

This love that we have, needs constant giving - and as we give away, it gets replenished from His infinite Source. But if you refuse to give love, the stagnant love in your own heart putrefies and the crawling worms start eating up your own heart!

Cease to give love, we cease to have love - this is the strict law of love.

Give, Give, Give, and Give again love to all.

#### **THE FIFTH PEARL:**

##### **Enjoy the Chase**

Strive on! With tireless enthusiasm, strive on to reach your goal. Without the goal, the best in you can never come out to expression. As we stride out to accomplish any chosen goal, no doubt, Lord tests us by heaping many apparently impossible hurdles in our direct path to our goal.

But, with enthusiasm, fearless of the obstacles, smiling in full self-confidence when we dash towards the goal, all the seemingly terrible obstacles move away as shadows!! This is Lord's grace. If you have ears to hear you can then listen to the peals of His roaring laughter applauding your faith and courage!!

In life, the glory lies not in the quarry, but in the chase... The success is not in the trophy won but in the race run...

#### **THE SIXTH PEARL:**

##### **Do it in spite of Odds**

Recently, I met an old couple who had lived 53 years of married life! They had their tiffs, quarrels, mutual screamings at each other. Yet, they lived joyously and saw their children get educated, becoming independent and now they are living happily with their own growing families.

The old couple have grandchildren, great grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

As I was talking to them, we went back in time and I asked what made him marry her. After a moment's pause, the toothless lips parted in a mischievous smile, and his bony hand moved quietly to hold the wrinkled and knotted fingers of the lady and said, "I married her and we remained in marriage so long because we have so many faults in common." The old lady admiringly smiled in to his face.

I asked her if she has an explanation for their long married life; she shyly looked in his eyes and slowly reminded me, "Swamiji, we like someone 'because', but we love someone 'in spite of'". I was silenced. I came away wiser carrying with me the picture of the old grandsire shaking his head in admiration for the old lady!!

## **THE SEVENTH PEARL:**

### **Savor the Fragrance of Forgiveness**

Forgiveness is the secret beauty in any spiritual seeker's life. Not to forgive is to maintain the passions bottled up in us and then we are never empty enough to lift ourselves in our soaring meditations.

Forgive liberally your enemies.... In fact, nothing can annoy them so much! They expect you to kick back and so have planned to break your ribs with return kicks. All these planned onslaughts become empty and hollow when you just forgive them! Many enemies become true friends when lavishly and lovingly forgiven!

Forgiveness is the fragrance which crushed *tulasi* leaves on the fingers that crush them in a thoughtless act!

Sandalwood perfumes even the axe that hews it down! The more we rub sandalwood against a stone the more its fragrance spreads. Burn it, and it wafts its glory in the entire neighborhood.

So is the enchanting beauty of forgiveness in life!

## **THE EIGHTH PEARL:**

### **Nurture Friendship**

Cultivate friends! To have a friend is to make life easier and richer. A friend is a present that you give yourself. But you cannot pick up a friend, nor purchase a friend. We have to discover a friend.

Friends are made by many acts: and friends are lost often by single thoughtless act. You must grow up to deserve a friend... to have friends you must have friendliness in you: selfless and loving, with deep concern for others.

Perhaps dogs are lovable and become friends because they wag their tails... rarely their tongues. Learn to speak softly, always words of love and affection, then friends multiply. In short, the ability to love and express it in action are the requirements in gathering more and more friends. In fact, "love in action" is the heart of all religions.

Who is a friend? He who comes to you with love and cheer, when all others have left you is a true friend! Such a true friend is discovered not by searching outside for the right person to be friend, but by your growing to be the right person, to deserve a friend!