

The victory in human life

T. V. Gopal Iyer

Every living being in this world always desires to get victory in the performance of all its actions. Man is not an exception to this. When he desires to perform an action, whether it may be good or bad, he uses all his possible abilities to get success in it.

The kings and the chiefs used their physical strength in defeating their enemies, plundering their countries and extending the area of their kingdom. Tolkāppiyar has written in detail about the courageous deeds of the kings and warriors and their victory in battles. This sort of victory is based on the ruin of the human race and their wealth. It is only transient. Tolkāppiyar is not satisfied in explaining the victories in battles, which result only in the destruction of human life and its facilities.

He explains nine divisions of human victory, which are based on virtue and help to the uplift of mankind. These victories have unselfishness, compassion, forgiveness and sympathy as their foundation. Let us see them in detail.

1. *Pakāṭṭinānum āvinānum tukaḷtapu ciraṭṭin cānrōr pakkam*

The bulls and cows are domestic animals, which are purely depending on us for their livelihood. The bulls are used in ploughing fields and carrying loads. The cows are supplying their milk which is a balanced diet having all the nutritious things in their required ratio. They are calculated as our wealth. It is our duty to provide them with nutritious diet to their full satisfaction, to keep them and their sheds clean and to protect them from diseases. We should treat them with kindness as our children. The human compassion gets extended only in taking care of our bulls and cows. They are very helpful to us outside the house and inside the house respectively. In the present world the machines are doing the work of the bulls. The dogs and cats have taken the place of the bulls and cows and they are useful for us outside the house and inside the house. These domestic animals also should be fondled with affection. The affection that we show to these domestic animals will extend to all the living beings in future. This is the first success.

2. *Kaṭṭil nitta pāl*

We are in a good position to be loved and respected by all. If a person of a greater ability and action were available to that post, with delight we should be happy to resign our post to give him the opportunity to serve. This will help a good deal for the general prosperity of the human race. This sort of sacrifice is another success in life.

3. Eṭṭuvakai nutaliya avaiyam

The gentleman who is appointed as judge should have the eight qualifications, which are 1. noble birth, 2. very good qualifications, 3. upright character, 4. sticking to truth, 5. purity of mind, word and deed, 6. impartial treatment, 7. free from jealousy, 8. free from ambition. It is the duty of the appointing authorities to only appoint such qualified persons as judges. The prosperity of a country lies in the hands of the judges. If they give partial judgment, rogues may thrive and good people may be suppressed and depressed. Appointing right persons for the posts is another victory in life.

4. Kaṭṭamai oḷukkattu-k-kaṇṇumai

One should lead a life only following the rules prescribed in ethical literature and avoiding the actions abandoned by them. Leading such a life may seem difficult but such a life will give peace of mind and one's life may become a successful life.

5. Itaiyil vaṇpukaḷk koṭaimai-y-āṇum

By good fortune we may have the opportunity to amass great wealth. We should be frugal in our expenditure but not miserly. The remaining amount we have with us may be utilized in the uplift of mankind. Such action will give us fame. That we are doing good things with the money we earned, will give us full satisfaction and peace of mind. This is another success in life.

6. Piḷaittōrttāṅkum kāvalāṇum

We must have control over our mind. The people who are depending on us may sometimes make some mistakes unconsciously or even consciously. Their action may excite our anger. We should not completely spoil their future. We should forgive them giving advice and making them know that such actions in future may spoil them. Showing sympathy to the right persons is another success in life. If they continue doing such mistakes in future, they should not be forgiven always. They must be removed from service and the responsibility of that post should be protected, by impartial judgment. That is also a success in life.

7. Poruḷoṭu puṇarnta pakkam

The trustees of public endowments should perform actions in the right ways to raise the financial position of those endowments so that they may be useful to the future generations also. That we have been unselfish and that we have tried our level best in the right way for the prosperity of the endowment will give us mental satisfaction and that is another success in life.

8. *Aruḷoṭu puṇarnta akarci*

As we grow in life, the attachment we have for our kith and kin should get extended to all human beings and other living beings. At that stage we will show our sympathy to all without discriminating the caste, creed or community of the needy. Though we may not do good to others, our mind will never allow us to do anything harmful to any life. Getting such a matured mind is also another success in life.

9. *Kāmam nītta pāl*

We have certain duties to be performed to our friends and relations in special and to all the human beings and other living beings in general. Till our end, we must be conscious of our duties and we must perform our duties without expecting any return for them. Doing duties without fail, without the expectation of any return, can be found only in perfect persons. Doing duty without any expectation from others is the greatest success in life.

Tolkāppiyar has taken only these nine sorts of victories as the real victories in human life. These victories are essential for the real construction of perfect life and not for the destruction of any life. They have only sympathy as their basis.

The days when people stick to these actions as their real victory in life will be the golden days in the history of human society.