

Contemplating Life

"I for one visualize tremendous advantages accruing to mankind once we enter a partnership with Nature." - Lavkumar Khachar

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CONTEMPLATING LIFE. The Awakening To A New Day.
At 4.30 am there is plenty of light. Only the ^{gentlest} lightest of breezes blow down the slopes — a perfect day for a start of a new day! It needed some will power to throw aside the bed clothes and go for the morning shower. Every one else was indoors and possibly still asleep, but all around there was birdsong: the dawn chorus. I stepped out of the house and strolled into the orchard breathing in drafts of clear cool air. The whole body was charged with freshness. To some extent I felt the vibrancy that makes the birds sing so loud and clearly proclaiming their presence to the world at large or so it seemed to my human way of thinking. To a poetic mind, here were great singers in "jugalbandhi" in chorus proclaiming the advent of dawn whose rosy glow had started touching the highest mountain tops. The bioscientist would tell you that the birds are singing to proclaim territorial ownership and under great stress to procure a mate to cohabit with. A pious soul would tell me that the birds are thanking the Creator for the passage of darkness and the promise of a new day. To me, who have been contemplating death over the month, the avian exuberance is celebrating life. There certainly was no nagging fear of death and how could there be, since the dangers of darkness are all crawling into crevasses and deep holes while those of day are still not quite awake. This is the brief period the most brightly hued bird is not clearly visible and so can perch on vantage points in total safety. Before human beings ^{joyous} destroyed the forests and badly fragmented habitats, this great upwelling chorus must have preceded the Sun from East to West — in the Himalaya the first thrush to sing would be in some forested gorge of Annapurna, its call awakening the next thrush to the west and so on till those of Kashmir finally heard the call to rise and sing! Temple bells and the Mullah's call to prayer

-2 are human responses. Responses set into motion by the rotation of the Earth, the time varying with the seasons as the planet revolves the Sun ~~there~~ ^{that} pours limitless radiance to power life on Earth. Light and life are the same thing for there is darkness in the absence of light as there is death in the absence of life and life is, as we now understand, is the biological manifestation of light. What great insight in the powerfully assertive words of Krishna when he tells Arjuna that perfection, beauty, ^{or} energy where ever present ^{are} ~~is~~ possible ~~be~~ due to a miniscule presence of divine radiance! How immensely reassuring as I walk under the trees listening to the birds and letting my eyes rise to the now glowing snowpeaks high in a cerulean blue sky that all this loveliness and my ability to comprehend it is because of the presence of God! Might not prayer ~~then~~ be to live life vigorously? Vibrantly? // Since vibrancy results from metabolic dynamics, how else can this be generated without exposing the body willingly to the very forces that, in the first instance, generated the perfections? Can it be argued that metabolic functions can be maintained at their highest efficiencies without the environments in which they evolved? Concerns then, for pollution and degraded ^{habitats} ~~groups~~ are not figments of idealistic minds, they should underscore every programme aiming for social upliftment. Perhaps, the time has come when our species should consciously embrace the very forces against which we "struggled" to survive. That would be our final attainment as a living organisms and prove to be what evolution ^{has been} ~~is~~ all about. The thought is exciting to the extreme. For one visualise tremendous advantages accruing to mankind once we enter a partnership with Nature. The first step in this direction is to internalise the disciplines which we have so far been resisting.

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