

The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

Is Karma Relevant?

Question: Do philosophical concepts, like karma, have any practical relevance in today's world?



Answer: The understanding of karma has a lot of bearing on the present state of society. Only when we understand karma will the call to morality have any meaning. Imagine you come to a city where it reads, "Welcome to our city. There is no police force in this city; please follow the laws." Do you think anybody will follow the laws? Nobody will.



Today's society has become like that. The legal system is known to be weak and corrupt. People think "If I am just clever enough, influential enough or cunning enough, then I can do whatever I want and I can get away with it." The decline in awareness of our and correspondingly an increase in the National Crime Records Bureau, of independence has gone up by countries aren't any better off either, with the UK recording an average of more than 2 violent attacks every minute (a very high figure for such a small country) and the US, which has the highest incarceration (imprisonment) rate in the world!



So if we want morality in society, we need to educate people to understand the law of karma. Then and then alone will the call to morality have any meaning. That's why it is said that fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, just like for a child, fear of his father is generally the main impetus for him to study. How many of us have been chastised by our parents and forced to study? Almost everyone, sometime or the other. At that time, we didn't find it pleasant, but later on we appreciate our parents for it. So here it is seen that fear is very often an impetus for doing our duty. Similarly, if there is no proper understanding of the law of karma and the fear of the karmic reactions, most people will have no impetus to live with moral integrity.



Of course, fear of God is only the beginning of wisdom; love of God is the culmination. When love for God activates our innate ethical and spiritual value system, based on the understanding that God is our greatest well wisher, then we willingly desist from immoral behavior and persist in moral behavior. But obviously, we cannot attain the culmination of wisdom without even beginning the journey. Hence karmic knowledge has to be the basis of morality. ☪

