

Swaroopyog Yuva Forum, India And Abroad
1st Jan, 2009

Hi,



As a New Year gift you are offered Membership of 'Swaroopyog (Yuva) Forum'.

Forum assures to send you the best things we come across.

Here are some stories (incidents), quotations, pictures for you that are selected for this communication.

Respected Swami Madhavananda's short duration discourses would also be a part of this Forum.

**Many complain about loneliness.....
But a few speak differently –**

All our misfortunes come from not being able to be alone.

- Charles Baudelaire

I live in that solitude which is painful in youth, but delicious in the years of maturity.

- Albert Einstein

Meditation – as science - is 'Being with the Self' in solitude.



Courtesy – Swamiji's collection, Shiroda (Sindhudurga) near Goa



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One-liners

☺ Work is fine if it doesn't take too much of your time.

☺ It's not the fall that kills you.
It's the sudden stop at the end.

☺ Smile, it makes people wonder what you are thinking.

One Person Can Make A Difference

Author – Mrinal Pande – in Business Daily “Mint”, 28 Aug 2007

Background

Manjhi belonged to Gehlaur, a poor village in Gaya, one of the most backward districts in Bihar. He was married young to Faguni Devi who, like all other women in their water-scarce village, spent half a day fetching water from a distant river. It was a hard life and frail Faguni, a mother of two, had to leave early in the morning on the tedious errand. The women had to traverse a long and unbelievably treacherous path which involved squeezing through a narrow and dangerous crack in the mountain that separated their village from the rest of the valley and the river.

One day Faguni came home empty-handed, bruised and soaked to the skin, deeply distressed as her pot broke when she slipped on the torturous uphill journey back home.

The Dream

Moved by his wife’s tears, Manjhi vowed he’d create a road through the mountain to make life easier for Faguni.

“I thought afterwards,” he told a correspondent in Patna years later, “will I be able to complete this task, all alone with no one to help me? Maybe I should pray for divine help. Then I thought to myself, had the gods not chosen...to let the mountain stand in the path of the villagers all this while? Why should they help my wife and me now? Let me do what I must. It’s my wife, not a goddess, who needs my help.”

This was in 1960.

Implementation

Manjhi was unmoved by criticism and non-cooperation by villagers/government, the death of his wife and depressing family fortunes. With a mallet and a chisel in hand, he worked the hill for 22 years and, at last, in 1982, single-handedly managed to cut a 3km road through the mountain.

What Was Different About Him

- All his life, this unassuming villager from Gaya lived through the chaos that is Bihar, but instead of giving way to pessimism like so many others, he dreamt dreams few in his situation would dare to dream.
- He was ignored most of the time, yet he never blamed the system.
- A year before he died, Manjhi told a reporter in Patna, “**I never thought I was doing something great for which society should honour me...**”

Contributed by – Sameer Sankhe

Short discourse by Swami Madhavananda

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