

## Thought for the day

### 3. God Delusion

Recently I succumbed to the temptation and took the plunge and bought the latest book by Richard Dawkins, entitled, 'God Delusion' – The paper back edition of course. Earlier I read a few reviews on the book in daily newspapers, some good and some not so good. My temptation to read the book stems from my knowledge of Professor Dawkin's scholastic prowess demonstrated in books like, Selfish Gene, Blind Watch Maker, Unweaving the Rainbow etc. I was amused to read in the preface of the God Delusion, which I quote, 'if this book works, as I intent, religious readers who open it will be atheist when they put it down'. This made me think that this must be a humorous book. I read the whole book and was disappointed to find no humour anywhere within the 420 pages of the book. I was saddened to find that a man who had, in the past, so clearly explained scientific truth about evolution and had been highly regarded as one of the greatest thinkers of the modern time could get so muddled up trying vainly to prove that there is no God and convert the readers to his own cult of atheism.

Amongst the great thinkers of the past, there had been many atheists. But all of them, in some way or other, accepted the existence of a God, in one form or another, as a fact of life. For example, Carl Gustav Juang, in one of his books said, 'You can take away a man's gods, but only to give him others in return'. Aldus Huxley said, 'If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent one'.

Admittedly, many catastrophic wars and atrocities have been committed in the past and are still being committed now in the name of religion. God is the basis of all religion and God does not ask people to kill one another. Saladin in the third crusade let nearly 6000 Christian captive in the walled city free and did not take revenge despite over 2000 Muslims being systematically massacred under similar circumstances a few months earlier by Richard the lion heart's army. He even sent food and water to his enemy-Richard as was requested by him. Saladin followed the true path of God.

We can criticise the excesses and miss-interpretation and over-interpretation of religious dicta and practices. We can protest against extremism in religion with all possible means at our disposal but we can not abandon religion and God. Again, Carl Gustav Jung wrote in an article in Analytical Psychology in 1944, and I quote, 'I am convinced that exploration of psyche is the science of the future. This is the science we need most of all, for it is gradually becoming more and more obvious that neither famine, nor earth quakes, nor microbes, nor carcinoma, but man himself is the greatest peril to man, just because there is no adequate defence against psychic epidemics, which cause infinitely more

devastation than the greatest natural catastrophes' The examples of such epidemic abounds the history books. One can realize that the horrors and the Armageddon created by likes of Hitler, Stalin, Genghis Khan, etc. were due to the epidemic of mental illness spread by these godless individuals.

But Carl Gustavo Jung had overlooked the fact that there is a defence mechanism or a safety bulb against such epidemics. This is the unwavering belief in God and faithfully doing all good things that God asks us to do without forgetting that tolerance of other's beliefs and practices is a God's command in all religion.