

CSR VISION: As a realized master, how do you relate spirituality with responsible conduct of a corporate or an individual?

SRI M: I prefer not to be addressed as a realized master. I may have progressed on this spiritual journey a bit forward than usual and I have witnessed something, which normally is not visible to many, and as a result, my outlook on things may have undergone a transformation.

I understand that the whole world is a network, where we cannot consider things in isolation. I am speaking on the basis of my personal experience of what is also said in the Upanishads. For instance, the Upanishad says, there is one Supreme Being consisting of millions of cells linked together. We are all linked together as cells. To enable the whole body to function, each cell has to perform its job and cooperate with each other. The cell cannot say that it will perform as per its wish.

Therefore, I see the whole universe, as a principal system, including the countries, states, departments, organizations, human beings etc. All living beings are linked together like cells and sub-systems. A single cell holds within it the potential of the whole universe. Sri Ramanujacharya said that the whole body could be called '*Sriman Narayan*' and each cell a '*Jeevatma*', which packs within it all the potential of the whole body. Each cell has been there from the beginning of life and has progressed through three million years of evolution. When the cells work in tandem, they achieve fullness / completeness. '*Purnamidam*' means each cell has full potential for the whole. It is the responsibility of all of us to tap that potential.

To tap the inherent potential, every cell has to act responsibly. When you say Corporate Responsibility, it does not refer to the business corporations alone. Corporations, in larger sense of the term, refer to the whole universe. The world is like a

corporate from a philosophical and intellectual point of view; we are parts of that whole. It is futile to think that everybody has everything. Thus, no one is superior or inferior. Each individual has limitations. Maybe what you know, I may not know and sometimes, something I know, you may not know. We cannot be omniscient with a limited brain. However, we can expand. So, we must depend on the capacity of others to bring about betterment.

The whole world as a corporate can develop into a healthy organism, only when all cells/components responsibly work together. There is a difference between your idea of corporate, which is business, and my definition of corporate, which is the universe, a larger perspective.

CSR VISION: How can we use spiritual principles to influence responsible conduct, as spirituality is considered beyond us?

SRI M: When I talk about spirituality, it is not something that is 'outward oriented'. It is true that it transcends the ordinary. When man intends to transcend the ordinary, he takes to spirits (liquor) and feels so out of the world. But, we have here the joy of understanding spirituality. It encompasses everybody. It is within us, something that we can access when we take a journey inward.

It is my responsibility to spread/share with you such a spirit; this is not social responsibility, but rather spiritual responsibility. Swami Vivekananda said that if you don't see the poor or their suffering, you are not spiritual. There is a term - *daridra-narayan* which means a poor-God. He said doing service in the temple is easier than working for the poor. For this to change, our hearts need to change. In the spiritual world, there is the principle of 'If you give, you receive by default'. This is because we are all connected. Now this "receiving" may not necessarily be in money and money is not everything.

This is my idea of social responsibility. Every being is spiritual and connected, so we have to be responsible.

Babaji, my Guruji, used to say, "If you meditate 13 hours or 13 months or 13 years and you don't hear the cry of your neighbour's hungry child, all your meditation is a waste. Therefore, you can't enforce social responsibility by law."

If there is a red light with no policeman around, how many will stop their vehicles? Self-discipline is the first step in spiritual progress. The progress in social responsibility is similar to the progress in spiritual responsibility. It has to develop from within.

So, when we say corporate, we have to think about the whole. If this is inculcated as a governing principle among the people at the helm of the corporate, it will filter down from there. Both the top and bottom are Gods in their own way. They are all connected. Nothing functions without some connectedness. This connectedness has to be appreciated and respected.

