

What is to give light must endure burning.

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्शिए में नहीं  
लिखना चाहिए  
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"If you want to shine like the sun, first burn like the sun."

Said A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, our former President, ~~was~~ a brilliant scientist, and more importantly, a humble human being. Before becoming the missile man of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam himself went through a great deal of struggles since childhood and this struggle is what ~~prop~~ made him shine as a beacon of knowledge later.

Just as a piece of gold, put in a burning furnace, loses its impurities and becomes pure and lustrous; one must endure the burning of darkness or Tamas within oneself, to be able to

grow, change and lighten up ~~our~~ our's  
our life and that of others.

But, in our lives, this flame  
of purification, is not just external,  
rather, like the sun within whose  
core go on millions of reactions  
creating Hydrogen & Helium and fuel  
the sun to shine, it is the flame  
that burns within ourselves that  
will light our path as well as others.

When the sun, or any star  
for that matter, stops burning at  
it's core, within no time, it's core  
will collapse, and the very source  
of light ~~it~~ could turn into a  
blackhole which doesn't let even a  
single photon escape out.

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A life which doesn't undergo the burning of change and growth is bound to turn into a blackhole, just like the 18th century French society and Indian Society. The absence of the flame of liberty & scientific temper, caused these two societies to degrade <sup>into Dark Ages.</sup> Thus proving to the world that, "one must either undergo the pair of change or the pair of destruction."

Finally it was the fire of French Revolution & the Indian Freedom movement that cleared the two societies off their impurities and helped them shine across space and time.

This principle is equally relevant to human beings individuals as it is for societies as a whole.

An individual who endures pain like a burning candle, is the one that brightens the life lives of others

Nikola Tesla is a case in point. The greatest scientist of his times, worked in silence, behind the curtains, never ran after money or fame. Today, his discovery of alternating current (AC), <sup>discovery of</sup> induction motors and electromagnets, have let our lives in the real sense. And Tesla, like a candle, burnt his entire life for humanity and ~~is~~ melted away in the end, being diagnosed with mental illness.

Savitribhai Phule, who endured the harassments from the society to educate lower caste women, protect child widows and empower them all is also one such person who endured the burning of struggles & obstacles to brighter others' lives.

We often ~~are~~ are grateful to such people, who lit our ~~to~~ paths and by lightened our lives. But more often than not, we ~~of~~ tend to forget the matchsticks that lit these candles. Matchsticks are ~~the~~ usually not given enough credit, for creating the first spark of light from ~~nothing~~ nothing.

Teachers are such matchsticks. Just like one match stick can light

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many candles, one teacher creates many leaders. Behind every Tesla, Einstein, Bill Gates, Swami Vivekananda, or Abub Kalam, there's always a teacher like Paramahansa. As the famous shloka goes "Asathona Sadganaya, Tamasana Jyotirganaya"; it is a teacher that leads his/her pupil from the darkness of ignorance, to the light of knowledge.

White burning is necessary to produce light, just as "All that glitters is not gold", all that burns is not necessarily a source of light.

In our society, women face the brunt of physical violence, emotional violence and sexual violence on a daily basis. And there are

more than 30 crore people burning in the pyre of poverty and hunger, every single day, but this fire is not leading them to a life of more light, rather, it's causing them to sink into <sup>further</sup> darkness.

And we, as a society are responsible for this and our consolidated efforts are needed to turn this <sup>lightless</sup> burning volcano into a flame of light.

In order to change our society, we first need to change ourselves. "Be the change you want to see." said Gandhiji. He is a person who not just preached, but also practised his principles. Gandhiji showed to us, by changing himself from a liar to a truthful person; from an indulger of alcohol

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and tobacco to a minimalist; from a Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi, he showed us how one can, by burning the vices within himself, can light the ~~lives~~ lives of ours.

But not always do such changes & new paths turn out to be candles of light. Hitler's Nazi Germany was burning for sure, but the fire there was, the funeral pyre of millions of innocent Jews. And the Germans who falsely assumed that to be a source of light, failed to realize that it was a momentary source of light & plunged into darkness.

A comparison of Gandhi's & Hitler's stories teach us that

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"It's our choices that determine who we truly are, for more than our abilities." Both these men were undoubtedly capable. But, where one chose to burn the impurities within himself, the other set out on an illusion of cleansing his country off Jews & purifying his race. The path the two chose, made all the difference.

Just as all that burns, doesn't necessarily give out a <sup>long lasting</sup> ~~long~~ light, similarly, it's not always necessary to burn to lighten up other's lives. The moon ~~is~~ just reflects off the light of the sun and brightens our nights while staying cool and soothing.

The small pleasures in our life,

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be it the laughter of an infant, the pure love of a pet dog, the selfless ~~and~~ unconditional love of a mother, all these are free of cost. ~~And~~ not only do these not require the pain of burning, but ~~also~~, in fact, they soothe the burns we've endured in the process of bettering ourselves.

In life, it doesn't matter whether we are a small candle or the mighty sun, or even a tiny matchstick for that matter, or the cool moon, we should always light our ~~and~~ others' lives. And never be a funeral pyre that tries to derive heat ~~and~~ light at

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others' cost. Because one day, that funeral pyre will ultimately consume us.

Therefore, one must realise that, there are no obstacles in one's path, rather obstacle is the path. And it's these obstacles that strengthen our character and teach us how to utilise the fire within us, - to burn or to light. And one who realises this, ~~is~~ and manages to brighten at least one person's life, will remain as an "Amor Jyoti" in the hearts of people.

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