

THE ART OF STEALING

-Mahesh Balasubramanian.

Stealing has been & will remain a glorious tradition of our country. But since late, it acquired a bad name due to misinterpretation on the part of some so-called intellectuals. Since the times of Radha & Krishna, the act of falling in love is often described beautifully as stealing one's heart. Lord Krishna assumed greatness also because he was in the habit of stealing butter. Also take today's musicians and lyricists, for example who're credited with innumerable hit scores. Nowadays the way they get "inspired" should not be seen just as an act of stealing, it also is a measurement of their popularity among the masses. How can they remain off their starving audiences for too long for want of new lyrics?

The act of stealing has more to do with optimum utilization of resources. Consider my case, for example. A few days back I decided to plant a sapling in front of my house. To keep it growing unhindered, it required tree-guard to keep the cattle off. To secure a tree-guard, however was a problem. So I went ahead to a nearby park for that purpose.

Finally my eyes felt on one, which really was not needed where it was, as the tree inside had outgrown the guard. So I started working on it. That is when some official stopped me & enquired about my credentials. He termed what I did as an act of stealing. Here I wish to clarify that it was not stealing, but an act of robbery, as it was done with everybody in full view. Anyway, I asked him back where's the need for a tree-guard there when it has outstayed its purpose. He tried to justify by saying that public property are not meant to be stolen this way. "Then whom should I meet to seek permission for that?", I asked. He looked here & there, & said, "See, you can rather arrange one from here itself, but it is better to come during night when there's no one in sight."

This goes on to say that a pure act of stealing (& not robbery) is considered a virtue, as our tradition goes.

Let us, therefore, take steps towards inculcating this virtue. I suggest the following steps:

1. A bill be proposed in the parliament for legalizing the act of stealing. This should be pursued in same spirit as they're pursuing the bill seeking to make prostitution a legal profession.
2. Suitable amendments be made in the acts of various laws for the purpose of clarification to remove ambiguity between the terms "the act of robbery" & "the act of stealing".

3. The term “stealing” be defined in the new laws as clearly as possible, to avoid it’s meaning to get corrupt in due course of time.

4. An academy be set up for grooming young professionals. Remember, that stealing is an art as well as a skill, requiring a rare combination of strategic acumen & courage as well as tough physical & mental build, which comes with training.

5. Seminars, and guest lectures should be arranged as much as possible to dispel the myths associated with this art.

6. Awards be constituted for the upcoming professionals. Some may be considered for special missions, like stealing back the peacock throne, kohinoor diamond & last but not the least, the POK.

Stealing offers a lot to the society, apart from removing unemployment to a large extent. As Mahatma Gandhi always felt, one should have only that much that one reasonably requires. As a nation, today we require to implement this more than anyone else. But in today’s world no one seems to follow that. Everyone agrees in principles but refuse to implement it willingly in their own lives. Try to snatch away something which one has in abundance from someone, and most probably we would receive a nice punch. Stealing removes that social inequality. Thieves bring in equality in income distribution & help in bridging the gap between the haves and the have-nots’.