

Paper Title:

**You are what you think**

Paper Topic:

**Dare to Think Differently**

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## **YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK!**

(If you think what you always thought, you always get what you always got!)

You can gather only pebbles and not pearls sitting on the seashore. If you do want to have pearls you need to dive deep into the ocean. Likewise, nothing extraordinary can be achieved in life through ordinary thoughts. If you do want to achieve extraordinary success in life, you have to think differently. History is replete with instances of great achievers. One common factor in all these great lives is that they all dared to think differently. Many Indians were insulted before Gandhiji was humiliated at the Durban, South Africa. And it was Gandhiji who took a different path to fight the British Rule and created history. Jesus thought and preached differently than what was then known. People saw the birds flying before Wright Brothers, but it was they who thought differently and consequently the aeroplane was

invented. Indeed, all great contributors to world development are those who dared to think differently.

### **What is thinking differently?**

If I call a day a night, is that different thinking? Or, do I always need to go against the set beliefs or world opinion to be different? Thinking differently does not mean thinking diametrically opposite. In my opinion, thinking differently stems from curiosity travels through contemplation and founded on intellectual conviction, e.g. Newton propounded the theory of gravity, seeing an apple falling. It was his childlike curiosity, which made him think and contemplate why the apple fell on earth and concluded that this was gravitational force (then unknown to mankind). In the times of turbulence and uncertainty under the British Rule, one simple but great man, Gandhiji, thought totally differently and that led India to independence through truth and non-

violence. He showed the world a novel way of winning over enemies by love and the world adores him to date.

Once you are convinced about an idea, you would be ready to sacrifice your life for it. It is this conviction that makes you different, energetic and virtually omnipotent to accomplish your goal.

### **The need for thinking differently**

As Above, so below

As within, so without

-The Emerald Tablet, circa 3000 BC

The subtle meaning of the above quote in the context of thinking is that you manifest without, what you think within. If you think negatively you attract negative things. So, it is imperative that you be positive. Conditioned mind prevents

us from novel thinking. Conventional thinking limits our growth. Our growth is limitless if we adopt unconventional thinking. Modern management has accepted this concept and rewards people who think unconventional – out of the box, so to say.

### **Why thinking differently demands daring?**

Human beings generally resist change, owing to fear of the unknown. Therefore, thinking after a pattern gives people a sort of comfort and should something go wrong, it is easy to blame the circumstances, people around, government or their destiny- anything except themselves. Conversely, people who think differently are highly effective and successful, and this makes the stereo-type thinkers jealous and uncomfortable. More often than not, people who thought unconventionally were being ridiculed, hated and even crucified/murdered, e.g. Socrates, Jesus, Lincoln and Gandhiji. However, the fact remains that these very people,

left their lasting imprint contributing to the betterment of mankind. Of course, these great thinkers were ahead of their time and naturally were not understood.

### ***Your thoughts become things***

“All that we are, is a result of what we have thought” – Buddha.

It is now scientifically proved that thought is energy. You are a human transmission tower, transmitting your thoughts at a frequency. If you want to change anything in your life, then you must change your thinking to match with things you aspire. It is aptly put by Lisa Nichols thus: “If something comes to you, you drew it, with prolonged thought. The law of attraction is precise.” In fact, the law of attraction is as precise as the law of gravitation. One gets what one thinks hard or focuses on. The law of attraction says like attract like and I have personally experienced this in my life several

times. As a budding chartered accountant, I decided not to compromise on professional or ethical scruples/principles. After two decades of practice, I am convinced that owing to my predisposition to stick to an ethical framework, I have drawn to me clients with a high social/ethical value framework. Indeed, it is my experience that my ethical values are shared by friends and clients alike. MILT has reinforced my commitment which not only strengthened my values but also helped me deep rooting the same in my person. Recently one of my clients praised my steadfastness in front of an enforcement officer under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, which convinced me that I am being rightly understood by my clients and people around me. This is true even for different aspects of my personality be it spiritual advancement or professional progress. In Bhagwad Gita it is said that what you sow, you shall reap". At the subtle level, it applies to our thoughts as well, whatever we think, decides our emotions, actions and character eventually.

In the Bible (Proverbs 23:7) it is said: "As he thinketh His heart, so is he". In the words of Marci Shimoff "everything you want is an inside job! The outside world is the world of effects; it's just the result of thoughts. Every thought of yours is the real thing – a force." It is my experience that our thoughts are our seeds, and the harvest we reap will depend upon the seeds we plant. In other words, we shall manifest or create things or situations we think about the most or focus on the most.

### ***The Road Less Travelled***

Indeed, people who think differently are in a minority. It is not easy to think differently and yet live in this world, because when you think differently, you are actually swimming against the tide. You will face a lot of opposition right from your kith and kin. Swaminarayan Bhagwan ("Neelkanth" as he was known before attaining Swami-hood)



ran out of his house at midnight at the tender age of eleven in quest of truth, as was Gautama the Buddha who left palace at night to realize the truth. Scriptures say that they departed leaving their near and dear sleeping, to avoid impediments on their path-breaking journey. These examples are extreme cases of renunciation of this worldly life. Even in mundane life, we find plenty of examples of protest, hatred and jealousy towards a person who dared to think differently, e.g. Gandhiji was assassinated, for his thought of giving the promised sum to Pakistan was not appreciated by religious fundamentalists. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison fighting for rights for the black people of Africa. Such trials did not stop the leaders from thinking differently, as they came to make a difference in this world. It is this very trait of thinking differently that makes them world class leaders and they cruise over the road less travelled through their GPS (Global Positioning System) in the form of their conviction, courage and contemplation.

## **Thinking Differently and Making a Difference**

When I qualified as Chartered Accountant in 1987, I had a dream of specializing in the field of Exchange Control Regulations and International Taxation. At that time, internet was evolving. Resources were very scarce in terms of availability of material as well as guidance. My seniors raised a scare and discouraged me about pursuing these unchartered waters. Yet I persisted. Today, I enjoy the fruits of thinking differently, having established a niche for myself in my chosen field with authorship of several books. The lessons that I learnt over a period of time can be summarised as follows which will guide us on our path of thinking differently:

### Set High Goals:

It is better to aim high and fail, than to aim low and achieve. We must always fix our goal to achieve more than our known potential so that we would stretch ourselves and grow in the process. Remember, the higher your goal, the greater will be your motivation, enthusiasm and commitment from within.

### Derive Strength from Within:

Once you are convinced about your path, do not pay heed to comments around. Even if the whole world is against you, be firm in your conviction. Each time you face a wall, look within for an answer. Contemplate over your problems and your sub-conscious mind will certainly give you right answers. Have tremendous faith in your self.

### Perseverance:

Swami Vivekananda said: "Awake! Arise! And Stop not till thy goal is reached!" You must persist with teeth grinding determination to succeed and you shall succeed.

### Values Framework:

"If you do not stand for something, you will fall for everything"

- Anonymous

Have a good value system and preserve it at all costs. In MILT we have been endowed with ethical framework as *Satsanghis*. We must inculcate these values in our person such that they stand as our path finders when the whole world is against us.

In order to make a difference to this world, it is our sacred duty to think rightly, think positively and think differently for those millions who are unable to think the way we are trained to. The intellectuals carry a greater responsibility for contributing to the lives of others. It reminds me of a story here:

One day, as usually was the case, a young waif, a little girl, sat at the street corner begging for food, money or whatever she could get. Now this girl was wearing very tattered clothes; she was dirty and quite disheveled.

As often happens, a well-to-do young man turned the corner without giving the girl so much as a second look. But when he returned to his expensive home, his happy family, and his well-laden dinner table, his thoughts veered to the poor girl and he became very angry with God for allowing such conditions to exist.

He reproached God, saying, "How can you let this happen? Why don't you do something to help this girl?"

Then he heard God, in the depths of his being, respond, saying: "I did. I created you!"

## **Conclusion**

Rhonda Byrne in her book titled "the Secret" said that "the greatest secret of life is the law of attraction, which says like attract like, so when you think a thought, you are also attracting similar thoughts to you." It is therefore, imperative that we control our thoughts, because negative thoughts would be attracted if we think negatively and we shall be miserable. Instead, we should think positively to make a positive contribution to this world. While we think differently, we should not lose sight of our motto, i.e. "Let this world be a little better because I came here".

It is said that God has made us after his own image. Let us make this world a beautiful place to live in. This life is a gift of God, and the way we live will be our return gift to God, so let us think, out of the box, to give some novel gift to God.

And finally to quote P. Raymond Stewart from the book titled "Living as God": "The only difference between you and any other is your thoughts about who you are. For, who you are is what you think you are."