

April 28, 2019

The Importance of Principles (Copyrighted material)

Principles are universal, whereas laws and rules are not. Laws and rules are specific to the medium through which a particular principle manifests. The following explanation may help explain the nature of principles and the difference between principles, laws, rules and systems.

Principles are invisible and work silently. Principles are not made of matter and do not have any substance. Yet they control all the manifestations that we witness and/or experience in the visible cosmos as well as the invisible aspects of creation.

The following examples will give some idea about how unaware most people are of the role principles play in everything that happens in the physical dimension of creation and their personal lives.

Ask anyone the following question: What is it that supports ships as they sail across the ocean and what is it that supports aircraft as they fly through the atmosphere? Almost everyone will say that it is water that is supporting ships and air is supporting the aircraft.

The fact of the matter is that water is not supporting the weight of the ships. It is the principles of flotation that are supporting the weight of ships through the medium of water and it is the principles of aerodynamics that are supporting aircraft through the medium of air. What is the proof that this is so? Whenever a ship violates the principles of flotation it sinks and likewise aircraft crash when they violate the principles of flight.

It is important to note that the size and shape of the ships and aircraft are not important. The principles will support the largest as well as the tiniest ships and aircraft as long as the ships and aircraft designs conform to the principles of flotation and flight as the case may be.

The reason people think that it is water that supports the ships and air that supports planes is because as human beings, we look at the immediate cause of a manifestation. We seldom go deeper than that. We do not think about the remote cause of a manifestation and certainly do not think about the ultimate cause.

For every manifestation there is an immediate cause, a remote cause and an ultimate cause. In the case of ships and aircraft, the immediate cause that supports them is the water and air respectively, the remote cause is the principles of flotation and aerodynamics respectively, and the ultimate cause is always the Creator Principle, commonly called God.

To understand the difference between principles, laws, rules and systems, let us look at the principle of safety.

The principle of safety comes into play whether we are cooking, driving a car, flying a plane or using firearms. But the laws of safety that emanate from the same principle of safety are different for each of the activities mentioned above. Furthermore, the laws of safety differ for the same activity when the medium through which the principle operates changes.

For example, when it comes to cooking, the laws of safety differ if the source of heat is wood, gas, gasoline or electricity. The laws of safety also change depending upon the type of cookware used. When cooking, the laws of safety will differ if the vessels used are made of clay, steel, glass or ceramics.

Likewise, when it comes to using firearms, the laws of safety change depending upon the type of weapon one is using. Similarly, the rules which emanate from the laws of safety also change, but the principle remains unchanged.

So, when we fly a plane, if we were to apply the laws of safety that are applicable to driving a car, we would be violating the principle of safety. Likewise, we would be violating the principle of safety if, when cooking with gas, we apply the laws of safety that are applicable if electricity is the source of heat.

From one principle several laws and rules emanate. Moreover, from the same principle several sub-principles can emanate and from every sub-principle several laws and rules can emanate depending upon the medium through which the principle has to manifest.

For instance, when using firearms, a sub-principle of safety is, "Never point a firearm at anyone unless you wish to shoot the person. Another sub-principle is, "Never assume that a firearm is not loaded" which can also be stated in positive terms as "Always assume that a firearm is loaded."

Some examples of the laws of safety with respect to using firearms are:
Learn everything about the firearm before using it.
Use the right caliber bullet for the firearm.

Some examples of rules of safety when using firearms would be:

- Always engage the safety lock when the firearm is not in use whether it is loaded or not..
- Always engage the safety lock when handing the firearm to someone else

Likewise, there are sub-principles of safety when it comes to operating aircraft, cooking, driving automobiles etc.

The underlying principles support the laws and rules which control a particular manifestation and together they form the system which enables and sustains a particular manifestation.

Sometimes the distinction between principles, laws and rules seem to be blurred and a law could be classified as a rule. For instance, there is the principle of gravity and the law of gravity. The principle of gravity is applicable to all planets and most celestial bodies but the force of the law of gravity differs according to the size of the

planets and celestial bodies. Thus, the force of the law of gravity on the moon is about 1/6th that on Earth. This is in keeping with the fact that principles do not change but the laws which emanate from principles change in order to enable the principle to work through different media and sustain a particular manifestation.

It should be noted that it is not essential to distinguish laws and rules as long as one implements them and enables the principle to manifest properly through the medium in which it operates.

All principles do not operate at the same level. Higher principles can override lower principles. For instance, it would appear that airplanes are breaking the principle of gravity. That is not so. Airplanes can fly because they conform to the principle of aerodynamics, which overrides the principle of gravity. Indeed, the principle of gravity is part and parcel of the principle of aerodynamics.

Principles are ever present and manifest when there is an appropriate medium. For instance, the principle of gravity operates within a certain distance from the center of celestial bodies such as the planets and their various moons. But there is no gravity in space because there is no need for it and no medium through which the principle of gravity can manifest.

Unfortunately, because they are not familiar with or do not understand the principles involved in various aspects of their lives, many people violate the principles.

Principles are invisible and permanent. They are eternal and inexorable.

Principles never fail. People do, when they violate principles.

Most people are unaware of the fundamental principles that are supposed to be reflected through various religious rites and rituals. They remain stuck to the rites and rituals even when the external environment changes and the rites and rituals no longer reflect the fundamental principles upon which all religions have been founded. Unfortunately, this is what happens with most religions.

Rev. Dadaji, Dr. Dinshah K. Mehta, used to emphasize that the principles will guard and protect those who live by them. The principles will also guide them along the spiritual path, and the spiritual Master will grace them as and when they deserve.

Just what is it that the principles guard against and protect people from? The principles will protect people from the tendency of their respective human minds to react to external physical stimuli and pursue the desires that arise from their attraction to physical forms which they dwell upon and become attached to. Thus, the principles will protect them from their own human frailties and direct and support them to do what is spiritually right. The principles also prevent the human mind from creating openings through which thoughts from un-Divine and anti-Divine forces can enter and influence them. It is the un-Divine and anti-Divine thoughts which side-track seekers from the spiritual path.

The un-Divine and anti-Divine forces use three weapons to side-track spiritual seekers. They are temptations, fears and doubts. If you analyze these three

weapons, you will find that all three result from attachment to certain thoughts. Spiritual principles will guard human beings from these natural tendencies and protect them from the influence of the un-Divine and anti-Divine forces.

When people live according to the spiritual principles, then, at the right time, when they deserve it and will benefit from it, a spiritual Master will grace their efforts and help them to succeed in their spiritual endeavors.

Attachment to material thoughts, things and people gives rise to desire. How attachment grows and eventually destroys a person has been beautifully explained in a passage in Chapter II of a book titled ***The Song Celestial*** by Sir Edwin Arnold. This book is a poetic translation of the Bhagavad Gîtâ and the passage quoted below was a favourite of Mahatma Gandhi. A part of the passage is reproduced below:

“...If one ponders on objects of the sense, there springs
Attraction; from attraction grows desire,
Desire flames to fierce passion, passion breeds
Recklessness; then the memory- all betrayed-
Lets noble purpose go, and saps the mind,
Till purpose, mind, and man are all undone. ...”

Many people are oblivious to the fact that they are trapped within an illusory universe, which is a subjective creation of their human mind. The ancient Hindu Masters recognized this and recited a prayer in Sanskrit, which is chanted by Hindus even today. When translated the prayer reads:

- From the untruth lead me unto Truth.
- From darkness lead me unto Light
- From death lead me unto Immortality.

In some translations of the above prayer, the Sanskrit word for “untruth” is translated as “unreal” and the word for “Truth” is translated as “Real”. The rationale for this translation is that only “Truth” is real and permanent. All untruths are unreal and are passing phases which by their very nature are temporary.

Instead of creating an environment where individuals can reduce their desires and focus on developing their own character and that of their children, leaders in developed societies are focused on expanding their economies by developing products that will satisfy every desire one can conceive of and more. This trend contributes to the general detriment of the masses, whose despondency is becoming more and more apparent. This has been the bane of humankind at least since recorded history.

To help humanity cope with the many distractions that are forced upon it by vested interests, and to become God centred in their daily lives, the Society of Servants of God offers the following three sets of spiritual principles:

- Seven Principles of Right Surrender
- Seven Principles of God Guidance through Force of Circumstances
- Seven Principles of Karma Yoga.

It is not enough to know the right principles. You also need to implement them correctly. If you work with the right principles correctly, they will support you to grow in the right direction, in the right way, and at the right pace per your specific abilities and needs. If you violate them, they cannot support you and you will get hurt. When it comes to principles, human preferences and emotions are not important and have no bearing on the outcome. Whether you like them or not, principles will work. It is your choice to work with them or ignore them. If you ignore principles, they cannot support you. For instance, when flying a plane, if you ignore the principles of aerodynamics, they cannot support the plane. If you do not follow the principles of safety when using a firearm, the firearm could harm you.

In their day to day activities, many people constantly violate various principles. When things go wrong, instead of looking within themselves to see if they are responsible for violating some principle, they tend to blame others.

Principles emanate from and exist within their source. Lower principles are offshoots of and descend from higher principles.

Because of their universal and permanent nature, principles do not change. Compared to principles, laws and rules are circumstantial and temporary. They lack the versatility of principles and cannot change in a given situation. The same set of laws and rules remain permanently applicable, fixed and unchanging for a given set of physical circumstances

There is a higher principle, which enables different laws and rules to emanate from the same principle as it manifests in different physical circumstances. This principle also circumscribes and limits the characteristics of laws and rules so that they are permanently fixed to control a given manifestation, such as cooking, flying or sailing.

It is the principle of diversity which enables different sub-principles and different laws and rules to emanate from the same principle. The principle of diversity also enables:

Embryonic stem cells of a developing fetus to diversify into cells with different characteristics necessary to form the various organs of the body which are necessary for the body to function properly;

- Eggs of a bird, fish or reptile to develop characteristics of different body parts and grow appropriately;

- The controlled growth of the cells of the kernel in a seed into the different specialized cells of a plant.

However, once the stem cells morph into specialized cells, the specialized cells cannot reverse the process naturally and become stem cells again, nor can they morph into other types of cells. This is because the specialized cells are secondary and have descended from the stem cells, which are the primary cells of the embryo which morph into the specialized cells needed for the proper functioning of the bodies of mammals, birds and plants. The relationship embryonic stem cells have with specialized cells of the body is the same as that of the relationship between principles and laws.

Principles descend into laws and stem cells descend (morph) into specialized cells of different parts of the body.

It is important to note that the principle of diversity stimulates creativity whereas the principle of similarity or sameness stifles creativity. Diversity and creativity are mutually supportive as can be witnessed in the tremendous diversity and creativity of the natural world.

When they are no longer needed to support a manifestation, principles are reabsorbed by and merge with the higher principle from which they descend. The highest principle, from which all other principles emanate, descend and manifest all of creation, is Divine Love.

Since Divine Love is the highest principle and the source of all creation, everyone and everything is naturally attracted to love. Love attracts everyone unto itself by giving of itself selflessly. Divine Love envelopes all of creation and eventually all of creation merges into Love.

The following Script dictated by the Divine, through Rev. Dr. Dinshah K. Mehta, gives some idea about this.

LOVE IS THE BASIS OF ALL CREATION

Love alone creates and all merge into Love again. Love that is the Beginning of all is the Source of all including Me and My Father. It is Love and Love alone that creates, sustains, evolves and resolves back into Love. Thus, all thoughts are also creations of Love and from Love that is the Source of Love that I AM. Hence whenever one is confronted with any thought or other creations than thoughts one should resolve them into Love and if one would sieve Love from the chaff of self, one shall get the Truth that is the basis of all. *(Script received at 9.20 a.m. on January 4, 1956)*

Bahram Shahmardaan (Byram)