From 'Metascape 'series : Akbar Padamsee



'If' by Rudyard Kipling

IF you can keep your head when all about you Are losing theirs and blaming it on you, If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, Or being lied about, don't deal in lies, Or being hated, don't give way to hating, And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master; If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim; If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster And treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss, And lose, and start again at your beginnings And never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew To serve your turn long after they are gone, And so hold on when there is nothing in you Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
' Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,
if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds' worth of distance run, Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son! Tribute to Comrade Yashwant Chavan: Speech by Ramchandra Guha
 (Life stories of three remarkable Indians: Baloo Palwankar, Mirabehn and Shivram Karanth)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMW9l61R97c



This is a video (5 parts) of a speech given by Dr. Ramchandra Guha during the function organized to celebrate the 90th birthday of Comrade Yashwant Chavan. Dr. Guha chose stories of three remarkable Indians to pay tribute to Comrade Chavan.

This is Dr. Guha at his best – extremely witty, highly knowledgeable, insightful and drawing inspiring insights from the stories of these amazing Indians.

Baloo Palwankar, born in 1876 was a highly talented cricket player – who faced severe discrimination due to his caste (he happened to be a Dalit). In spite of the obstacles and discrimination he faced, he left a deep mark on the First Class cricket world

Mirabehn (Born as Madeleine Slade in 1892 in a British aristocratic family) left her homeland and a very promising career in Western Classical Music in 1925 and came to work with Mahatma Gandhi. Not only did she take active part in India's freedom struggle movement, but in later part of her life, also made contributions to study of ecology and sustainable farming in foothills of Himalaya.

K. Shivaram Karanth (1902-97) was a Kannada writer, social scientists and environmentalist. Dr. Guha likes to call him 'Tagore of modern India' due to his significant achievements in diverse range of literary as well as social fields.

Quotes of the month

C. S. Lewis: "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket- safe, dark, motionless, airless- it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, and irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside of Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers of love is Hell."

Zig Zigler: The chief cause of failure and unhappiness is trading what you want most for what you want now.

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Acknowledgements: I would like to thank a senior colleague of mine for introducing me to Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If'

About 'Treasures'

It's a compilation that I put together every once in a while, of things that I have found to be beautiful and meaningful.

Do share it with others who you think will enjoy it.

Drop me an email at shaileshd.email@qmail.com if you want to add someone to the circulation list.

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