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### ***Knowledge Is Unity Of Society Ignorance Is Diversity Of Man***

"Ignorance lies at the bottom of all human knowledge, and the deeper we penetrate the nearer we arrive unto it."

As man passed through several stages, so the definition of knowledge changed. In fact, the genesis of knowledge lies in man who has been ever restless to discover and invent things. Man and knowledge, therefore, are supreme, complementary to each other. Knowledge is the result of endless endeavour of man to conquer nature with a view to making his existence on this earth comfortable.

Francis Bacon (1564-1626), an English philosopher and author, believed that "human knowledge and human power meet in one point", therefore, knowledge is power. He was devoted to scientific promotion and scientific research. He earnestly endeavoured to protect scientists against possible Church condemnation in those days.

Since the days of Bacon, scientists all over the world have strived hard to spread knowledge and to unite mankind. Scientists have no caste, creed or community and they help bring unity and integrity not only between peoples of one country but also of the whole world. Let us examine some of the great discoveries of the world and see how they have helped to bring unity amongst men.

Antoine Henry Becquerel (1852-1910) is known as the father of radioactivity. His discovery led to systematized knowledge of the element uranium which enabled man either to destroy the civilization or to utilize the stores of energy within the atom for peaceful purposes.

Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) invented telephone and you can see how this knowledge has helped unite mankind all over the world.

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), a mathematical genius, invented the first calculating machine at the age of eighteen. Pascal was one of the founders of the mathematical theory of probability. His great discoveries have led to the development of Computers, the age in which we are now living.

Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882), the great naturalist is well-known for his two books *The Origin of Species* and *Descent of Man* which revolutionized biology and deeply affected philosophy of evolution, historical perspective, religious controversies, and political, social and economic criteria. The aim of his discoveries was that higher species had come into existence as a result of the gradual transformation of lower species. He advocated that man has evolved from apes. This revolutionary idea led to lot of opposition from Churches and he had to suffer a great deal. But his discovery is a foundation for our modern biology, molecular biology and biotechnology.

Michael Faraday (1791-1861) explained electrical and magnetic attraction and repulsion by his theory of 'lines of force'. He also discovered that an attraction in a magnetic field round a conductor produces an electric current in the conductor. This discovery paved the way for the dynamo and electric motor. His inventions into the chemical actions of electric current was the foundation of electroplating.

Gallileo (1564-1642), an Italian astronomer, mathematician and physicist, by his investigations of natural laws, laid foundation for modern experimental science and by the construction of astronomical telescope, he greatly enlarged man's vision and conception of the universe. The knowledge of his discoveries has been responsible for all the space research and the landing of man on moon.

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), a great French scientist, showed that the fermentation of sugar solution, the growth of mould and the souring of milk are due to bacteria. He developed a scheme and by a series of experiments showed that a form of vaccination could prevent anthrax. His discoveries led to many applications in medicine.

### **Ignorance is Diversity**

The importance of ignorance in relation to moral responsibility was brought into clearer light by the Greek philosopher Socrates. His doctrine seems to give an

exaggerated value to knowledge and ignorance in the normal life. Socrates assumed that as virtue is knowledge, and vice ignorance, a man needs only to have his ignorance removed - to learn what virtue requires - in order to become virtuous.

But ignorance is often involuntary. Not only individuals, but also whole races and classes of men are placed at times in such circumstances that it is practically impossible for them even to conceive any lofty ideal of morality.

Take for example what is happening in the Middle-East countries. During 1950s and 1960s the Russians told these people that they have hidden wealth in their countries, buried deep under the earth in the form of petroleum oil. They initially gave them the technology of oil exploration. Soon these people realised that they could become rich overnight. They started bargaining with people from other parts of the world, started fighting amongst themselves and started destroying their own wealth, race and religion. With what is happening in these countries now, it is expected that all the oil wells they have will be depleted by the middle of next century and these people will be again on the back of camels. Because of their ignorance, ignorant of what they are doing, there is lot of diversity in them. The great powers of the world are exploiting the ignorance of these people.

In the words of Mark Twain - "I would rather have my ignorance than another man's knowledge, because I have got so much more of it".

Without knowledge ignorance cannot be destroyed and if ignorance is not destroyed, difference of opinion - diversity will prevail and threaten peaceful co-existence.