

# Be a Partner in Virtues

(A word of advice to my son on his marriage)

Dear Monty and Tavan

Congratulation on your entry into the great institution of marriage. The following verse from Guru Granth Sahib will go a long way to help you on this journey and also life in general. God or nature (whatever you want to call it) has gifted all of us with some good qualities or virtues. Our aim in life should be to look for these virtues in people around us. Both of you are highly educated and gifted individuals. When you start your life as husband and wife, you will get to know each other even more closely. I would not be surprised if you find some of your habits to be annoying or distasteful to each other. However over time, you will realize that these are very petty issues. So do not focus on them. Instead focus on the good qualities both of you got from God. I am sure there are plenty of them. Remember that everything good or bad is the creation of God or nature. A person has virtually no control over it. This relates to the famous debate about Free will vs Determination. Guru says in a way it is all determined. If you remember this, it will help you forgive each other and get over these petty issues. Also with help from each other and positive feedback, you can definitely improve and change. If you remember that a person has minimal say in the habits you don't like, it will become easy for you to get along with those habits. And you can help each other in a big way towards a happy marriage.

Also in general life, for example at work, look out for the good qualities in other people and try to acquire those qualities. Ignore the bad ones. Focussing on them won't help. Even if you want the other person to improve, first you need to win them by appreciating their good qualities and then remind them of the areas they need to put efforts on.

Remember that Guru Nanak travelled thousands of miles in search of people with good qualities. He called them Gurmukhs. He went to all the known learning centres and engaged in thoughtful discussion with the known intellectuals of his time. He questioned everything but did not criticize or censure. His way of hammering home his point of view was logic and reasoning. This basically is the gist of the following verse. He calls a person with good virtues or merits a bouquet of fragrance to be feasted upon. Good qualities in a person is like the marriage party of a groom and the wedding dress or ornaments of a bride. This is the recipe for a successful marriage and fruitful life. I have tried to translate this verse in English just in case you find it difficult to understand it in Punjabi.

Me, your mother and rest of the family wish you guys all the best on this journey.

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ॥ ਰਾਗੁ ਸੂਹੀ ਛੰਤ ਮਹਲਾ 1 ਘਰੁ 4॥

ਜਿਨ ਕੀਆ ਤਿਨਿ ਦੇਖਿਆ ਜਗੁ ਧੰਧੜੈ ਲਾਇਆ॥ ਦਾਨਿ ਤੇਰੈ ਘਟਿ ਚਾਨਣਾ ਤਿਨਿ ਚੰਦੁ ਦਿਪਾਇਆ॥ ਚੰਦੇ ਦੀਪਾਇਆ ਦਾਨਿ ਹਰਿ ਕੈ ਦੁਖੁ ਅੰਧੇਰਾ ਉਠਿ ਗਾਇਆ॥ ਗੁਣ ਜੰਵ ਲਾੜੇ ਸੇਰੈ ਪਰਖਿ ਮੋਹਣੀਐ ਲਾਇਆ॥ ਵੀਵਾਹੁ ਹੋਆ ਸੇਭ ਸੇਤੀ ਪੰਚ ਸਬਦੀ ਆਇਆ॥ ਜਿਨਿ ਕੀਆ ਤਿਨਿ ਦੇਖਿਆ ਜਗੁ ਧੰਧੜੈ ਲਾਇਆ॥ 1॥ ਹਉ ਬਲਿਹਾਰੀ ਸਾਜਨਾ ਮੀਤਾ ਅਵਰੀਤਾ॥ ਇਹੁ ਤਨੁ ਜਿਨਿ ਸਿਉ ਗਾਡਿਆ ਮਨੁ ਲੀਅੜਾ ਲੀਤਾ॥ ਲੀਆ ਤ ਦੀਆ ਮਾਨੁ ਜਿਨੁ ਸਿਉ ਸੇ ਸਜਨ ਕਿਉ ਵਿਸਰਹਿ॥ ਜਿਨੁ ਦਿਸਿ ਆਇਆ ਹੋਹਿ ਰਲੀਆ ਜੀਅ ਸੇਤੀ ਗਹਿ ਰਹਹਿ॥ ਸਗਲ ਗੁਣ ਅਵਗੁਣ ਨ ਕੋਈ ਹੋਹਿ ਨੀਤਾ ਨੀਤਾ॥ ਹਉ ਬਲਿਹਾਰੀ ਸਾਜਨਾ ਮੀਤਾ ਅਵਰੀਤਾ॥ 2॥ ਗੁਣ ਕਾ ਹੋਵੈ ਵਾਸਲਾ ਕਢਿ ਵਾਸੁ ਲਈਜੈ॥ ਜੇ ਗੁਣ ਹੋਵਿਨੁ ਸਾਜਨਾ ਮਿਲਿ ਸਾਝ ਕਰੀਜੈ॥ ਸਾਝ ਕਰੀਜੈ ਗੁਣਹੁ ਕੇਰੀ ਛੋਡਿ ਅਵਗੁਣ ਚਲੀਐ॥ ਪਹਿਰੇ ਪਟੰਬਰ ਕਰਿ ਅਡੰਬਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਪਿੜੁ

ਮਲੀਐ॥ਜਿਥੈ ਜਾਇ ਬਹੀਐ ਭਲਾ ਕਹੀਐ ਝੋਲਿ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਪੀਜੈ॥ ਗੁਣ ਕਾ ਹੋਵੈ ਵਾਸਲਾ ਕਢਿ ਵਾਸੁ ਲਈਜੈ॥੩॥ਆਪਿ ਕਰੈ ਕਿਸੁ ਆਖੀਐ ਹੋਰਿ ਕਰੈ ਨ ਕੋਈ॥ਆਖਣ ਤਾ ਕਉ ਜਾਈਐ ਜੇ ਭੁਲੜਾ ਹੋਈ॥ਜੇ ਹੋਇ ਭੁਲਾ ਜਾਇ ਕਹੀਐ ਆਪਿ ਕਰਤਾ ਕਿਉ ਭੁਲੈ॥ਸੁਣੈ ਦੇਖੇ ਬਾਝੁ ਕਹਿਐ ਦਾਨੁ ਅਣਮੰਗਿਆ ਦਿਵੈ॥ਦਾਨੁ ਦੇਇ ਦਾਤਾ ਜਗਿ ਬਿਧਾਤਾ ਨਾਨਕਾ ਸਚੁ ਸੋਈ॥ਆਪਿ ਕਰੈ ਕਿਸੁ ਆਖੀਐ ਹੋਰ ਕਰੈ ਨ ਕੋਈ॥੪॥ ਪੰਨਾ 765

**The one who created has engaged the world in daily chores**

**Calm and composed are those with hearts illuminated with knowledge**

**As the reality of chores dawns upon them, their sufferings vanish**

**The groom arrives with marriage party of virtues to find the bride**

**A grand wedding creates rapturous melody all around**

**The one who created has engaged the world in daily chores. (1)**

**Great are those who understand the reality of chores**

**My mind and body is in their service**

**Intellectually intuned, I can never forget them**

**A part of my soul, seeing them make me happy as**

**They are merits incarnate, no demerit at all**

**Great are those who understand the reality of chores. (2)**

**A bouquet of fragrant virtues, make the most of it**

**Be a partner in virtues of your friends**

**Abandon the demerits, acquire the merits**

**Win the day like a bride decorated in silk and ornaments**

**Talk about virtues wherever you go, drink the nectar from the discussion**

**A bouquet of fragrant virtues, make the most of it. (3)**

**Merits or demerits are creation of God, none else can do it**

**One can protest or complain only if there is a mistake**

**The creator knows best and cannot make a mistake**

**He watches, listens and decides without any pleading**

**Says Nanak, the truth is that the great giver allocates all merits and demerits**

**Merits or demerits are creation of God, none else can do it. (4)**

**11/7/2020**