

'In Between 2020 and 2021'



In the loving providence of God, we are privileged to witness the “in between 2020 and 2021.” The ‘in between 2020 and 2021’ unfolds a saga of ‘loss’ and ‘gain’. Literally in 2020, we lose a ‘0’ (zero) and in 2021, we gain a ‘1’ (one). Anomalous though, both loss and gain involve tinges of sorrow and joy. Indeed “life is full of joys and sorrows, much of it our own making” (Mark Skousen).

In the loss of ‘0’ (zero), there is the sorrow of negating (bidding adieu to) the year 2020: the pain of ‘flying the nest’ – our comfort zones, our gains, victories and achievements of 2020; the pain of parting with our kith and kin, who left us for their eternal reward in 2020. Anomalous though, in the loss of ‘0’, there is a solace (joy) of having overcome, or passing over our painful memories, unfortunate events, broken relationships; and the hopeful joy of not striding over such painful experiences again, especially in the backdrop of the pandemic Covid-19 and its untold sufferings; the joyful tales of patience, sacrifice, and the ‘courage not to submit or yield’ against all odds of life.

In the gain of ‘1’ (one), there is still a tinge of sorrow: the pain of “perching on the alien, the uncertainty of the unknown that awaits us throughout the year 2021. However, more than pain and sorrow, there is an all pervading hope and joy: hope of a bright future with high aspirations and better opportunities; the joy of lofty dreams even when the seemingly impossible prevails; hopeful joy of a better and healthy life with inventive vaccines, even amidst the gloom of new cases of mutant coronavirus.

Hence the ‘in between 2020 and 2021’ calls for a new life-style, with improved code of conduct and fortified ethics of love to ‘walk with our neighbours and God’. Within a polarity of the past and future, we are invited to live ‘in between’, namely to live “the present with passion,” with a “look to the past with gratitude” and to “the future with hope” (Cf. Pope Francis). While bidding adieu to the past (2020), and welcoming the future (2021), we ought to live ‘in between’, namely the present, HERE and NOW. For, “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift. That is why we call it the present” (Bil Keane/Eleanor Roosevelt). Yes, today is the gift of God, which we ought to use astutely and share with others compassionately for the good of all and for the glory of God.

Hence, as St. Paul exhorts, let us live the ‘in between’ with passion and purpose: ‘Rejoice always, while giving thanks in all circumstances and praying without ceasing (Cf. 1 Thess 5:16-18). Thanking the Lord for 2020, praying to the Lord for 2021, and on behalf of Fr. Rector, Staff and Students of Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram (DVK), Bangalore, may I wish you ALL HAPPY TODAYs!

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