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## Antidote to Corruption

The big C of corruption can be countered by five more Cs! The first is the sense of ‘connectedness’. A lack of connectedness or sense of belongingness breeds corruption in society. That is why, often you see people looking for connections in order to avoid corruption! A sense of belongingness among people can root out corruption. That is why corruption is lowest at the village level. Corruption is much more in urban areas because there is no community sense there — no belongingness.

The second C is ‘courage’. A lack of self-esteem or confidence in one’s own ability is one of the causes of corruption. It is fear, or insecurity in a person that makes him become more corrupt. He then tries to find his security only through money, which doesn’t really happen. The more money he acquires, the insecurity doesn’t disappear. In fact, he becomes more afraid and more fearful because the money is not earned in a right manner.

The third is an understanding of ‘cosmology’ - looking at one’s own life in the context of extended space and time. Just take a look at our own life. How long is it? Only 80-100 years! See life in the context of the huge dimension of time. Billions of years have passed since the creation. Our creation, as scientists say, is 50 billion years old. And everything in this creation is recycled. The air we breathe is old, every cell in our body, every atom is old, the oxygen and hydrogen is old! And this will continue. Seeing life from a different perspective of space and time is what will deepen one’s vision about one’s life.

The fourth C is ‘care’ and ‘compassion’. Care and compassion in society can bring dedication. It is the lack of dedication that causes corruption. The sense of care and feeling that it doesn’t matter even if I don’t have; somebody needs this more. That care and compassion can root out corruption.

The last one I would like to emphasise is a sense of ‘commitment’ — commitment to contribution. When a person has a goal, a commitment to a higher cause in life, it brings a shift from gaining to giving. In society, if everyone keeps thinking, ‘What can I gain?’ rather than ‘What can I contribute’, then corruption cannot be rooted out. In society, we need to have this shift in our attitude, from ‘What can I gain?’ to ‘What can I contribute?’

But all this is not possible without spiritual upliftment and a sense of belongingness with the whole world. Today the globe has become a village. We have globalised everything other than wisdom. And that is one of the causes of terrorism and unrest in the world today. We accept food from every part of the world, we accept music from every part of the world, but when it comes to wisdom, people seem to shy away. A sense of belongingness with the whole world is what we are talking about today.

Even if one pocket in the world remains ignorant of these shared values, the world will not be a safe place. So we need to address these issues with a lot of patience. It is not a job that can be done overnight, but through education and creating that sense of community, through inspiration and example.