



Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



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Date: Oct 2008

An Expression...

The first day of VVM was a sight I cannot get out of my mind. After a long summer break we started again. There was excitement in the air, freshness in the faces, eagerness to share stories and overall it felt like God's most precious creation – our children, brought back to life the campus of VVM.

Unfortunately, the mighty hurricane Ike hit on Friday after the school started. The fury of nature was unleashed upon us. A number of us suffered through the inconveniences of life and some of us had to endure significant damage to our properties. Nevertheless, by God's grace, these were minor compared to what some families are going through and our prayers remain with them.

With hurricane in Houston and floods in Bihar we must ask: What does God want us to do for these suffering people? Obviously, God wants us to be compassionate, to be His hands reaching out to those who suffer . .

God does not cause natural disasters. Instead, God works through natural disasters. God works through love when humans open their hearts to help disaster victims. We are God's hands; when we are moved by love to help others.

Natural disasters have no divine source and have no spiritual meaning themselves. Yet there is a religious and spiritual answer we can give to the cries of suffering and pain caused by these disasters. Our Humanist faith is one of duty to our fellow human beings rather than to any divinity. We are called upon to help those who, through either natural events or human action, need our assistance and support.

Mother Nature has been a kind hostess to let us live on this planet and use the resources. It is the least we can do is to be good guests. Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat wrote in their book *Spiritual Literacy* - 'people should strive to be a good house guest by protecting nature'. Environmentalist Helen Caldicott puts it well, "Each of us must accept total responsibility for the

earth's survival. We are curators of life on earth, standing at the crossroads of time". The mystical model emphasizes that everything is part of God.

The mantra of 'man proposes and god disposes' rings true. Three things that are worth learning for us and our children in the aftermath of this storm are – be appreciative and thankful for what we have, have compassion for our fellow beings in time of need and be humble for there is a stronger force than us out there. These values are what every religion teaches and disasters such as Ike and flood in Bihar make us rethink what is important in life and set our priorities straight.

Phalguni Kikani

No Classes

There will be no classes on
October 19th, 2008 (Navratri)

&

October 26th, 2008 (Diwali)

Enjoy the Festivities!



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The March is On..

Each month I go through my collection of good write-ups and select one that I consider educational and /or inspirational. The real purpose of VVM is to help our children build good value system and help them learn valuable lessons. One can learn a lot from others experiences. Here is one such real life story.

A jobless man in India applied for the position of an office boy at a multi-national company. The Human Resources manager interviewed him and said - What is your e-mail ID? I will e-mail you an employment offer.

“But sir, I don’t have a computer, nor an e-mail ID.”

I am sorry, said the HR manager, if you do not have an e-mail address, it means you do not exist. And one who does not exist, cannot have the job.

The man did not know what to do. He only had one hundred rupees in his pocket. He decided to go to the market and buy a ten pound crate of tomatoes. He then went door to door and sold them. In less than two hours, he succeeded in doubling his capital. He did three rounds and returned home in the evening with eight hundred rupees and the realization that he can make a living doing this. So next day he left early and returned late.

Everyday, his money doubled or tripled and soon he had employees and his own fleet of delivery vehicles. Five years later, the man became one of the biggest food retailers in his city. He then decided to buy life insurance. The agent asked him for his e-mail address. The man replied, “I do not have an e-mail.” Shocked, the agent asked, ‘without an e-mail you have built a big business. Can you imagine what could you have

been if you had an e-mail?” The man replied, “Yes, I would have been an office boy at a multi-national company!”

The Internet has made life simple, but it does not substitute hard work. Nothing pays like determination and sincere dedication towards your work. One should strive for perfection rather than flamboyance.

*Get happiness out of your work or
you may never know what
happiness is.
Elbert Hubbard*

*Work while you have the light. You
are responsible for the talent that
has been entrusted to you.
Henri-Frederic Amiel*

Sureshbhai Patel

VVM Picnic....

Kitty Hollow Park
9555 Hwy 6 South
Missouri City, TX 77459

Saturday Oct 19, 11am - 4 pm

*For details contact Priti Parikh -
pparikh@gardenridge.com or
call 281-277-0903*

..Important

If you are not receiving my e-mail, please send an e-mail to

kikanis@earthlink.net

This is the best way to
communicate with me
Phalguni Kikani



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Special Thanks..

To all the teachers who are striving hard to assure that our classes start on time and making sure children are learning discipline, good habits and a healthy respect for what we do.

New Academic Year..

VVM classes started on September 7th. Here are a few pictures to share the first day with you. From Top to Bottom – The Front Desk Fantastics, Indian History Hoggars, The SAT Slammers, the Art & Craft Curators, and the Bhajan Bhairavas.



Students are encouraged to submit articles, poems, reflections and experiences for VVM Newsletter. Send to kikanis@earthlink.net