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## It's Not Too Late

**Shaurya Anand**

Last Diwali I asked my friend "Why? Why do you burst crackers?" "Omen, it is for good omen", he said. Such beliefs are nothing new for us Indians. The fact that people expect to get good luck after doing something that is causing distress and chaos all over the locality just seems like something an uneducated person would do. You see, there is a difference between 'Educated' and 'Literate'. Some people claim to be educated but they are actually only literate and do not use whatever they study to practical use. Even if bursting that one cracker is like a drop in the ocean, it is still causing more

damage than you think. After all, it is every drop which makes up an ocean.

The Universe is a dynamic entity and according to every religion, you get back what you give. So technically (or in accordance with religion), by bursting that one cracker, you not only wounded the environment, but also gave the universe a chance to throw some ill omens towards you. Ironic, isn't it?

Did you know that the usage of diyas became pre-dominant during the age of the Ramayana, not just for show, but also because they acted as a sustainable repellent for bugs, especially mosquitoes during monsoons. It's shocking how something so innocent, so logical, so useful would get converted into something quite the opposite - what we call firecrackers.

If our ancestors would see what development has led to, they probably would not even desire or dream of the future. Is it really good luck that you get by potentially eradicating the lives of our future generations? To all the people who say, "It's not a crime to have fun for once in your life" and proceed to do something like bursting a cracker, or wasting water, food and resources, I would request you to question this statement of yours. Would you find it amusing that your current actions may lead to remorse and regret as you watch from the afterlife, your future generations just cripple like a graham cracker between your fingers. If you think about it in such a perspective, you won't really be having 'fun' in such activities once you realize the threat they pose. And if it doesn't affect your mindset, then it's your ignorance contributing to eternal ruin.

Hindu Mythology states that there are four ages of the earth, after which life would end forever, and we are currently in the fourth and final Age. Even other religious texts suggest that the end is near. It may not take long for this age to come to an end soon! That is, unless we stop wasting, and start preserving

resources for humanity's future, which, at such a rate might be impossible if the entire globe does not work united to achieve sustainability.

Another thing we must do for the persistence of our future generations is to get rid of superstitions. If you want people to follow something, instead of making something ridiculous out of it, why not support it with reasoning and promote rationalism? It's not too late to speak out, act and to correct the ills of our mindsets. I believe that it's time to revive the classics and glory of our religion and our ancestors, without being hegemonized under the dominancy of superstitions.

Superstitions are like the asteroid which came and destroyed the Jurassic Age. The only difference is that we are the dinosaurs trapped in this appalling void of irrational thinking. It is not just the fault of those who are believing. The actual culprits are those who are making others believe.

Of course, a harmless superstition is no big deal. The problem arises when certain scientifically proven facts get converted into something so illogical that people like me begin to write against it.

It is not the government that can change everything. We as citizens hold equal responsibility to our nation's wellbeing. So, I ask you to question yourself- "Am I doing what's right? or Am I doing what I think is right?"

Change is possible,

It's not too late.

Pain is preventable,

It's not too late.

Sufferings are terminable,

It's not too late.

Change is doable,

So don't wait....

## **Shaurya Anand**

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Shaurya is a student in St. Joseph's Academy, Dehradun. He is an English enthusiast and apart from school, is currently learning French. He has completed two courses in the Python For Everybody Specialization on Coursera. He has experience in debating and declamations and actively participates in cultural events. He is a thriving artist and focuses on canvas paintings. His essay, "It's Not Too Late" aims at challenging superstition-based thinking in the Indian society.

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