

86 / Pilot on drive

Friends, I am sure that you must be wondering about the title of this Article. As usual I had gone for a morning walk. I saw a Maruti car (parked) with the words 'Pilot on drive' painted on the rear glass panel. I thought that that owner of the said car may be Pilot. However, I could not forget the car and the words 'Pilot on drive'. I suddenly remembered the incident witnessed 15 years back.

One day I was returning in the evening after my work from Chembur in BEST bus. Bus driver was experiencing tough time to drive on the narrow road of say 1 ½ lane with divider. One Maruti car was trying in vain to overtake the bus. Car driver was continuously pressing the horn and was asking for side. Due to narrow road, it was not possible for bus driver to give free passage to the car for overtaking. After some time the bus stopped at the bus-stop and car tried to overtake the bus. But in the mean time the bus driver started the bus and the car got trapped between bus and divider. Car driver (a handsome man) got down and started speaking bad words and started throwing a tantrum. He was shouting that I am a pilot and you are just an ordinary bus driver. How dare you stop me from over taking? The bus driver and the conductor coolly got down. Other bus drivers also parked the buses and got down to help their colleagues. The bus driver politely told him that by no stretch of imagination he could have been aware that he was a pilot and considering the narrow road, it was not possible to give side. He further questioned that are you in a position to fly in the sky the way you like? You need permission from air traffic control, ground staff for the route and you are supposed to strictly follow the same. Better you leave; otherwise you will have to face the 'music.' As a crowd had also gathered, the car driver, sorry the pilot, decided to quit with his head down.

After this event, I started looking at the word 'Pilot' in different perspective. Every person invariably has some good qualities. However, if he realises these qualities or someone like parents, teachers, friends make him aware about the same, then a person certainly makes progress in life. Every one is a 'Pilot' in his own field. Car driver's (pilot) thinking that bus driver is an ordinary useless man, was absolutely wrong. As the bus driver may not be able to

fly, similarly Pilot also cannot drive the bus properly on a crowded narrow road. Both are specialist in their own field. At least the Pilot has the support of number of instruments to assist him while flying but a poor bus driver has to do the driving with great concentration. Ultimately any driving involves risk. Bus driver literally gives 'on line' examination of concentration, patience etc.

Hence, technically both are doing risky jobs. However, considering the pay scale, job status, the world looks at both persons, though in a uniform, with a different angle.

Friends, you might remember that 'safari suit' was in fashion some time during 1975 to 1985. Safari suit was nothing but the driver's uniform. The only difference was in the quality of cloth and the social status of the person wearing it. Hence, Safari suit was acclaimed by the society.

Every one should remember that no work can be carried out without TEAM WORK. Although a pilot does the important job of flying an aircraft, he cannot do so without the active support from co-pilot and air traffic control ground staff.

Any boss in the office also needs staff of varying qualifications, experience to run the office. He cannot run the office alone. Have you seen a 'human pyramid'? (Gokulashtami) It is a team work. Hence, job of every staff is important in spite of difference in pay, designation. If a filing clerk is not efficient, no manager can carry out his job smoothly.

Success of any organisation depends largely on making proper use of manpower. Hence, it is necessary that the relationship among all staff members and the organisation should function like a 'united family.' (I am aware that nowadays even families are not united. But one can always hope.)

One more important thing should be understood by every one. One should forget his/her status, education, designation while leaving the office and enter his home with a clear mind that he is now a husband, son, brother, father at home. Similarly, we all are passengers in a train or bus. All customers in the shop are equal. Others in the crowd around you are likely to be as well educated as you are. If you can do that, then it will be definitely be a better world.

'Pilot' is not your correct introduction. You have to be a 'good citizen' first. It is your prime duty. Do we remember and acknowledge the efforts taken by our parents, teachers in our upbringing? Please remember that parents, teachers, have all taken efforts on us since childhood for making us good citizen. If we misbehave then it would be an insult to their efforts.

Friends, it is necessary to correct our mind set before it is too late other wise you will not even realise as to when your 'plane' will have to do a emergency landing or it may even crash.

You can carry self respect for becoming a 'Pilot' (or completing higher education etc.) but you should also respect others. Every one should respect the individuality of another person. You have no inherent right to insult the other person. Respecting others is like saluting 'God' because it is said that God is hidden in every person. Birth is not in our hands but how to live can be influenced by us.

I saw one board outside the temple that 'God has the time to listen your complaints but whether you have time to pray from bottom of your heart.'

Friends, if we can recognize the importance of every segment of the society, we can achieve progress in real terms. Shall we try to make our country a heaven on earth?