

# A FRIEND TO ALL IS A FRIEND TO NO ONE

Is it reality that a friend to all, is a friend to none?

We have an illness. We have no stand - we desire to make ourselves “look good” in front of all, we want to keep everyone content with us. We have become people-pleasers and in many ways, fakes.

It is a good attribute to be agreeable and nice to all, and it is good to actually be a genuinely decent person – there can be no doubt about this. But it is not so good to become a personality that is unable to call a spade a spade, a personality which attempts to “show” themselves as being a “good” person with an intention to please everyone.

This can be in the political world, it can be in organisational meetings, or on Gurdwara stages etc. However, for the majority, this can be in our everyday lives – within our families, relations and friend circles.

What goes through the mind? “If I say this to them, then they will get angry with me, if I take a stand and support the others, then they will get upset about why I’m siding with so and so – I have to be seen as that person who does not get involved and does not interfere and does not tell anyone off, does not give a rap on the knuckles...” etc – we are constantly taking such so-called “neutral” stances at the expense of truth and fact, just to remain “good” in everyone’s eyes. The very people-pleasers who wanted to remain good in everyone’s eyes and likeable to all, the ones who were unable to take a stance – it’s those people who aided the corruption of society.

The one who cannot distinguish a horse from a donkey, is insulting the horse. That person treats those who respect him/her in the same way as those who do not truly respect him/her. We should call a donkey a donkey, and a horse a horse. If we call a donkey a horse too, then we are not necessarily giving respect to the donkey, but we are certainly disrespecting the horse. People who desire to look good in front of all, for them a horse is a donkey and a donkey is a horse. They do not differentiate the two.

Some people spend their lives pleasing others, but the fact is one can never please everyone. That person who is not with you, he/she will never be with you no matter how hard you try.

Our position should be clear. If your advocacy of truth and fact disrupts relationships, then so be it – only when we can take a solid stance can we build better families, friend circles and therefore, a better society in the whole. Do not fear damage to relations. Become a good, genuine and solid personality, then whoever wishes to stand with you will, and whoever is a people-pleaser will not. In reality, only that person is with you, who stands with you.

We should expose that which is wrong, and highlight that which is right. We must build the confidence to take a stance, for the betterment of society.

“I should look good within my family relations, I should not tell anyone off, I should not stop anyone from bad habits and let them do as they wish, why should I look bad in front of everyone...” – this mentality is a disease and it requires a cure.

Did Guru Nanak Dev Ji think, “I should just wear the Janeu otherwise so many people won’t like me?” Support the facts and truth in any scenario with fearless confidence, be it in family, relations, friends, organisations, stages and wherever in society you have a voice. Come out the middle, solidify a position, take a stand and say it how it is.