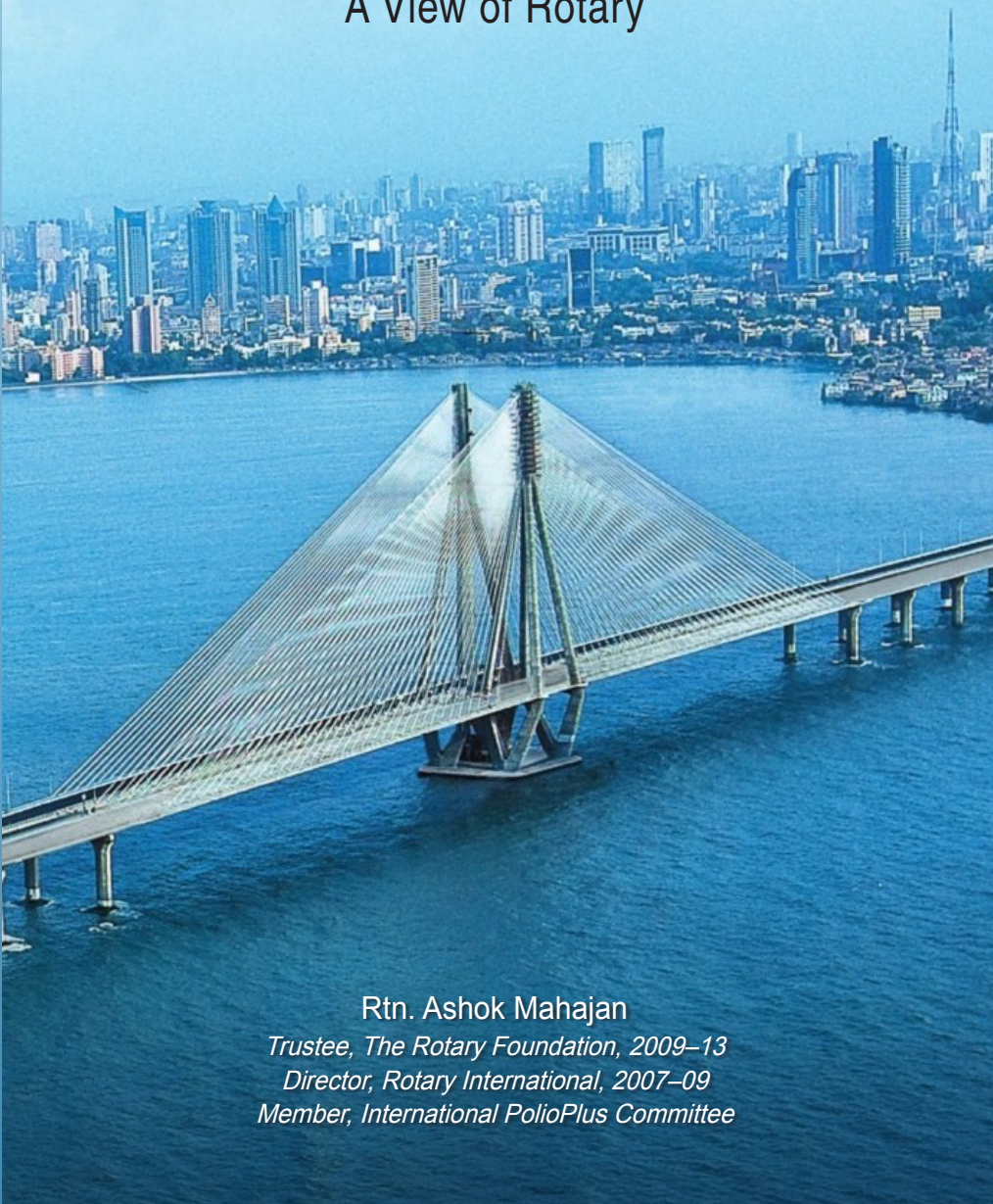




FROM WHERE I AM

A View of Rotary



Rtn. Ashok Mahajan

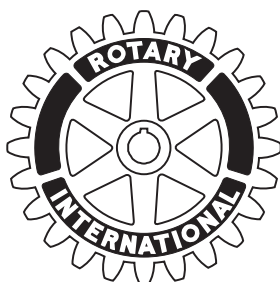
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation, 2009–13

Director, Rotary International, 2007–09

Member, International PolioPlus Committee

From Where I Am

A View of Rotary



by

Rtn. ASHOK MAHAJAN

Trustee, The Rotary Foundation, 2009–13

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From Where I Am - A View of Rotary

By

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Foreword



I have been receiving Rotary messages from my good friend Trustee Ashok since we served together on the Rotary International Board. Although the formats have varied, the messages have a common thread that weaves itself through all of them. Each of them are informative, full of enthusiasm and speak of what is relevant to Rotary today. They motivate the reader to action. More than his words, Ashok also practices what he preaches, and I think that is the kind of example we hope every Rotarian who wants to live Rotary in their day will follow. Ashok's writings are always more than optimistic. Some might say an optimist sees the glass half full, while the pessimist sees the glass half empty. Ashok's writings help others to see that if there is water in a glass, there is probably someone who is thirsty who needs it, and motivates us to then go out and find that person.

There is no question that knowledge enables and empowers others. And perhaps it isn't so much of what we know, but how we communicate with others. Past RI President Richard L. Evans once said that, "A man may have a great secret, he may make a great discovery, but if he dies and tells no one about it no one benefits." So I commend Trustee Ashok for his steadfastness in keeping the lines of communication flowing, and on your behalf thank him profusely for his ongoing dedicated service, as we continue to enjoy his newsletters.

Monty J. Audenart
RI Vice President 2008–2009

In my Defence

I have met people who literally wander through Rotary. Some Rotarians accept whatever they are fed with by their clubs. A few members succeed in fulfilling their objectives of service through Rotary. Most people in the club just remain as ordinary members without a desire to explore the numerous opportunities Rotary offers for them to develop as leaders in the society.



This book is for them. It is my desire to motivate them to have a determination to succeed. I am asking them to devote time and efforts necessary to achieve the goals of Rotary, because they have chosen to join the movement.

I have tried to give the ingredients and the principles they will need to follow to become a full-fledged Rotarian. I have tried to unlock their potential and make them undertake successful service projects.

By sharing my thoughts and experience over the years with them, I want to help them to establish new goals and develop a new sense of purpose while they are members of Rotary. Once this is done, they will be Rotarians forever.

The concepts of this book cannot be absorbed by browsing it in a casual manner. I have tried to present my thoughts in a simple manner that can be read and assimilated easily. I want the readers to read and discuss the thoughts given in each page with another Rotarian or a close friend. A frank opinion from the readers will help me to understand whether I am going in the correct path. Or else, I will be where I am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashok Mahajan', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ashok Mahajan
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation, 2009–2013
Director, Rotary International, 2007–2009
Member, International PolioPlus Committee

Smile - Serve - Sacrifice - Satisfy

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Resolve to Serve

A new year in Rotary sets into motion a whole cavalcade of new leaders with new vision, new dreams but the same goal — Service and Peace.

As new leaders at various levels of Rotary — be it a club president, a service director or District leader, you are empowered to reach those areas of excellence that have so far eluded you partly or totally. Enthusiasm, commitment, patience and generosity will help you reach that level of competence you dream of. Be worthy of your mantle and Embrace Humanity.

As another year in Rotary starts, you must perform better than you think you are capable of. The year ahead is going to be a special year for all Rotarians in India, when our own Kalyanda steers the Rotary world with his deft thoughts, motivating finesse and palpable sincerity and convictions.

As you march ahead in 2011–12, you may need assistance, support, guidance on new areas of service. There are many mentors available to you to help you achieve your objectives. Rotary's skeleton has many bones to strengthen you, support you and guide you. Please remember that your goals are reachable. Believe in yourself because it is never too late to believe in your ability to excel in anything and everything you touch. If we have to build communities to ensure healthy and prosperous existence, we also have to build nations to advocate Peace and Better Understanding.

Life is a play in which every one has a role to execute. Some are in the forefront and some wait in the wings. But when you know it is your turn, with enthusiasm you shall come up to the front and prove to the world what you are and what you can do.

Everyone performs in a way that is unique to them. Some act well and some act better. Yet, a few do it better than the best. When you are conscious of the role you play in life and the responsibilities attached to it, you begin to acquit yourself productively. It's then you will find this world a great place to live in.

Therefore, know your role well. Be convinced and play it as though it was for real, because once the time is past, it is an opportunity lost.

Superman has a solution to every problem and the expertise to succeed. Rotarians are “super” human beings who can translate their strength into reality. The year ahead poses this challenge to do what we do best — Service.

Achieving Success in Rotary

Rotary is a success story in the realm of service and the Rotarians are heroes.

In order to achieve and enhance success, we need to reinvent service continuously. There are many facets of service and we need to excel ourselves to maintain the reputation of the premier service organisation. We have to devise new ways and means to cater to the changing needs of the community. Our goals are not readjustable. Our actions are to be adjusted to the demands.

There are areas where Rotary needs to continuously adjust its action course. Many areas such as membership growth, public relations, The Rotary Foundation, environment protection, health care, illiteracy and some others need our focused attention. The goals may remain relatively constant, but our action steps are to be modified to meet the challenges. There are obstacles in our road to service and we need to change these obstacles to stepping stones to rise high and erect and ensure success.

Why is it that there is a feeling in Rotary leaders that we can't do much more? Where are the motivation skills, information inputs, financial strengths and leadership strengths? Every level of service needs resurgent ideas, recurrent motivation and repeat stress.

Rotary needs more people to be active. It is felt, over many years in Rotary, that there are many Rotarians who are not active in the arena of service. It is said, "Eighty five percent of the work is done by fifteen percent of Rotarians." However, this could be a flattering statement. If true, we need to motivate many more Rotarians to be active and participating. We need to ensure that we go beyond our dreams and if, at times, we fail, let this not be a deterrent in our objective. Failure stimulates the strong and the Rotarians are strong — you will agree. We may sometimes fail because we have not travelled the right path. Let there be no doubt in the minds of Rotarians that there is always a right road which we need to search. The right road will surely lead Rotarians to the right goal. Let us vow to bring glory to Rotary by our commitment, action and perseverance.

Nothing is impossible if we try diligently and try we must. We must also inspire others to do so. That is the true strength of leaders — and we are all leaders in Rotary.

Whither Peace?

Violence against human life and property has escalated across the world in the recent past. Print and broadcast media bring us horrendous images of violence everyday. Unfortunately we have reached a stage where every individual is a potential target of violence. The growing incidence of violence is only an indication of how irrational, brutal and selfish human beings have grown to be.

Rotarians who are committed to the ideals of Rotary know that our prime objective is peace.

We want to work for peace but we may be discouraged at the scenario that the world presents. “It is almost impossible; It is beyond our capabilities; what can one Rotarian or even 1.2 million Rotarians do when we are so small in this world with nearly seven billion population?” are some of the thoughts crossing our minds. Do not lose courage. Do not give up. For every Rotary “peace maker” there are many in the background and peace needs both.

We may not be able to finish our jobs but we are not going to stop doing it — this should be our diction.

For peace to come to this planet, we first need peace at local levels — at homes, communities and cities. It must be remembered that unless the local environs are peaceful, you can not dream of world peace. Health, wealth and local needs need to be addressed first and here we have The Rotary Foundation assisting Rotary clubs to undertake service projects that fulfil some of these needs. The challenge is doing whatever we can, whenever we can, wherever we can at local levels to promote tranquility that can later translate into peace in wider communities. The challenge is to bring happiness to as many people as possible to generate peace.

Peace is innate in all of us. We all hate conflicts and wars. The real task for us is to touch peace and help others touch peace. The progress may be slow but we have no options. Have we?

Are our goals realistic?

If asked who achieves most in life, most people might think that whoever can list the most goals wins. All they are doing is expressing the things they want but unfortunately they may never get there. Why do goals remain just goals and ambitions collect dust in your attic?

Goals are the forces that keep us motivated and help us measure our success. They help us get through the tough times and help us remember what we are working for. But when setting goals, it is crucial to consider whether they have a reasonable chance of being achievable. If a goal has an extremely slim chance of being achievable, it can do more harm than good.

We often fail to reach our destination of achievements because we become over optimistic in our capabilities. It is no error in dreaming beyond our capabilities but, even then, we must be realistic in our dreams.

There are, sometimes, failures in our intentions and our strengths. If we realise our potentials, we can fix our goals — may be a little higher than our capabilities permit. However, if we aim too high and fail to hit the target, we can become despondent, disillusioned and disappointed. This in turn, can sap our confidence, our efforts and our commitments.

We always think we can do more than we really can. But when we bite off more than we can chew, either we are sure to choke on our food or we will suffer from indigestion. When we set too many and unrealistic goals, we might find them too overwhelming and time consuming and thus we are inclined to give up.

There are goals to be reached at every stage in Rotary. Goals of membership growth, new clubs, new Rotaract/Interact clubs, The Rotary Foundation collections, fund collection for club projects and such others.

Every goal needs a good aim, a dedicated stance and full co-operation from all club members. Co-operation can only come when the entire club is behind the project. Thus, we need to involve as many club members as possible and keep the membership involved.

The crux of the matter is: Aim high — but not too high. Work hard and try to enhance all inputs to ensure success. Finally, when the goals are achieved, give recognition to all the Rotarians who made this possible. A player who scores a goal in hockey or football is not the sole victor. Somebody must have passed the ball to him to score. That is the secret of sharing success.

Pursue your dreams with passion

What is Rotary's only dream? To help the community in times of woes, needs and calamities. In times of difficulties, every one needs a hand of help, a hand of solace, a hand of compassion and a hand of assurance. Some human needs are never going to end. Rotary will always be relevant and a guiding force for the needy. Rotarians dream of tackling some of the problems of the community. They put in their best, gather people with similar intentions and reach the arena of service to solve problems. When done with love, humility and a smile, the results are outstanding and the satisfaction of being of some help to the needy is our reward.

Each of us are gifted with talents and possibilities that would enable us to attain the success we dream of and desire. The many rags-to-riches stories we invariably come across everyday affirm this fact. We can reach where we dream, master what we desire, attain what we aspire and be what we want to be if we pursue them with intense passion.

One thing that is common to the inspiring stories of real-life heroes is their unwillingness to conform to mediocrity. Passionate people strive for the best; and it is this passionate pursuit for excellence that distinguishes them from the others who yield themselves to what life normally brings them. They slog when others sleep, pushing themselves to their limits and beyond because they realise that success comes with the readiness to take the extra step.

It is believed that the universe with everything therein assist the one who dreams positively, acts prudently and pursues passionately. Dream big, aim high and act as if you have already reached the final step — this will make you more passionate and you will realise that the capacity to be great comes with the willingness to do the extra mile.

A strong passion for any object will ensure success, for the intense desire of the end will point out the necessary means.

Walt Disney has said: "If you can dream, you can do it." Dreaming of helping others is the foundation on which Rotary stands, grows and progresses.

Be a significant person

Have you ever observed that it only takes a spark to light a fire, and soon all those around are warmed up in its flame? If so, how much good you can do to others by living a significant life!

We all have inherent talents, useful traits, hidden treasures, unexpressed compassions.

As Rotarians we need to uncover these assets and utilise them for the goal we pursue — *Service*. We need to reveal our talents and then polish them, hone them and improve them to achieve our goal. RI President Kalyan Banerjee has urged us to *Reach Within*. We need also to gleam within to unearth our hidden potentials. It is only when we work full steam with all our assets in tow that we can *Embrace Humanity*.

A life of significance requires nothing external. You can be significant with or without material landmarks. A life of significance is far more concerned with what you give to others, than what you gather for yourself. People may forget what you say and do to them. But they will never forget how you made them feel. Your true significance calls for an answer: “Am I making a difference in the lives of others?”

Great people have influenced others in every area of life throughout centuries. For instance, Henry David Thoreau was the impetus for Gandhi’s and Martin Luther King Jr.’s civil disobedience, which ultimately changed the world. Socrates taught Plato who in turn, taught Aristotle, and they collectively remain the greatest philosophical trio in history.

We have a commitment to fulfill. We have an agenda to complete. We have a challenge to address. We must become men and women of substance, people of calibre, people who can make a significant difference to a suffering community. We have within our Rotary families people who can teach us, people who are sincerely devoted to a cause and we also have around us many more inspiring people who can make us what Rotary deserves from us.

Remember that it only takes a spark in you that can inspire many to face the challenging world with enthusiasm, hope and courage. Make a conscious effort to inspire the people around you. If your words and actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become better persons, you are not less than any great and significant people in history.

Rotary is a continuous process of learning, a continuous process of evolution, a never ending process of betterment. Let us all become significantly more effective and more committed to take Rotary to the heights it deserves.

A New Year of Goodwill

Along with gifts and wishes, prayers and parties, New Year brings a lot of hopes and dreams — another year to live, laugh, love and to give with zest. For many it is the time to get into new ventures, embark upon journeys long procrastinated, and to mend relations and revive friendships. Each New Year is a God-sent opportunity to right some wrongs and yet another chance to make the world a better place. Each New Year is hope reborn again.

New Year is the time when we make various resolutions, some fresh and some a copy of the ones that were not accomplished during the year that had gone by. As we journey on in life, we realise that although we may fail in many of the resolutions that we undertake and we may still give in to fights and disputes with our friends, colleagues and relations, we are all people of goodwill. It is this goodwill that enables us to realise that we still need to improve and move on, for beneath the layers of every human being is a secret core that is fundamentally good.

The realisation of this goodwill makes us courageous enough not to give up although we occasionally fail and falter in keeping our resolutions and commitments. The New Year is a time to realise that all isn't lost yet, that there is still hope, and that we can still make the changes we desire, because we are people of goodwill.

Such a realisation will also make us supportive of each other especially when we see others failing in their commitments because we see them essentially as good people, people with goodwill. Since life is a journey that we make together with many others who would at some point of time affect our lives one way or another, if we are able to see everyone as people of goodwill there is hardly any chance for hatred and discomfort. Goodwill is contagious and it anchors right human relations that would mutually stimulate and benefit one another. Goodwill of a person is based on the innate divine tendency that seeks to love fellow humanity and banish each other's sufferings.

This New Year let us be at war with our vices and at peace with our neighbours. Life will be much more happy and easy going. To borrow the words of American essayist, John Burroughs, "One resolution I have made and try always to keep is this: To rise above the little things."

Build a better world

Peace is a very illusive commodity and Rotarians must spearhead the crusade for Peace. Why is Peace so illusive? Humans have a desire but not the conviction for Peace. Our scriptures have promoted Peace through fellowship, tolerance and commitment. If we work together and think together, Peace should not be a distant dream.

The problems we face today — violent conflicts, terrorism, destruction of nature, poverty, hunger and many more are man-made which can be resolved through human efforts, understanding, goodwill and the development of a sense of brotherhood. We need to cultivate a universal responsibility for one another and to the planet we share. We have to acknowledge the philosophy of “Vasudeva Kutumbakam” — the entire universe is one family.

Today, our world is riddled with fanaticism, terrorism and intolerance. We need to foster the concept of fellowship and with many of our exchange programmes that promote a one-to-one interaction and understanding, fellowship should promote Peace. Alas, hatred has replaced love when people of different religious cultures, castes, creeds and faiths come together and set a claim for truth. No religion can have an ownership over truth. Every religion or belief promotes brotherhood and love. In order to spread Peace, we must stress love.

The Rotary Foundation champions Peace. We have an organisation that will, one day be recognised as a torch-bearer of Peace. Individually, we may be able to achieve only a miniscule of success but when over 1.2 million Rotarians and greater number of family members and colleagues come together, the impact will always be substantial. Rotarians are a privileged lot — an island of affluence in the vast sea of misery, poverty and deprivation and we can, surely, provide a stronger base for fighting for Peace. We must form a powerful coalition to oppose war. We must support our Foundation by contributing to a Peace Force that can reduce miseries and bring smiles. What we do as Rotarians will determine the shape of the future. Let us not waste this opportunity to make a difference. The option is still with us.

Helen Keller could neither see nor hear. Yet she became a public speaker. One night after a lecture someone asked her, “If you could have one wish granted, what would it be?” Her immediate reply was, “I would wish for World Peace.”

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and Peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.

I know, together we can succeed in building a better world through human understanding and love and that in doing so, we may reduce the pain and suffering of all.

Gratefully Yours

Ever wondered how some people are able to smile and lead apparently normal lives when life obviously brings them only trials hard to endure, and problems that seem to have no solution whatsoever? While many of us lose our calm and composure, there are some who face life's greatest troubles with amazing equanimity. What distinguishes such people from those who pity themselves, whining about the pitfalls and failures that come their way, is the ability to be grateful for the many blessings that life offers.

It is said that when you are grateful fear disappears and abundance appears. So how about keeping a "gratitude journal?" At the end of the day make a note of the things that made you feel happy and proud. It would certainly help change your perception of life for the better. If you have been able to be of assistance to anyone in need, if you have put a smile on the face of a guileless child, if you have been lucky enough to spot a blossoming flower, your day hasn't been in vain and you have reason to count yourself among the lucky lot.

In the lexicon of Rotary, the most prominent, the most important and the most useful word is service. There is not a better or nobler word in English language than service; it is the motto of the kings, the goal of patriotism and the spirit of religion.

William Arthur Ward says, "Real Happiness is more of a habit than a goal, more of an attitude than an attainment. It is the companion of cheerfulness, not the creature of circumstances. Happiness is what overtakes us when we forget ourselves, when we learn to open our eyes in optimism and close the door in the face of defeat. We win happiness when we lose ourselves in service to others."

Being grateful is being happy even as being happy is symptomatic of being grateful! If you are but willing to acknowledge the fact that there are enough blessings in your life to be thankful for, you will begin to realise the beauty of life and live life truly to the fullest!

Let's not look for credit, either as Rotarians or as Rotary. We should give our services today and every day. It is remarkable how many jobs are done when we do not care who gets the credit for them. Remembered are those who serve.

Peace

Peace is an elusive entity but not so elusive to stop us from trying to win Peace.

Is the world serious about winning Peace? Any exercise towards promoting Peace will have this question to answer. If people are serious to capture Peace, then we will. It is, therefore, the first step Rotary will have to take to promote Peace by making the communities want Peace. We have an International Peace Day (September 21), Rotary's World Understanding and Peace Day (February 23); we observed 1986 as the International Year of Peace. We have people running for Peace, walking for Peace and we have many such special occasions for Peace. The real question is: Are we serious?

Sir Winston Churchill was scheduled to deliver his speech on Peace over the BBC and was running late to the office. Coming out of 10, Downing Street, he spied a lone taxi cruising along and shouted "Hey! There! I am in a hurry! Please take me to the BBC." The taxi driver did not recognise him and politely declined to oblige. "I am on my way home to listen to the broadcast by the Prime Minister and I must reach home soon." He even refused the double fare offered and Sir Churchill was very much flattered. He, however, offered a very handsome reward to the cabbie to take him to the BBC. The cabbie stopped the taxi, opened the door and said "Get in, Sir! I will take you there. To hell with Winston Churchill!"

Do we have that attitude "To hell with Peace?" Do the communities have this attitude too? If so, we need to reinvent ourselves and make "Peace" an honourable word.

The Rotary Foundation, through its multitude of programmes, spreads the message of Peace to the communities it touches; and today, The Rotary Foundation touches such vast sections of communities that we can make communities hanker for Peace. If Rotary can convince the multitudes that Peace is a precursor of wellness and prosperity, men and women across the globe will vote for Peace, work for Peace, strive for Peace, vouch for Peace and insist on Peace.

Rotary's role is manifold but we can start by making communities Peace-conscious and Peace-wanting. If we can do this, we will have a very large section of people who will demand Peace and Peace will one day come to us. Let us strive with faith and action.

Reach your dreams

Dreams are aspiration one develops in promoting well being. When translated into achievements, they generate a great sense of satisfaction and when the dreams are for others, they spread satisfaction amongst the recipients.

Each of us is gifted with talents and possibilities that would enable us to attain the success we dream of and desire. The many rags-to-riches stories we invariably come across every day affirm this fact. We can reach where we dream, master what we desire, attain what we aspire and be what we want to be, if we pursue them with intense passion.

Dreams may not always fructify or may be partially realised but Rotarians who dream for others, never lose hope and are always happy with the results. Even when the dreams are not realised, Rotarians do not lose hope and continue to dream. It takes real courage to fight discouragement but when motives are not selfish, courage steps in almost unannounced. We realise that failure is a part of the game and when we learn from our failures, we erase the fear of failure. It takes courage to accept failure and Rotarians are courageous people.

One thing that is common to the inspiring stories of real-life heroes is their unwillingness to conform to mediocrity. Passionate people strive for the best; and it is this passionate pursuit for excellence that distinguishes them from the others who yield themselves to what life normally brings them. They slog when others sleep, pushing themselves to their limits and beyond because they realise that success comes with the readiness to take the extra step.

There are many instances of success after repeated failures. Thomas Alva Edison failed over a hundred times before he hit the success button. In games, competitions and in the quest for excellence, failure in the beginning is not uncommon. How many times did Tensing Norgay fail to reach the top of Mt. Everest before he could make history? To get up and try again when failure has struck is the hallmark of great men and women. Rotary has the cream of humanity as its members and it is, therefore, not unusual to reach our dreams when success initially deserts us.

It is believed that the universe with everything therein assists the one who dreams positively, acts prudently and pursues passionately. Dream big, aim high and act as if you have already reached the final step — this will make you more passionate and you will realise that the capacity to be great comes with the willingness to do the extra mile.

A strong passion for any object will ensure success, for the intense desire of the end will point out the necessary means.

Let us give wings to our imagination

The success of Rotary lies in its imaginative approach. Simple deeds become special because of the imaginative way they are performed. Imagination is the soul of all men and women who want changes to be implemented and have the enthusiasm of being the change makers.

What challenges do we face? What obstacles of great magnitude we encounter? What fantasies do we generate to make some difference to some people at some time! The history of Rotary is replete with imaginative programmes that have not only changed the communities but also our dear Rotary. To cite a few examples, our so very popular programmes such as G.S.E, Rotary Family Exchange, PolioPlus, Rotaract, Interact and many others owe their existence to some imaginative ideas of fantasy of some Rotarians who did not stop at imagination only but translated their dreams into reality. True, all imaginations need not fructify but if we stop imagining, we will become static, stale, uninteresting and therefore ineffective.

Do you remember what it was like to be a child? The best part of it was the amount of time you used to spend imagining all that you wanted to do as you grew up and bringing out lots of creative expressions unconsciously. How happy and alive you were then! Sadly you lose the ability to fully enjoy life and the simple things because you gradually neglect imagination as you get older.

Your imagination is a great resource that you can tap into to achieve all that you desire in life because there is nothing more powerful than imagination. If we can imagine something constructively, then we can create reality from it. Your imaginative thoughts are the building blocks through which the productivity of your life takes shape. You become what you imagine.

By using your imagination to the fullest, you will make this world a better place to live in while improving social and economic conditions for yourself and others. The beauty of imagination is that there are no boundaries, the possibilities are limitless. “The only limitation is that which one sets up in one’s own mind,” says Napoleon Hill.

All that you require is to become aware that you have the power inside you to create everything you wish. Then learn to master your imagination, and in a matter of time, your life will simply add up!

Let us, therefore, give wings to our imagination and conceive ideas that can glorify Rotary. Let us state the true story of Rotarians whose imaginative ideas changed the entire community.

About the Author



Rtn. Ashok Mahajan

Rtn. Ashok Mulkraj Mahajan, member of Rotary Club of Mulund, RI District 3140, Mumbai, India has been involved in Rotary since 1973 and rose from an ordinary member to the coveted position of RI Director 2007–09 by his commitment to the Rotary movement. He was the President of RC Mulund in 1982–83 and District Governor, RI District 3140 in 1993–94.

Born on July 23, 1947, he graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Bombay University with distinction and then took a Diploma in Operations Management and Business Management from the Bombay University. He now runs an industry for manufacturing electrical and electronic components.

He has been RI President's representative to District Conferences many times and was also appointed as the Zonal Coordinator for Membership Task Force in 1995–96 and again in 1998–99. He was a Member of the World Affairs Committee during 2003–05.

He was associated with the National PolioPlus Committee for over 10 years and now he is a member of the International PolioPlus Committee of TRF. He was instrumental in the formation of the Muslim Ulema Committee in India, which supported the polio eradication programme. He also served as the Zonal Coordinator for Avoidable Blindness Task Force during 2000–02 and was a member in the India Presidential PolioPlus Summit 2001–02. He represented RI District 3140 at the 2001 Council on Legislation, Chicago.

Rtn. Ashok Mahajan was conferred with the Distinguished Service Award, Service above Self Award, Regional Service Award for a Polio-free world and the Golden Century Award. He is a major donor to TRF, benefactor and a member of the Paul Harris Society.

Rtn. Ashok Mahajan has been inducted as a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation of RI for the period 2009–13. This assignment has been given to him immediately after he completed his tenure as RI Director in June 2009.

He is the Vice Chairman, fund development of The Rotary Foundation for the year 2011–2012.

His wife Nayantara and all the members of his family ably support him in his work in Rotary. He is blessed by his parents in his quest for service. A deeply religious person, Rtn. Ashok Mahajan enjoys reading, cricket, walking and social service.