

FREE AMENTIES

Yes, the best things in life are FREE. I have used the word free in capital letters to lay stress on the word. Of course, it depends on how a person approaches life and lives it.

God has created the Universe and humans. The latter being the most enlightened of the living creations are aptly given the intelligence to appreciate all that they have been provided with to for a healthy life, most of them free. It is therefore our duty to keep them in the unpolluted condition on which they are provided.

If one loves nature, then he is surprised by the bounty he finds all around him, just there to be loved, admired and live with.

Look at the endless flow of clean and cool water flowing down the mountain streams. We humans living in cities are wonder struck by this gift full of minerals. We are sorry to note that the same freely available mineral water is being packed and sold in bottles to persons traveling by train and others too, at an expense.

There is no other requirement more important than water except air, for us humans. If we are to calculate the amount of water regularly used by a person to drink, cook and clean himself without waste, then it would come to at least 30 litres a day. Imagine, if we did not have rivers and streams to get our regular doses of this essential requirement, it would have cost the government and citizens exorbitant amounts to have this provided. In most of the cases it would have become unaffordable. The cases of the desert areas can be cited as examples where water is a rare commodity, however, even there nature has provided oasis to fill the absolute need and even these rarest of rare cases, it is always free, fresh and sparkling.

Air is an equally important necessity, which is a must for humans to survive. This again is there for all and one without discrimination- “Free”. It is for us to appreciate this important commodity and retain its freshness. Just look at the number of persons who get up early at the break of dawn, o go to open spaces in the city, for a breath of this life giving air. Unfortunately, the same persons use their vehicles during the rest of the day, without checking the amount of

pollutants released by their silencers into this very air, affecting the rest of the citizens.

Again if we cite the cases of open spaces like villages where we can still see a lot of vegetation today. The air which we can breathe there is more full of oxygen due to the greenery of the plants and also due to the fact there are a less number of vehicles and factories there, to pollute the air with poisonous gases.

We should ponder and think of the reason for this careless attitude on our part. Is it all because we have taken them for granted, as a free commodity to last us forever and ever?

The next point and the most important of all I believe is love, which we get absolutely free. Can one imagine the cost of the love and affection showered on a child by his mother? It is the best thing in life. A mother gives of all her love and affection to her child without expecting any thing in return. What can be more precious and more understanding than the love of one's mother?

History has repeatedly showed us the extreme acts of courage and bravery of mothers who gave their lives to protect their children. This is not

only for humans but even animals and it is for us to appreciate.

Coming back to the start –“The best things in life are Free” it only remains to be treasured.