**Academic Honesty!**

Academics teaches us that honesty is the best policy. But how honest is our academics?

How far was guru Dronacharya honest? Socially and academically. Mahabharata teaches us much more wisdom than today’s modern and scientific literature. Each and every act of the characters of Mahabharta teaches us many things. We do not find any direct and rational answers to many of the actions and episodes in the same as such. Guru Dronacharya who had taken oath to make his disciple Arjuna, the best archer might have been scared of Eklavya, since, he thought he might be better!

Eklavya could not stop but erected a statue of guru Dronacharya in the premises of his hut and started practicing archery after denial to be taught by guru Dronacharya.

Guru Dronacharya deliberately met Eklavya to ask for his thumb so that he could not be number one in archery. His promise to Arjuna was of priority for him. For Eklavya, “*gurudakshina*” was of prime importance since he has taken lessons in archery from guru Dronacharya

Here the point to note is how guru Dronacharya allowed Eklavya to have his statue erected? Eklavya had not got any copyright or patent of the same. Guru Dronacharya could have stopped Eklavya from doing it. But he didn’t. Why?

Eklavya has taken this episode of giving the thumb to guru who unknowingly motivated him positively. He came to know that guru had to ask for thumb as *gurudakshina* it means, he had that power to be at par with Arjuna, and otherwise there would have been no sense in the cutting of Thumb. That way Dronacharya has inspired to Eklavya. For Eklavya archery might not have been of as important as his guru, the guru who was the beacon for him in the dense woods. Since, the guru had the mission to make Arjuna the best archer; the *GURUR* of the guru would have been shattered in the eyes of the world and the reason would have been Eklavya's dedication for his guru, Eklavya wouldn't wanted that. Even if Guru Dronacharya hadn’t asked for his thumb, Eklavya would have himself gave up Archery to maintain the might of his guru.

Often, guru Dronacharya is cursed to be biased and partial towards his two disciples, Arjuna and Eklavya. However, we seldom think of the gesture Guru Dronacharya established by the act of asking for the thumb. It proved to the world that Eklavya was far better than Arjuna, it proved that both guru Dronacharya's and Arjuna's efforts towards archery were lesser than those of Eklavya. This act was viewed by the world as a Partial act, which in reality is the proof of guru Dronacharya's proud of having Eklavya as his student. This act proved to Eklavya too that he is the one his guru prefers to restrict as no static object can be restricted but the moving one.

Guru Dronachary may have been dishonest towards his preaching, but was academically honest towards the sacred field of Archery.

Academic honesty is the result of motivating others so as to exploit the traits to face the competition. Many gurus were there in the past who had preached for the betterment of the generations to come. Academic honesty has two faces, the one which is at display and the other whose consequences are observed in times to come. So it is a question of fact, if a teacher scolds or makes fun of any student in the class, is it to embarrass him/her or to charge him/her to expand scope of efforts and achieve amplified destiny.

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