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Two faces of hope

T. T. SRINATH

Hope could have positive or negative intent.

A teacher of mine would often ask me, 'what is life's greatest gift to us is?' He would, after I had exhausted my repertoire of replies, say it is 'hope'. "Each of us," he would say, "live in the faith and the belief that something good will happen for us."

This I classify as 'anticipatory hope', perhaps even as 'functional or positive hope'.

There is yet another type of hope that we nourish within us, which is not necessarily 'healthy or functional'. This I qualify as 'false hope'; which emanates from our believing that we will get what we want by 'pleasing'. Particularly when we want something from someone, we tend to assume, that if we please the 'potential' giver, we will make them happy and thus get what we want.

In being so, we sometimes forsake our authenticity and become manipulative.

Hoping is perhaps a good way of waking up charged and anticipating. But that hope is based on 'positive' intent, on the belief that we will be rewarded for being the person we are.

However, the hope that we nurture within, of being regarded well if we please someone, in effect destroys who we are, by making us submissive, capitulating and false. It also breeds in us the thought that we will only be rewarded if we are 'good'; a misnomer that, like a mirage, will always elude us.

(The writer is an organisational and behavioural consultant. He can be contacted at ttsrinath@vsnl.net)