

Service in the TS and TOS context, however, is thought of as something more than this kind of work. When we work to benefit others, or do something to minimize the suffering of the poor, we give of ourselves for something intangible. We give freely because it is the right thing to do. When it is given without thinking, when it is given from our heart, it is given with love, affection and benevolence. It becomes sacred because it is given purely with the intention of relieving another's suffering. It is truly altruistic. It is a sacred labor.

Sacred labor creates positive Karma. The Law of Karma states that "As you sow, so must you reap." Whatever action we take creates a reaction of which we are a part. So we must constantly be aware of whether the action we take is the correct action. In the book *At the Feet of the Master*, Krishnamurti writes, "Between right and wrong it should not be difficult to choose, for those who wish to follow the Master have already decided to take the right at all costs." This means that we are willing to choose that path which may be more difficult to live, but in the end, it serves more people. It is a choice that puts our attention outside of ourselves.

As a pilgrim to India in 1893, Annie Besant believed she had found the land of the great Masters and felt she could learn something from the people of the country. But what she learned was very different from what she expected. She noticed that Indians had forgotten their glorious old culture and traditions. Instead people were killing animals as a sacrifice and donating large sums of money and ornaments to temples in the hope of obtaining a good life. Little attention was given to those who were poor or sick. Cruelty and superstition were abundant such as untouchability due to the caste system and the concept of sati or bride burning.

Annie Besant was instrumental in changing many of these beliefs and educating the public. She stressed the Vedic belief that the sacred resides in everything and everyone and encouraged Indians to rule their own country. Annie Besant realized that we cannot change wrongs without action. We must act but we must be aware of how those actions will affect others. Are we doing the action for the benefit of ourselves or for the whole?

In his talk "We Help Ourselves, Not the World", Swami Vivekananda also stressed the need to understand how our actions affect ourselves and others because we are one. To be able to help another should be looked at as