

## The Desire to Give and Rotary

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Deep in our hearts is a desire to give. We have been conditioned to think, however, that we should keep out this 'weakness' if we are to survive. And it has been done so long and so consistently that today if you express a desire to give, you are not merely considered abnormal, you are suspect! Few tend to believe you if you say you wish to give what you can. Motives are attributed to you. Designs are seen in your proposed action. In a society which believes in something for nothing you cannot go out to give and remain unscathed.

The desire to give however remains in our heart although because of a number of taboos, personal, traditional and even political, one may have muzzled it, even mauled it. Like the 'still silent voice' however, it remains waiting to be satisfied.

Rotary provides an acceptable platform for satisfying this innate human urge. Society at large expects and therefore accepts any giving from Rotary. And when you think of it, this acceptance is a great favour conferred by society on those who constitute Rotary. When you are a mere individual, you cannot get this privilege.

Society needs so many things but when an *individual* offers to give, it may reject it. The need by itself does not make for acceptance. But in the case of a service organisation like Rotary, society welcomes such help. Deep in the heart of every one of us is the desire to give—to give to those who need most. When we come out to give and become suspect we feel frustrated. As members of the Rotary Club we can come out to give through Rotary and we are not suspect.

Maybe this aspect of Rotary has not struck some members. No member of a Rotary Club should waste this privileged opportunity. *Each one of us* through our own Club should go out to give and thereby satisfy this deep human desire—the desire to give. The community in which we live needs so much and so many things that it is immaterial what we give. What is the magnitude of our giving?—that also is not material. The act of giving, the fact of giving—that is material. This is a privileged opportunity conferred daily on a Rotarian. The lost days need not matter. This lasting days are before him. The Rotarian can start today. He will then have fulfilled the primary mission of Rotary—Service.