

## Ethical issues in our times of technology: select exploration

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**Abstract** The age of technological society demands that ethical concerns of the path are not forgotten. Technological powering of a personal act shortens the gap between organization and person, and personal ethical concerns then face a dilemma. Indian's thought suggests that if a mental state of equanimity without contention prevails over as a process, the evils and demerits disappear and ethical dissonance reduces because there is no common evil. Further, it is no longer necessary to translate potential consequences of the choices in terms of risks. Liberty peace and love in this technological time come through the state where the approach is for hands-off.

**Keywords** Ethical choice · Mental state · Equanimity · Risks · Common evil

A mighty leader of commerce technology and power might exhort his countrymen to make haste for the goal while abandoning if necessary the ethical perils of the path chosen. A much broader horizon of relentless search for markets and profits has nearly abandoned considerations on the path to be chosen. The power maniacs empowered by unrestrained access to private information offered by the cyber world and social networking sites now encroach upon individual world with great impunity; the manipulators of information in genetic codes are engineers using techniques of biotechnology organisms whose relations with the given world are never known and bio-paths are untraced and are potentially dangerous to the world of

living; the medical specialists trade in human health and human organs without any considerations on bioethics; the agri-business happily trade in scarce foods jeopardizing life and being of millions of people; and in the same vein, the recent financial meltdown looted and parted with assets and lifesavings of millions of workers rendering economically vast prosperous areas wasteland! The private goal of power and profit has colluded with other seekers of similar goals, and they have all been thrown to wind the restrains on values of path.

In the Adiparva (the prolegomenon, the first canto) of the Mahabharata, the great Indian epic, contrarily, the advice is not to ignore ethical concerns of the chosen path. This path is a state of mind with equanimity, and the goal is to rise beyond contention. The Mahabharata epic is full of dramatic denouements leading to a war that completely annihilated most of the then India, and this epic considered as the first of Itihasa (the history) raised time and again deep questions on the dharma (the ethics) and meaning or dessert of life to discourse on the significance of judgment about the path to be chosen. It is advised there in the Mahabharata that dharma could not be forsaken for the wished desserts at the goal. This epic recognizes the impermanence and notes that a moment is sculpted at the junction of being and its absence. A dessert at such a fleeting moment is thus an inauthentic goal. Desired goals often remain elusive, and the consequences further ahead of the temporal appearance of the dessert and in the long run go awry sometimes rendering choice of goal wrong or at least ethically challenged. The Mahabharata takes up the life in its full length and shows with great dexterity that what appears to be preferred today could in the next period appear as destructive. The future periods and respective temporality cannot be seen from a current temporal vantage; what is preferred today could be disliked tomorrow.

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