

POSITIVE THINKING

Dr. C.G. Krishnadas Nair

We have a column in each issue of the Journal on 'Positive Thinking'. It is hoped that the readers are enjoying these short columns. Some are short stories, some are incidents and some are simply 'quotes' on the subject. You are welcome to send brief write-up / case study or a story related to 'Positive Thinking' which can help others.

Positive Thinking is not about expecting best to happen or the ability and practice of thinking that, what has happened is for the best. It is also not just accepting whatever has happened. Some think that they don't always get what they hope and pray as God may be having a better plan for them. Positive Thinking is not just even that kind of a hope and faith. It is all these plus making the best use of what has happened and continue your journey to success with a definite plan of action with determination to succeed without despairing over the current situation. Despair must be turned into determination to succeed. I will narrate a small story from my own experience.

"When I joined Hindustan Aeronautics as a Manager in the R&D after obtaining a PhD in Metallurgical Engineering, my hope was to become the Chief Metallurgist and become later the Chief of Central Laboratory of this prestigious Defense Public Sector industry. After working for a few years and contributing to indigenous development of aircraft metals and materials, I was shocked and depressed when I was transferred to

HAL's corporate office with a new designation Import Substitution Officer and was not even considered for promotion as the Senior Manager in the Laboratory. I even considered resigning and returning to Canada but then the purpose of my coming back to India to serve the country will be defeated. The management has made a choice which they considered right. So I decided to look at the positive aspects of this change. In the corporate office I will be reporting to the Chief of Development who reported to the Chairman. Hence functionally I am only two levels below the Chairman of the company. Even if I became the senior manager in the Laboratory, I would be under the Chief of Lab who reported to a General Manager who in turn reported to the Managing Director under the Chairman and thus I will be several levels below the Chairman. Corporate office job will give me an opportunity to travel to other divisions of HAL in India and get to know the activities and I can also interact with the General Managers and Directors of those divisions. Wherever I go I will be representing the Chairman of the Company and not the Chief of Lab or even a divisional General Manager. I will have greater authority and wider scope for planning and progressing indigenous development of materials, equipments and systems for the whole of HAL. I left my negative thoughts about not getting a promotion and glamorous title of Senior Manager and decided to make use of the new great opportunity to work in the Corporate Planning and Development for

the entire organisation. Working in Corporate office had another positive impact of meeting the knowing of the top team of HAL corporate, the Director HR, Director Planning Director Finance and also the top officials of the customers mainly from the Indian Airforce. This gave me a broader vision and also made my ambition to grow and helped me in my career growth eventually becoming Managing Director and later Chairman of HAL. Had I

become the senior manager of the lab, I would have been a satisfied person and I would have perhaps retired as the Chief of Laboratory. This is a real story that the change need not be a set-back, if it is viewed as a new opening for growth and make use of the opportunities.



THE TRUTH

*You cannot be perfect without
making mistakes*

*You cannot get success without
facing failures*

*You cannot feel happiness without
being sad.*

*Everything comes in a pair, and
you can never
get one, without facing the other.*