

4. Trees give shade for the benefit of others and while they themselves stand in the sun and endure scorching heat, they produce the fruit by which others profit. The character of good men is like that of trees. What is the use of this perishable body, if no use of it is made for the benefit of mankind? Sandalwood — the more it is rubbed the more scent does it yield. Sugarcane — the more it is peeled and cut into pieces, the more juice does it produce. Gold — the more it is burnt, the more brightly does it shine. The men who are noble at heart do not lose these qualities even in losing their lives. What does it matter whether men praise them or not? What difference does it make whether riches abide with them or not? What does it signify whether they die at this moment or whether their lives are prolonged? Happen what may, those who tread in the right path will not set foot in any other. Life itself is unprofitable to a man who does not live for others. **To live for the mere sake of living one's life is to live the life of dogs and cows.** Those who lay down their lives for the sake of a friend, or even for the sake of a stranger, will assuredly dwell forever in a world of bliss.

240

The author depicts an analogy of trees relating to the good character of man. A man should be like a tree which provides benefits to others, bearing difficulties by itself. The purpose of life is to serve others. As different trees have various benefits, similarly a man is an embodiment of many qualities. A righteous man always follows ^{or} right direction in every situation. A man leads a meaning life by helping and taking care of others.

77

Title: Providing Benefits to Others Like Trees