

SANA ANUM

Batch: 156

Passage:

To know one's own business and to mind nothing else, that is the way to carry on work of life. This sounds like a common saying, yet few really acknowledge it, even in principle, it is not often that even the first step - that of knowing what one's business is - is honestly taken; it must be allowed that with many there are intellectual as well as moral difficulties in the way of this first step. The easier method for getting rid of the intellectual difficulty for a man is to ask himself what is not his business; and many a kindly person may be surprised to find that he has been in the habit of considering it a virtue to waste time, thought, feeling, and other means of interests which truly are no business of his at all. He may have to confess that he has been constantly wasting sympathy on sorrows and evils which he cannot remove or alleviate. Sympathy which does not mean action of some sort is not much of a virtue in any man; while in those human beings who habitually indulge in sympathy for its own sake, it is apt to become a hateful and vicious cowardice.

[202 words]

Precis:

Recognizing and minding one's own business is an effective life strategy. However, few people acknowledge their business, owing to moral or intellectual constraints. The answer lies in self-enquiry about one's business. It comes with a surprising revelation that one has been habitually engaged in unimportant matters. He has been uselessly sympathizing over situations he cannot alleviate. A habitual sympathy without any action is a waste and not any better than cowardice.

(72 words)

Title:

- Hollow sympathy
- Minding One's Own Business