

Discipline

Discipline is implicit obedience to the commands of a superior authority, and acceptance of punishment with a smile for any breach thereof. If there is no discipline in life, there is anarchy. Life is disordered. There is no plain. No one action is related to another so that nothing reaches its proper conclusion. Little observation will show that from heaven above to earth below, everywhere discipline reigns supreme, for instances, the earth, the moon and the stars move around the sun, according to certain specific rules. Even animals are disciplined under their leader. The life of bees in a hive is a model of disciplined life.

The home is nursery where we receive our first lesson of discipline through obedience to parents and elders. As we pass out of the nursery and enter the portals of an educational institution, discipline becomes a matter of vital importance. That is because student life is a period of preparation for the battle of life. No less is the need for discipline in the playground. A disciplined team, though weak, has a great advantage over its rival, strong but ill organized.

In society there is a great need for discipline. If its individual members are permitted to do whatever they like, society will break up and onward march of civilization and progress will be arrested. Lack of discipline among the youth of country may endanger national security.

No where perhaps is discipline more necessary than in the army. Here a moment's hesitation may mean defeat and death. Difficulty, danger even death itself should not prevent a soldier from carrying out the orders of his commander, even if they are unjust or difficult.

There are, however men who are opposed to discipline. They think that it kills originality and takes away initiative. Disciplined people, they say, are just like parts of machinery. A man is not a machine. He, therefore, should not be expected to be obedient and orderly.

This is a very wrong view of discipline. It is the extreme of authoritarianism. Discipline does not mean that. It allows originality. There is no objection to people taking to any work and adapting any thought. The only demand that discipline makes is that you should have a plan and an order.

Discipline is a precious asset. Life without discipline is like a ship without a rudder. It is a rod to check the erring, a brake to control the thoughtless action of man. Its purpose is to see that liberty does not degenerate into license.

