

Frozen in Time

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Time means a lot of things to a lot of people. Time has no beginning nor does it have an end - according to many people. It is said that Time is limitless. But according to Geoscientists, who measure time in rocks, the Solar system came into existence about 4.65 billion years ago and that would be the time of the origin of our Earth and other planetary bodies in the Solar system. Well, you might ask what this has got to do with us.

Indeed, we are part of the 'Time' that surrounds us all and in a manner of speaking, time controls our lives. Our daily life is controlled by our emotions. How do we realize the emotions we go through on a daily basis? This is a difficult question to answer. But if one sits back and reasons with oneself, the answer should be evident. Emotions are generated by things that happen to us. But the fact of the matter is that these emotions are controlled and tempered by our past experiences and our mental readiness to respond to the immediate situation.

It is said that our mental abilities to accept things, approve of situations and react to things that go on around us on a daily basis, are all controlled by the values we have accumulated and maintain within ourselves.

Many of us have left India or a native place some time ago and now live in North America. I find that the values that I was brought up with are still with me and guide me through my life experiences. The way I feel is mostly controlled by the values I place on things.

Do you still remember the movies or songs you grew up with back home? If I asked you about a friend, who you went to school with, you would have no problem remembering. These things are easily remembered and cherished. In contrast, how many of the movies and songs do you remember that you have seen in recent months or years? Can you remember what you did two days ago? But, I am sure you remember the day you left your native place to come to North America, or the first thing you did when you landed in North America.

Many of the things that you remember are those that you place a value on – in other words, you have selective remembrances of these things. I am sure you remember things that happened along time ago and only a few of the ones that happened more recently.

We find that some of the things that are happening around us in this country or elsewhere are not palatable to us. Did you ever wonder why? The answer is simple. These things happening now are not in line with the values you were brought up with. These values you grew up with may be something that your parents taught you, or your teachers taught you or you picked up from friends for whatever reason (peer pressure, fashion etc).

I still remember the old songs that I liked when I was a kid growing up in India. I even remember the lyrics of these songs or poems that I learnt. These movies may be black and white and not in color, the songs may not have much background instrumentation, but still they are the ones that I liked and continue to cherish. I still remember the poems that I learnt when I was a child. Everything else that does not relate what I like, does not appeal to me.

Fashions are also ingrown with people and the time during which they are brought up. One may not like the new fashions because they are different and do not appeal to them. On the other hand some people may take a liking for them because they are new. But this is only temporary. After a while the newness wears away and we are back to the starting point.

Your likes and dislikes are mostly controlled by what you grew up with. Our children and we as parents may not always like the same things. They are brought up in a different generation. Their friends are different and their values are molded after their friends and teachers. As parents we have some influence but as a working parent/s we may not have all that much influence on the lives of our children.

The new generation of our countrymen or women or children, are not brought up in the same 'time frame' and consequently their likes, dislikes, and values are different. They do not have the same values. For that matter, when I visit India I feel like I am visiting a foreign country. I wonder "What happened to the India I knew?" – the India I left behind is what I remember and the people now do not seem to know that India, the way I remember it. To me a ten rupee note still has a lot of worth left in it. To the new generation of Indians in India, a ten rupee note does not have the same value as it does to me.

I wonder what happened to the time that I was used to !! It stayed with me and everything else went forward – at least this is the perception that I developed and learn to live with the times we live in.

I am "Frozen in the time period" that I was brought up in, and I feel out of place in the present day. We are all prisoners of "Time"