

There Is More Light Here

Someone saw Nasrudin searching for something on the ground. "What have you lost Mulla?" he asked.

"My key," said the Mulla.

So they both went down on their knees and looked for it. After a while the other man asked: "Where exactly did you drop it?"

"In my own house."

"Then why are you looking here?"

"There is more light here than inside my own house."

This is one of the most famous of the Nasrudin stories and it denotes a futile search which is undertaken by most men. For instance, the search could be a 'search for happiness'. How elusive is happiness though its lure is everywhere. Our society is constantly drumming it into our ears that happiness lies somewhere *out there*. In wealth, in relationships, in property, in enjoyments, in posh houses, in luxurious cars – even in cell phones and selfies!! But we fail to find it because we are looking for it in all the wrong places.

Happiness cannot be found in the outside world for the simple reason that it doesn't exist there. The truth is that, happiness is *in here*. Inside us. Happiness is a state of the inner world. But we are all behaving like Mulla Nasrudin. He is looking for his lost key under the street lamp, though he had actually lost it at home. Naturally he is not able to find it! We may laugh at Nasrudin, but that is what all of us are doing. Home is a metaphor for one's own self and the key is the key to happiness. It lies in the home only. But since it requires some effort to find the key within one self, because that would mean an inward journey, we all are searching where it is easy to search: in the outside world. Arthur Schopenhauer says that *finding happiness within oneself may be difficult; but it is impossible to find it anywhere else.*

The street lamp of course, denotes the glitter of the world. Wealth, power, position, fame, property, gadgets etc. We may get a kick out of the search, but one thing is certain. We shall not find the key!