

# Nursing With A Difference

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

*“Let Each Day Be Your Masterpiece”. Galatians 6.9*

**DISASTER MITIGATION = VICTORY OVER POWERLESSNESS.**

**Sonia D Kapoor**

*NURSE’S PLEDGE AND DOCTOR’S HIPPOCRATIC OAT AND DISASTER*

## ORIGIN AND DIFFERENCE

There is no doubt that when a Nurse takes the ‘Nurse’s Pledge’ it is a solemn pledge before God.

*“I Solemnly Pledge myself before God and in the presence of this Assembly...”*

The Hippocratic Oath is taken in the name of Greek Mythological deities, Apollo and Aesculapius.

Apollo the sun god – Surya Narayn or Surya Devada. Aesculapius is the ancient Roman god of medicine identified with the Greek Asclepius. Aesculapian pertaining to Aesculapius i.e., medical/medicinal and physician or doctor.

These gods are well known mythological deities. Mythology is legend, folk-lore, speculative and philosophical fable or allegory; a fabrication and figment of man’s imagination, tradition.

As mythological deities these gods have been attributed circumscribed power i.e., ‘sun’ and ‘medicinal’.

*Contrast this with each Nurse solemnly pledging her/ him- self before ‘God’*

**“God” is the creator of all mankind**

**He is**

**Omnipotent = Almighty all Powerful**  
**Omniscient = Almighty all knowing**  
**Omnipresent = Almighty all-present.**

*“In all His awesomeness*

*‘God is our Heavenly Father’*

*Who loves each one of us and has given us the FREEDOM and the WAY to come directly to Him.*

**The difference between the Hippocratic Oath and the Nurse’s Pledge needs to be understood by Nurses for herein lies the source of our real strength:**

1. Nurses have the assurance that the One, who created them, loves them with an everlasting love and has made provision for our every need including forgiveness and healing, restoration and regeneration to equip us and keep us equipped for life and work in this world.
2. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses, our desires and good intentions as well as our inability to achieve much of what we genuinely strive for and has promised us His grace and strength in our weakness.
3. Furthermore, the One who created us also created the first two institutions for establishing a healthy Nation:
  - i. **‘Marriage’** a unique relationship designed to bring man and woman together in Divine sanctified human love (AGAPE Love). This we will consider in a subsequent series of papers.
  - ii. **‘Government’**. The preceding papers have revealed how, the Government has officially given legal power and authority to every Registered Nurse.

**The Constitution and its implications** in relation to Nurse’s freedom and power have been addressed in the next and final paper in this series.

**God did not create us to be ‘robots’** mindless beings reacting according to who pulls the string or presses the button.

**He did not create us like the Angels**, Heavenly beings who are sexless, invisible and function according to their designated ministry. **NO!**

**He gave us the faculties of choice and freedom to govern ourselves and our environment with worldly or divine wisdom.**

### **WALKING CREATIVELY WITH OUR CREATOR**

God in His wisdom created every human being a unique individual identity, with the freedom to choose to ‘do what is right in our eyes ‘ or to draw on the unfailing riches of His storehouse *to become* what He created us *to be* and *to do* what He has entrusted to us i.e., our family and professional responsibilities.

Consider the face of people – Nurses have the privilege of closely observing thousands of faces every year. We know that every eye is unique in size, colour, markings, shape, and exact position in the face, length of eyelashes and other physical characteristics quite apart from the functional attributes so very specific for each person. The uniqueness of each eye contributes to the complete uniqueness of the person.

The health and sharpness of each Nurse’s eye contributes to the health and sharpness of the Nursing Profession. Equally true, powerlessness arises from diminishing vision, bad eyes and inner darkness.

With good eyes Nurses can seek and achieve truth, justice, mercy and meaning in the whole process of Nursing and caring. When we look by faith into the eyes of the Creator our vision is greatly enhanced.

**Inherent in truth, justice and mercy is the firmness, gentleness and compassion of divine wisdom**

This knowledge alone ought to give Nurses sufficient encouragement to ask for and receive both *discipline* and *enabling* from our Heavenly Father to overcome and live victoriously.

### **THE NURSE’S PLEDGE IN LIFE AND DEATH**

I do not believe any Nurse gets up in the morning with the intention of going through the day as *‘the living dead’* sounding the death knell to all and sundry and destroying her/his own soul in the process.

Therefore let us examine a few examples of what is happening in relation our Pledge:

1. Official records e.g., state 39 dead bodies in one 24-hour period, the Nurse is instructed to say it was the record of dead for one month. Is it any wonder that the official statistics are a blatant denial of the truth!

Apart from the hundreds burned alive in their homes or other buildings in Gujarat because numbers huddled together inside were not known, how many more hundreds of bodies are disposed of with no accurate ‘official record’?

Is the Nurse really aiding the Physician in his work? Or have we become handmaidens to the purveyors of corruption, communalism and inhuman activity?

2. When the Doctor can say ‘leave that patient and attend ...’ when both Nurse and Doctor know that by leaving the patient he will have no chance of survival and no one to ‘help him to a peaceful death’.

Inherent in the truly professional Nurse Doctor relationship is the principle of “checks and balances” which facilitates a key role of the Nurse, that of patient advocate. But these too have been lost in the murky mire of inflated and deflated ego, buttering, suppression of truth and oppression. The patient/client is of no consequence.

3. Epidemics are raging. Nurses with no qualms identified at least 25 in Gujarat. Epidemics can be controlled therefore it is not unreasonable to state that epidemics are Doctor and Nurse made.

While an infection control committee and unprecedented use of antibiotics can never replace normal hygiene and cleanliness, without which there can be no aseptic techniques, they can make a mockery of health services.

In the process the patient's immune system is destroyed, organisms have become increasingly resistant, genuine patient care is non-existent. The Dark Ages, pre Lister day's of medicine and the Sarah Gamp age seem more relevant than the Nightingale Era that brought Nursing to standards of excellence and a force to be reckoned with by Governments and the Military, *before we lost our vision!*

4. How many patients die daily because Nurses, no matter how distressed and under stress, are unable to understand and therefore change their own **negative resolution** of emotions that are in conflict with patient and doctor to a **positive resolution**? (refer Modules-BURNS, Shock & Trauma)

**In life and in death, the Pledge can act as an anchor for our emotional stability and security.**

**THE NURSE'S PLEDGE AND ETHICS**

1. The Nurse who refuses to do what legally she ought not to do, while the demanding Doctors sit laughing, talking and ridiculing.
2. Doctor with no conscience for the mother and her unborn baby whose lives are in her hands, commands the Nurse to remove a Syntocinon Drip from a women advancing in Labour and send her home because she cannot pay even though the Government has provided beds for poor patients 10 of which were lying empty in this large Private Hospital!

This stillbirth or neonatal death will not be recorded nor will the almost inevitable maternal death. Who cares? The Nurse though powerless did care. **Why was this Nurse powerless?**

It was the God before whom we took our Pledge  
Who enabled midwives to save a whole Nation through their wise management of mothers and babies and to thwart the diabolical edict of a merciless Ruler. Exodus 1:15-22

**Too often**  
Nursing education  
Tells us what a  
Nurse must, ought  
Or should do...  
  
**But not how!**

*Nursing With A Difference Modules,  
ENFI Workshop Manual  
and other materials*

**Aim to help Nurses bridge this gap and fill the lacunae.  
Choose; Accept responsibility; Procure; read and use.**

**Nurse**  
Have you asked the Helper,  
the God given Holy Spirit's  
enabling power?  
  
**He won't fail you.**

**CONTROLLING, AVERTING AND PREVENTING**

Nurses are only too well acquainted with '*affliction from without*' but we do not very often think of what it means to '*afflict our own soul*' and thereby '*the soul of our profession*'.

1. Beware of despairing about yourself, choose rather to put your trust in God, and not in yourself.
  - i. He may allow affliction to make us seek and receive the bounty of His goodness in Nursing.
  - ii. He may use it to humble and test us so that we may come forth as burnished gold.
  - iii. When we come to Him such affliction can never separate us from His love or His promises of deliverance.
  - iv. Beauty and fragrance in our life and in Nursing depends on our response to crushing.

***May we have the personal and collective courage to turn, from the wicked ways we have entered into so that He can heal us and our profession?***

2. Pseudo Pride and Shame go hand in hand, largely unrecognized by Nurses who:
  - i. Compromise by ignoring the pledge and allow the poison of cowardice and lies to seep into their lives and through Nursing.
  - ii. Allow customs and religion to desecrate basic standards of health and hygiene.
  - iii. Lack courage to use Nursing knowledge to prevent people dying, or to stand for truth in Nursing
  - iv. Go on strike unless a court order prohibits doing so thereby condemning their profession before God and man only because they feel powerless and do not know what else to do.
  - v. Allow the fear of man to determine as well as to negatively influence professional judgments, attitudes, approaches and behavior as to 'what ought to be'.
  - vi. Take and give bribes for personal gain and professional advancement.
  - vii. Deceive and fleece the public as well as bona fide would be students of Nursing.
  - viii. Sell their soul and the soul of our Profession through unethical, destructive to Nursing activities.
  - ix. Choose to desecrate God's commandments for personal fidelity, morality, truth and compassion.
  - x. Pride themselves on being religious or having great faith...BUT...!

#### INTROSPECTION - THE PLEDGE – VICTORY

##### **DISCONNECTED POWER SUPPLY!**

Because sin renders us impotent to truth, any of the previously stated and all other such factors cause Nurses to become increasingly ill equipped to deal with emergencies and disasters

##### **RESTORATION OF POWER SUPPLY**

Our own actions or lack of action render us impotent by effectively cutting us off from our Power Supply. Satan's power is a vice-like destructive force unless confronted with the power of Holiness.

**Our power supply** is unlimited we have only to maintain our connection, receive and use.

Compliance with evil, even if unintentional has caused us to turn our backs on the Almighty Sovereign God who called us into Nursing.

God's power is full of grace, never failing and freely available as soon as we repent of sin and receive His healing restoring power into our lives.

##### ***JUST THINK NURSE!***

Prophets, Poets and Composers of Music and Song often bring us hope, insight and encouragement that lead to our edification:

##### ***NARAYAN WAMAN TILAK***

The great poet has a message for Nurses that can be echoed as we sing from our hearts the Hymn that concludes this paper.

"Bran shall I eat and rags shall I wear for the sake of Thy love, my Motherland and I shall throw in the dust all that passes for glory and happiness..."

My body will I sacrifice, my life will I lay down in the service of my noble land. Some will laugh and some will cry at this ecstasy of love. But I heed them not. Born to fulfill my relationship as a son of Thee, I will fulfill it. May God help me... Tilak, N.W. Bhakti Niranjana, p.133.

***Affliction without hope breeds powerlessness,  
Our hope and assurance is in God who heard our Pledge  
And whose promise is sure victory over sin by the grace of His power.***

## O Lord My God

1.

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hands hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

### Refrain

**Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art!**

2

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

### Refrain

**Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art**

3.

And when I think: that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die – I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died, to take away my sin:

### Refrain

**Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art**

4.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

### Refrain

**Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How Great Thou art**

