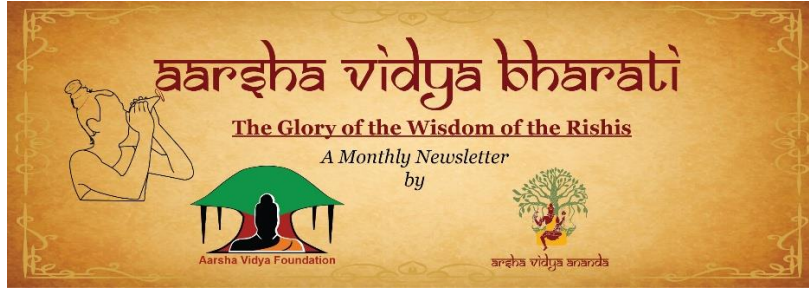


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# Aarsha Vidya Bharati - Feb 2022

## Magha-Phalguna 2078

A monthly newsletter that will bring you more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom



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This is one of many articles from our monthly newsletter. Access the [Feb 2022 issue](#) or read any of [the articles](#).

## Editorial

'India that is Bharat'...This is how the first article of the Indian constitution begins. As we recently celebrated our Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, we see that the greatness of this sacred land, lies in the culture, heritage and our ways of life. All that is here is one while the forms continue to be different.

The greatness of Bharat is because of the great people who realised a long time ago that **responsibility is always taken, not given**. For the freedom struggle, nobody appointed Gandhiji to head the freedom movement nor Netaji to start the Indian National Army. They were awake to the situation and focused on what they could do. All the time. They did not drown in the quicksand of failed attempts and helplessness. They took the responsibility of fighting for the freedom and people followed.

One does not have to be rich or famous or learned or have a certain designation or belong to a particular gender to take responsibility. It is the very few who take responsibility and **do what is to be done** for their families, societies, communities, and their nation **that leads to positive change**. These people transform from being ordinary to extraordinary by manifesting the 3 superpowers that **ALL of us have been given - icchā shakti, kriyā shakti and jñāna shakti**.

Even the humble squirrel claimed his shakti-s. During the time of *Bhagavān* Sri Rama, the squirrel was rushing with little pebbles in his mouth towards the bridge that was being built, to Lanka. Finding the pesky squirrel getting in the way, the *Vānara*-s who were lifting heavy stones told him to get away. But *Bhagavān* Rama recognised the loving seva of the squirrel. He told the *Vānara*-s that that the small pebbles were just as necessary as the big stones to bind it all together.



The squirrel desired to be of service to Sri Rama (thanks to **icchā-shakti**) but thought of his size and wondered what to do. He hit upon an idea (thanks to **jñāna-shakti**) identifying the missing material for the bridge. He did not sit on the idea thinking someone else would do it nor did he lament about his tiny size. He started carrying the little pebbles in his little mouth (thanks to **kriyā-shakti**). Sri Rama quickly scooped up the squirrel and in appreciation of his thoughtful seva, lovingly stroked his back. To this day the white stripes on the squirrel's back remind us not only of Sri Rama's love for the squirrel but also that

No one is so small that one cannot give.

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No one is so big that they cannot receive.

As the year of 2022 lies ahead of us how are we going to use our *icchā*-shakti, *jñāna*-shakti and *kriyā*-shakti to improve the quality of our lives?

How will we contribute to Bharat?

The responsibility lies in our hands.

With love and prayers,

Brahmavidananda

Brahmaprajananda

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