Passion, key to life

We usually employ the word “professional” to mean that someone performed a task bereft of any emotion. Right? “His attitude is professional”, for most of us means that he is not emotional about his work, and that he is only doing what is needed of him.

When someone is doing a task that he is trained to, where is the room for displaying anger or any other emotion? Therefore, it is better to discharge one’s duties as an amateur, rather than as a professional. An amateur is not a novice. An amateur is somebody who undertakes an assignment or performs a task because he is passionate about it. He sees meaning in what he is doing.

A professional does not see much meaning in what he is trained to do. A task is undertaken because it is a means to an end. A life like that is barren. Unless there is involvement in what you do, unless it means a lot to you, the work that you do is a sheer waste of time.

Involvement in a task is not an involuntary act. However, if there is involvement the work becomes beautiful. And if there is no involvement, the work is discharged mechanically, and it becomes ugly.

A professional’s life can get colourless and ugly. It is always better to be an amateur. But the best life is when you are a volunteer. That is the most wonderful feeling in the world. If you are always willing to do what is needed with great passion, it is beautiful. What is the end result? Who is in the way? Who is supporting you? Who is not supporting you? None of this matters. Whatever you do is done with tremendous involvement and everything you do seems beautiful.

If you discharge work as a professional you may also have to deal with anger. What is the role of anger? People do not pay attention when you say something. This just means that you need to get more involved in your work. If people see that you are doing things with great passion, why would they not listen? Throw in some passion into your life, and see how your professional problems fly out of the window.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, an internationally renowned spiritual leader, is a visionary, humanitarian, author, poet and speaker. He can be contacted at www.ishafoundation.org