



The utterfly

On our recent visit to the Butterfly Park at Bannerghatta National Park, we were introduced to a curator of the park. He showed us around and shared with us some interesting facts about butterflies which could be useful to you too. But, before we share that interesting information, it would be apt for us to talk about how a butterfly is born!

From rounded eggs which were planted by a mother butterfly are born some very tiny caterpillars. These caterpillars are endemic to specific plant species meaning, each caterpillar will have one or may be two host plants. They will not move from one plant species to another.

As the caterpillar grows, it becomes more visible to the human eye and to the world around it. To us, they seem not so handsome and some consider them ugly and yet, they continue to perform their duties... eat and grow. They have many predators like birds, insects like ants, praying mantis and us humans. Unperturbed, they go about doing what they came here to do.

Little did you know that caterpillars do not have eyes! Then, how do they know where they are going and whether they are protecting themselves against their predators? They are guided by their instinct. Instinct reveals; always work from under the leaf where predators seldom look and don't go to a place where your instinct does not permit you to go. If they worked against their instinct and chose to work over the leaf, they'd be meal.

Just when the time is right, they build their cocoon and stay in waiting for transformation to happen. They stay in the cocoon, silent and self confident. Transformation takes place within the cocoon and when the time is ripe, out comes the butterfly.

With all the wisdom it gathered as a student, being a caterpillar, and being in meditation in the cocoon, and emerging as a butterfly now, it fills the world around it with colour and glory flying about, holding others in awestruck gaze. As if there is no time left, it flies to pollinate flowers and sucks the nectar rendering the flowers fit to transform into delicious fruits. Some butterflies even migrate across continents and countries. When their time comes to leave, they mates, lays eggs completing their lifecycle.

Now for the interesting fact – Butterflies do all this when they live only for 7 days. In these 7 days, they relentlessly work towards spreading love, joy and abundance.



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Time for introspection –

When, we think, feel, speak, work, love, breathe and listen, can we be like the caterpillar that is always acting according to its inner guidance? Not once does it flaunt its ego. Can we think, feel, speak, work, love, breathe and listen without judgment or prejudice? Can we then allow Him to work through us?

Every morning and evening, can we time and again, get into our cocoon, surrender ourselves to Him and allow Him to transform us the way He wants?

With all the knowledge and wisdom we gather from our inner guidance and experience, can we work like the butterfly, relentlessly to enhance love, joy, peace and abundance in our society?

If a butterfly can do it, why can't each one of us do it?

Let us be like the butterfly... with our unlimited power, grace and potential to transform the world, let us choose to enhance love, peace and joy in the Universe. We have come here for this only.

- *From His instrument as Mahesh Krishnamurthy*