

When will we be free?

Today I dream of a free India. Today I wake up and get ready to act. Today I live to free India.

We became independent in 1947. We freed ourselves of the British. We freed ourselves of slavery. We won liberty and autonomy for India. However, to me freedom means a lot more than that. Let us pause for a moment and ponder what freedom means to each one of us and how we can achieve it.

I would consider us truly free when each one of us will have enough water to drink, food to eat, clothes to wear and a decent place to stay. We will be free when each one of us will have proper sanitation and healthcare facilities. When all of us will be educated citizens and will not just be living in hand to mouth conditions but will also be able to enjoy the luxuries that life has to offer. When in education we will have a free choice to study what we want and earn a healthy living out of it. When the laws of the society will be healthy, promote harmony and prevent us from evils of corruption, pollution and exploitation. When we will have faith in our strength and no one can bully us. When we will not just be engaged in day-to-day activities only but we will lay strong foundations of times to come. When we are not a third world country, any more but we are the world leader.

I believe this freedom is achievable. We are a democracy. India is from us. First, we have to change ourselves and it will change India. We have to change our mindset and India will be free soon. We have to promise ourselves to be better than what we were yesterday. Everyday we have to renew this promise and work relentlessly. This is the beginning.

I remember a Kural from one of the books by President APJ Abdul Kalam.

*Whatever may be the depth of the river or lake or pond,
Whatever may be the conditions of the water,
The lily flower always comes out and blossoms.*

Let us all be lily flowers. Let us win over our difficulties. If a system causes pain, let us re-systematize it. Let us all act. Let us all blossom.

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