🍩 । भ्रुप्तर्थः अर्वेदः र वा 'र्यरः इसः मुखः दशः वादरः यदेः यद्ग्यः युः द्वेरः वाद्रसः यत्वारः द्वा

त्र म्वेष क्रीका मृ्यक्ष । वर्षेचा त्र स्वा मृष्य क्ष्य क्ष्य क्ष्य क्ष्य प्रति । मिष्य प्रत्य क्ष्य क्ष्य

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To my relatives and friends, I shall write an exhortation for diligence. O Friends! Bring your mind in and think carefully. Whatever important or unimportant worldly or spiritual project you may undertake, don't start in the first place if you cannot do it. Having started, you must know how to take it forward or else be absolutely certain that it cannot be achieved and have no regrets. It is said: "Do not start what cannot be done. It is best not to start something, for it is not good to give up having started." "Once with such a thought, one begins a project, do not start another but persist and finish the project."

How do you take yourself to a state of no regret? Having started a project, you must have a resolve thinking: 'Until I finish the project, let the lightning from above strike me, let the ground from below sink me, let the sky and earth clash in between, let my head catch fire, let a snake land on my lap, let leisure, toil, cold, hunger, happiness, misery, whatever else fall upon me. Yet, how could I not achieve this? Today, having started if I do not complete this, I will be ashamed in front of friends and relatives who may like or dislike me. My relatives far and near, and all other people including my teachers and elders will be deeply unhappy. How could I not avoid being ashamed in their presence? How could there be purpose in laying my life to waste, being lost in distractions, remaining complacent and laidback, and having idle speech and behaviour of carefreeness? How could I not acquire learning and develop myself to be better than the current situation?" You must have such determination.

Have a reminder for such resolve to work hard, and remember every day. One must train oneself and find one's fault. Doing so regularly, check if there is any improvement in recitation, memorization of books, capacity to do work, and so forth after about a month. If there is improvement, rejoice thinking I have made it. If there isn't, get upset and scold oneself saying 'The likes of you shall not make it among others in whatever worldly or spiritual work you do.'

Anything achieved by a person without diligence is like dust. The master Guna has said: "Wear a hat of lice on the head. Wear a garment of lice on the body. Let not the hands to be free from dirt. Let not the mind to be free from worry. Without preceding hardship, happiness will not follow. Without doing the difficult and gruelling work, one cannot have the sweet and savoury food. Without the misery which makes one cry, there cannot be happiness which makes one laugh. The mouth which desires to eat must have hands which can grab like metal tongs." It is also said: "The learned ones suffer when studying. Once gained, knowledge is better than precious gold." You must apply yourself with perseverence. "If one is attached to small pleasures, one cannot attain great happiness." Don't let your thoughts wander off endlessly. Do not slumber shamelessly. Do not indulge in endless idle gossip. See as evil those games, distractions, and ingratiation of young and old friends.

If influenced by the evil, you do not feel like studying, reciting or carrying out any work, and feeling dejected, you think 'why such hardship, this much food and clothes is sufficient'. Seek a caring counsel and think 'Now, I am getting rotten to the core. Even if my body breaks into a hundred pieces, I must work hard grudgingly.' Do so and its result will come to fruition. If you think 'I will study if I am happy, drop it if I suffer, I will study if I can do so on the side, drop it if I face hardship, I will stay if I like it, leave if I do not like it, great if I can get it but so be it if I can't for I am well fed and warmly dressed.' Such thoughts will not take you even on the level of lowly beings.

A spoilt child cannot gain knowledge and skills on the sides of fun and joy. Taking up hard work when one has freedom leads to knowledge. If knowledge and skills can be obtained in the process of other things, everyone would be learned as there is no man who does not wish to be learned and happy. Do you see that among equal humans, those who have greater perseverance and diligence win. Look carefully. If you look, there isn't a better heartfelt counsel than this. Keep it in your mind, and work. Read this counsel once every day. It is important this message remains constant in your mind. Make your mind the witness. Don't disappoint yourself. You must train yourself. If you do so, you will become learned soon. Keep this in your mind.