

# Don't be altruistic



'పిల్లలు, దేవుడు చల్లనివారు. కల్లకపటమెరుగని కరుణామయులు..'  
అని ఓ సినిమా పాట. ఉన్న మాట కూడా. ముద్దొచ్చే ఆ చిన్నారులు,  
పాలబుగ్గల పసివాళ్లు సమస్యల్లో పడుతున్నారు.  
కిడ్నాపర్ల వలలో చిక్కుకుంటున్నారు. వాళ్లను కాపాడాల్సిన  
బాధ్యత మనదే. అవసరమైతే పోలీసుల సాయం  
తీసుకోవాలి. బంగారు బాల్యాన్ని బతికించుకోవాలి.  
ఈ సంభాషణ సారమిదే.

**Ashwin:** A girl. Don't you see her in a gown?

**Vivek:** Yes, a small girl. Is she smiling or crying?



ఇంట్లో మాట్లాడడం

Haven't you read about such incidents?  
**Ashwin:** What incidents?  
**Vivek:** Incidents of abducting or assaulting children.

**Ashwin:** Kidnapping, I believe. Assaulting, I don't believe. Facts or allegations?  
**Vivek:** There you are. The allegation gets you into trouble.

**Ashwin:** That's newspaper stuff. Quite different from real life.  
**Vivek:** Only real life things are reflected and reported in the newspaper.

**Ashwin:** Don't spoil your mind and mine. Why do you read the newspaper if you are so weak minded?  
**Vivek:** How else can we get knowledge and awareness?

**Ashwin:** You're self-contradictory. Conversing with you is very difficult.  
**Vivek:** Please don't go near the girl.

**Ashwin:** I must go to her rescue.  
**Vivek:** If you go near her, she may scream

and shout. Soon a crowd will gather.  
**Ashwin:** Don't dampen my spirits.  
**Vivek:** One man may say something. Another will repeat it. Yet another will twist it. Others may exaggerate it.

**Ashwin:** Do you mean there will be grapevine and hearsay?  
**Vivek:** Yes. It becomes a rumor that spreads at the speed of light. Soon you will be suspected, caught and punished.

**Ashwin:** But I can't wait to go near her and help her.  
**Vivek:** Just wait! Yes ... You can do one thing.

**Ashwin:** What?  
**Vivek:** Can you see the policeman at the corner?

**Ashwin:** Yes.  
**Vivek:** Why don't you take his help?

**Ashwin:** What an idea!

**Ashwin:** Look! What do we see there?  
**Vivek:** A lonely child. Is it a boy or a girl?  
**Ashwin:** A girl. Don't you see her in a gown?  
**Vivek:** Yes, a small girl. Is she smiling or crying?  
**Ashwin:** Seems crying. Let's help her.  
**Vivek:** Wait! Don't be altruistic.  
**Ashwin:** Do you preach me selfishness? Let's help her. She seems forlorn.  
**Vivek:** That's the problem.  
**Ashwin:** What's the problem? Be explicit.  
**Vivek:** You want to rush to her, pat her, caress her and put a chocolate in her hand?  
**Ashwin:** She may have been in some sort of trouble. Let's rush to her help.  
**Vivek:** Look before you leap! You'll be in trouble if you go near her. You may be suspected to be a ...  
**Ashwin:** A kidnapper? A child-lifter?  
**Vivek:** Yes, yes ... Exactly!  
**Ashwin:** What ails you? Have you gone mad?  
**Vivek:** Don't you read the newspaper?

**ROUTE OR ROOT ?**  
Outsider: Sir, which root can I take?  
City-dweller: Beetroot, cassava root, burdock root, carrot, radish, parsnip, turnip, rutabaga, shallot, sweet potato – you can take any root.  
Outsider: Don't make fun of me, sir. I'm a stranger here. Which root takes me to the railway station?  
City-dweller: You mean route!



**సూర్యారావు ఎం.వి**  
వివేకానంద ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్ ఆఫ్ లాంగ్వేజెస్, రామకృష్ణ మఠం.