

Spiritual Message for Chartered Accountants



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Coimbatore Branch, arranged a special talk by Sri S.N. Ramachandran, who had recently completed the long term Vedanta course at AVG, Anaikatti on 'Spiritual Message for Chartered Accountants' on November 21, 2013. The talk was well attended.

AM I THIS BODY?

Sri Ramachandran in his talk told that being spiritual means relating to one's own self which is otherwise known as atma. There is a universal quest to ascertain "Am I this gross physical body or something different from it?"

Vedanta says that intrinsic nature of human being is Brahman. Chandogya Upanishad declare the well-known equation 'Tat Tvam Asi'. All other Upanishads not only declare the same message that svaroop of jivatma is Paramatma are one, but also systematically reveal how this knowledge of oneness of jivaatma and paramatma can be cognized.

TWO DIFFERENT LIFE STYLES:

Vedas prescribe two different life styles to gain atma jnana. One life style is in form of renunciation, that is, opting life style of being a Sannyasi and the other life style is in form of karma yoga for grahasta. Sannyasa life style means giving up all karma

and pursuing atma jnana exclusively. Karma yoga is doing one's own svakarma (duty) with proper attitude.

KARMA YOGA:

One needs to perform action to the best of one's own ability, but when the result comes; it is to be accepted as prasada from Ishwara. This is called Prasada Budhi. It is because whatever may be the result, it is within the order of Ishwara. This prasada attitude neutralizes possibility of reaction, when result is not pleasant. This is a great, fundamental stress reliever. No other stress relieving methods – be it meditation, yoga or pranayama—can match with this fundamental stress reliever.

ISHWARA IS THE MAKER AND THE MATERIAL CAUSE:

When we see the macrocosm or the microcosm, we understand that everything in the world is intelligently put together. We can logically understand that these are intelligently put together by an intelligent principle and that the raw material cannot come from outside. The same intelligent principle or Ishvara is the maker as well as the material cause. All that is here is Ishwara.

DHARMA:

Samanya dharma is what I do not want others to do to me, I do not do the same to others. Vishesha dharma is praying, doing one's duty, taking care of the elders, family members, society, environment, etc. Bringing in Ishwara in every aspect of one's life is karma yoga. Attitude of Karma yoga helps to acquire the required preparedness to live a spiritual life based on dharma and uphold ethics in all dealings.

Report by N. Avinashilingam