

Address to Youth

(Sri Swami Dayanandaji's lectures)

Continued from October 2018 issue...

When I say the whole world is God, then there is something there more than what the eyes see. There is nothing to believe, but something to understand.

So, if one say it is shirt. Another say it is shirt alright, but it is fabric. It is something to understand. He is not denying the shirt. But he asks you to see something more than the shirt. Like in physics. What does physics say? What do you call solid matter is nothing but energy. Matter is defined as that "anything that occupies a space and has shape". If you see what physics say matter is nothing but atoms and atoms are energy? Matter is energy. We are not denying the existence of matter. We are saying what? Little more than matter, which is to be understand and not believed.

So when I say the whole world is god, we are not denying the world or we propose a God other than what we perceive. So we have to know something more than what we see. That is God. If we understand this then we do not have believe in god. We see God – we understand what IS God. Now- this is God.

Everything is God In this I carve out a body for myself. I have an identification, individual entity. I say this is me. If you touch this body I say you touch me. Do not touch me I say. I take me as body-from sole to the top. So I, the individual as well as the whole world I objectify –both are God and God only.

Hence to invoke God I do not have to go out. I understand 'Every think is God'.

There is a still more to know.

I am an individual with limited knowledge and power. Lord is omniscient and ideal for worship. I am limited. The individual offers his prayer to the lord. He wants a place and form where he can offer flower worship. In all cultures flower is used as a symbol of friendship, love, welcome. But whenever we worship, we also use flower. I offer flower to lord as a means of worship.

Where can you offer this flower when everything is lord? So we require a place. You create an altar. There is a puja room at home. You look at that altar as the Lord's altar, form. One can therefore invoke any form as Lord's form.

Another person also can be looked upon as lord. But he has his own work. He will say I am not *acyuta* etc.

We require a non-protesting person who does not think I am small. If he has his own notions about himself, how can you invoke lord in him? So I go to a stone. It has no age. If you say it is lord, it is lord.

Stone neither is flattered nor put down by whatever you do. You create a sculptured stone. That form is *bhagavan* to invoke. On the whole I require only one place.

Suppose I am sitting in an audience with my little finger out. Next person wants to draw my attention. I am listening to the Swami. What he will do? He will pull my little finger. He wants my attention. How much attention I should pay? He touched only little thing. Should I give only little attention?

If he pulls my hand, little more and the if he gets up and given me a massage, then I ask 'what you want?' Is it necessary to have total message to give full attention to him? No. Because the little finger is me.

The whole me is this little finger. When you touch my little finger who is touched? I am touched. So in a given part of me, you can invoke the whole of me.

In Kashmir, in one mosque, there is a casket in which one hair is there, A single hair of some length. It seemed to be of prophet's hair. That hair got stolen. The whole Islamic country resented. They invoked in a single hair their reverential prophet and worshipped.

None worships idol. You worship lord. You know it is wood or stone or metal. It is the Lord you worship. You see it as lord. That is all. So in one form I invoke the whole form. You want to offer flower to ocean because ocean is lord for us. Animals are worshipped because every animal is associated with one lord or another. Mouse -Ganesa, Garuda-Vishnu, Bull- Siva, buffalo-yama, Snake-with Siva/Vishnu.

Another important thing, not only in one form we invoke the whole, we invoke the given aspect of the whole in that. Suppose finger has problem, I show to physicians, he looks at the finger and studies it, its function etc. The bill will go to whom? To the person. Finger is an aspect of me. Finger is looked as an aspect of me.

We worship lord in a given form. In sun we can invoke the lord or we invoke the lord as the sun. In air we can invoke the whole god or we can invoke the lord as wind god. Water god is aspect of lord.

So everything is animated. There is nothing inanimate in creation. Everything we look upon as lord. How many gods we have? Any number. That is why Hindus are tolerant to other forms of worship. Why, because of this concept. You can worship lord in any form, you can invoke lord in any language, because he is omniscient. Not that he knows only one language. Any language he should understand. He must not have any linguistic problem. How many names he has got? All names are his names. You take yourself. How many names you have got? You are K. Ramaswami. In office you are called K.R. In house you are Ramu. You are uncle for others. An orthodox housewife will not call him by name because of respect and will call "OOM" 'Ungalathane' or 'Innango'. You understand all of them. You are able to respond to all of them. What problem Lord will have?

So we accept all forms of worship. We have in this country a lot of tribal religions and tribal gods. We accept them also because there is no tribalism in god. Tribal may worship god in a tribal way. We can accept that also. 'How many gods you have? Are you not confused?' They ask questions like that.

We do not have the problem of one god because our vision of god. He is the maker as well as material and the creation is non-separate from him and you can worship him in any form - in any manner you can worship. It is the worship that counts.

The next question is - Why should one worship? What is worship? How does it help me etc. We will see them in the next class.

to be continued...

There were request from various readers that the letter size are too small for comfortable reading.Hence from this issue onwards the font size has been increased to 13.5.

Editor