

An Essential Verse from Bhagavad Gita To give a meaningful life.

*Pujya Swamiji delivered a series of public talks
On the above topic from the 1st to 5th of February 2009.*

To live a meaningful life: as wanting human beings, we constantly seek the fulfillment of our desires in an endless cycle of self-defying motion. Unable to satisfy with any permanence, we pursue relentlessly. And then a gentle breeze stops us in our tracks. A simple man dressed in an orange cloth a long white beard flowing said, "This creation is not separate from its creator." Some in the audience felt as Sachin did when the Rawalpindi Express bowled him first ball. Others gathered their thoughts and pondered at this marvelous observation and those that saw it as an irrefutable fact listened in wonder.

All of this, the universe is one, your body is made from the same material as the planets and the stars and the soaring surging gases that make up the Sun! And he unfolded the glory of Isvara, the Lord and Master of all that is perceived as a conscious being, the repository of all knowledge known and unknown that goes into making this creation. His opening spell defied the boundaries of imagination and his commitment to the truth. The Bhagavad Gita and its lucid reflection of the Upanishads being the source of this truth left the audience spell bound.

Unlike any other body of knowledge the only knowledge that could be revealed and passed on in its totality was the knowledge of Isvara, the knowledge of the Self. Any knowledge, known and unknown, is never complete and needed to be verified. The only

complete body of knowledge was and is that knowledge, knowing which everything is as well known.

An audience battered by the recent stock market crash and reeling under the erosion of wealth was dumb founded when they were told that the creation is non separate from Creator since the material with which this creation was put together was Creator Himself. He is a Conscious Being, an all pervading light illumining our minds to see and understand the truth as it was being unfolded.

In spite of suffering the symptoms of a sore throat, Pujya Pujya Swamiji continued with alarming resonance and clarity, extolling the virtues of one's duty, and revealing the intrinsic connection between duties and the rights. In a universe tending towards chaos one began to see suddenly order. Even the disorder was part of the order! The mantra for success was revealed in its awesome simplicity. "A human being gains success by performing one's duty, and worshipping Him, from whom is the creation of all beings and by whom all this is pervaded,

Pujya Swamiji asked where is Isvara? Which object is away from time and space? The revelation came that even heaven is a time bound place and no permanent solution. What then is available to help a human being perform one's duty, what then is the form of worship that one may do? The answer came in startling clarity and simplicity that one has to see the dharma that one has to follow is

nothing but Isvara. To be in harmony with the creation and the creator, one goes by dharma.

The necessity of dharma becomes the basis of our lives just as a shirt requires a fabric to exist and have meaning. So too dharma gives us the basis on which to lead our lives! The common law and guidance system that forms the basis of our actions is being intrinsically woven with duties towards others and the expectation of others duties towards oneself! With all forms being Isvara, Hindus recognizing this and are free to worship and invoke Isvara in whatever form they choose. To write off Hindus as idolaters and idol worshippers is wrong and hurtful to Hindus everywhere. His dialogue with the religious leaders of the Jewish faith to accept the swastika as a symbol of Hindu culture and not mistake the Nazi abuse of this symbol and to recognize the fact that Hindus are not idol worshippers was a major step in bringing Hindu religion and culture to the world for humanity to benefit as a whole from its teachings.

Pujya Swamiji briefly commented upon the problem with the misunderstood way that those with vested interests misinterpret Hindu religion. The concept of one God was a problem because it tends to separate God from the rest of the creation thereby limiting God. Pujya Swamiji's capacity to humble even the greatest critic in a most unassuming way was evident when Pujya Swamiji stated that the truth did not lie in one God but in realizing there is "only God." It is like trying to find an object that does not exist in space and thereby time as well. This brought about a beautiful shift in revelation when Pujya Swamiji substituted the meaning of *namarupa* from "name and form" to "word and meaning." This small and perhaps largely unnoticed shift stretches the meaning and brings new light to old mantras.

Pujya Swamiji wants people to understand the true meaning of the scriptures and not the corrupted version that is often labeled as Hindu religion. The fact that our culture is unique since it is founded on the principles of truth and peace. Pujya Swamiji beautifully stated that the ancient monuments of Greece and Rome that exist today reflect a culture and religion that is lost to humanity. Humanity's richness is in its diversity but if we destroy that or replace that, then the loss is to humanity as a whole. To differ is our right with the freedom of choice.

The morning meditation classes helped the seeker discover the invariable being who plays the different roles in his/her daily routine and how these did not really interfere with the serenity one seeks which is really oneself. This was merely a continuation of the message in keeping with evening talks but a more personal level where Pujya Swamiji was able to bring out the clarity in relation to the nature of oneself with the world. The wanting, seeking you is not the self one considers it to be, but the very peace you seek; the very serenity and fullness sought is already you. It is a matter knowing that makes the difference!

In between these two illuminating sessions, the multitudes came to seek Pujya Swamiji's blessings and more than that his advice on worldly matters and Pujya Swamiji dealt with them all with an energy that seems as unlimited as his vision and message. And still that was not enough for Pujya Swamiji addressed the students at Nerul and the business school set up by SIES and addressed the women's group WISE on Ashtalaxmi and how Laxmi encompassed not only money but Man's greatest asset in this world which includes home and family and the pivotal and important role women had to play in this.

A letter from a devotee