

Our *Sastra* says that we should do this **thought experiment**. You imagine that eyes are not there. Then form and colours will not be established. Still existence will be there in the form of *sabda*, *sparsha*, *gandha*. Sound also you negate, still existence is there. Now all the attributes are negated, will there be existence or not? It seems like there is no existence. But no. Existence is still there in the form of 'I' who is negating everything. So pure existence will be culminating into 'I' the knower who is essentially awareness. So Isvara who is existence is non-separate from 'I' the consciousness. So the truth behind the world in the form of existence and the truth behind consciousness is one and the same. This fact is revealed by a particular sentence- *tat-tvam asi* – that Isvara you are. That is the equation which reveals the truth behind the individual and the total.

For this we give the example of wave and ocean. The truth behind the individual wave and the truth behind the total ocean is water. From the standpoint of water wave and ocean are the same. Similarly from the standpoint of existence-consciousness I and the Lord are one and the same. I can say- I am Isvara. I am *brahman*. This is the vision of Vedanta. I the consciousness is the truth of everything. Nothing is away from me. Therefore there is no sense of limitation. In the vision of wholeness my sense of limitation is resolved. I am completely acceptable to myself, because nothing is lacking in me. I am limitless existence consciousness.

Someone may say that this is too heavy for me. But this alone will give me ultimate freedom. For ultimate freedom this vision of myself being reality of everything is alone the means. There is no other means. But to have the means for ultimate freedom, I need to have relative freedom. To make more money, I need to have some money. Similarly ultimate freedom can be owned up through this knowledge, only if the person has some relative freedom.

to be continued...

15 Days Residential Vedanta Course

Ācārya - Swamini Nigamananda Saraswati
Date - 2018-09-06 to 2018-09-21
Subjects - * First chapter of Kathopaniṣad
* Selected verses of Bhagavad Gītā
* Basic Sanskrit
* Daily Puja
* Meditation
* Chanting
* Question-Answer Session

Pilgrimage - Dwārikādihy Darṣanam
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