



THE AIM OF LIFE
Desire to fulfil the aim of life
Extract from 8/2/07 Satsang

Om Shri Paramatmane Namaha

There are so many scriptures, so many books, and so many statements can be made. After all there should be an end to all these things. To listen to good lectures or to read good books and scriptures is a nice thing but that is a means and not the end. One does not have to go on listening throughout life until one dies. The real aim is enlightenment, permanent peace, love and oneness with God. That is the aim of life and without that everything is useless. Human life is the most valuable opportunity to us all - there is nothing more valuable than this in the whole universe because it is only here in this human life, in this human body, that the highest truth, God, is realised. God-realisation cannot happen in any other body. It never can. The human body is meant only for that. This is to be understood.

There is a purpose for everything in the world. A cow may be very beautiful but, if it does not produce milk, it is useless. What will you do with it? There may be some mango trees with very fine leaves but if they do not produce mangoes they are useless. What can be done with them? In the same way what is the use of that human body without Self-realisation. The body may be very strong with bright and glowing eyes, attractive lips, glowing cheeks and fine hair, but without Self-realisation what use is it? All masculine muscles and feminine attractiveness and beauty are useless without Self-realisation.

The human body is meant only for this purpose, but it does not mean that all the other worldly activities are useless. There is a group of people who think that all worldly activities are purposeless and the only thing they want to do is to realise God. Such people are also wrong. And those people are also wrong who make worldly activities the objective of their lives, forgetting the true aim of life and indulging in various worldly affairs. Human life cannot exist without multifarious activity and work, but, if there is no Self-realisation and experience of God, then all such activity is useless. So how to combine these two - activity and Self-realisation? That is the point. It is so simple to understand. If the purpose of activity is the satisfaction of our own senses, body and ego, then one will be cut off from the true aim of life. If the purpose of activity is to serve others, and to make others happy, then Self-realisation will happen eventually. The activity is the same but the difference lies in the inner intention. That is the important point. So in our day-to-day life our approach should be to serve others. In whatever circumstances we are and with whomsoever we are, we should try to make others happy.

So please remember that you are here on this planet Earth only for one purpose. Before the time comes for one's physical death, the eternal Truth should be realised inside. That is the purpose. Physical death is compulsory for everyone but, if Self-realisation happens, one does not care for anything including death. Who cares for

physical death then? For such a person, there happens a sort of death of death, because he or she realises the immortality of the Self.

We are part of the eternal Truth. And this realisation of the eternal Truth is not as difficult as many people have said. The difficulty appears because people have not made it the only aim of their life. That is one of the reasons for the apparent difficulty that is so often talked about. They do not have that irrepressible desire for it, which is essential.

A man once approached the great saint, Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans, the guru of Swami Vivekananda, and said that he wanted to realise the self and experience God. He asked when it could happen to him. Ramakrishna Paramhans replied that it was a necessary to have a burning desire inside. It should not remain a hobby but should become a need without which one finds oneself unable to exist. The man could somehow not understand fully and asked another question about it:

“How does it happen?”

The saint said that the next day they would go for a walk and he would explain. The next morning they went for a walk by the side of the river. The saint said that they should bathe in the river, so they both entered the water. Then the saint caught the young man by the neck and pushed him under the water. The man could not bear being under the water and immediately brought his head out of the water. He said:

“What are you doing, you are killing me!”

Then the saint said:

“It happens like this. When it was not possible for you to tolerate it, you came up. When it is not possible for you to exist without God, it happens like this.”

That stage comes but, as long as these worldly attractions dominate us, we remain some way away from that moment.

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