

**OM SAI RAM!**

**Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh,**

**PODCAST 238, “EXPERIENCING DIVINITY WITHIN”**

**April 25, 2024**

*The following text contains excerpts from Prof. Anil Kumar’s book  
“Sai-Chology,” pg.252-257*

**WHY DON’T WE KNOW THAT GOD IS EVERYWHERE?**

Once a postgraduate student asked Baba: “Bhagawan, why don’t we know that God is everywhere? Why don’t we experience Him? If what you say is true, how is it that we don’t know that Truth?”

Baba showed a piece of paper and replied, “See, this is a paper. If you look at this as paper that you make use of in the way it should be used, then you consider it only as material. But on the other hand, if you think of it is as God, you will be reverential, you will worship it. Hence, your worship or reverence is based on your thought perception. Therefore, if you consider worldly objects as material objects, as non-living objects, inert, passive and lifeless, you will have only a materialistic approach to them. You will only have an objective and a physical approach. But, on the other hand, if you think that everything is God, you will have spiritual awakening, sublime experience and true awareness. So, your attitude and your thoughts are the most important”

**HOW TO EXPERIENCE THAT GOD IS EVERYWHERE?**

The second part of the boy’s question was: “Swami, how can one feel that God is everywhere?”

Swami’s reply: “You can experience Divinity if you think of the Divine constantly, get immersed in the Divine and identify with it. Until you are in deep thought and in deep communication with the Divine and are one with it, you cannot experience this cosmic Divinity as the very Reality around you”

**WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME**

Then another boy put this question, “Bhagawan, does it take time to experience Divinity? Is there a time factor involved to sense God everywhere?”

Bhagawan answered in a simple and straightforward manner. “Yes, everything requires time. Things happen at the right time. You have to wait for the right time.”

He gave an example. “When the housewife is pregnant, you have to wait for the baby. Even if you want to see the child before delivery, you cannot. You have to wait until the time of delivery. Similarly, you have to mark your time until you get the experience of Divinity.”

The boy asked again. “Swami, what does ‘right time’ mean?”

Bhagawan said, “The right time depends upon circumstances, conditions, maturity, your own depth and intensity, your understanding and *sadhana* – the spiritual path that you observe and practice.”

He gave an example. “You see, it takes two and a half to three hours to digest the food that you eat. Right? Food digestion takes time. A child’s delivery takes time. So also, time factor is involved to experience the manifestation of Divinity. The time factor involves the intensity of our *sadhana* and our yearning for God.”

### **IT IS A BLESSING TO EXPERIENCE BHAGAWAN**

It is a great blessing to be in Prasanthi Nilayam, in the presence of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. No one can give the spiritual explanations and interpretations of our epics better than Bhagawan.

Prior to coming to Swami, we listened to many people and studied many books. But all we found was only description and narration. The world Teacher, Bhagawan Baba, passes on to us gems, via words of depth and pearls of wisdom. We should not miss this wonderful opportunity. Listening to His discourses is education. Experiencing what He says is a blessing. To practice what He says is liberation.

This blessing is not given to everybody. As Bhagawan says, “Nobody can be here unless I will it. Nobody can associate with My work, with My mission, unless I will it. Nobody can participate in the different wings of the organisation anywhere in the world, unless I will it”

Thus, we are extremely lucky to be in Prasanthi Nilayam. We are not here merely as a result of our desire to be here. We are here because He has chosen us to be here. It is a great blessing to have been chosen to be here on the occasion of Sivaratri.

### **GOD IS NOWHERE – GOD IS NOW HERE!**

An example given by Baba is that of Hiranyakasipu. His son, Prahlada, was a great devotee of the Lord. Unfortunately, Hiranyakasipu, who was a scientific technologist, was a rank materialist and an atheist. But his little son, Prahlada, was an ardent devotee so there was always a tiff between father and son. The argument revolved over reality, existence and Divinity.

The father said, “There is no God, God is nowhere,” whereas the son said, “God is **now here.**” “Nowhere” is the declaration of the father. “**Now here**” is the response of the son.

He dragged Prahlada towards a pillar and shouted: “You dirty fellow! You say that God is everywhere. Do you think that God is there in that pillar?”

The son answered: “Yes indeed. God is very much in the pillar. Why not?” The father then challenged him and hit that pillar so hard that it broke at the centre.

Hiranyakasipu represents one who has physical strength, mental capacity and intellectual power, minus God within himself. He has all the qualities and qualifications but he has no place to keep God within himself.

When he challenged Prahlada to show him God in the pillar and hit the pillar hard, it broke in half. Out of that broken pillar emerged God, in the form called Narasimha.

This is how Baba has developed this subject. Little Prahlada, being a devotee, finds God everywhere, whereas his father, an engineer and a scientist, finds only matter everywhere. He does not see God. Hiranyakasipu broke the pillar, believing it to be only a pillar. Similarly, with only worldly feelings, we find only matter and not Divinity. Prahlada saw Divinity from the microcosm to the macrocosm, so therefore, he found the emergence of God from the broken pillar.

We must be attentive to what Bhagawan says. “The pillar represents the human body. Hiranyakasipu struck the pillar, breaking it into pieces. Do not have attachment to your body. Once this body attachment is given up, we will find Divinity within.

### **GIVE UP BODY ATTACHMENT**

We come to an important statement by Bhagawan: “All *sadhana*, all spiritual paths, all spiritual endeavours, be they *bhajan*, meditation, the reading of scriptures, *yajna* or *yaga*, have only one purpose. Any ritual, any spiritual discipline that you follow is meant for only one purpose: to give up body attachment. If we do spiritual practice with body attachment, all spiritual activity is a waste of time.”

One has to give up body attachment. Swami puts it this way: “You have attachment to the body. When you reduce this, attachment to *atma*, the Self, will replace body attachment. You will experience realisation and attain liberation. All spiritual practices or *sadhana* are directed towards this end.”

Once in Kodaikanal, when Swami was speaking, I exclaimed in appreciation at Swami’s talk. When asked the reason, I explained that when translating Baba’s talk, I also experience moments of ecstasy, when I lapse into forgetfulness and go beyond the limitations of the body!

More on discovering and experiencing Divinity in the next session!

Thank you for your time and attention!

**OM SAI RAM!**