

Reconciling Our Thinking and Intuition

All the higher religions are based upon morality and a code of ethics. But these codes are not based upon human thinking. Either they come directly from God, as in the case of the Ten Commandments and the Vedas, or they are the utterances of someone in a high state of yoga, such as in Patañjali's Yoga Sūtras and the Bhagavad Gītā. Thus they are, in either case, reliable guides for us to base our life on. And if we struggle to bring our actions and our thoughts in line with these teachings, the necessary purification process is initiated within us.

However, words can never convey the total truth. And so inevitably, no matter how profound the teachings, there will be answers that we cannot get, even if the teachings have been interpreted by great saints. For example, a foundation of The Divine Life Society teaching is *ahimsa*, *satyam* and *brahmacarya*. There is perhaps no better guide available to us than these three basic vows. But, as we know, there are times when there can be a conflict between them: In this particular situation am I meant to tell the honest truth or am I meant to emphasise *ahimsa*, non-injury? Sometimes it is a very difficult choice. How do we make that choice?

We have to move towards Lord Kṛṣṇa's teachings in the 66th verse of the 18th Chapter of the Gītā where, in His final teaching to Arjuna, after describing to him all the ways to act in this world, He says "Abandoning all *dharma*-s, take refuge in Me alone." Ultimately our goal is not to be concerned with the interpretations of God but to become God and to naturally, spontaneously express God. Therefore, when we come to a conflict, not knowing what to do—this or that—we are meant to take refuge in God. We are meant to drop our reasoning and just be silent and allow the answer to appear from within.

The most difficult thing in this world is to let go of control of our own life, but that is the goal, because the ego cannot stand without control. When it gives up all control, the ego is not. Therefore, we get practice towards attaining that ultimate goal when we constantly surrender our decisions to God. We use our reason as best we can and in the final analysis we let go and we listen.

This is the process we could see in Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī. Frequently they would ask others for their opinion of what

should be done, and then they would go silently within and listen for God's will for them in the particular situation. It is a way to reconcile our thinking and our intuition.