

## God Cannot Be Limited

Gurudev said that the goal of life is God-realization, meaning to make God real. How do we make God real? Brahman alone is without a second. Ultimately we make Him real by becoming that One without a second. In Christian theology the Father and I are one. We must be reconciled to the Father. That is the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God.

The sages say that both paths are describing one and the same state of knowledge. But the approaches to that knowledge have been quite different. In the Judaic-Christian tradition, God is sought in history, God is sought in action in this world; whereas in the Eastern tradition God is made real through going within, through meditation and ultimately *samādhi*.

Is one path more valid than the other? Our answer will likely be whatever path has been more valid to us. But as devotees of Gurudev Swāmī Śivānandajī, it is helpful to look at his life. What most people saw was a very active person, a person who said never give up on selfless service and proved it by his unending concern for, and service of, others. On the other hand, those who were closest to him in his Kuṭīr say that every morning he had a long period of meditation, of absorbing himself in the Divine.

This might suggest to us that while we may personally have a preference for the inner or for the outer, that as God is both transcendental and immanent and we are meant to be His expression, that perhaps our life should be a combination of the two. Each day we go inward, find that peace within, that stillness, and each day we try, to the very best of our ability, to express that truth in our daily life. We have a balance. We contain or express all of God, both the transcendental and the immanent, both the unmoving and the moving, both the static and the dynamic. It means that our expression is approaching the completeness of God, which includes everything.

The sages tell us that God cannot be limited. Perhaps if we have an idea of what God is and where He is, we are limiting Him. If we drop all ideas and express Him in everything that we do, that is following the ideal of both paths as demonstrated by Gurudev.