

Just As We Are, We Are That

Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī gave us many teachings, but the essence of what they wanted us to know is that we are Divine. They wanted us to realize this truth—to make it real in our consciousness. And they said, “Do it by any means, but by any means do it.” Employ any or all yogas to know it.

Among other instructions, Gurudev said, “Enquire, Who am I? Know thyself and be free.” If we thus follow the path of enquiry, sometimes we can have certain experiences, including experiences of oneness where the ego drops away. Sometimes the whole world can drop away. But still, the experiences do not last. When they are there, we may think that we have found God, but gradually the experiences usually fade away and become memories only.

Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī once said, “It should be the easiest thing in the world to know who you are.” What then is our difficulty? Our difficulty is that we think that God is going to be an experience. We simply cannot absorb the truth that our present self and this present world are God now. That means that everything, just as it is, is God now. Perhaps, if we were childlike enough, it would become obvious to us. Jesus said, “Unless you become like little children, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” It means that we have to get rid of all our ideas of realization and be simple and humble.

Just as we are at this moment, we are Divine, Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmījī constantly told us. We don’t require anything else except the humility to believe the scriptures and believe our gurus when they declare: “That thou art,” and to agree with the *mahāvākyas* when they declare: “I am Brahman. This Self is Brahman.” It is a fact now. We need the courage to affirm it and to live in its light.

The Divine is not an object and never will be an object. It is just as things are now. Until this becomes obvious to us, we should practice living our life based on our faith that it is the absolute truth. Our thoughts, words and deeds should reflect the truth that we are already what we are seeking.