

## Becoming Like God

Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī used to say, “If you want to become God, become like God.” But what is God like? The scriptures have many descriptions. He is all auspiciousness, present everywhere. The great religions, including Sanatana Dharma, will declare that God is truth. They also say that God is love, and that God is purity. And so while there are also other outstanding qualities of God, Love, Truth and Purity are important in all religions.

Therefore, Patañjali made, as the very foundation of his eight steps, *ahimsā*, *satyam*, and *brahmacarya*—non-injury, truthfulness, and purity in thought, word, and deed. It is the foundation of Mahātma Gāndhi’s philosophy, and Gurudev made the practice of *satyam*, *ahimsā*, and *brahmacarya* a condition of membership in The Divine Life Society.

*Ahimsā*, non-injury, practiced over the years gradually leads towards the recognition of God as Love. Truthfulness, practiced in our daily life and especially practiced inwardly, leads us to contemplate God as Truth. And the practice of self-restraint, seeing all others as Divine, leads us to God as Purity. So if we become established in *ahimsā*, *satyam*, and *brahmacarya*, we become like God.

This is an absolute necessity for us, for the truth can only be established within us, we can only support the truth, if the divine foundation is there. But the foundation is not the edifice. Something else is required, which is both implicit and explicit throughout the teachings of Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmījī. Gurudev says, “Meditate on this: Nothing exists. Nothing belongs to me. I am neither the mind or body. Immortal Self I am.” Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī urged us: “Negate that you are the body and mind. Negate your individuality. Constantly affirm your Divinity. Do it night and day.

Therefore along with our regular spiritual practices, along with developing ourselves in *ahimsā*, *satyam*, and *brahmacarya*, we are meant to go after the heart of the truth, the heart of our problem. The scriptures declare that our fundamental error is wrong identification. We can do everything else to perfection, but something will be missing unless we constantly remind ourselves of the truth that we are not this body and

mind, Immortal Self we are. Through this realization alone, we can become truly like God.