

We Are Divine

Gurudev wrote over 300 books and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī gave thousands of talks. No one could possibly absorb all these teachings, and inevitably some of them are seemingly, or actually, contradictory. But is there an essence to all that they have taught us? It has been suggested that it is ultimately very simple. They wanted us to understand that we *are* Divine, and they wanted us to express that truth by the way that we live our lives.

There should actually be no doubt in our mind that we are Divine. This is what the scriptures declare to us. They don't leave any room for doubt. They don't say that some day you will be That. They say, That thou art. Therefore, Ramaṇa Maharṣi used to say to his disciples, "You are all realized." They would object: "You are, Bhagavān, not us." He would reply, "That is your problem; you don't believe it."

Thus the scriptures declare and the saints declare that we *are* Divine. It is not a question of becoming. It is a question of knowing, of believing. Why don't we believe it? Books can be, and have been, written on this complicated question, but in the final analysis all they can do is to help bring us to a point where we, simply, but profoundly, accept the truth.

We are expecting some big experience, and sometimes we can have one. Arjuna had a big experience, but then, why did Lord Kṛṣṇa keep teaching him for another seven chapters before Arjuna finally said, "I have recovered my memory. I will do as you say"? Therefore, experiences come, experiences go. They don't necessarily make us, in the depths of our being, simply believe the truth.

Thus the need of faith. We have heard the truth. In our intellect we know it is true. We simply have to be determined to accept that truth in faith and then live in its light. And what is the first thing we do if we live in that light? We stop seeking something for this false individuality. That in a sense is realization. No longer wanting anything special for ourselves, but living by the truth that we are all one.

Therefore, believing the truth and expressing it helps us to become gradually established in it. One time Gurudev was asked a question. He answered, "Watch me." And if we were able to watch Gurudev or Pūjya

Swāmī Chidānandajī, we saw human beings who lived selflessly for the sake of the Whole and without concern for themselves. They lived to express the truth that they knew, and they called upon us to do the same. They taught us: You *are* Divine. Realize this truth and live to express it.