

## Our Real Purpose Is To Live a Divine Life

It is thought in some circles that morality, leading an ideal life, is fundamentally a means to an end. The end they believe is having spiritual experiences, realizing their divinity and not having to be born again. But when someone spoke to Lord Rāma about his divinity, He denied that He was anything special at all. He was just trying to be a good son, trying to be an ideal citizen. And yet He is revered and remembered until this day.

Gurudev called his society The Divine Life Society, and did say that the goal of life is God-realization. He also said, “Practice *ahimsa*, *satyam*, and *brahmacarya*. This is foundation of yoga and Vedānta.” But he never spoke about no more birth for himself. All he was concerned with was the welfare of others.

Indeed, the name The Divine Life Society doesn’t really represent a means to an end—lead the divine life and then you will get some reward, but rather a recognition that when we know who we are, when we realize our divinity, then there is nothing to do except to live in that light, to bring our entire life in line with the *fact* that we have realized: In other words, an inner compulsion to lead a divine life, to emulate the ideal life of Lord Rāma.

What do we realize when we realize God? We simply realize the *fact* that we have been told all the way along. We still have our lives to lead. We realize that God alone is and we are That, but we still have to bring all parts of our lives in line with the divinity that we have recognized.

A number of books have been brought out on the teachings that Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī has given us here in the mornings, and they have a certain progression about them. The last one is entitled *Seek the Beyond*, and included in it are talks on such subjects as knowing the Knower. But what is the title of the final talk, the talk that he leaves us with? It is “Want Nothing.” It means want nothing for ourselves, and this is what we see as the essence of Lord Rāma. When it came to a question of duty on the eve of His coronation, He wanted nothing for himself, only to do His duty. When there came a question of His beloved wife having been in someone else’s home, He wanted nothing for Himself, only to do the right thing under the circumstances. So He allowed His wife to undergo a trial by fire.

Thus the key to living an ideal life is to want nothing for ourselves and only want to live a life of beauty, a life of *dharma*. And today of all days of the year is a reminder that our real purpose here is not to get or achieve something for ourselves but to daily lead a divine life.