

What Is Our Actual Goal?

The ancients of the Vedic era laid down four aims for our lives. Two of them were practical aims. They said to earn wealth, which means that we should pay our own way and also be able to assist others. They also said to fulfill legitimate desires. In other words, don't be thinking that you should be different than anyone else. Recognize and fulfill those legitimate desires that have been built into the human being.

However, the way we are meant to fulfill these two aims and to live our life in this world was to be governed by the other two aims. First was *dharma* or righteousness, the second *mokṣa* or liberation. But then, the question is, What is the final purpose of our life on earth? Is *dharma* meant to be the means and *mokṣa* the goal, or is there another way of looking at it, where *mokṣa* becomes the means and *dharma* is actually the goal? It depends upon whether we look it from an individual point of view or from God's point of view.

If we look at it from an individual point of view, then it is obvious that we should live a life of *dharma* so that we get our reward which is *mokṣa*. But then, that presupposes that there is a reality to our individuality. Is that the truth? Is that what we are taught by the scriptures? Rather the scriptures speak of One alone without a second. That One alone is ever free. Therefore, when the scriptures declare, That thou art, it means that we are free, liberated, right now. We are Divine, now.

This is what Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī constantly declared to us: "You are Divine," Pūjya Swāmījī would add, "Know this truth and live in its light." If the fact of our Divinity hasn't yet become our clear realization, we are meant to accept it on faith—faith in what the scriptures say and faith in what our *guru*-s say. Living our life in the light of the oneness of all things is what *dharma* is. *Dharma* is the expression of oneness.

Therefore, if we see life from the point of view of a false individuality, we will see its ultimate aim as *mokṣa*. If we see it from the point of view of the declaration of the scriptures, that we are already free, then we are here to express it. This means that our ultimate goal is to live a life of perfect *dharma* here and now, every day. This is the example given

us by Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī. Realizing our oneness makes *dharma* our natural expression.