

Changing Our Angle of Vision

One of Gurudev's best known aphorisms is "Change your angle of vision." In what way are we meant to change our angle of vision? Are we meant to look in another direction? That's one way of looking at it, but it is actually a more radical change than that. Our angle of vision right now is as a subject that considers itself to be the center of the universe. Everything else, including God, is an object to it. This is obviously an unsustainable angle of vision. We can't all be the center of the universe. The center of the universe has to be One alone, which means that there is no second, no object.

So change in our angle of vision is meant to be a radical one—beyond our understanding. We cannot even conceive of it. The closest we can come is in deep meditation where the world disappears. In a sense, that which is watching the world disappears with the world, and we remain One alone. That may be a very peaceful state and a good learning experience for us, but it is hardly practical and surely not what Gurudev meant nor demonstrated in his own life. Whatever he was, he was here and now functioning in this world, functioning far more effectively than most of us could ever hope to.

Therefore, we have to try to find a situation where we can see God in all—in this world. Selfless service helps us. Sometimes repeating our *mantra* will be a doorway to seeing God in this world. But, whereas the flaw of deep meditation was that the world disappeared, using these techniques we are still very much there as the subject; and while our vision has improved, the division between subject and object is still present. This proves to us that in the final analysis any technique of ours can help to give us an indication of the goal, but as the scriptures declare, the final vision is in God's hands.

However, there are various techniques such as the few just mentioned that can help us become more like God, and as Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī said, "If you want to become God, become *like* God." One technique that can give us some idea is to recognize that no matter what our state of evolution is at the present moment, we are one hundred per cent divine. That thou art, the scriptures declare. Our fundamental truth is that no matter what our angle of vision is, we are as divine as we are ever going to be. That we need to change our angle of vision, there is no

argument, but equally there is no argument that we are a hundred per cent divine right now.

That knowledge—that we have something to do which is to evolve our consciousness, but are a hundred per cent divine right now—gives us a base to evolve from that provides a steadiness that is like God. Therefore, to believe the scriptures, to believe our guru when they continuously tell us that we are divine is one of the best *sādhana*-s that we can follow—as we continue our efforts to evolve until the new angle of vision is our only experience.