

Seeing Nothing Except God

In the old days Gurudev used to attend office each morning in the Diamond Jubilee Hall near the Ganga. He had rows of typists working, and visitors would drop in to have *darśan*. One morning one of the visitors suddenly asked Gurudev, “Have you seen God?” Gurudev didn’t answer. Instead he asked one of his assistants to bring the man a cup of coffee. Later, when, no doubt, the question had been forgotten, Gurudev turned to the man and said, “I see nothing except God.”

Why didn’t Gurudev give the devotee that answer right away? Perhaps because the question and the answer were coming from two entirely separate dimensions. When the devotee asked the question have you seen God, he was asking it from his point of view, the angle of vision of most of us. We assume that God is an object, something that we are going to see or attain. Gurudev answered the question from an entirely different point of view, from a different angle of vision, as he used to express it. He said, “I see nothing except God,” which meant that wherever he looked—inside, outside, he saw nothing except God.

In what way did he see God? Not as an object or something shining within or without, but rather, we could say, with the eye of faith. Ramaṇa Maharṣi used to say to those sitting in front on him, “You are all realized.” They, of course, would not agree: “You are Bhagavan, not us.” He would then say, “That is your problem. You don’t believe it.” He also used to say, “Whatever comes, must go. Whatever has a beginning, will have an end. Therefore, the eternal, what you are seeking, is always present.”

Why don’t we see it? Why isn’t it obvious to us? Because we don’t believe it. We don’t truly believe the scriptures when they declare that Brahman alone is without a second. We don’t truly believe the *mahāvākya*, the great sentence that declares That thou art. Therefore, neither do we see God outside, nor do we see God inside. We are waiting for an experience, an experience that will be an object to us, whereas the God we are seeking is our own Self right now.

We need—through the eye of faith, through the eye of true knowledge—to see God within, to see God without and also as a mystery beyond both. Gurudev told us to do *sādhana* my dear children, Do *sādhana*. We are meant to keep up our spiritual practices until, with the eye of faith,

with the eye of knowledge, we see nothing except God. We are meant to recognize the significance of our present situation—who we are just as we are.