

Divinity, Goodness, and Evolution

As seekers of the Divine, we may have intellects that can understand the subtlest truths, we may be able to enquire into, Who am I? we may have a heart full of devotion, but in the final analysis, most of us are like little children. We want something that is very simple to understand, something that we can always fall back on. And if there is three very simple concepts in the teaching and examples of Gurudev Swāmī Śivānandajī and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī, they could be expressed in the three simple words: Divinity, goodness, and evolution.

Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī said that if you would like one word to represent Gurudev's teachings, it could be Divinity. Everything is Divine. You are Divine. There is nothing that is not Divine. Divinity alone is. This is a truth that easily comes off the end of our tongue, but it doesn't really sink in. We know the truth as an object of experience, not as our experience. Therefore, Gurudev said that the goal of life is God-realization, which means to make God real, which means that the all-pervasiveness of Divinity becomes our reality. We see nothing else.

That Divinity needs to be expressed. It is not meant to be hidden. It is meant to be expressed in our daily life and so, what we saw in Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī was not only Divinity, but pure goodness. Be good and Do good was not only a motto for them, but the expression of their lives. Goodness they were and goodness they expressed; continuously they expressed it in thought word and deed. Goodness helped them realize God and goodness was the expression of the oneness they were.

Therefore what they wanted us all to do was to see our life as a pattern of evolution from wherever we are now into Divinity and goodness. Scriptures say we have taken 84 lakhs of births to reach the human birth. We are in a process of evolution from near nothingness, up to animal, to human, then to Divinity and goodness. That is our purpose here: one more step in our evolution towards seeing Divinity everywhere, becoming that Divinity and expressing it as pure goodness.

Thus from one point of view we could say that the teachings of The Divine Life Society and the examples of Gurudev and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī could be summarized in the three words: Divinity, goodness and evolution.