

The Universal Angle of Vision

Like scripture, Gurudev's aphorisms have many meanings at different levels. Be good. Do good has an infinite number of meanings, from the simple to the most profound. So too with Change your angle of vision. It can go from the very mundane—to looking at it from another point of view—to recognizing how radical the spiritual life really is.

Fundamentally, our principal problem is that we will not give up our angle of vision in order to adopt God's angle of vision. How can we become God if we retain our angle of vision? We have this illusion that God is going to be an experience for us, whereas the truth is that we are already what we are seeking. Our task is to get rid of the illusion that we are not what we are seeking.

Therefore, at a fundamental level changing our angle of vision means the constant practice of changing it from a personal point of view to an impersonal point of view. When we are faced with a question, it isn't so much what should I do or think in a situation like this, but what God's point of view is in this particular situation.

Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī said that if you want to become God, become like God. It means to have God's angle of vision, see it from the universal point of view. So that, if our goal is to become God, and, therefore, to have God's angle of vision, can there be a more direct path than the constant practice of looking at our life and any questions we have from a universal point of view?

What is the essence of the universal point of view? There is no other. Other individuals are there, objects are there, the earth and sky and wind and clouds are there, but we can't see anything as other. Intrinsic in all the differences is oneness. It cannot be explained, but at least in our imagination—if we have not had the experience—we can ask, What is God's point of view? What is the universal point of view?

We will find that most of our difficulties will answer themselves when as part of our *sādhana*, as part of our regular practice, we say to ourselves, let us look at it from the universal angle of vision.