

The Great Challenge

We have just completed a wonderful period of worship and renewal. The purpose of worship and renewal is to bring us back to our center, to remember what is most important, to recognize that we are all one in the Lord. Now comes the important part. It is to take that renewal, that remembrance into the rest of the year.

It is a peculiarity of our self-centeredness that we think that the whole world, including God, is there for our purposes. The purpose of worship and renewal is to gradually let go of that false idea. So often our worship is bargaining with God, sometimes for worldly things, sometimes for spiritual achievements or rewards. But ultimately the discovery that Gurudev wants us to make is that because One alone is, we are obviously here for His purposes and His glory.

Surrender is the key to the spiritual life. That is the purpose of us being in the Āśram and imbibing the truths of the scriptures. It is to lead us to the conviction that we are here to be part of the purpose of the Whole. We are meant to give our life for the sake of others. This is what Gurudev Swāmī Śivānandajī and Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī taught us, and, above all, it is what they demonstrated in their lives.

Therefore, the great challenge lies ahead. Our great purpose lies ahead. It is to forget ourselves and give ourselves for God's purpose, to be used as He sees fit and as He guides us day by day.