

True Security

A number of years ago one of our senior Āśram residents was asked to be a guest speaker at a girl's school. When she was giving her talk, she asked the students what they were most interested in. To her surprise, one after another they answered with one word: Security.

That, of course, is very human and understandable, and, indeed, as seekers we may be seeking the ultimate security. We are seeking oneness with the eternal, with the Supreme. But the path from where we are to that ultimate security is generally speaking anything but a secure one. Indeed, there is nothing more important for us to do than, so to speak, loosen up, be prepared to let go of those things that we normally associate security with.

We see security in money, in relationships, in a secure job or profession. And to a certain extent these are justified and not to be scorned. But our goal is to change our identity from a wrong identity to our true identity. That is a radical change and it means going out into the darkness, putting our hand in the hand of God. It means risk. It means, at times, gambling everything.

Therefore, we must be aware that if ultimately real security is in the Divine, then we must put our life into Its hands as soon as possible. Sometimes this has to be a radical risk, but normally it is a matter of always being open to what is new. It's a matter of refusing to settle down and be safe. This is what Gurudev Swāmī Śivānandajī silently demonstrated to those around him. This is what Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī demonstrated to those who came in touch with him. A constant openness to anything new, which means a constant openness to the Spirit.

Many of us do not want to be open out of fear—perhaps we will make a mistake. But that's the risk that we take, because as we put our life in God's hands, we trust that if someone suggests something wrong to us, He will warn us. Our trust is in God rather than ourselves.

There is no security in the things of this world finally. We cling to them because we're not putting our trust in God where the ultimate security is. It is, therefore, surrender and trust that lead us from the false security of

this world to the true security of the eternal. With faith in the eternal, we must constantly keep ourselves at risk.