



DR SHOBHA RAJU

YOU TOO GOD?

...Susceptible?

“Govinda”...audience shouted loudly...

“Not enough...say it louder...it should reach Tirupati”, said “Haridasa” (the one who tells the stories with songs and dialogues, illustrating the power & miracles of Lord Hari, a prominent form of Hindu God).

They shouted louder.

Shouting louder gets more grace? Doesn't matter whether we have devotion at heart or not? Doesn't matter even if we are involved in unethical activities for self appeasement and saturated with jealousy and hatred, causing pain to others?

Then how is God greater than a corrupt politician..who favors his coterie irrespective of their integrity?

Shouting louder is shedding inhibitions in devotion to God. It makes no difference to the



Almighty who is all-pervading, whether one shouts His name loudly or murmurs. All that matters is the intensity of involvement one has while chanting or singing His name.

True, chanting His name itself has some power. It helps the devotee to certain extent. I have observed. But the same name makes one to realize one's own follies...it could be through unexpected

adverse situations mostly. The working of The Divinity is hard to formalize.

Be it chanting of Name, worships, ritualistic procedures such as Homas, Abhishekams, unless we do it heartily, the response from The Divine is not realized. Mechanical visits to temples may have some effect on the devotee but ultimately The Divinity drives the devotees to apply heart.

There was a man who used to visit a temple daily. There were complaints from people that he concentrates more on the ladies in temple than the deities. It was awful to observe his devotion to God and convoluted behavior towards ladies. He didn't hesitate to talk bad about the good ones who helped him and treated him with respect. He died in the half span of human life. The common devotees would think, "How come that devotee, who visited the temple regularly died so young? Is there God at all? Does He protect His devotees?"...Etcetera.

There is a predominant factor to be remembered called, "Karma". The some total of actions (physical and mental) we do is called Karma. Almighty Krishna died because an arrow of a hunter hit his toe as He was laying in a garden. Krishna in the incarnation of Rama, killed Vali, a monkey-king, hiding Himself behind a tree. He had to resort to that strategy because Vali

had a divine blessing that he would get half of the strength from the person, whoever fights against him. To restore "Dharma" (Righteousness), Krishna had to adopt the strategy. Even then, the law of "Karma" worked on Him too. After all, Law maker cannot be the law breaker!

Then what is the use of being in devotion, if it cannot save us from Karma? Grace attained through devotion serves as anesthesia while going through Karma. In reality, we might be carrying a mountain on our head. But it feels like we are carrying a small stone, with the anesthesia of devotion.

When devotion takes one to the knowledge of self-realization (that one is not a separate entity, one is the integral part of the Cosmic Being), Karma could even be burnt in that fire of Knowledge.

*"yasya sarve samarambhah
kama-sankalpa-varjitah
jnanagni-dagdha-karmanam
tam ahuh panditam budhah"*

When we were kids we cried our hearts for the toy we so fondly wanted to possess. When we grew up, we laughed at our innocence or ignorance of childhood. We don't feel the same attachment and desire to possess the toy. So also, all the mundane attachments and desires cease to work on us once we realize our true nature, that is Atman, the imperishable energy which is the integral part of The Whole or The Parabrahman (Consciousness).

It's hard to expect everyone to instantly connect with Divinity, while chanting the name..visiting the temple...performing Puja or any ritual. An honest attempt to connect is the key. Rest will fall in line.

*"asamsayam maha-baho
mano durnigraham calam
abhyasena tu kaunteya
vairagyena ca grhyate"*

By practice, it's possible!

*(Author is a well-known
musician, Devotional singer,
writer and composer.)* 

