

# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Volume 2



**HIS HOLINESS SHRI. DATTA SWAMI**



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Chapter  
**NEW QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**230. Are good and bad universal or merely dependent on the regional culture? [February 12, 2006]?**

Just because the majority follows a certain concept, it cannot be correct under the name of culture. Suppose the majority of officials are corrupt. Can you say that corruption is correct because it is their culture? Cultural differences like difference in dress, language etc., may not be related to good and bad but there are certain universal concepts of good and bad irrespective of any region. For example killing of any living being is a sin and thus non-vegetarian food is bad, irrespective of any regional culture. Of course I accept that it can be controlled only step by step as mentioned in the Manu Smriti and Patanjali's Yoga Sutras. You can resist eating non-vegetarian food on several holy days and gradually avoid it forever.

**231. Should penance be done for achieving powers from God [February 12, 2006]?**

Penance is nothing but rigorous worship of God. Penance for boons and powers has always resulted in destruction at the end. Kumbhakarna asked for a long sleep as a boon after doing penance. When he awoke he met with death in the hands of the Lord. But Muchikunda got the same boon without penance and when he awoke, he got salvation at the hands of the Lord. Materialistic problems are solved by God even by devotion and even if the devotee does not ask for boons. Tyagaraja was a devotee of the Lord and was never worried about the marriage of his daughter. Yet it was performed in the best way by the grace of the Lord. Ravana asked for powers by penance and was finally destroyed by the Lord. Prahlada, a devotee never asked for powers from the Lord. But he showed the possession of all the supernatural powers since he could resist the various attempts that were made to kill him. He was protected by the Lord finally. Therefore, devotion without any aspiration is the best way by which boons and powers will be granted whenever necessary. Whether it is in ancient times or in the present time, the concept remains the same.

Chapter  
**QUESTIONS FOR SURYA**

[July 24, 2007. Shri Surya (Mumbai) asked some questions to Swami. The questions were posed to him by some devotees.]

**232. When the Veda says that God is not body (Akayam), how do you support the human incarnation of God? [July 24, 2007]**

God is not any medium or body (*Akayamavranam...—Veda*) because God is unimaginable. The body or medium is a part of creation and hence is imaginable. God is also not modified into the medium or body. God only enters the medium or body. The electric current is not the wire. The current is not modified into the wire. The current has entered the wire. As long as the current exists in the wire, the wire has to be treated as the current. There is no way to experience the current other than this. The wire attains the property of the electric current and gives a shock, thereby giving the experience of the existence of the current. The experience of the existence of the current is not the experience of the knowledge of the original form of current. God entered the human body of Krishna and Krishna became God. Krishna lifted the hill on His finger. This unimaginable event indicates the existence of the unimaginable God in Krishna. However, by this, God did not become imaginable.

The Veda says that God revealed His body (*Vivrunute Tanum svam...*). Therefore, the word Akayam means “God is not the body”. It should be taken as a Nanyatatpurusha samasa (a mode in Sanskrit grammar). If you say that the meaning of this word is “God has no body” (Bahuvrihi samasa), then it contradicts the above Vedic statement (*Tanum svam*) which says that God reveals His own body. It follows that God must have His own body. There is another Vedic statement in which this word is used in the sense of a Bahuvrihi samasa (*Akayonirgunohyatma*). Atma in this statement represents God because God is compared to the soul in the body in view of His importance in this world. The statement means that the original unimaginable God is not the possessor of the body or the possessor of the qualities before creation. You have to take this statement to the state of God before creation. Otherwise, once creation is done, God becomes the possessor of creation, which is treated as His own body by the Veda (*Prithivi tasya shariram*). Any human body in the world comes under the

possession of God after creation and then God becomes the possessor of any human body. Thus, you cannot interpret it in the sense of a Bahuvrihi Samasa after creation. The Veda also says that God entered into creation (*Tadevanupravishat*) and this refers to the human incarnation, where God becomes the special possessor of a particular human body. The entire kingdom is the property of the king in a general sense. In a special sense, the royal palace is the property of the king. Similarly, although God is the possessor of the world in a general sense, He becomes the special possessor of a particular human body like Krishna. The vision of Vishwarupam showed by Him, indicates the general possession of the entire cosmos as His body. However, as a result of this, every human being cannot claim to be a human incarnation of God as is done by followers of Advaita. Every human being is under the control of God like every house in the kingdom. The human body of Krishna alone is the living place of God like the royal palace.

In the case of the human incarnation, the word Atman means the individual soul, which is not the body (Kayam) and not the Jeeva (Guna). The individual soul is pure awareness, which is neither the external gross body (Kayam) nor the internal bundle of qualities (Guna or Jeeva). Although pure awareness is also a quality (Sattvam), this fact is neglected, since awareness is the controller of other qualities. A king is also a citizen but he is said to be the Lord of all citizens. When we refer to citizens, we refer to all other human beings except the king, even though the king is also a human being and a citizen. If you take this statement in the sense of God, there also, it means that God is neither the external gross body nor the internal Jeeva. Then, you may say that God means the pure awareness as per Advaita. Here the pure awareness is also a quality (Sattvam; refer *Sattvatsamjayate Jnanam—Gita*) included in the category of Jeeva, as said above. Even otherwise, the individual soul, which is bundle of qualities, includes pure awareness as the material of the qualities. A bundle of golden jewels includes gold. Therefore, here the statement means that God is neither the gross body, nor any quality and nor even the pure awareness.

All these three items (gross body, qualities and pure awareness) are the items of creation where as God is the Creator, who is beyond the creation. The Gita says that God enters the human body (*Manusheem tanumashritam*). After the entry, the human body becomes His body. Christianity says that God is in flesh. God is neither the human being nor is God modified into the human being. God only entered the human being. Such a human being alone is to be treated as God. For human beings, the

human being is the best medium for interaction with God in order to receive knowledge and guidance in the spiritual path.

**233. It is said that God incarnated as a pig and killed a demon, who immersed the earth in the ocean. But the ocean itself is on the earth. How is it possible? [July 24, 2007]**

The concept behind the symbolic story must be understood. The earth represents humanity. The sea represents worldly attractions. The demon represents the preacher, who attracted humanity and immersed it in the worldly attractions by rejecting the existence of God. The earth was then lifted on the mouth [on the tusks] of the pig. This indicates that God in human form came down and lifted humanity from the worldly attractions by preaching through His mouth. Here both the demon-preacher and the followers are really stupid pigs. God in the form of a pig indicates that God has to come in a medium that has qualities similar to the people whom He wants to uplift. Similarly, God came as a fish and uplifted from the ocean, the knowledge of God (Veda), which was stolen by a demon. This again represents that the knowledge of God was being used as an instrument to achieve worldly happiness and thus the spiritual knowledge was immersed in the worldly attraction. The fish represents the third eye of knowledge by which the spiritual knowledge is isolated from such worldly attraction. So God was established as the ultimate aim to be achieved and not as something instrumental to achieve worldly happiness.

**234. A devotee called Pundarika asked God to stand outside the house till he finished serving his parents. How do you say that God is greater than one's parents? [July 24, 2007]**

Pundarika was the worst person throughout his life and he became a devotee only later on. Prahlalada was a devotee from birth and is certainly greater than Pundarika. Prahalada rejected his father for the sake of God. Pundarika had cheated and harmed his parents and unless he served his parents, his previous sin could not be removed. Unless the sin is removed, God will not allow him to come near Him. His rejection of God indicates the will of God, which is the rejection of Pundarika till he clears his previous mistake. The soul changes parents from birth to birth but God is constant in every birth. Therefore, nobody including one's parents can stand before God. Shankara left His mother for the sake of God. Shankara was a great scholar of the scriptures and was also a great devotee. Pundarika was only a devotee. Shankara has to be taken as an authority in spiritual knowledge. The story of Pundarika is meant for beginners who are

only eligible for Pravritti (worldly behavior) but not eligible for Nivritti (behavior towards God). Some clever people try to gain undue advantage in Pravritti by exploiting and misusing the interpretation of this concept that is applicable to Nivritti. For example, a fellow loves a bad girl and wants to marry her against the wishes of his parents. He wants to avoid the authority of his parents. He may quote the examples of Prahalada and Shankara and prove that parents are not the ultimate authority. Now, he will use this result to marry the bad girl. For such clever people, the concept is to be twisted. For such a fellow, the story of Pundarika should be used and the authority of the parents must be established as the ultimate authority to save him from the grip of the bad girl. Everything depends on the context. Shankara said that any human being is God, just to attract the atheists to the spiritual path. This twist is necessary in that context. Otherwise, for the normal context, God is certainly the highest. He alone will be the constant caretaker of any soul in every birth as long as this creation exists.

Chapter  
**DISCOURSE FOR BALAJI**

[August 1, 2007] Dr. Balaji (Sheshadri Thiruvankadam) residing in Los Angeles, USA and doing postdoctoral research in mathematics at the University of California, visited Swami. He had a discussion with Swami, in which he asked Swami several questions, which were answered by Swami.]

**235. How can one recognize a devotee? [August 1, 2007]**

A devotee is like a student. A student varies in his level of study starting from LKG<sup>1</sup> to PG<sup>2</sup> level. The level is important. Knowledge generates devotion and devotion generates practical service. The intensity in practical service indicates the intensity of devotion, which in turn indicates the level of knowledge. The extent of sacrifice in the practical service indicates the extent of real love for God. The real love for your child is indicated by your practical service to the child that you do through the sacrifice of work and the sacrifice of the fruit of work. Hanuman is considered to be the real and best devotee of God. Throughout the Valmiki Ramayana, there is not a single mention of Hanuman chanting the name of God or singing devotional songs etc., which constitute theoretical devotion. The Sundara Kanda<sup>3</sup> elaborates the practical service done by Hanuman in the work of God. The most important point is that Hanuman did all that practical service to His contemporary human incarnation, which was Lord Rama. He did not serve statues or pictures of past human incarnations like Vamana, Parashurama etc. Neither did He serve statues or pictures of energetic forms of God from the upper world, like Vishnu, Shiva etc. The Gopikas also served Krishna, who was their contemporary human incarnation. They too did not serve the statue or picture of some past human incarnation like Rama. The Gopikas served Krishna by sacrificing the fruit of their work, which was butter. They buttered up Krishna with real butter and not through mere words and feelings (theoretical devotion)<sup>4</sup>! The

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<sup>1</sup> Lower Kindergarten.

<sup>2</sup> Postgraduate

<sup>3</sup> Chapter of Ramayana

<sup>4</sup> Shallow or hypocritical devotees merely butter up God by their prayers and songs to gain some favor from Him. They do not want to serve Him practically.

practical service becomes meaningful only in the case of a living human form of God. It is meaningless in the case of inert statues and pictures because the fruit of the practical service goes to the priest and not to God directly. Hence the devotee of the contemporary human incarnation alone is devoid of ego and jealousy towards the co-human form and such a devotee alone can be recognized as the real devotee. Devotion is to be judged by the logical basic knowledge and not by the extent of ignorant emotion.

**236. How can I know that I am in the right spiritual path? [August 1, 2007]**

Your inner conscience, aided by logical analysis of the scriptures, which is given by the Sadguru, gives you the correct green signal of the right spiritual path. The Sadguru is only the helper but the inner conscience alone is the final judge to give the conclusion through its full satisfaction. Mere conscience cannot be the judge, without the help of Sadguru because the conscience of Ravana always gave its judgment that whatever Ravana did was correct. Krishna told Arjuna to act according to his conscience after analyzing His preaching (*Vimrushyaitadasheshena...—Gita*). Both are equally important. Unless your conscience is satisfied, you should not yield to anyone including the Sadguru. At the same time, you should not be overconfident about your own capability alone.

**237. Can I expect some visions from God to know that I am on the right path? [August 1, 2007]**

Visions are miracles done by God to rectify defective students. Visions are not necessary for souls of perfect spiritual level. Krishna never showed the cosmic vision (Vishwarupam) to the Gopikas, who were the perfect sages. He showed this vision to Sage Udanka, who was rectified permanently. Again He showed this vision to Arjuna, who was rectified temporarily, upto the 18<sup>th</sup> day of war. On that last day, Arjuna refused to get down from the chariot for the sake of his own prestige before the soldiers, even though Krishna ordered him to do so. Again Krishna showed the same vision to the Kauravas, who did not change at all. Jesus said that the devotees who believe without proof are really blessed. Hence miracles like visions are not important at all in the case of real devotees.

**238. How can one understand words like Dharma (justice) and Adharma (injustice) in the spiritual effort? [August 1, 2007]**

In Pravritti (social behavior) one should vote for justice and vote against injustice. In the spiritual field or Nivrutti (subject related to God), one should vote for God even if it means voting against justice, because

God is the ultimate justice (Paramdharma). Shankara cheated His mother to do the work of God and that was not a sin. He did not cheat her to marry a girl and go away with the girl! Ramanuja left his newly married wife for the sake of God and did not to marry another girl again! You should not mix Pravritti and Nivritti and get confused.

**239. Is it not better to earn more and sacrifice more for God's work?  
[August 1, 2007]**

One should not be lazy and one should put his maximum effort in doing any work. But if one earns only a little in spite of his best effort, one need not be discouraged because God looks at the percentage of sacrifice and not the magnitude of the sacrifice. Suppose a person lives in India and earns Rs. 100 and donates Rs. 20 to God. Another person lives in USA and earned \$100 and donates \$10 which are equal to Rs. 400. Which is the greater sacrifice? The sacrifice of Rs. 20 is greater than the sacrifice of the Rs. 400 because the former is 20 % of the first person's salary and the latter is only 10 % of the second person's salary. Dharmaraja sacrificed 3 crores<sup>5</sup> of rupees (just an assumption) to priests during the Ashwamedha sacrifice and as a result he went up to heaven, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> upper world<sup>6</sup>. Saktuprastha sacrificed flour worth just 3 rupees to the hungry guest during a drought but he sacrificed entirely; that was everything that he possessed. He went to Brahma Loka, which is the 7<sup>th</sup> upper world. This concept of God is quite different from say a railway ticket, where the charges are proportional to the distance traveled<sup>7</sup>.

**240. I asked a spiritual preacher to show me my Sadguru. The preacher smiled and kept silent. What is the meaning of that smile? [August 1, 2007]**

Recognizing the Sadguru is the essence of the whole spiritual effort. In a chemistry practical exam, you are given a salt [chemical] for analysis. If you ask the examiner for the name of the salt, he will just smile. Even if you are able to find out the name of the salt, you will not get marks for just writing the name unless the clear procedure of identification is mentioned. Your knowledge of the procedure is important. If somebody gives you the name of the Sadguru, you may follow Him for sometime. When the

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<sup>5</sup> 1 crore = 10 million

<sup>6</sup> According to Hinduism, there are 6 worlds above this world (totally seven upper worlds), which are different levels of heavens and seven worlds below it, which are different levels of hell.

<sup>7</sup> Travelling to Brahma Loka, which is farthest away from our world, cost Shaktuprastha only Rs. 3, while traveling to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven, which is much closer to here, cost Dharmaraja over Rs. 3 crores.

Sadguru tests your faith, you will run away from Him because your selection of the Sadguru was not based on your logical analysis, aided by the scripture. Therefore the recognition of the Sadguru by logical analysis is important. Logical analysis will clarify all your doubts and your faith in Him will be doubtless and firm.

The knowledge given by the Sadguru to you, is always confined to the next higher level from where you stand, so that you can climb upto that next step. The knowledge of the ultimate level is not expressed by the Sadguru immediately, until you complete the lower levels. Even a liberated soul assisting God (Sadguru) may serve your immediate requirement, but then you have to constantly change your preacher as you rise to the higher levels. Sometimes, there is a risk of meeting a preacher of a lower level, who will drag you down. If you meet the Sadguru once in your life, it is sufficient, because He gives you the total knowledge, analyzed from all angles. This total knowledge will remain in your self qualitatively, in a complete sense. It may be defeated initially due to its lack of quantitative strength. The ignorance that has come with you from several births and has quantitative strength, may win. But the qualitative concept of the total knowledge is never lost and in course of time it gains quantitative strength. You are sure to defeat the ignorance and reach the goal one day or the other. This is the greatest fortune of meeting the Sadguru once in several millions of births (*Bahunaam Janmanaamante...—Gita*). The human birth is rare. The interest to reach God is still rarer. Meeting the Sadguru is very very rare (*Mahapurusha Samshtayah—Shankara*).

#### **241. Why does God keep silent to some people even though they cry to Him intensely? [August 1, 2007]**

A diabetic patient cries before a doctor to get to eat a sweet. The doctor has infinite number of sweets but he does not care at all to give one to the patient. You are crying before God, who is the Divine Father (Creator of all the souls) to give some wealth or to solve some problem. If He helps you, there will not be even a trace of any personal loss to Him. Neither is His wealth finite nor is His power finite. His love for souls is not limited either. The only factor that guides God is seeing the future position of the soul after God helps the soul. If after receiving God's help, you are going to reach the climax of ego, God will prefer to keep silent and not answer your cries. Because He knows that after His help, you will fall down even from your present level and then you will cry again before Him to lift you up. If the doctor gives you the sweet, the level of your blood sugar may go up and the emergent treatment required, is also the responsibility of the same

doctor. Hence the doctor will not give you the sweet. If the doctor is confident of your health, he may give the sweet. Sometimes the doctor gives you the sweet and then also conducts the emergent treatment to show you the truth. This is when you scold the doctor and call him unkind. The response of the doctor lies on his analysis of the situation and it is not the subject of the patient at all. You must have faith in the doctor (God) that any response from Him is for your good alone. You must also know that the patient is ignorant of his own real welfare.

**242. Why are people involved in killing each other in the name of God? [August 1, 2007]**

The original founders of the religions were human incarnations of the same God like Krishna, Jesus, Mohammed, Buddha etc. Every religion says that their God alone created this entire earth or this entire humanity. Unfortunately, there is only one earth and this proves that there is only one God mentioned by all the religions. Since God is one and the same, there cannot be contradicting concepts between different religions. But we find some contradictions and people are divided based on these contradictions. This division is leading to quarrels and finally people end up killing each other. These contradictions cannot be from God because there is only one God as said above. These contradictions were introduced into the religions only by some misinterpretations made by the followers, in the name of God. Hence the killing is also being done in the name of God.

The Qur'an says that you should protect even followers of other religions and convey the message of Allah to him. It is left to him whether to follow the message or not. Hiranyakashipu worshipped Lord Shiva and his son Prahlada worshipped Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu killed Hiranyakashipu not because he worshipped Lord Shiva but because he tortured Prahlada to change his religion of worshipping Vishnu. In fact Shiva is Vishnu (*Shivashcha Naarayanah—Veda*). The conclusion of this is that God will punish you if you torture a devotee of any religion obstructing the freedom of his religion. Prahlada did not force his father to worship Vishnu. The same God exists in different forms in different religions. Hinduism is a mini-model of this unity in diversity that should exist in the universe as Universal Spirituality.

**243. For what type of service I am suited? [August 1, 2007]**

Any soul is suitable for that type of service to God, in which it is spontaneously talented. You should serve God in any way you like spontaneously, without any force or fear or ambition for any fruit in return.

God is pleased only with such spontaneous service and the fruit of your service is always in the same phase as your service (*Ye yathamam...—Gita*). If your spontaneous service is theoretical, the fruit is also theoretical. If you praise God, God will also praise you in return. He will grant you a good voice and good language. If you show theoretical devotion through good emotions, He will grant you a good mind. If you serve Him through knowledge, He will grant you good intelligence. If you serve Him practically, He will help you practically. If you do practical service with aspiration for some fruit in return, He will grant you practical fruit, which is temporary, like heaven. If you do practical service without aspiring for any fruit in return, like Hanuman, you will be granted the eternal practical fruit.

**244. How should we respond to the opposition that comes while propagating God's knowledge in the world? [August 1, 2007]**

Even God keeps silent to such opposition and therefore you need not bother about that issue. The teacher knows that a particular student will not pass even if he is taught. But the student will blame the teacher that he failed only because the teacher did not teach him. Just in order to avoid this unnecessary blame, the teacher teaches all the students in the class. Similarly God likes to propagate His divine knowledge to the entire humanity so that no soul should blame Him at the time of the final enquiry. You are serving God in the propagation of divine knowledge so that no soul blames Him later on. Your responsibility ends with the propagation and in fact the responsibility of God also ends with that. The propagation of the divine knowledge of Jesus was a failure if you limit the program to the span of His life alone. But it became tremendously successful if you consider the period extended to the present day. Therefore failure and success cannot be decided by a short span of time.

**245. Vaishnavas say that Narayana alone should be worshipped and Shaivas say that Shiva alone should be worshipped. Is it correct? [August 1, 2007]**

If this means that God alone should be worshipped and that one should not concentrate on the world, it is the correct opinion of the original founder of any religion. But unfortunately, this statement is twisted by the followers to mean that you should not worship any form of God belonging to another religion. The original statement recommends you to hate the world so that your devotion to Narayana or Shiva is a single concentration or Eka Bhakti (Refer to Jesus in Bible, who says that you should hate the worldly bonds). Unable to do this, people twisted this statement to hate

Shiva or Narayana, which is convenient. Hatred is an inherent quality of the soul, but hatred towards the worldly bonds is impossible. Now, the misinterpretation satisfies the souls to implement the inherent quality conveniently diverted to another item like Narayana or Shiva. The energetic form of the upper world like Narayana or Shiva is made a scapegoat for their hatred because there is no worldly item, which can be hated by all forever. If you cannot break the walls of the rooms in your house to make it a big hall, how can you break the walls between houses to make it into the biggest hall? If you cannot achieve unity in diversity in the sub-religions of Hinduism, how can you achieve Universal Spirituality in this world and establish world peace?

Narayana and Shiva are energetic forms of God in the upper worlds, meant for the departed souls who also exist in energetic bodies. For the souls existing in material bodies on this earth, God in human form is relevant. God enters the common medium of the souls for their convenience. Hanuman and the Gopikas worshipped their contemporary human forms of God (Rama and Krishna respectively). Are you wiser than Hanuman and the Gopikas to worship irrelevant energetic forms of God? You cannot deny this fact of history from the scriptures and you cannot show a single instance where they left Rama and Krishna and worshipped Narayana. In fact, the Veda says that Shiva and Narayana are the same one God (*Shivashcha Narayanah...*, *Ekohavai Narayanah...*, *Eko Rudronadvitiyaya...*—Veda). In fact, Narayana means the source of spiritual knowledge and Shiva means sacred. The contemporary human incarnation (Sadguru) is the source of spiritual knowledge and hence is Narayana (Naara= knowledge; Ayana= source). A Sadguru is associated with the three qualities (good Sattvam, bad Rajas and Tamas). But still He is beyond all these three qualities and is sacred and hence He is called as Shiva.

#### **246. Why do I become angry in the propagation of knowledge when some one opposes it? [August 1, 2007]**

You need not become angry with opponents who argue with you because the opponent approaches you by the will of God to open up a new dimension through those arguments. You must always thank the opponent in the name of God. Even if a person refuses your knowledge and goes away due to the rigid conservative traditional beliefs of blind elders injected in him, you should pity him since he is abandoned as a condemned soul forever. The doctor should pity the patient whose disease could not be cured in spite of his long intensive treatment. But, remember one point, if

your knowledge contains the absolute truth, it has entered his soul and it will grind the ignorance of the soul like a rat drilling a hole through even a mountain. The drilling may be slow but the mountain is going to be powdered one day or the other. That is the power of the truth. When all the ignorance of the soul is powdered, he cannot bear the rat anymore and will transfer the rat to other souls. Hence, the truth has the tremendous power of propagation by its own virtue.

You are only taking the opportunity to serve the mission of God and get His grace by doing the propagation of this divine knowledge. Even without all of you, this divine knowledge of God will spread by itself. Monkeys were given an opportunity to participate in the service of the Lord for their divine benefit alone. Even without the monkeys, the work of Rama could have been completed.

### **Swami Answers Questions asked by Shri. Balaji**

**247. How to get rid of ego and jealousy in spiritual path? [October 26, 2008]**

**Ans:** All bad qualities are created by God with a positive sense only. When we misplace these qualities, they become negative. In spiritual path, feeling egoistic or proud that you are the devotee of God develops faith and confidence in yourself. Becoming jealous by seeing a good devotee will provoke the development of devotion in you. Thus ego and jealousy are good with positive values. There is nothing negative in the creation because everything is created by God with a positive sense only. But the same become negative by misplacement. Suppose you harm others due to ego and jealousy, they become negative. Even in worldly matters, the positive value is realized. It is said that a student grows in knowledge by the spirit of competition, which is nothing but positive jealousy (*spardhaya vardhate vidya*). The spiritual knowledge leads to realization of experiences in life and this is the best way to eradicate both. If you realize that God is responsible for any achievement of any human being, both are destroyed. To help the realization of this concept, God gives us practical experiences in life. Often, God disposes many things proposed by man. Generally your plans fail and your achievements are unplanned. By this, God preaches us that we are not responsible for our achievements and that He is actually responsible. When you are not realizing this even after several experiences, God condemns you and then several parameters of nature start working for failure or success. If you have realized that you are not responsible for achievement, ego is eradicated. Since you are realized that achievements of

others are also due to God, there is no place for jealousy and it is also dried like a tree after cutting its root. Therefore the acquirement of spiritual knowledge leading to the realization of God given experiences in the life is the best way to eradicate ego and jealousy.

#### **248. What should I do to get the grace of God? [October 26, 2008]**

**Ans:** Your question contains the answer. You have to do something practically to get the grace of God which is the divine fruit. Fruit is always related to action (karma) or doing. Knowledge is related to intelligence and words. Devotion is related to mind and words. Mind (including intelligence) is one instrument (karana). Word is another instrument. Jnana Yoga (knowledge), Bhakti Yoga (devotion) and Karma Yoga (service or work) are the three instruments used in the spiritual effort. The word Yoga gives the spiritual sense. These three without the word Yoga can be the worldly instruments also. To know the details of Mumbai is Jnana. To have intensive desire to visit Mumbai is Bhakti. To take up the actual journey practically is Karma. Rukmini heard the details of Krishna from Narada and this is Jnana Yoga. Rukmini developed intensive desire to marry Krishna and this is Bhakti Yoga. Rukmini married Krishna not to become the queen but to press the divine feet of Krishna and this is Karma Yoga. The fruit of this service is that Rukmini (Lakshmi) was blessed by the Lord to become the diety of the Universal wealth. A poet comes to know the interest of the king in the literature and this is Jnana. The poet becomes intensively interested to meet the king and this is Bhakti. The poet meets the king and praises the king through a poem. The construction and recitation of the poem is Karma. The fruit of this Karma is to get a petty golden chain. By the word Yoga, you must differentiate the two different fields of creation and creator. In the above examples, you can note that Jnana leads to Bhakti and Bhakti leads to Karma. The fruit is directly related to Karma only and is indirectly related to Jnana and Bhakti because without the later two, the former cannot be generated. Knowledge is like water and Bhakti is like fertilizer. Karma is like the tree giving the fruit. Even a tank of water or a bag of fertilizer cannot generate the fruit directly. But without the water and fertilizer, even the seed cannot give the first sprout, not to speak of the sprout becoming tree! Hence all the three are equally important and are sequential. Shankara, the preacher of Knowledge came first. Ramanuja, the preacher of devotion came next. Lastly Madhva, the preacher of service (work) came. Jnana and Bhakti are theoretical and can be achieved in plenty. But Karma is practical and cannot be done beyond certain limits of your capacity. Therefore, both interest (Bhakti) and capacity (Shakti)

decide the progress of your spiritual efforts. You may have lot of Bhakti, but you cannot do anything beyond your capacity like the squirrel dropping sand particles in the sea for the construction of bridge for the sake of the Lord. If your Bhakti is lesser than your Shakti, spiritual knowledge, which is the generator of Bhakti, can be improved. Hence, you must concentrate on all the three aspects (Jnana, Bhakti and Karma). You need not worry about Shakti because it is always sealed beyond certain limits. The Lord showed highest grace on the squirrel for its immense Bhakti associated with the little Shakti that is transformed into proportional Karma. The Karma cannot cross the limits of Shakti but should not be lesser than the limits also.

**249. Is the spiritual path filled with lot of stress until God's grace is completely attained? [October 26, 2008]**

**Ans:** The feeling of stress as stress is the important point. To get a seat in a school for your son, you take lot of strenuous steps. But you do not feel the stress at all. If you take the same strenuous steps for the sake of an outsider, you feel the stress. Therefore stress is not the point but feeling the stress is the point. Since you have true love towards your son, you do not feel the stress. Since you do not have true love to the outsider, you feel the stress in the same quantum of steps. Hence the true love is responsible for your success in the spiritual path to get the divine grace of God. Kannappa did not feel any stress while plucking both his eyes for the sake of the Lord. Dhruatarashtra knows well that Krishna is the Lord. But he would not give even five petty villages from his vast kingdom to the Lord! The lack of true devotion is responsible for the feeling of the divine service as a stress. The spiritual knowledge generates devotion. If the spiritual knowledge is true, you will have true devotion.

**250. What I mean is this: I feel stressed when I think that I am unable to get the grace of God due to the hindrance caused by worldly factors like ego, jealousy etc. What is the solution for this? [October 26, 2008]**

**Ans:** To remove the hindrance caused by any factor, the true knowledge is the only solution. Truth is infinite force and can remove any hindrance. God in human form, the Sadguru, alone can give the true knowledge as said by Vedas (Satyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma). When there is truth in the knowledge, there is force spontaneously. That force will enter the devotion and also enter the subsequent service. No force in the worldly bond can hinder this. Shankara says that the highest fortune is to get Sadguru (MahaPurusha Samshrayah). Truth is always logical. The force

of the truth is the value of truth itself, which is its content. Truth is the gold and logic is the design of the ornament. The value is for the gold only. There can be the ornament of rolled gold. Similarly, there can be falsehood with the same logic. The value of the rolled gold-ornament also appears to be equal to the golden ornament for some time. But shortly the rolled gold gets corroded and loses its value and in such case the same design of the ornament cannot bring the value. Similarly a logical false concept also convinces you for a short time only. But in course of time, it weakens and fades away. The true concept is eternal and stays as long as the creation exists.

## QUESTIONS FROM ANIL ANTONY

[May 24, 25, 26, 2009 Answers by His Holiness Shri Datta Swami to questions from Anil Antony]

### **1. Why there is no human incarnation in countries like China, Russia etc?**

God incarnates in human form in every country like China, Russia etc also. The people there may be communists, who are strong atheists. Atheism is very strong in them which will take very long time to change in to theism. Therefore, God will not touch such strong aspects which need lot of time. When God incarnates there, God also acts as an atheist. He will try to reform the defects in flexible concepts like socialism, economic pattern, ethical principle of life etc. God will follow the strongest aspect of ignorance, which is to be rectified after a long time only in the future. Even in the countries which follow theism, non-vegetarian food is a strongest aspect. Therefore, God in human form will overlook this strongest concept and will concentrate on the concepts, which are possible for modification. Everywhere, God keeps silent over the strong irreparable concepts and tries to reform the repairable concept only. We should not mistake the silence of God on strong aspect as His permission. In one region and in one span of time, God concentrates on the concepts, which are possible for reformation. The program of God in human form is limited to certain flexible concepts only in a specific region and for a specific generation of humanity. If you understand these limits of the program of God, you can find the human incarnation anywhere at anytime. Jesus followed the system of non-vegetarian food and Sai Baba cooked non-vegetarian food. This does not mean that God has given permission to non-vegetarian food. God in the form of Buddha opposed the non-vegetarian food. Therefore, God involved in changing certain specific aspects, keeps silent on some other aspects, which need time for change. When time comes, He will concentrate to change those concepts also on which He was silent in the previous incarnations. God will not solve all the problems in a single instance of time, since humanity is not so flexible to accept the total change in a single instance of time.

### **2. Why did Narasimha Sarawathi want to hide Himself from Muslims?**

Narasimha Saraswathi came to reform traditional Hindus, who were conservative. He rectified certain faults of those people. His program was confined to them only. If He extends His program to Muslims also like Sai

Baba, the conservative Hindus will not accept even those rectifications. Therefore, God limited His program to those people and rectified their faults following the strongest concept of conservatism. In the time of Sai Baba, people were not conservative and therefore, universality of both the religions was established. The same God Datta exists in Narasimha Saraswathi and Sai Baba.

### **3. What is the meaning of sitting on the right side of Unimaginable God?**

Jesus addressed always God as the Father of Heaven. This means the unimaginable God existing in the energetic form presiding over heaven. The energetic form is relevant to the departed souls, which go to the upper worlds. Therefore, the right side of the energetic form of the God is mentioned. Even in Hinduism, according to Vaishnava Philosophy, the liberated soul goes to the upper world and sits on the right lap of Lord Narayana, who is the energetic form of the unimaginable God.

### **4. I have a proposition for you since you are the 'latest' human incarnation, how about going up north to your neighbor, Pakistan and teach the unity of Islam and Hinduism. Since you are God incarnate? A question put to Swami by a Christian.**

Jesus was human incarnation. He preached the spiritual knowledge in Jerusalem and some people followed it whereas some people became angry and crucified Him. Still, He preached them because there was no other way since electronic media were not developed in those days. Today, the facility is granted to the humanity by the grace of God. I can send My preaching to every country through internet medium. Some will accept and some will not accept. But, since I am not present before their eyes, they will not crucify Me. After sometime, the entire Jerusalem was convinced with the preaching of Jesus and today if Jesus comes again to Jerusalem, He will be honored by all the people. Similarly, a day will come when all this spiritual knowledge gets appreciated by all the humanity. Then, certainly I will come again in Human form to receive the appreciation. Today, do you want Me to go to the other country and get crucified without using the facility of the electronic media given by God? If I do so, I must be a foolish human being and not even a wise human being, not to speak of human incarnation.

### **5. Do you love the untouchables? Do you dine with them? Do you embrace them?**

A bad student was debarred from the school so that the student will change his behavior and become a good student. The aim of the punishment

is only reformation but not revenge. Similarly, some people in the village who were not following certain basic ethical principles were debarred from the village as untouchables. If the student becomes good, he shall be admitted into the school with whole heart. The untouchables form the fifth caste, which was not mentioned in the Veda. All the indisciplined people, who were debarred from the village irrespective of their caste, formed the fifth caste called untouchables. Sabari and Kannappa were born in untouchable families. But, by their devotion, their photos are kept in the rooms of worship by Brahmins also. Therefore, if you understand the basic concept of untouchables, such questions will not rise. The basic logic was misunderstood and got misinterpreted leading to the breakage of unity of Hinduism.

### **6. How to enjoy misery, please give an example.**

Just as you enjoy a hot chilly item of food, you can enjoy misery also. Just as you enjoy the tragic scene in the cinema, you can enjoy the misery in a similar way.

### **7. Why is God making Himself Unimaginable?**

You are talking this standing by the side of God. You stand by the side of human beings and understand the concept. The intelligence of a human being can never cross the spatial dimensions and therefore, human logic can never understand God, who is beyond space being the creator of space. You cannot blame God for the limitation of the soul. An average student, who gets third class, questions the university for keeping 60% as first class. Therefore, it is the limitation of the human being and not the sadistic mentality of God. For a third class student, the university appears to be a sadist only.

### **8. Please explain what is meant by ‘*Sarva dharman parityajya...*’**

Whenever justice competes with the injustice in the worldly matters (Pravrutti), we have to vote for justice rejecting injustice. But, when God competes with the justice (Nivrutti), you have to reject justice and vote for God, who is the protector of justice. God is above everything and this should be proved practically. Then only you will win in the tests of God. The ultimate aim of following justice is only to please God. Then what is the fun of voting justice against the will of God? Krishna asked Dharma Raja to tell a lie in the war. Dharma Raja refused against the will of God. Dharma Raja went to hell for not telling the lie as per the will of God.

## 9. An advaita follower asked the following questions:

i) When did You attain Nirvikalpa Samadhi?

The word Samadhi is constituted by three parts: Sam, Aa, and Dhi. Sam means perfectness. Aa means all the time. Dhi means determination. When your determination is perfect without any doubt or loop-hole and if the determination is continuous throughout your life without any rupture, such determination is called as Samadhi. When you worship God in the form of a statue or photo representing the energetic form of the upperworld or past human incarnation, your faith or determination will be perfect and is never broken. But, when you recognize the living human form of God, certainly doubts will arise in one time or the other and certainly the faith will be broken. Your own qualities like ego and jealousy will disturb your faith. Even if you conquer your qualities, the Lord in human form will create a lot of hurdles in your faith to test the strength of your determination. If your faith on the contemporary human incarnation is completely strong and is firm throughout your life, you have entered Nirvikalpa Samadhi. Vikalpa means hurdle. Nirvikalpa means crossing over all the hurdles. There are only two human beings, who got this Nirvikalpa Samadhi. One is Hanuman and the other is Radha, who believed the contemporary human incarnation without a trace of shirk even for a fraction of second.

ii) Have you realized Maha Bhava?

The word Maha means God (*Mahat Brahma iti proktam...*). The word Bhava means realizing the existence of God. Every devotee gets this Maha Bhava. This word is also interpreted in a different way, according to which it means theoretically realizing yourself as God. Practically you can never realize yourself as God. A theoretical assumption is always possible in any case. You can theoretically assume yourself as the Prime Minister of this country. This assumption is not wrong as long as you recognize it as theoretical. But, sometimes you start behaving as God in practice also due to your over confidence or over ambition. That is not correct. In Bhagavatam, one Gopika declared herself as Krishna and lifted a cloth on the finger. This state was said as Maha Bhava because the Gopika knows that her finger was raising a piece of cloth only and not Govardhana Mountain. This theoretical assumption leads to several benefits like coming out of depression, changing the human behavior into divine behavior etc. For the sake of a good result, a lie is permitted, which is called as Artha Vada. The mother tells the child that if it eats the food, the moon will come down. For the sake of feeding the child, this lie is not a sin. The Maha

Bhava in reality is possible only in the case of contemporary human incarnation, which proves this state as a practical reality. No human soul can practically realize that it is God or even a part of God. God created this infinite universe of matter and energy. The human being cannot create a similar universe and hence, cannot be practically God. The human soul cannot create even an atom of matter or even a ray of energy and thus, cannot be even the minutest part of God. Therefore, in reality, it is impossible for any human soul except the human form of the Lord.

iii) How many of your devotees attained Samadhi (4th, 5th, 6th or 7th)?

Samadhi means determination, which is complete and firm throughout the life. The absence of the word Nirvikalpa shows that you refer to the faith on God, which is not subjected to hurdles. Such faith without hurdles is possible in the case of faith on statues and photos. Almost all the devotees in the world get this state of Samadhi. In My case, the devotees, who have attained Nirvikalpa Samadhi only remained with Me and the others were not retained by Me since My case is treated as contemporary Human incarnation by the devotees, who remained with Me.

iv) Have you realized Maha-Shakti?

Assuming that I am the contemporary human incarnation, I have two components. The first component is the unimaginable God and the second component is Myself, a soul existing in this human body. Even the medium of God has the same characteristic of an ordinary human being only. Even the shirt of the king can be cut by a knife like the shirt of a beggar. Any human being cannot bear the Maha Shakti, which is the infinite cosmic energy. Therefore, even I cannot bear it. The God component in Me being the creator of this Maha Shakti is always bearing it as its substratum and as its creator. One has to realize that the infinite cosmic energy is also creation but not the creator because energy is an imaginable item, which is constituted by photons or electro magnetic waves.

v) Are you holding Divine love for all?

Whether I hold the divine love for all or not is to be stated by My observers and not by Myself.

vi) Can you push your devotees inside Samadhi without sadhana from their end?

Assuming that I am the contemporary human incarnation, My duty is to push My devotees away from Samadhi and not inside Samadhi. I have to create hurdles and if the devotee conquers and maintains the everlasting perfect determination, the devotee shall enter into Nirvikalpa Samadhi.

vii) What is your view regarding miracles?

A miracle is an unimaginable event, which is expressed through imaginable items that stands as a proof for the existence of the unimaginable nature and thereby, the unimaginable God. The finger of the boy, the huge mountain and the process of lifting are imaginable items. With the help of these items only, the unimaginable event of lifting the mountain by the tender finger of a boy was exhibited. By this unimaginable event, the existence of unimaginable God in the body was confirmed.

viii) What is your Guru-parampara?

I have only one Guru that is Lord Dattatreya.

ix) How often you go inside Samadhi?

Since My devotees treat Me as human incarnation of God, I never tried to enter Samadhi. The day I realize that I am not the Human incarnation, I will try to enter Samadhi.

x) How many Sanyasi and Brahmachari devotees you have?

The word Sanyasa means complete surrender to God. The word Brahmachari means the devotee having real interest in God. Therefore, in the real sense of these words, all My devotees are Sanyasis and Brahmacharis.

**10. All other Gods have lured their followers by offering to forgive their prarabdhas, what have you got to offer to your beloved devotees? A question asked to swami by a devotee.**

Punishment given for a sin is only to change the mind of the soul and purify it. There is no trace of revenge in this. The hell is an indication of the intensive love of God to the souls through which God wants to reform the souls. The hell indicates the hectic effort of God put on the soul to reform it and not to leave the soul to its fate. A father may leave his son since he does not change inspite of all his efforts. But, in the hell, God puts serious effort and succeeds to change the soul. Therefore, even thousands of fathers cannot be equal to God. God does not leave the soul without changing it and this point is indicated by the punishment and hell. Therefore, there is no point of excusing the Prarabhdas if this true basis is understood. God will try to change the soul through preaching as far as possible. Punishment in hell is the last resort. Once the soul is reformed, all the sins are smashed since there is neither the necessity of preaching nor the necessity of punishment.

### **11. You said that penance will not lead to God but knowledge. How?**

Penance is suffering of body by fasting, sitting nearby fire etc. The body and mind are interlinked and therefore, it leads to suffering of mind also. In the quest of the truth also, the mind suffers with anxiety. The latter type of suffering of mind is good because more the quest for the truth, more will be the absorption of the knowledge. In the former type of suffering, there is no quest for truth and hence, will not help the absorption of knowledge. However, finally knowledge alone shows the clear path of understanding to attain salvation. The quest for truth can be taken as the devotion for knowledge and thus, devotion leads to knowledge. After receiving the true knowledge, you will understand clearly the goal and then devotion to goal is developed. Thus, knowledge develops the devotion. However, the former devotion is devotion for knowledge and the latter devotion is the devotion for the goal. The devotion leads to practice and subsequent sacrifice. The fruit of sacrifice is salvation.

### **12. It is said in the Bible that salvation is not obtained by works but it is by the grace of God? It seems contradicting Your preaching. How do You explain this?**

Work for God is karma sanyasa. Dedication of fruit of work for God is Karma Phala Tyaga. The work indicates the practical sacrifice or service to God. When your work is devoid of ego, God is pleased to give the salvation. The Bible means the work polluted by ego by the word 'work'. When such pollution exists, you demand the salvation just like purchasing an item from the market by paying the money, where the grace of the seller is not required. When your work is devoid of this ego and is purified by total surrender, God is pleased by such work. Shankara praised the divine Mother by beautiful verses composed by Himself under the title 'Soundarya Lahari'. The verses were beautiful beyond imagination. In the last verse, Shankara told that He is submitting this prayer to the Divine Mother, which were actually composed by the Divine Mother Herself and taken by Him. He said, it is like taking the water from the ocean and pouring it down in the ocean as a drink submitted to the ocean. Therefore, the sacrifice of such pure work without ego alone can please God and salvation is the consequence of His pleasure only. Salvation is not directly linked to your work like the monthly salary linked to your work. Therefore, there is no contradiction.

### **13. Krishna is a Myth conveyed by tales and Puranas. Jesus is a historical personality. Why should we accept Krishna?**

Is there any direct photograph of Jesus? Is there any cassette that recorded the voice of Jesus directly? If you show the birth place and the place of crucifixion of Jesus, we will also show you the birth place, the dancing place etc of Krishna. If you say that twelve disciples have written the preachings of Jesus, the manuscripts of those twelve disciples can be doubted by us also as the manuscripts written by some others in their names. The history is always believed by faith on generation to generation. If you are based on the direct perception only without inference, no history can stand before us. These remarks on other religions hurt others and lead to terrorism finally. Whether Krishna existed or Jesus existed, it is immaterial. You take their messages and see the unity in them. There is only one God in different forms. If you want direct perception, recognize the contemporary human incarnation existing in your generation by conquering the ego and jealousy. If you cannot do that, at least find unity in the religions and follow the universal spirituality. I appreciate even the conservatism, if you stick to your path only without criticizing other religions. It is the worst projection of conservatism to criticize other religions, which is the starting point for cracking the world peace.

### **14. Why does God speak to one person only and makes him to propagate all that knowledge to others, why not He speaks to all?**

You are assuming that the Human Incarnation is only the Prophet bringing the word of God to the humanity. In such case, your question is reasonable. But, the concept of Human incarnation is not limited to bringing the word of God to humanity only. The word of God is already present as the Holy Scripture in every religion. The scriptures are misinterpreted and the real sense is lost. Under such circumstances God comes down in human form to give the correct interpretation and clarify the doubts of all the people. In this situation, what you said is really happening i.e., God is conveying the message to all directly. The human incarnation does not speak to one devotee and does not ask him alone to propagate this knowledge. Your allegation is totally a waste because what you wanted only is actually happening. Since God is one, He has to take one living human body only to prove that He is one only. If He enters every living human body, then the concept of multiple Gods gets established. God comes down in human form not only to preach the knowledge but also to give the experience of His unimaginable nature through some unimaginable events performed by Him. Devotees not only seek the knowledge but also

seek the direct experience of God. Of course preaching the true knowledge is the main program.

**15. God is present in every human being. He who serves all alone is worshiping God.**

If God is in every human being, God is present in yourself also. Then why should you serve all? You can serve yourself repeatedly. Instead of serving 100 people, you serve yourself 100 times. In both cases, God is worshiped 100 times. In such case, every selfish fellow also is a real servant of God! If you say that God is divided into bits and every human being has a bit of God and unless you serve everybody the whole God is not served, this is absurd because there is only one God, who is indivisible. In such case, unless you serve all the human beings on this earth, the service to whole God cannot be completed and this is practically impossible!

**16. If God is unimaginable to 'Son of God', in that case how Son of God is aware of God present in Him?**

If the existence of Unimaginable God is experienced, it does not mean that the unimaginable nature is imagined. When you see an unimaginable event (miracle), you say that the miracle exists and you have experienced the existence or the happening of the miracle. This does not mean that you have explained the miracle and made it imaginable. Therefore, the 'Son of God' as well as other human beings only experiences the existence of the unimaginable God, which does not mean that they have imagined God. This point is stated clearly in the Veda (*asteetyeva...*).

**17. What is the meaning of endless service to God when upper worlds are only for enjoying the fruits of deeds?**

The upper world means hell or heaven with reference to the departed souls and this is not with reference to departed devoted souls. In the hell and heaven, only enjoyment of fruits is possible. But, the departed devotees go to the abode of God and constantly serve Him there also. The abode of God is different from heaven or hell.

**18. Scientists ask why God condemns materialism, since it is by materialism only that good hospitals, roads etc are created?**

Materialism is misunderstood by you. In spiritual knowledge, materialism means selfishness. The selfishness is condemned under the name of materialism and not the materialism you stated in your question.

**19. When God is unimaginable, how is God said to have continuous happiness?**

God present in a medium is referred when you say that God is happy. Here, God is denoted through the medium and not the absolute unimaginable God.

**20. You said that the extra money is the property of God and should be returned to Him. But, in the world, you see, since people work they get money. Thus, by effort one gets money and some are devoid of money. How is then Your statement correct?**

It is not correct to say that the extra money comes by extra effort. You can find several people, who do not get even the basic needs in spite of hectic efforts. Therefore, whether you get the basic needs or extra money, it is by the grace of God only. Hence, you are expected to donate something to God, which shall be used in the work of God.

**21. Why are you concentrating more on corruption?**

Money is the root for almost all issues. Therefore, corruption of money is the root cancer of several issues in the society.

**22. Is sin relative or absolute?**

Sin is relative with reference to other souls. But, it is absolute with reference to God.

**23. What is the value of God?**

The value of God is infinite and unimaginable.

**24. What is divine knowledge?**

The knowledge spoken by the contemporary human incarnation in the presence of your eyes, heard by your ears directly, is divine knowledge. The main divinity here is that all your doubts are clarified directly and this is not possible when you read any scripture.

**25. Why does God wish us to love Him alone?**

God never wishes to love Him alone. He only likes you to love the good devotees in the world and to serve them. When someone starts loving Him, He never encourages and creates so many hurdles in the path of devotion. You can observe that every devotee suffered seriously in his or her life. If God encouraged the devotion, the life of every devotee should be a journey on roses and not on thorns.

## **26. How to realize the unreality of the worldly bonds in practice?**

Shankara said that which is temporary is always unreal. Reality is permanent. These worldly bonds neither existed before this birth nor will exist in the future births. Hence, these bonds are temporary and therefore, unreal. Two actors are acting as husband and wife or father and son etc in a drama. Before and after the drama, the bond does not exist and hence, the bond exists temporarily during the time of the drama. Even during the drama, sharp analysis reveals that the bond is unreal in that time also. In any moment, the actors can realize the unreality of the bond during the time of drama. The feeling of reality is only superimposed on the unreal bond so that the action will be natural and the audience will appreciate. A wife was not wife before marriage and if she is divorced and marries somebody else, the bond disappears. It is a temporary bond, which can be realized within the span of a life time. Therefore, if this sharp logical analysis is done frequently, it will make one to realize that the bonds are unreal. Jesus told that unless one hates these bonds, he cannot be His real disciple. Hatred cannot arise unless the unreality of the bond is realized. Any human being does lots of sins due to the influence of these unreal bonds only. Therefore, this is an important aspect for both Pravrutti and Nivrutti.

The family bonds are generated due to the necessity of clearance of un-cleared debts in the previous births, where wife and children enjoy your earnings to a major extent. Hence, it is said that they are linked to you since you did not clear their loans in the previous birth (*Runaanubandharupena...*). This basic concept brings the realization that these family bonds are really the bonds of business to clear the loans, which are masked by the family love. The best way is to convert the family members into devotees of God so that they will co-operate in your spiritual effort like a co-devotee. Jesus brought the concept of hatred only to the case of the family members, who oppose your spiritual progress. Jesus loved His mother since she co-operated Him in His spiritual mission. He denied her on several occasions giving importance to devotees, only to give a message about the non-devotional bonds of family members, which constitute the general lot of humanity.

## **27. Atheists ask for a direct miracle as a proof for existence of God.**

Jesus did several miracles directly in the presence of public. But, still He was crucified. Generally, miracles are misinterpreted as magic or the events that might have happened in a routine way based on probability. Even today, there are several people who perform miracles. God has given the power of performing miracles to even devilish people because miracle

is the fundamental experiment to establish the concept of unimaginable nature of the unimaginable God and hence, needs a wide propagation. Even today, we have a clear demonstration of miracles by Bhagavan Shri Sathya Sai Baba. Several scientists have studied Him closely and accepted the genuine reality of His miracles. But, some atheists with conservative mind misinterpret these miracles as magic. Of course, magic also exists separately. If there is copying in one center of examination that does not mean the system of examination itself is wrong and should be condemned. Even though Lord Krishna gave the vision of cosmic form (Vishwarupa) and Kauravas fell unconscious, they concluded it as magic only. In every religion, the conservative lot is present and so also in the religion of atheism. They pose themselves as scientists. The basic characteristic of a scientist is to have an open mind towards everything and to analyze deeply before the conclusion. If the desired conclusion is not obtained, they accept the concept of hypothesis, which is the available possible theory, till it is disproved. Some of them say that they will analyze the miracle by day after tomorrow, since they analyzed today the unimaginable event of yesterday. They forget that the yesterday and today were very near to each other and tomorrow is far off. Today, by high jump you touched the top of the door. By some practice, you may touch the roof of the house by tomorrow. The top of the door and roof of the house are very near to each other. But, you should not pose that you will touch the sky by day after tomorrow. All this is due to conservatism, ego and jealousy towards a co-human form in which God exists.

**28. Some say that Jesus left the body and reached God after crucifixion. Some say that Jesus rose on third day with the same body. Which is correct?**

The second probability seems to be correct because the dead body in the cave disappeared on the third day. Jesus also told that He will raise the church (body) on third day. It seems that Jesus traveled from that place to Himalayas and toured India preaching the noble concepts and left His body in His 85<sup>th</sup> year. A similar controversy exists in the life of Shankara also. Some say that He lived up to 32 years only like Jesus. Some others say that He lived up to 85 years as per His verse. Shankara was also killed by Kapalikas in 32<sup>nd</sup> year through black magic. He must have overcome it and lived up to 85 years. Both these personalities were important for the world to bring a real reformation in the divine knowledge. God must have extended their lives due to such necessity. Whatever may be the history, we should be more worried about practicing the concepts of their spiritual

knowledge. The historical significance is of no use to our practical spiritual path.

**29. You say that Arjuna was degraded in the next birth. But, he was very close to God. How is this possible?**

Mere closeness to God does not give the top result. The son of a professor may be a student in his class and this does not mean that the son should pass in first class. Even the son of Lord Krishna, called Samba mocked the sages and became responsible for the genocide of the entire Yadava family. The result is based on the firmness in faith and intensity in devotion, which are responsible for the excellent practical service that gives the final fruit. In fact, closeness is a negative factor. Closeness brings dilution of care and faith. When Rukmini took the same hot milk, Krishna did not become red since Rukmini was very close to Him. Radha, who was far, proved it otherwise. Of course, the top most devotees are exceptional. Lakshmana and Hanuman were always close to Rama and had the same devotion of Radha. Closeness leads to repulsion and this applies to general lot of humanity. Arjuna also belongs to this general lot only and hence, was called as 'Nara' or a general human being. In fact, Arjuna represented a general human being only to show that how the human being errs by neglecting the close human form of God.

**30. Being so spiritual, why do You entertain astrology in the case of Your devotees?**

God in human form likes to become close to the devotees by following certain points of the devotees even though those points belong to ignorance only. God never denies very strong points of ignorance of the devotees and keeps Himself in the same phase to become close and tries to induce the spiritual truths through such established friendship. If God clears that ignorance also, devotees do not become close. Non-vegetarian food is a similar strong point of ignorance, which is not touched by God in some of His incarnations. Astrology is not that bad a point like non-vegetarian food. In fact, astrology is a subject based on a supernatural or unimaginable concept. It paves the way to God to believe His unimaginable nature.