



Aspire For God Alone

Worshipful homage unto the great Reality. That which is experienced by sages and seers of self-discipline, purity, intense aspiration, perseverance and determination. *Ekagrarta, ananyata, avyabhicharini* (one-pointedness, single-mindedness, total dedication) are the words used in connection with aspiration and devotion. Those who give that Reality the greatest of all values, who regard it as the supreme value, who give it top priority and the central place in their life, qualify for the attainment of that great Reality. If it does not occupy the central place in one's life, then one has to wait long. Making that great reality the goal of one's life to the exclusion of other lesser goals is true aspiration. We must try diligently, sincerely and earnestly to gradually come to a state where no other consideration weighs more with us than God, to a state where God becomes the most important thing and fills our entire life.

This is a world of things. But you should ask for that Being who is beyond all things, the Thing-in-itself. He gives what you aspire for. Whatever you ask is given. If you ask for lesser things, you get lesser things. So we have to be careful about what we ask of God, because He is the wish-yielding tree. When one's wish is to let go all other things besides the one great reality, Immortality is attained.

One should ask from the Supreme Being: "Take away all desires from my heart, O Lord! May I not want anything except Thee and Thee alone, not what You have created." In this way, those who brush aside all created things as being of little worth and value, and set their heart on the One who is the source and origin of all things, attain Him. "*Mam Eve Ye Prapadyante, Mayam Etam Tranti Te* – Those who take refuge in Me alone cross over the illusion." [Gita 7.14] Tulasidas says, "In my heart there is no other desire, but You and You alone."

Therefore at the feet of the Guru as well as God, the one thing worth asking for is aspiration for attaining the Reality alone. May we during this New Year, ask God to bless us with an interior state where there is no desire for any temporary, evanescent, created thing of this external world. We must ask Him to bless us with the aspiration, longing and yearning for that one great Reality alone. For That alone is worth having, attaining which everything is attained, attaining which one goes beyond and one is liberated from all desires.

May you all aspire for That! May you all attain That in this very life and become forever blessed!

■ *Swami Chidananda*