



Worship God As Virtue

Radiant Divinities! Beloved seekers of God! Gurudev lived and felt for humanity and left for us a legacy, which was not only proclaimed by him, but, what is more, practised by him in his own personal life. He has left a great eternal light. If we open our eyes and see that light, and make that light the illuminer of our path of life, and live accordingly, we shall never be in darkness. He is with us through this unfailing undimmed light of a great treasure of his wisdom teachings. In his teachings there is a power, a force and a peculiar transforming quality, which is able to communicate itself to anyone.

He did not merely preach and proclaim, but he gave us truths, which he practised in his daily life. And one thing he would like us to remember and live by is that God is not only to be worshipped in temples but is also to be worshipped in His manifestation as virtue. Virtue comprises *dharma*, and *dharma* is the presence of God's spirit in this world, *dharma* is the manifestation of God in human life. I can assure you that if you worship God as virtue, you realise God as the universal Soul.

Worship virtue by practising virtue. This is a way to spiritual transformation and Realisation. Mahatma Gandhi said: "I am a votary of truth. Truth is my God. Worship truth, practise compassion, kindness, mercifulness, and the supreme virtue of not hating anyone, not hurting or injuring anything, not having ill will towards anyone". Worship purity, celibacy, chastity and *brahmacharya* in thought, word and deed, in all the states of consciousness – waking, dreaming and sleeping.

Brahmacharya is the path of asserting the mastery of higher self over lower self, of asserting the supremacy of sattva over rajas and tamas. It is the path of asserting your control over purely gross, animal passions; asserting your higher divine nature. It is the path of self-control, *samyama* (perfect restraint), the path of conquest of desires and mastery over mind. Worship *brahmacharya*, *satya*, *ahimsa*, compassion and kindness; worship purity in conduct and character in thought, word and deed. Let this be your God. It will take you to *Brahma-jnana* – that is *sadhana*.

Through virtue one can attain the source of all virtues, God, who dwells in your heart. Worship virtue through your life and conduct and become sublime and divine. God bless you in this great *sadhana*.

May God Bless You All! May Gurudev Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*