



Be Simple And Humble

Unless ye become like little children, ye cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the mystic declaration of Jesus Christ. All saints have been men of very simple nature, devoid of all crookedness, cunningness and guilelessness. They did not have the so called shrewdness and cleverness. They trusted all beings. They were like children. Childlike simplicity, guilelessness, innocence and crystal-like purity of heart have ever been the common attributes of all the saints.

Secondly they were humble and meek in spirit. Ego is found to be totally absent in all saints. The universal quality of all mankind is egoism. Just as the egoism is the universal characteristic of the man who is in the grip of delusion (Maya), even so, the universal characteristic of all saints has been total absence of egoism and the resultant perfect humility. They were meek in spirit. A saint is a speck of dust at the feet of the Lord. "Lord is everything, I am nothing. Thou are everything my Lord." This is the attitude of all holy people. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu says, "*Tranadapi Sunichen* – One should consider oneself lower than a blade of grass". The saints knew that the ego was the greatest obstacle for the attainment of all good things, which are of lasting worth.

Thirdly, endurance, fortitude, forbearance were always the characteristics of saints and will ever be. The lives of saints were full of trials and tribulations. They were persecuted. The Lord put them in the furnace of hardship and tribulation, suffering and persecution. Just as gold is put in the furnace to be purified of all dross and to shine as purified metal, even so, saints are put into much tribulation and suffering. They accepted all the trials as blessings of God and bore them. The symbology of Christ being carried to Calvary brings us this great lesson that man has to silently bear pains and sufferings. And through this endurance and suffering only he comes out as pure and shining as gold purified of all dross. O man, endure. In this process of silently enduring all the vicissitudes and painful experiences of life, they never lost faith; rather more they were tried, the greater, stronger and firmer their faith became.

Fourthly, they not only forgave them who did them harm, but wished all the good for them. Therefore, whatever happens to you, never lose faith. You are sure to be rewarded with eternal life and infinite Bliss.

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

■ *Swami Chidananda*