



The Peace Within

Blessed immortal Atman! Beloved devotees of the Lord! Let us join together at this auspicious moment and pray for the unfolding of peace in the hearts and minds of people all over the world. May people all over the world have peaceful thoughts, may they have peaceful feelings towards others, and as a consequence, may they act peacefully towards all beings.

Within every human individual is the peace of the Supreme Being. This peace passeth understanding. This peace is supreme; there is nothing higher than it. Peace is the truth about our inner Self. In the Islamic tradition, it is called the Radiance of Allah. Christian mystics refer to it as the Kingdom of God within. And in the Vedic tradition, it is referred to in all these ways and many others as well: “*Jyotishaamapi Tajjyotistamasah Paramuchyate; Jnaanam Jneyam Jnaanagamyam Hridi Sarvasya Vishthitam* – That light of lights abides in the hearts of all” [Gita 13.18] “*Eko Devah Sarva-Bhutesu Gudhah* – God who is one only, is hidden in all beings [Sv. Up. 6.11] “*Eeshwarah Sarabhootaanaam Hriddeshe’rjuna Tishthati* – God dwells in the hearts of all beings” [Gita 18.61].

In these various ways, they bring out this great wonderful truth; that Divine peace ever abides in you as your permanent inner background, as your real state. You are that peace if you establish your identity with that Peace instead of the numerous other fancies and thoughts that come into your mind. Be as you are.

Happiness cannot be had from temporary, finite objects, limited by time and space. We have neglected the greatest treasure, which is within. If we shall, once again, determine to abide in that peace, be fully filled with that peace and express it every day in our thought word and deed, then the realm of outer action can undergo a change. If the mind is aware of the divinity within, and tries to turn to it and absorb that Divinity, that peace, that compassion, kindness, goodness, that balance, that auspiciousness, that Light which is God, then one is able to convey it to others, transmit it to others.

Within you is that peace. It is the duty and privilege of each and every spiritual person to be a living and moving centre of that profound Divine Peace, which is the substratum or the innermost support, which is ever there in all its fullness, and which is perennial in nature. Inexhaustible, profound, unfathomable Peace is ever present within each one of you as your inner Reality. It is ever available.

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

■ *Swami Chidananda*