



You Are The Master Of Your Future

Beloved and blessed children of the Divine! Shining divinities! If a man is stuck by a poisoned arrow the wise person quickly drinks the antidote rather than enquire as to its source and what it is made of. We are bound and we should try to know how to liberate ourselves. That is the important thing. Let us be wise.

What then should be one's approach to the spiritual life, one's Sadhana and the Goal? Due to the all-pervasive Law of *Karma*, cause and effect, is the necessity of undergoing the experiences resultant thereof. It is only by experiencing that *karma* becomes finished. If you try to escape, you will find yourself in a greater mess, instead you can say: "Okay, these experiences are necessary but instead of being made a puppet in the hands of the Law of *Karma*, I shall try to master it and make it serve my purpose. I am in charge of my life. It is my life. This is the field of my purposeful, creative action; and through purposeful, creative action I shall fashion my future. The past has only fashioned the experience part of my present, not the action. The experience part is non-creative but the action part is creative. Therefore, while my body and mind are undergoing the inevitable experiences of past *karma*, what does it matter? I am superior to both body and mind. I am Spirit. And I am in charge. I will make use of the present to bring into being actions that will create an auspicious, sublime and radiant future for myself." You must take a stand that these do not rob you of the greatest ever chance given to the individual to rise up and ascend back into its universal Abode of perfection, fearlessness, freedom and absolute completeness. To reject this gift or to throw it away is like giving God a slap in the face.

"The all-important factor is neither the past nor the future, it is the present. The past is past, the future is not yet formed, but I can form it. I am the master. So I will make use of this present time in such mental, physical and verbal actions that I can make my future whatever I wish, whatever I will. If I allow my desires and cravings to pull me away from the straight course that leads to my sublime and radiant future, then I am my enemy. I will be working against myself." You have to be strong and wise. Tell your mind: "Don't be foolish. The so-called enjoyment ultimately ends in sorrow, pain, suffering and weeping."

Therefore be awake. Keep up active enquiry. Always discriminate between what is highest, best and most conducive to your happiness, and what is seeming attractive but contains within it much suffering and pain.

God Bless You!

■ Swami Chidananda