



The True Purpose of Life

Glorious Immortal Self! There is a permanent Reality behind this entire universe. That great reality is of the nature of Bliss and blessedness. It is a state of untrammelled freedom, limitless peace, boundless wisdom and indescribable Bliss. And that Bliss, freedom, peace, wisdom and joy is your essential and eternal state. That is your real abode. That is your ultimate journey. This life has been given to you in order to realise that Reality. It is this achievement and achievement alone, which is the central purpose of your life.

Indian philosophy declares in bold and unmistakable terms that the great aim of human life is to attain supreme Bliss. It asserts: "All beings in this universe have come forth from Bliss, in Bliss they are sustained, and they are destined to attain that Bliss." It is this perennial Bliss, which indeed is the great and ultimate Truth and Reality. The great ones who have realised through their intense inner effort the nature of the ultimate Reality, have stated in clear and unmistakable terms: "O mortals, you cannot find unalloyed perfect Happiness and Bliss in this imperfect and limited phenomenal universe. The ultimate state of joy and Bliss can be had only within your own Self, which has its source in the permanent and eternal Reality. All Bliss lie within you. You are yourself that Bliss." This is your *nature*. The rediscovery of that living awareness of Bliss is the great purpose of your life. This is the goal of life for which we have taken birth on this earth-plane.

Life is not a haphazard flight from one object to another. Life is a quest full of significance and meaning. Therefore the sooner the eyes are opened to the great meaning of life, the greater the degree of perfection that will be attained. Otherwise, life would be like setting upon a journey without direction, or like getting onto a highway without the knowledge of the destination or route. Life is very precious. Say: "I have come here to realise the supreme state of blessedness and to experience the highest Bliss. I have been given this unique opportunity of a human birth in order to attain the ultimate goal." The chance is now given to you. Who knows if the keen state of aspiration and devotion to the ideal will continue? Therefore, now is the time to make a supreme effort to realise the true purpose of life. Now is the time to make a supreme effort to realise the true purpose of life. Now is the time to make an earnest effort to attain the highest blessedness and the wondrous bliss of Realisation.

God Bless You!

■ Swami Chidananda