



In The Lands Of Gods

Radiant Atman! Beloved *sadhakas* gathered together in Gurudev's presence in the sacred *Samadhi-sthana* on the banks of the divine *Mother Ganga*, in the holiest of holy parts of our worshipful Bharat Mata! This region is rightly called *devabhumi*, the land of Gods and as *tapobhumi*, the land of austerity and penance, a land where people came with the sole objective of attaining God-Consciousness. These sages and seers performed austerities and attained illumination by making that non-dual eternal being the one and sole goal of their life and by wholly devoting themselves to this great Goal.

No matter how much change has taken place, the land itself retains its vibrant spirituality. The very atmosphere is saturated with penance, austerity, deep meditations and power of realisations of bygone seers. Not only in ancient times, but even in the last century and a half also there were such spiritual stalwarts steeped in meditation, totally established in perfect renunciation. Thus a quality of spirituality and austerity is retained here in the very atmosphere, in the very soil, in the very surroundings. This territory of *Ganga* and *Himalayas* is vibrant with spirituality. Now we have to set an attitude. We have to go to the essence of the area, the spiritual quality of the atmosphere, the sanctity and divinity of this very place, and concern ourselves directly only with That, and not to be overly concerned about these superfluous added factors the busloads of people, noise of traffic and loudspeakers – and all the distinctions.

In the midst of all this, there are two great principles, which if firmly held onto, nothing can affect us. The first is pervading presence of the present-day saints, who have sanctified the banks of the *Ganga* by taking up their abode in this very area where we are living. The *Ashrams* of sages of Self-realisation, like the *Ashram* of Gurudev, are still vibrant with spiritual force and power. The *tapasya* of *Bhagiratha*, the great wisdom of *Vyasa*, the divinity of *Vasishtha* – all is here.

The second factor is, if your approach to spirituality is on right note, then in spite of all that is happening, you can still move in this area like a being dwelling in the land of Gods, in the land of *tapasya*. Wherever you go, you are in God, and God is in you, Holy Master has left a centre of vibrant spirituality where every speck of space, the very atmosphere is filled with the power of *bhakti*, *jnana*, *Vairagya* and illumination by this devotion to God. May the choicest blessings of the Holy Master shower upon you all.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*