



The Real Victory

Arjuna assured himself of victory when he said: “*Karishye Vachanam Tava* – I shall do Thy bidding”. [Gita 18.73] And to get a grasp of Arjuna’s declaration, you should ponder the last verse of Gita: “*Yatra Yogeshwarah Krishno Yatra Paartho Dhanurdharah | Tatra Shreervijayo Bhootirdhruvaa Neetirmatirmama* – where God is in charge and the human individual, the disciple, the sadhaka, the devotee is fully prepared to do His bidding, there is prosperity, all victory, all auspiciousness and all happiness”. [Gita 18.78]

God verily comes to us in the form of the Guru. He manifests in and through Guru. Therefore, this closing verse of Gita would imply obedience to Guru. Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji, never assumed the status of a Guru. He always suggested, requested. Obedience which would imply obedience to his teachings and following the footsteps of his glorious example would be a victory over our self-will, the obstinate die-hard assertion of our ‘I’-principle, the ego. The greatest victory, therefore would be to say, “Not I, not mine, but Thy will be done, O Lord”. The greatest victory is to die to the little self and thus qualify for the everlasting life. “*Jagat Jitam Tena Yena Jitam Manah* – by him is the world conquered, by whom the mind has been conquered”. For the mind plays havoc through the five senses of sight, sound, touch, taste and smell.

There is a very significant saying “Even if all the other senses have not been conquered, but the tongue has been completely conquered, then that person can be said to be self-conquered”. Tongue means taste as well as speech, which in turn includes anger, the irresistible, impelling impulse to retort, always to have the last word. This is a serious flaw and defect. It means that you are fully under domination of the die-hard ego. Retort and gossiping are wasting away your *prana-shakti*. But it gives a sense of victory if you manage to give tit for tat.

Tongue represents speech as well as taste, which makes you overeat, become glutton and lose control. The water element governs both the sex impulse as well as the taste impulse. As disciples of Gurudev, victory would mean to you selflessness and service, devotion to God, conquest of the mind and victory over the deluded identification with the body. Victory will also mean victory over inclination to hurt others, victory over untruthfulness and falsehood, victory over carnal passions.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*