



## Obedience

Gurudev used to say, “Obedience is better than reverence”. For, reverence shown to the Guru is an outer act, whereas obeying the Guru is reverence for his teachings, for what he stood for, what he worked for, what he wanted to give you as his supreme wealth – the wisdom heritage. When we say “*Vande Guru-Paramparam* – I salute the lineage of Masters”, we must be fully aware that it is a perpetual, perennial way of fulfilling Guru’s will in and through thought, word and action, and make our life an *anusarana* and *anusmarana* (following and remembrance) of his *jnana upadesha* (wisdom teachings), of all that he stood for. Obedience is paying perpetual reverence to that which in fact he was in essence. Therefore, it is a higher kind of *vandana* (worship) to live in accordance with his teachings, to follow the path that he pointed out for us and make our life go in the direction he wanted our life to go – towards the Goal supreme. We perpetually bow to Guru by trying to live in the manner in which he wished our life to be lived - divinely, nobly, in a sublime manner.

The supreme will of God, His plan for you, He has expressed through the universal teachings of the scripture and through saints, messengers and prophets. He is pleased by one who fulfils His will. He is not pleased if your reverence is only through lips, but you go your way so far as action is concerned. If you go your way, you cannot attain Him by merely chanting “You are my mother, You are my father ... O Lord, You are my all-in-all”. You will walk in darkness, because His will constitutes the light.

The divine wisdom teachings of the scriptures and the saints and sages whom He sent from time to time constitute light. They are revelation of God’s will for man on earth. Therefore, if you do not follow those teachings, then you are walking in darkness. Srimad Bhagvad Gita is a manual of path that leads to God. But God does not force you to obey Him. He says “I have given you these teachings wishing your highest welfare. Now it is up to you to obey or disobey – “yyyy “. [Gita 18.63] And He says: “He who carries out My will attains the Supreme”. Obedience constitutes wisdom, because it means putting yourself in harmony with God’s will, with the Cosmic Law and Order, and not going contrary to it.

May you all become recipients of special benedictions of Gurudev by following the way of life he taught us.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*