



Shravana Illumines

Radiant Divinities! Great Sages have revealed to us many invaluable subtle truths about life, which is the outcome of their own *Aparokshanubhuti* (direct Experience). Many of these truths are given through the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, Panchadashi, etc. We hear them in *satsanga* to reflect upon and to grow in our own inner state of consciousness, so that our interior is gradually more and more illumined. Our prayers, “*Dhiyo Yo Nah Prachodayat* – Illumine our inner being, may darkness vanish and Light prevail.” [Gayatri Mantra]

Shravana (listening to scriptures) is such a creative, positive and constructive way that it takes us stage by stage to higher and higher ascent unto Illumination and Enlightenment. *Shravana* is renewal, rebirth. It is for steady forward movement towards the Goal. It is ceaseless onward progress, continuous inward ascent unto ever higher states of consciousness and wisdom to liberate ourselves. It is the privilege and prerogative of each seeker, each *jinasu* to ponder from this angle: “In what way can this truth I have listened to enrich me, raise me higher, take me nearer to that great Goal?” Thus commences a process of dwelling upon in a creative and positive way what has been heard.

Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi assures: “When I am there, why do you fear?” Likewise, “Come unto Me all ye that are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.” (Jesus) The Gita says: “*Aham Tvam Sarva-Papebhyo Moksaisyami Ma Sucah* - I will liberate thee from all sins; grieve not.” [Gita 18.66] Or, “*Tarati Shokam-Aatmavit* – The knower of Self goes beyond sorrow.” [Chha. Up. 7.1.3] Has that come to you as a wonderful assurance banishing all grief and sorrow from you? And when you hear “*Tad Dure Tad Vad Antike* - It (the Atman) is distant and it is near.” [Isha. Up. 5] That Spirit is ever at hand.

Shravana is a process of giving and receiving, both done in a vital way, for it is filled with the power of Realisation of great sages. *Satsanga-shravana* is a process that is vital, living, dynamic, gainful. It should become an ever-progressive *Sadhana*, a process of daily reading, daily revivification of our aspirations, our spirit, and our spiritual life. Let it be for a renewal of our awareness of what we are. May it be a process of ever higher and higher levels of consciousness, and thus let our spiritual life proceed ever towards the Goal!

God Bless You All !

■ Swami Chidananda