



Be Rooted In The One

All the divine forms that we adore symbolises aspects or glories of that One, non-dual, transcendental Cosmic Being. Therefore, they are equally divine, equally sacred. They become a most effective and unailing linking factor or a great portal from the manifestation of the Supreme Being with form to the Supreme Being beyond all names and forms. They play a very important, necessary role in the evolution of the consciousness of the individual soul. All manifest forms are no other than, and identical with That which is beyond them. In the same way, all energy, all strength that is manifest in this dynamic universal appearance that we live in, and perceive through all our faculties are no other than the One, non-dual Cosmic Force, the Divine Mother in Her variegated modes and manifestations. Other than Her, there abounds nothing.

Brahman is an inscrutable Principle within which at once inheres both the dormant, latent aspect as well as the dynamically patent aspect. Siva and Shakti are one. Precisely because of this fact, the Experience of the Divine Mother is no other than the Experience of the Supreme Reality. When you go outside in the Sun, are you experiencing the light or warmth? When you say one, you automatically mean the other one as well. They cannot be separated. What wonder that it constitutes this mystery of non-duality within a seeming duality.

To know Brahman, therefore, is to know Maya. And to know Maya in Her positive, liberating aspect is to know Brahman. Gurudev once said: "Why are you puzzled? The Personal and Impersonal are not different. The Personal is no other than the Impersonal. The Impersonal is manifest as the Personal. There is non-duality. They are one and the same."

The great teacher Dakshinamurti preferred to teach by non-utterance, by supreme silence. When the mind becomes no-mind, then the Truth is experienced. A great mystical teacher used to say: "Keep quiet! Do not cover up the Reality with words. Be silent and know *I am God*." Therefore, it behoves us to learn the art and science of being alone even when we are in the midst of many. Then alone you can always be rooted in God. Learn this art of absolute aloneness in the crowd! May the Supreme Reality grant us all the grace of this non-dual awareness of this truth that One alone exists!

God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*