



## Live In The Light

Children of Light! Dipavali, the festival of lights, is to ever remind us that we should make our life a constant process of moving from darkness into Light, and making ourselves a living light of the Divine. The sacred invocation that has come down to us from times immemorial is “*Tamso Maa JyotirGamaya* – From darkness enable us to ascend into the Light.” [Brih. Up. 1.3.28] We should live in Light, because we are parts of the Light.

If we do not make ourselves votaries of that Light of lights beyond all darkness, then we run the danger of going from darkness to greater darkness “*Andham Tamah Prashanti ye Avidyamupasate* – Those who direct their attention to that which is ephemeral, they enter into blinding darkness.” [Isa. Up. 9] Worshipping *avidya* or *apara vidya* (lesser knowledge) both lead from darkness to denser darkness. Therefore, ever strive, for *Paravidya*, the supreme Knowledge that illuminates, enlightens, and liberates. We should ever move towards that great Light of lights, attaining which one does not return to this realm of pain, death and rebirth. “ “ [Gita 15.6] That should be well pondered. That should be meditated upon, and that should be attained.

Hence, we pray that our intellect may be illuminated, to bring Light. It is to remind us every day that our life should always be a continuous striving to bring light.

He is *param jyoti svarupa Paramatma* [having the nature of supreme Light and is the Supreme Self] and we are his *amshas* [parts]. So we are also *param jyotis* (supreme lights) in a lesser way. We are the transcendental Light in our essential nature. Our true identity is Light and not darkness. Therefore, let us arouse within ourselves the Light of the consciousness and be a lamp into darkness. That was the parting admonition of the great enlightened sage Buddha. “Be thou *bhikus*, each one of you a light unto yourselves and as a lamp unto the feet of others.”

Let us strive diligently by all the powers at our disposal to ever make ourselves a centre of radiant Divine effulgence, a centre of dynamic manifestation of awakened spirituality in the form of divinely lived life. That is the goal to be striven after. Turn away from darkness and move towards the Light.

■ *Swami Chidananda*