



Darkness To Light

Radiant Divinities! A light is meant to shed radiance all around, banish darkness, and illumine everything. It penetrates everywhere, brightens everything, illumines all and shines and shines. Whatever shines here, shines due to the radiance of that great Light of lights beyond all darkness. And you are all radiant rays of that great light of lights. To shine is your birthright. Light is your unchanging eternal being.

And yet we pray “*Tamaso maa jyotir-gamaya* - Lead us from darkness unto Light” [Brih. Up. 1.3.28], and “*Dhio yon nah prachodayat* – May HE illumine our intellect”. What is the contradiction? You *are* the Light of lights; you *are* a radiant centre of divine effulgence. Then why should you pray so? Where comes *tamas* (darkness)? I wish to tell you once and for all: To shine is your birthright. There is no darkness in you. *You are the Light*. “I am in the Light, the Light is in me, I am the Light,” – this is the truth.

If you pray “*Tamaso maa jyotir-gamaya*” it is not because there is any darkness in you. When you are the Light, why do you ask for it? You pray this way because there is something that has come as covering. We need not go into why it has come, how it has come. It is unnecessary. But we know that it is there. And therefore, this covering is to be removed. A sheep or goat cannot know that it is the Light of lights, *param jyotis-svaurpa Paramatma*. But you can, because you are made in His image, you are capable of thinking.

The sky is the limit to the ascent of your thought. Great minds have proven it. So remove that, which seems to be dark, which is not in you but seems to be so, because of its proximity, because of *avarana*, a covering. Therefore, the prayer asks for removal of that which covers your effulgence, the radiance that is your birthright. And this prayer should be followed by action to remove darkness. That action is called *yoga* and *sadhana*. And that action to remove darkness and once again shine with effulgence is the science of religion. It is your supreme duty. It is your great privilege. Engage in it.

There is no darkness in you. You are the eternal Light. Come out of this enshrouding cover, the *anatma* (non-Self) that has temporarily covered you. Do *sadhana*. Practise *yoga* and shine as a radiant ray of the Light of lights beyond all darkness. That is your chance. That is the greatness of man. Let your life manifest the grandeur here and now! May you realise yourself; “I am the Light of lights. Effulgence is my natural state. I am here to banish darkness and shine radiantly!”.

■ Swami Chidananda