



St. Francis Of Assisi

Blessed children of the Lord! St. Francis is well known all over the world as one unique saint whose life resembled most closely to the life of Jesus Christ Himself. He is well known as that sublime being who tried to make his life a close fulfilment of the instructions given by Jesus Christ. In doing this, St. Francis fulfilled the will of God, as expressed in and through Jesus. By this fulfilling the will of God, he endeared himself to God and became the beloved of the Lord. "He is dear to me who carries out the will of My Father. They only are My own who live to carry out the Will of My Father". One who pursues and carries out the Will of God and lives in obedience with God's laws, such a one, indeed, is a blessed and fortunate being, for such a one, obtains the Lord Himself. The peace and happiness which man seeks is fully obtained forever by obtaining the Lord.

The more a man possesses things, the things possess the man, and he will lose his real freedom. Through simplicity and poverty, you liberate yourself from the tyranny of things. So liberate yourself from this bondage to things, and link yourself to God through His constant remembrance and prayer. Simplicity, poverty, prayer and God-thought are the great truths experimented and experienced by our beloved St. Francis. If you desire the love of God and His compassion, then express this same compassion to all of His creation.

The message of this great Saint of Assisi could be hope for human survival and for unity, brotherhood and harmony. The way to our highest welfare is in fulfilling the teachings of this great saint. Let every man link up his life with God. Let the world take for its guidance his simple prayer: "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy; O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning, we are pardoned; It is in dying that we are born to eternal life".

May the world awaken and recognise the importance and significance of St. Francis. May man come out of darkness and emerge into the Light, by turning to him and his luminous life. May man liberate himself from anxiety and fear into faith and trust through the sublime way of St. Francis! Let me come out from violence to non-violence.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*