



God Is Now, Here

Worshipful homage to the supreme Universal Reality that pervades all space envelops all existence and indwells all beings. O Lord, grant us that vision that will enable us to perceive the eternal, which is concealed, hidden, occult, yet present in the non-eternal. Let us behold the Unmanifest within the manifest. Let us behold the concealed, *gudhah*, within that which is apparent. “*Eko Devah Sarva-bhuteshu Gudhah* – God, who is one only, is hidden in all beings”. [Sve. Up. 6.11]

Thus beholding, seeing all things as the signature of God, let us develop the consciousness of His presence at all times. Learning to perceive the hidden divinity pervading this apparently material universe, let us be able to live, move and have our being in God. Let us be able to recognise that the Kingdom of God is now, here. Let this be the inner consciousness of the awakened seeker, through fervent *bhava*, through faith, through feeling, through firm conviction. “*Tasmaat Sarveshu Kaaleshu Maamanusmara Yudhya Cha; Mayyarpitamanobuddhir Maamevaishyasyasamshayam*. – Therefore, at all times remember Me only and fight. With mind and intellect fixed (or absorbed) in Me, thou shalt doubtless come to Me alone. [Gita 8.7] *Mayyeva Mana Aadhatwa Mayi Buddhim Niveshaya; Nivasishyasi Mayyeva Ata Oordhwam Na Samshayah*. – Fix thy mind on Me only, thy intellect in Me, (then) thou shalt no doubt live in Me alone hereafter. [Gita 12.8] *Tameva Sharanam Gaccha Sarvabhaavena; Bhaarata; Tatprasaadaatparaam Shaantim Sthaanam Praapsyasi Shaashwatam*. – Fly unto Him for refuge with all thy being, O Arjuna! By His Grace thou shalt obtain supreme peace and the eternal abode. [Gita 18.62] This is *Isvara-pranidhana*. This is dwelling on earth but living in God, living in heaven. God is now, here. God is the all-pervading one and only absolute Reality. Therefore, we are always in heaven, ever in God, ever in His kingdom. It is the growing awareness of this fact that is required. “Thy kingdom come.” When we pray thus, it is a prayer for an inner awakening to the ever-present Reality.

Upon this day, as the whole world awakens to auspicious dawn of Christmas, my wish for you all is peace, joy. May the peace of the ever-present God pervade your heart and mind, your entire being. May peace flood into your consciousness and envelop you. May you dwell in peace. May you live to share and to give this peace. May peace be the one thing that you pray for others. And also, may joy fill your heart. For Brahman is *anandam*; where God is, there is perennial joy. May you live to share and to give peace and joy unto all your fellow beings. “*Sarveshaam Shaantir-Bhavatu* – Peace be unto all beings.” May the ever-present, indwelling peace of the Kingdom of Heaven be within you. May that peace be your gift to mankind day after day, through your every thought feeling, word and action. May you live and move in this world as a messenger of peace, an angel of peace.

May God Bless You All! May Gurudev Bless You All!

■ Swami Chidananda