

PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

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A saintly leader commissioned me to write an article on human life. Shy and afraid, I promised to comply and rushed to my teacher, who calmed the unrest within me. He asked me, Son! Why are you so upset, what is the reason for your nervousness? I replied that Pradyumraji had ordered me to write an article on human life. My teacher showed me the way by directing me to a 'rishi' who would help me in my task. But before that he told me that, just as son obtains his father, a vision obtains a scene, similarly to achieve proximity with a saint, we have to understand the innermost being of a saint. I kept his teaching in mind and approached a 'rishi' and told him of my problems. Leading me by the hand Dev Dayanand took me into the inviolable fortress of celibacy and said, you will be safe in this fort. Be in the company of intellectuals, saints, ascetics and the students of the Vedas. If you receive the blessings of the mother of the Vedas, no mystery will be unknown to you! You will be able to appreciate the power and divinity of the Lord who is the incarnation of Eternal Truth Consciousness and Love. That is the light that illuminates the entire universe. You wish to know about human life: You can know about the whole universe if you so desire. If you have been chosen by the Lord for this knowledge, this nectar, this divine happiness, then no wish will remain unfulfilled, you shall achieve the abode of eternal love and divine ecstasy. In other words you will attain salvation.

Today, I who have come to take refuge in that fort felt blessed in the lap of the *Vedamata*. It was as though a ray had illuminated the entire fort. The sixth 'mantra' of the 53rd 'Sukta' from the 10th 'mandal' of the Rigveda says"-

तनुं तन्वत्रजसो भानुमन्विहि ज्योतिष्मतः पथो रक्ष धिया कृतान्
अनुल्बणं वयत जोगुवामपो मनुर्भव जनया दैव्यं जनम्॥

The word '*manurbhava*' gave me a rare feeling of lightness like an air and felt as I will find aglance of the philosophy of life. I wondered who was being given this advice: 'be a man', and in what situation?

Is this advice for man or animal or any other being?

How could man be advised to be a 'man'? When I set the problem before Sri Krishna, the ultimate yogi, I suddenly found the answer in this couplet:

नासतो विद्यते भावो नाभावो विद्यते सतः।

उभयोरपि दृष्टोऽन्तस्त्वनयोस्तत्त्वदर्शिभिः॥

Untruth has no existence while truth is omnipresent, philosophers have discovered this. That which has no substance cannot exist and that which exists can never be destroyed. The form may be changed but it will always be the present. For example, water, when cooled, will turn to ice. When heated, it will form steam. Thus water may change into three different forms but it will always be there. Similarly, man, too may change his form. It is thus explained in the Upanishads:

श्रेयश्च प्रेयश्च मनुष्यमेतस्तौ संपरीत्य विविनक्ति धीरः।

श्रेयो हि धीरोऽभि प्रेयसो वृणीते प्रेयो मन्दो योगक्षेमाद् वृणीते॥

The spiritual (*shreya*) and the material (*preya*) thoughts both occur in a man. The sensible man, weighs both in his mind. Such a man is calm and patient in all respects; he works steadily, not looking for instant results. He accepts the spiritual over the worldly.

On the other hand, the foolish person looks for ease and comfort, so he chooses the material path.

Solution to the earlier questions : 1. "Be a man" is an advice for man.

2. Whenever there is a conflict in the mind of man between spiritual and material, positive and negative, then the former is the path to choose. Only the foolish look for worldly pleasures, and are thus diverted.

The rishis in the Vedas have said, "set an example so that man can follow god's path". That is, man should progress towards the divinity of the Eternal Being and help other to do the same.

To conclude, we may say from our innermost being that although these are passing thoughts they become a philosophy of life when they merge in our life to some extent. May we ever maintain a sense of balance in our lives and instinctively go forward on the spiritual path.