

## OM SAI RAM

### WELCOME TO THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

#### Q. 324, “ON SCIENCE, SPIRITUALITY AND FREE WILL” June 15, 2024

*This text excerpt is taken from Prof. Anil Kumar’s book “Satyopanishad, Vol. 1,” pages 183-189*

**Swami! Are science and spirituality contradictory to each other? We are eager to know Swami’s views on this subject.**

**Bhagawan:** Science operates below the senses. Science speaks of ‘this, *tvam*’, world, while Spirituality thinks of ‘that’, *tat*’ divine. Science refers to *tvam-idam*, ‘near’, while Spirituality concentrates on ‘far’, *param*, beyond. Science is meant for the *padartha*, ‘material’ and Spirituality is for the ultimate, *paramartha*. Science deals with *the jada*, inert and spirituality with *chaitanya*, awareness Spirituality aims at the *adhara*, base and Science experiments on the *adheya*, superstructure.

Science is the ‘split of love’ while Spirituality is the ‘spirit of love’. Science deals with *pravrtti marga*, the external world while Spirituality is concerned with the intuitive *nivrtti marga*. Science can visualise the *vyakta*, apparent, while Spirituality dives into the *avyakta*, the hidden. You can learn Science with your *carmacaksus*, physical eye, but the understanding of Spirituality needs the *jnanacaksus*, ‘eye of wisdom’. Science is the collection of facts, which are stuffed into your ‘head’. Spirituality is metaphysical and touches your ‘heart’. Science is incomplete like the letter ‘C’ which begins at one point and ends somewhere else. Spirituality is *purnam*, full like the letter ‘O’.

Science supplies implements. Spirituality tells you how to use them. For example, a knife which is used to cut vegetables, fruits and so on can also be used to cut throats. Science shows what you see, like your photo or picture. But Spirituality is an X-ray film. Science is ‘negative,’ while Spirituality is ‘positive’.

Creation is ‘negative’ while the Creator is ‘positive’. Fill your heart with positive spirituality as you fill the tank with water. Senses are the taps through which you draw the water of love. Science states facts but Spirituality symbolises the unchangeable truth, *rtam*.

**Swami! We experience love in our worldly life. How is it different from spiritual love?**

**Bhagawan:** Split of love is worldly but the spirit of love is spiritual. Love shared with one’s own kith and kin is the split of love. This is worldly love. The primordial principle

governing the entire universe is spiritual love. This is the spirit of love. Spiritual love is universal.

**Swami! Today everyone speaks of Free Will. Do we really have Free Will?**

**Bhagawan:** Man has no Free Will. It is only God who has Free Will. Being a slave to the senses, how can you claim to have free will? Where from do you get Free Will? God alone is free and hence He alone has Free Will and that is why this Free Will is an absolutely divine attribute. How? Here is a small example. When a man suffers from a paralytic stroke, he is not able to lift or move the paralysed part of this body. Come on! Let him now try in the name of Free Will! So, there is no Free Will as such and it is ridiculous to think so. There is no meaning in that claim.

**Swami! In modern society, much knowledge is only half-knowledge and partial understanding. We don't have a clear picture of anything. We want to know the difference between Free Will and Divine Will.**

**Bhagawan:** It is ego and ignorance that prompt doubts of this kind. On account of the body identification, you are not able to know reality. In fact, you are a slave to your senses. So, you are not free. How can you have Free Will then? God is the Master of all. He is above everything. He is not bound or limited by anybody or anything. He is absolutely free. Hence, it is only God who has Free Will or Divine Will.

Today everyone thinks that he has Free Will, enabling him to do anything of his choice and that he can decide anything in the name of his Free Will. This may be one thing today and quite a different thing tomorrow, but Divine Will never changes.

While exercising your Free Will, you may succeed or fail, win or lose. If you succeed, you become proud and egoistic. If you fail, you become frustrated and disappointed. But, Divine Will is a transcendental phenomenon. What you should do is simply surrender to the Divine Will. It means readiness or preparedness to receive and accept happily whatever happens in your life, good or bad, with the feeling that it is only for your ultimate good. You must accept it as God's gift to you. This is true *jnana* and *bhakti*. In fact you do not know what is good for you. God knows the when, why, what and how of everything and of everyone. Everything happens according to God's will or the Divine Will. If you know and sincerely believe this, you will never be elated, egoistic, proud, frustrated, depressed and disappointed once you have surrendered truly to the Divine Will.

Divine Will is present in the guise of conscience, reminding you of your responsibility. It is the *antarvani*, Inner Voice. But, you neglect it and don't pay heed to its appeal and message and so you suffer. With your mind turned inward, your intellect tuned to the fundamental principle and your senses kept under strict control, you can hear clearly your Inner Voice, which is none other than the voice of God. Divine Will is the master plan of God.

**Swami! Kindly let us know the difference between devotion and surrender.**

**Bhagawan:** Devotion is dual. Here is one who is devoted to God. Therefore, devotion is the path of dualism. A devotee has no meaning if there is no God. So also, God is associated with a devotee. It is devotion that links them. But, surrender is non-dual. In the path of non-dualism, we find this surrender. Once you surrender to God, you do not exist for yourself any longer. You do not have anything of your own.

For example, you have water and sugar. As it is, these two are separate and different from each other in their names, forms and tastes. This is the principle of dualism, since sugar and water exist apart from each other. Now, mix both, and what happens? It is neither sugar nor is it water. It becomes syrup. So also, the devotee who totally surrenders himself to God does not consider himself as a separate entity apart from God. This is true surrender and the spirit of non-dualism.

**Swami! Out of the two, faith and love, which precedes the other? Is it true that we love if only we have faith or is it the other way around? Kindly tell us about it.**

**Bhagawan:** You should definitely have faith first in order to love. Do not doubt this. Unless you have full faith that so-and-so is your father, mother, son, wife or husband, you will not be able to love any one of them. If you have no faith, and if you are not sure of your dear ones, how can you love them? Is it possible for you to love the one you doubt? So, faith comes first and love next.

**Swami! We meet many persons who say that they can believe only after going through an intimation of Divinity and develop faith only after they experience it. But, many also feel that only strong faith gives us that experience. So, which of the two precedes the other? Please tell us, Swami.**

**Bhagawan:** Faith, which comes first, gives you experience. You must have unwavering faith in order to experience. Faith is the foundation. For example, to swim, you should jump into water. You cannot say that you will jump into water only after learning how to swim. You cannot learn it on tar roads or cement roads. You can learn it only in water. Here water is faith and the art of swimming is the experience. So, faith precedes experience.

**Swami! Is it proper to say that 'I am in God'? Or should I say that 'God is in me'? Which of the two is appropriate?**

**Bhagawan:** Our scripture says, "Sarvam vishnumayam jagat." God is all-pervasive. He encompasses the entire Universe. 'Vasudevah sarvमितii', 'isavasyamidagm sarvam' are our scriptural dicta. They make it very clear that the entire cosmos is in Him.

It is correct to say that you are in God. It is not correct to say that God is in you. Of course, when the whole universe is in Him, naturally you are in Him. How? A small

example: You are holding a rose flower in your hand. It means that the rose flower is small and you are big. Since God is infinite, the world is in Him. But, if you put it in the reverse order by saying that God is in you, you become bigger than God.

This is not a proper feeling. You are a spark of that divine. *Mamaivamso jivaloke jivabhutah sanatanah*, says the Gita. (“*The living entities in this conditioned world are My eternal fragmental parts.*”)

There will be more spiritual questions clarified by Bhagawan in the next session.

Thank you for your time.

**OM SAI RAM**