

# Faith in God.

By Swami Sri Hari Babaji.

The four questions being placed before him, he said:—

I do not know what to say. I have had no revelation whatsoever, nor have I got anything special to mention. I am simply conscious of the fact that His devotees have a regard for me, and look upon me as their own man. I prize it as a token of divine grace.

What am I to say about God? Even ascetics and recluses are found lacking in that which we sometimes get in small children. Let us put some questions concerning God to these children (some four or five children chanced to peep in just at that moment). The Swamiji addressed them in the Panjabi dialect thus:—"Boys, tell me if you know something about God". The question being asked repeatedly, all others kept silent. Only one of them replied that He was everywhere. The Swamiji again asked him, "Have you only heard people say so, or have you actually seen Him?" The boy stood mute at this question. The Swamiji then narrated the anecdote of a preceptor and his two pupils as given below:

A certain preceptor asked his pupils

what they knew of God? One of them repeated several things mentioned about Him in the scriptures and described His nature in several ways. The other, however, kept quiet and did not speak a word.

He who has seen God cannot describe what he has seen. Whenever he is in a mood to say something about Him, he has to come down to a lower plane so as to be able to do so. God is truly represented by silence. One who seeks to have a vision of God is advised to go and see His devotees who represent Him in this world. God cannot be proved on the analogy of worldly objects. A man naturally feels happy and enjoys mental peace in the presence of His devotees. Nay, he is rid of all his sins and afflictions. His devotees are His visible form, and I have nothing more to say in this behalf.

A lawyer of Hoshiarpur related a number of incidents of the life of Sri Hari Baba. We, however, do not deem it proper to publish them without his permission. On being requested again, the Babaji was kind enough to address the following letter to us:—

Respects to Sri Hari and the revered preceptor !

यस्य देवे परा भक्तिर्यथा देवे तथा गुरौ ।  
तस्यैते कथिता अर्थाः प्रकाशन्ते महात्मनः॥

'All these secrets are revealed to the noble soul who has supreme love for God and unbounded devotion to his preceptor.'

The company, nay, even the presence of highly developed souls reveals to us the existence as well as the blissful aspect of God. So long as I was with my revered preceptor, I remained conscious of the existence of the Lord almost every moment without any effort or exertion on my part. If ever I was in difficulty or danger, even though in a dream, I was instantly delivered from it by the Lord as a matter of course. I still remember the valuable discourses of my preceptor. Akbar put the following questions to Birbal:—

- (1) Where is the abode of your God ?
- (2) What is His occupation ?
- (3) What does He feed upon ?
- (4) Why does He incarnate Himself even though able to accomplish everything by mere resolve ?

Birbal answered three of these questions *ad seriatum* as below:—

(1) Though present everywhere, He stands revealed in the hearts of holy men. If you wish to see Him, you will find Him there.

(2) He humbles those who are highly placed and lifts the fallen. In other words, constant transformation is His occupation.

(3) He feeds on the self-conceit of a creature.

Birbal asked for some interval to answer the fourth question. In the meantime he had a lifelike effigy of the infant prince got ready. The Emperor, on returning from his usual walk, used to sit by the side of a tank and amuse himself with the little prince. Birbal instructed the nurse who looked after the child to conceal the real prince and take the artificial one when the Emperor asked for the baby. She was also directed to feign stumbling just at that moment and to drop the counterfeit child into the tank. The nurse did as she had been coached by Birbal. When the Emperor saw the prince drowning, he lost his presence of mind and was about to jump into the tank to save the child. In the meantime Birbal brought the real prince and said, "Your Majesty need not be anxious; here is the prince." The Emperor felt much annoyed at this insolent behaviour of Birbal and ordered him to be punished. Birbal respectfully addressed him thus:—"Your Majesty, I simply answered your fourth question practically. Your Majesty had at your disposal so many of your attendants who were ready to stake their lives for you. Your Majesty's affection for the child, however, impelled you to jump into the tank yourself. Similarly, even though God is able to do anything and everything by mere resolve, His devotees are so dear to Him that He has to appear in our midst personally out of sheer love for them.

A Revelation of the Lord at Brindaban to my revered preceptor.

Sri Maharajji ( my preceptor ) had heard that Lord Sri Krishna still enacted His divine *Lila* in Seva Kunja at Brindaban daily as usual. He was therefore seized with an ardent desire

to see Him. Nobody is allowed to remain in Seva Kunja at night. Sri Maharajji therefore visited that place at about midnight, clambered one of the enclosure walls and remained sitting on the wall till about 4 A. M., thinking all the time of the lord, and then got down and returned to his abode. He resolved to continue this practice for a definite period of time. Up to the last day but one he had no perception. The last night now arrived and his mind began to swing between hope and despair. All of a sudden, the *Rasa* ( Dance ) party appeared. One of the lady members of the party said, "There is some human being here." The Lord said, "Never mind, he is one of My ardent devotees." The *Rasa* now commenced. Enrapturing love reigned supreme everywhere. Sri Maharajji was filled with rapture when he witnessed that thrilling scene of supreme love. In the meantime the Lord advanced majestically towards Sri Maharajji and, placing His lotus-like hand on his shoulder, spoke to him thus:—"I am pleased ( with you ) an ' call upon you to ask for some boon." Sri Maharajji said, "I have had the rare fortune of witnessing Your lotus-like feet: what more can I desire? My only prayer is that my attachment to Your feet may continue unabated." The Lord said "Amen" and disappeared along with the whole party. Sri Maharajji also returned, mad with love. I had the proud privilege of hearing this story from Sri Maharajji's lips only once during my life. His whole frame beamed with ecstatic joy when he related the story. The memory of that blessed moment has and shall continue to serve as the beacon-light for my life.

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B. योगक्षेमं ब्रह्मस्यहम् । ( I bring full security. )

Sri Maharajji received his education and spiritual training at Benares.

On a certain holiday he along with a learned old Brahman went out to roam about in the jungle and also to pass a few hours in seclusion. They roamed about for some time in a rapturous mood actually beholding the divine effulgence everywhere, and reached a temple which was in a dilapidated condition at about midday. As the day was hot, they sat there to rest a while. They also began to feel very hungry; but there was no village close by where they could get anything to eat. The Panditji asked, "What is to be done now?" Sri Maharajji said, "Let us remember Lord Govinda ( स्मरन्तः सर्वं किञ्चुस्मिन्तस्यो न जातु चित् ). In the meantime a man with a singular appearance arrived on the spot. He had a cup made of leaves in his hand. It contained five lumps of sweetmeat ( पेहे ). He placed the cup before Sri Maharajji, made obeisance to him and went away without speaking a word. The Panditji asked whether the newcomer was a devotee of Sri Maharajji. "Yes," said Sri Maharajji, smiling, "He was a devotee, indeed ( for the Lord Himself has been from time immemorial the only true devotee of His lovers )." Each urged the other to partake of the sweets and then have some water, as both were feeling hungry. Neither of them, however, touched the sweets for fear of depriving the other of the same. The same person was again heard saying from over the roof of the temple, "Both of you may share it without any hitch." Both were agreeably surprised to hear these words and began to pick up the sweets one by one. They continued to eat them one by one till they were satisfied; but the number of sweets in the cup was never below five. ( Everything coming from the infinite Lord is inexhaustible. ) Both of them were filled

with joy and excitement at this divine miracle. When they returned to Benares in the evening, every one of their company shared the contents of the cup, the number ever remaining five. Sri Maharajji then consigned the cup, sweets and all, to the Ganges.

I remember scores of such incidents connected with Sri Maharajji, but hesitate to mention them here. Hari Om!

*Yours, etc.*

Swatah Prakasha.

*(translated)*

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