

By Sri Anand Sarup Sahèbji Maharaj.

1. We should believe in God, because God stands for the highest degree of spiritual evolution possible for a spirit-entity.

2. If we do not believe in God, we shall be leading either an objectless life or we shall be devoting it to the achievement of some inferior object and we shall be depriving ourselves of the blessings of the highest state of existence.

3. My reasons are:—

- (a) Personal realization and
- (b) unimpeachable evidence of the Great Souls who attained God-realization.

4. In the year 1897, I appeared for my matriculation examination from Ambala. Everybody said that I would get plucked, because I was weak in my class. I felt very disconsolate and did not know what to do. I had appeared for the examination from a Mission High School where prayer used to be

held every morning before commencement of the school work, but in which no student took any interest. Just a day before the announcement of the results—which by the way were to be announced at Lahore—when I was feeling extremely distressed, it somehow occurred to me that I should try with a prayer. I prayed to God for about five minutes in my own boyish ways and, to my great surprise and joy, I was blessed with an internal experience in which I was assured that everything would be all right with my results. The experience naturally soothed me, and I felt relieved of all anxiety. Next morning, I again sat in prayer, and I had the same experience for the second time; but, while I was enjoying the bliss of it, somebody shouted from below the window of the room in which I had closetted myself that I had plucked. A telegram from a relative at Lahore had been received, containing the news of my failure. I heard the news and felt dumbfounded. I slowly approached the door of my room and opened it with great diffidence. But a voice within

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strongly urged on me to remain calm and fear nothing. I went into the street, took the telegram in my hand, read it once, twice and thrice, and felt sick at heart. My grandmother, who happened to be present, tried to console me; but I stopped her by telling her that I could not fail. I went to the Post Office, which happened to be about two furlongs from our house, and found there a crowd of class-mates and their relatives waiting for the "cross list". At about 9-30 A. M., the postmaster delivered a cover to one of the representatives of our High

School. The cover was opened, and the "cross list" taken out of it. It was then ascertained that I had not failed, but was kept "under consideration". Nobody could make out what the phrase "under consideration" meant, because it appeared for the first time in a "cross list". One more week, however, made the meaning clear, when the intimation was received that I had been declared successful.

This is the first incident in my life that strengthened my faith in God's existence and His mercy.

