

Short Discourse by Shri Santseviji Maharaj

The following are some of the excerpts from a translated discourse of Param Poojya Shri Shahi Swamiji Maharaj, one of the most eminent living disciples of Maharshi Mehi Paramhansji Maharaj, one of the greatest-ever exponents of Santmat:

.....Sant Kabir in one of his poems has said:

"The target (which all of us must aim at) is hidden behind the sky. To the left is the moon and to the right is the Sun; you have to aim between the two, as the support lies hidden between these two. Making the bow of your body, the bow-string of surat, pull and shoot the arrow of the Divine (Celestial) Sound. On practicing meditation, following the Satguru's commandments, the arrow of the Sound goes on piercing through bodies, one after the other. Quite surprisingly, no wounds are caused even though the arrow penetrates through the body. Incredible though it may sound, it is experienced by only those who have got hit by such an arrow. O Noble People! Listen: Only those who have had this experience will testify to, or acknowledge, its veracity."

What is our aim? What is it each one of us wants to attain? As we see, there is no end, as it were, to our cravings. Sant Tulsi Sahab has rightly observed, *"We have one heart but millions of wishes and yet there is no end to our lust."* However, a close analysis will show that every one of us longs for peace, because happiness is inherent in peace. Peace is the mother of bliss. In fact, true peace (or absolute stillness) is the real attribute of God, there is no pedestal or post higher than that. Our Gurudev (Maharshi Mehi Paramhans) wrote,

"Supreme Sovereign Lord is soundless, vibration-less. He is absolute peace (stillness). Try to attain to Him. "

A similar reference to the form of God can be found in Kenopanishad:

"Treat that as God who can not be pondered over or is unthinkable by the mind; rather, the mind itself derives its power to think from Him. All other forms (bound by time and space) of God that are worshipped in (and by) this world are not Brahma (God). "

Further, Kathopanishad says,

"Just as on and the same air mass assumes a number of different forms or shapes according to the vessel or container or house it enters to fill in, the one and only God

pervades all the objects of the universe to assume corresponding forms, and yet is able to retain His pure independent identity beyond everything. ".....

Guru Nanak Sahab also has shares similar views when he says,

"God is invisible (to these eyes of flesh & blood), infinitely vast, beyond (the reach of) mind & intellect, unperceivable (by our sense organs), beyond time & actions, unborn, sovereign, without any frailties of mind and mistakes. For sure He does exist (He is the only Truth) and sacrifice yourself onto Him. He has no form, colour or outline; the quintessential sound being the only pointer or guide to Him. He is without any lineage. He is beyond all the contraptions of maya (illusion), without any limits whatsoever. All light is His only. He is secretly permeating through all bodies, illuminating all of them. This robust door of darkness is broken open only by those perseverant and fearless practitioners who have learnt the right art of seeing from an adept Guru. He has created all the beings and time also, and has kept all the keys within his control. Those who pay a selfless service to an accomplished Guru are able to find Him and liberate themselves (from the jaws of birth & death) by practicing the Yoga of Sound. God manifests Himself only within a pure heart; such persons are very rare to find who have by relentless practice of meditation have merged their current of consciousness (surat) into the unstruck sound and thus, says Nanak, found the true Shelter. ".....

We find several such similar convincing references in the Holy Scriptures and sayings of sants. Kabir Sahab (through his poem I rendered a little ago) says that such a God is (hidden) behind the sky. Other sants have used different other similes. Dadoo Dayal ji Maharaj describes Him to be *"sunni sunna sunna ke paaraa"* (beyond all voids and realms) , while Goswami Tulsidasji Maharaj calls Him to be *"prakriti paar prabhu sab ur waasee"* (Beyond the universe or Nature, though living in all hearts) , and our Gurudev, Maharshi Mehi Paramhansji says, *"Peev nihshabd mein"* (The Lord is in the Soundless State). As a matter of fact, all these sayings like "beyond all voids", "beyond the Universe" and "in Soundless State" refer to the same basic Truth. The fact of the matter is that because of being all-pervasive, He is to be found everywhere, but He is unknowable everywhere

God is perceivable through the soul only. But our individual soul has become surrounded or covered by several sheaths or bodies and organs. So long as it remains in the captivity of these various bodies and organs, it will be under the knowledge of these bodies and organs only, will be under illusory knowledge only (because these bodies themselves are illusory), and

will not be able to realise the God. In order to know Him, the Jivatma or the individual soul shall have to liberate itself from these bondages. The one who is able to liberate himself from the body & organs, is able to lift himself beyond this world, too. Our Gurudev has said, *"There is a very strong relationship between our body and the world around us. The universe is formed of the very same elements of which our body is made. Just as there are gross, subtle, causal and supra-causal spheres or realms inside our body, these very spheres or realms are to be found in the universe, too. So, we (at any given point of time) are in the same realm of the universe as well as of the body. If we lift ourselves beyond a particular sphere of our body, we lift beyond the same sphere of the universe also. Thus, one who can raise himself beyond all the realms of the body will also rise or ascend beyond all realms of the universe. The one, who has freed himself fully from his body, has freed himself of the universe, too."* And it is thus that all.....

Separating ourselves from our various bodies and organs, we first come to know our own soul and subsequently, the supra-soul i.e., God also. This realisation is not an intellectual knowledge; this is a realisation that springs out of direct, first-hand, experience, and leads to the end of all our afflictions, sorrows and grieves for ever. We attain perfect liberation even while we are alive, in this body itself

This is the target, Kabir sahib says, hidden behind the sky. Thus our soul, seeking the help of Sound, will finally reach and merge into that Highest Entity i.e. God. Actually, the secret to such a practice can be learnt only from a proficient Guru who Himself has practiced it to perfection. When this arrow goes on piercing the various bodies, Kabir Sahab says, it is a unique, incredible experience; no wounds are caused, rather we experience a pleasure, bliss. That is why; we should learn the right technique and practice accordingly. Say *Jai Guru Maharaj!*