



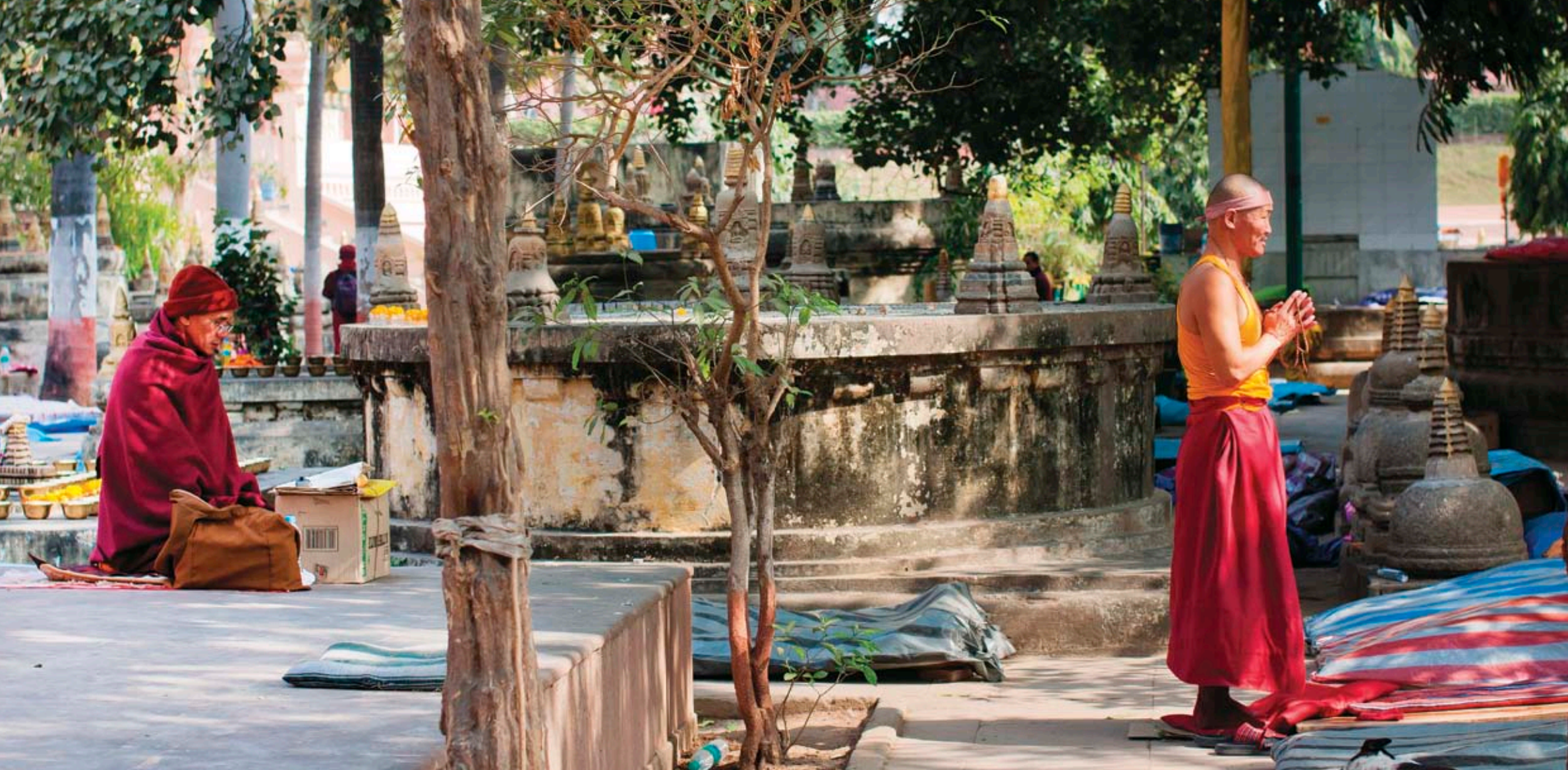
Satsang by Swami Amar Jyoti

# The Illusion of, *Desire*

**We are each colored by our desires and under their influence we make our decisions. Our desires, which may seem logical and sound, prompt us to think and act. Change your desires and see if your decisions remain the same.**

**S**OME DESIRES ARE good and auspicious, some desires are bad and harmful, but all desires are illusion. Then why should we desire good things? Because auspicious desires counter-effect harmful desires. And if you give up good desires because they are illusion but you do not give up bad desires, then you will suffer more. Good desires attract us and seem to be fulfilling but the real attraction lies with desire itself. It is the same with repulsion, which is the counterpart of desire. If you are repulsed by something, that is a negative desire for you. Ultimately we have to transcend all desires, good as well as bad.





**All weaknesses are due to desires. If we had no desires we would have no expectations. We would be happy. We would be truly free. The strongest are those who have conquered desire.**

We would be happy. We would be truly free. The strongest are those who have conquered desire. Apply this anywhere. How to know while eating when we are full? When we are not controlled by desires our bodies will tell us where to stop. In any desire the mind tells us: *you have to stop now; you have had enough*. It is our greed, gratification or sense of enjoyment that prompt us to carry on. The more we depend upon desires and enjoyments, the weaker we become. Anything in the world is gratifying to a point. The scriptures say that we are all created from joy. So certainly everything is enjoyable to begin with, but then it does not end that way. When we do not know where to stop it turns into suffering.

Suffering is not a separate area or jurisdiction, like hell. Where enjoyments end, suffering begins. It is not only the other side of the same coin; crossing the limits of enjoyment *creates* suffering. Where pleasure ends, pain naturally exists. Let us give a different example: where does darkness begin and where does light end? Where you end the light, darkness begins. If you could find the way to make it light all the time, darkness would not exist. You and I are the ones drawing the line, according to the prompting of our desires. In other words, we are the karma makers. So when we are grumbling or complaining, we are complaining to ourselves and against ourselves. Whenever we are accusing and blaming we are doing this to ourselves rather than to anyone else. This is the law of karma. In oneness there is no blame or complaint.

We are judged by what we are, not by what we hold on to or possess. So who is drawing the line between whom? Whereas God lives today, Caesar does not. Even if something belonged to Caesar for the time being, it went back to God. Apply this to our lives, homes, families, jobs, monasteries, temples, churches,

Good desires are not always attractive and bad desires sometimes are attractive, therefore we should not judge by attraction alone. The good has to be judged on its own merit. In the Bhagavad Gita, Sri Krishna says that if there is a clash between something being good yet unattractive, choose the good; if the good is also attractive, that is fine. Vice versa, if something bad is attractive, that does not mean we should hug it; if the bad is repulsive we automatically avoid it. So attraction and repulsion can apply to both good and bad desires. Therefore judgment has to be for the good rather than by attraction, but this needs conscience to discern the difference. Some medicines may be bitter though healing; something that is sweet may not be healthy. You learn to discriminate by conscience or by experience, and the results are yours.

Ultimately the decision maker is you, not even God. This may sound blasphemous but I do not mean it that way. I simply mean that the doer of karma is responsible. Everything that you do is not necessarily

God's will. You may say, "After all, God does everything, so what I do and say is God doing through me." This may sound religious but has many fallacies. For example, if you suffer and say that God is making you suffer, will you be happy with it? Ultimately when God does and says everything through us—when we come to that realization—then the matter ends. But before that stage, it is hard, when we face suffering or pain, to believe that God is doing this and be content. You might accept it once or twice for minor things, but when it is major it is difficult. God is merciful and benevolent. How could He make us suffer? So either God is not as good as we think He is, or we have to come back to face ourselves.

It may be nearly impossible to give up desires, but it is nearly impossible to live happily with desires either. We have all tried. There is the age-old question: where will you draw the line of what is God's and what is not? In your home, your family, your possessions, your money, your job, how do you decide what belongs to

God and what belongs to Caesar? We are each colored by our desires and under their influence we make our decisions. That means that you are the decision maker. Therefore you are responsible to go to a certain place or not, to have certain friends or not, to get involved in certain situations or not. Our desires, which may seem logical and sound, prompt us to think and act. Change your desires and see if your decisions remain the same. That will be the criterion of judgment.

It may seem nearly impossible to give up desires, but truth remains truth. If we had faith in God we would not desire, because He will do the best for us. We have heard these words. So how to know what is His will and what is our desire? There is no line to be drawn. It has to be all His. Faith will know. Problems remain because you are trying to divide. If you are trying to fictitiously draw the line, it is only at the expense of your own peace and happiness.

All weaknesses are due to desires. Remember this. If we had no desires we would have no expectations.

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**Freedom is in  
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We do not have  
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communities and nations. The basic question is: who created you in the first place? Was part of you created by God and part by Caesar? In order to preserve the illusion, we human beings carry on this myth, which is exactly ego. *Everything* belongs to God. You do not have full control over things in your life as you might like. Even if you have a lot of money, you cannot control how much you enjoy it. Do you think millionaires are enjoying a million times more? If that were so, I would have been a billionaire. Freedom is in desirelessness. We do not have to desire the sun to shine or the moon to rise. These come to us unasked. You have to use discrimination, to choose what is okay for you. If you cannot do that it is your weakness, and that weakness is because of habits and desires.

We may change our philosophy according to the times but nothing changes as far as truth is concerned. This earth has its own laws, its own jurisdiction, its own

elements and capacities. We have to behave accordingly. To *be* and *have*, joined, is exactly the meaning of *samsara*. To *have* is the phenomenal aspect. To *be* is the Reality, the Essence. So what does it mean? If you *be-have* you are truthful, what you should be, and you also have. But if you want just to *have* and not *be*, then misery comes. You have to *be* what you are supposed to be, then you will enjoy life. Krishna enjoyed more than we can imagine. Being what you should be does not deprive you of having and doing things. All problems are due to the separation of being and having, being and living, being and possessing, being and desiring. The demarcation between these two makes miseries and problems possible. Take the example of ascetics: they do not care what they have or how they should live. In other words: they are not desiring. Do they lose everything by this? No. They are caring for the Divine first, then “everything else shall be added.”

So can you care for the Divine first and also live as you want? Yes, but there is a flaw in this that is crucial: if you care for the Divine first you will not care to live or have as you want. Your whole philosophy will change. If you care for the Divine first you will live and do and have according to the Divine, not according to what you want. There is no line of demarcation. If you believe in God as the supplier and yourself as the recipient, you are drawing a line, fictitiously. Where to draw the line has no answer because the question is foolish. How do the wise ones deal with those asking this? The Vedas say there are two ways. One is to let them exhaust karmas first, but that way is a little merciless, leaving everyone to his own fate. The second way is to give them practices, formulas or techniques until they understand that there is no line between right and wrong. As long as you desire, as long as you are possessive, greedy and wanting your way, you are

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not only drawing a line between God and Caesar, God does not really exist for you.

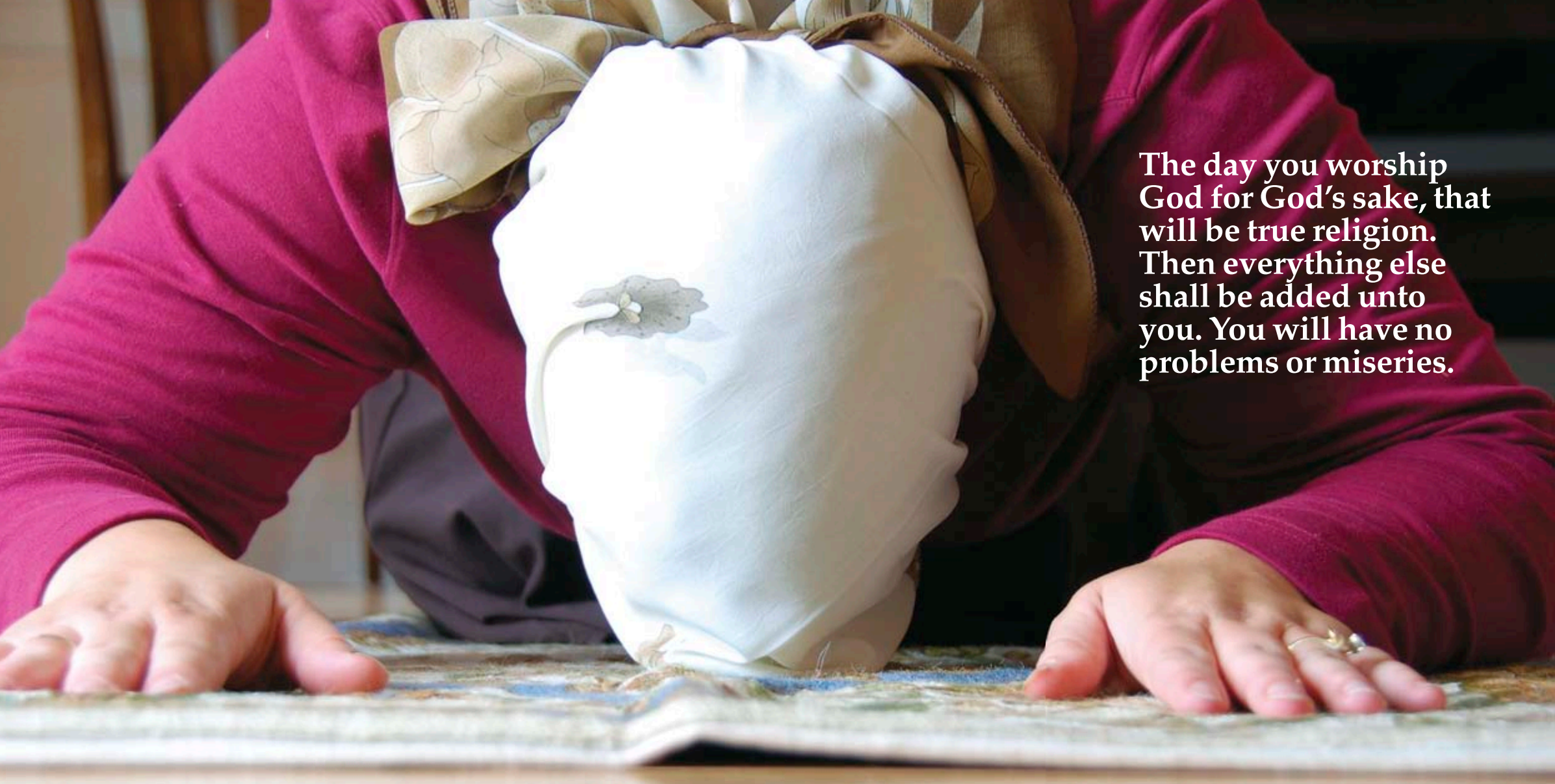
In India, some portion of each meal is taken out for God as an offering; then they eat the rest. The day you will speak, sing, eat and live for God’s sake, your life will be for Him. As long as you are doing for you it is mammon, even if you are worshipping God for yourself. The day you worship God for God’s sake, that will be true religion. Then everything else shall be added unto you. You will have no problems or miseries. Those who want everything for “me” are the ones asking where to draw the line. Those who truly belong to God will not ask this question. They have already accepted God as an anchor, the pure center of their lives. If you ask such a one he will say, “Everything belongs to God.”

There is nothing in between. It is not like a river between two neighbors: “This bank is yours and this bank is mine.” Are you doing everything God tells you to do or are you only doing those things that gratify you? If you ask God, “Didn’t you tell me to do these things?” He may smile: “Yes, I did tell you but this wasn’t the only thing I told you. You are just selecting what gratifies you.” It is easy to be religious, a believer. It is not easy to be realistic. Truth is truth; it shall free you. I have never found any gap or loophole in that. By being truthful you are holding nothing back.

Truth is instant. We do not preach this because people find it difficult to be truthful right away. But if truth were not instant and relieving, what else could it be? Like instant coffee, you put a spoonful in hot water and you have coffee. It takes only seconds. Truth does not take even that long. If you are thoroughly truthful, it frees you right away. If it were not so, it would have no real meaning because truth must transcend speed; it must be simultaneous. Reality is already existent, pervading, beyond time and space, beyond even thought. Being simultaneously present at all places is omnipresence. If truth is not freeing instantly it is not truth.

When you truly open your heart without holding back, without blocks, desires, reservations or calculations, you will love unconditionally. You will be free instantly. It does not take time. But if you again hold back, miseries will follow. If you are resisting the truth or Reality or God, you are blocking yourself, nobody else. You are losing what you could gain. Even if another person is not being good, just go on giving. If you want joy, freedom and strength, you have to do it. This is not only the life and the truth but the *way*.





**The day you worship  
God for God’s sake, that  
will be true religion.  
Then everything else  
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problems or miseries.**

How many times a day or month do you feel you are wrong? Not that you are always wrong, but when you are actually wrong, are you aware? When you are in good mood, yes. Otherwise, doesn’t your mood go off if someone blames you or says you are wrong? Do you take it easy? Do you get angry when the car in front of you does not let you pass, or when a driver behind you is honking the horn? Do you blame the bank when they bounce your check? How many of us think, “I did wrong because someone else did it. Had he not done that I wouldn’t have done what I did.” Who decides these things? Isn’t it you and me according to our desires?

We need to refine this raw material of the human being. At least we can clean and polish the ore, to become more refined. Inherently everyone feels that there is some great image within us, some great vision, but we have forgotten that and not realizing this we apply it to self-image. That great image is called *Swarupa* in Sanskrit. That is your radiance, *prakash*, your

divinity, your pristine glory. Self-image is of Caesar; Realization is of God. So what does it come to? If I am caring for my image, am I not denying God? What otherwise is the difference between God and mammon?

As human beings we can rise from these baser elements. We can free ourselves from untruth, greed, anger, anxiety, foolishness, games of mind, betrayal and trying to look different than we are. The Vedas say: *If you eat onion you will belch onion*. At unguarded moments the truth will come out, whether you want it to or not. Truth shall prevail: *Satyameva Jayate* in Sanskrit. And whatever amount of time it takes to expose your truth, in the meantime you will be suffering. When you are alone, when you are sitting quietly, when you are listening to a piece of music that stirs you, when you are writing or reading the truth will come out. You may hide or suppress it again but while doing so you will continue to suffer.

God waits, your Guru waits, until you come to understanding. Until then they leave you to your

karmas. We don’t think about these things. The things we humanly could do, why do we not do? Avoiding the very center of life and just living for oneself has no meaning. In modern civilization we have an air of superiority but underneath life is hollow, without substance or depth. We want to believe this superficiality is real, but Reality is not something you can play falsely with. This is not pessimism but who can say whether modern educated people have more understanding than those who we call primitive or backward?

Self-image has no substance. It is based upon untruth. Jesus was a rabbi. He could have easily been the greatest scholar but he knew that was hollow. The sages pursue inner spiritual education. I do not mean you should not go to school and college, but that is not the *real* education. Buddha is not a historical figure. Krishna is not a historical figure. Jesus is not a historical figure. They do not appear in history books because they did not conquer armies. You see the hollowness.

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Economics, likewise, is the economics of the rich, not about poverty, starvation and famine. Our new technologies look very civilized but see what problems modern living creates, even apart from diseases.

Let us see what has worked—that will be real and true. Has sympathy and compassion toward suffering people increased? Have we become more united within nations and between nations? Practically in every city in the world there are places where you cannot go safely after 7 p.m. Is this civilization? Have our modes of communication created more safety or more accidents? Have psychologists and psychiatrists reduced the number of breakdowns and tragedies? Have we not become more selfish in the name of modernity and individuality? Have we not become more acquiring and possessive? Has not our modern way of life created more suffering, separations, and loss of love, peace and health? If you go on thinking this way, not judging any particular person but applying to humanity as a whole, where do we stand?

Life is all godly, spiritual, divine. The more you gratify yourself the more you take yourself away from God. Ask yourself: is your Spirit guiding what you are doing and having and speaking? Is your Spirit like a finger of fire guiding you? If so, even if God chose you to suffer you would be peaceful. You would be joyful and relaxed. Therefore pride and selfishness have no reason to exist. Holy ones and Realized souls are humble and selfless. They cannot be otherwise. That is Liberation: where there is no fear, no anxiety, no sense of suffering, no hatred, where you are not confused, fighting or struggling to exist, where you are not even ambitious to achieve. Let God decide for you. Let His will be your desire. Then you will live as God wants. 🌸

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