



DIVINE DISCOURSE

TITLE: 1st Shambo Discourse

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DATE: 10th June 2007



Shambo Discourse

SWAMI SURYANANDA - 10th June 2007

Divine friends, who is God? God is Satyam, absolute truth. Dharma, righteousness. Prema, love. Shanthi, peace. God is Atma and God is Paramatma. Everything is part of the nature of Almighty God. God is the elements, fire, water, earth, air and ether. God is you and your family, God is the environment.

When you're coming to the temple to pray, what should you be trying to do? You should be trying to identify yourself as part of the nature of God. Not separate from God. You have Divinity embodied within you. You are Divine by nature. What separates you from God are the obstacles that you have placed in your path of evolution. God has not placed those obstacles. The karma that you have accumulated from many cycles of life is what separates you from God. When you come into the orbit of Divine power, of Shakti and the Anandam, the grace of God, you are given an opportunity for that karma to be modified and for you to realize and express your Divinity, your higher nature.

In your daily lives how do you express that higher nature? You express it through love, compassion, understanding and being exceedingly mindful of how you interact with your fellow men, your environment and nature, because you're becoming aware of your

interaction with Almighty God. Heightened mindfulness and consciousness of the Universality of God is what spirituality is all about; it is what religion is about. You will only get the grace of God in your lives if you make an effort to serve God and identify with God. Karma yoga and Bhakti yoga are the two yogas taught by Krishna, and in the Kali Yuga, this age of destruction they are the simplest path to realize God – through service to life, and through love and devotion in your life.

We have an immense drama happening at the moment in the temple. One of our temple bulls, Shambo – he's just behind you, behind those shutters, in the back of the temple. We have put him in the temple to protect his life because the government want to kill him. They want to kill him because he's reacted to a Bovine Tuberculosis test and they think he is a danger to other cows and to society in general, so they want to kill him, like they would like to kill any cow who reacts to that test.

If a member of your family has a problem you take them to the doctors. You diagnose accurately through many tests what the nature of the problem is and you find the most appropriate medication to deal with the problem. You do not kill a member of your family because they may be sick. Shambo is a member of our family, he is part of the nature of God. He has every right to live as you or I do. He is Divine by nature, as is every single life.

Sanathana Dharma – the timeless consciousness of God – is based on knowing the universality of God, that everything is part of this

nature of God. The basic human value of the sanctity of life has been eroded, especially in recent years. In society, killing is the foremost solution in many problems. In the foot and mouth disease and BSE crisis, millions and millions of cows were killed, most of whom were perfectly healthy. Once killing has become a solution in the minds of those in authority, the boundaries of stepping over the line from not killing to killing cease to exist.

Killing a human being then becomes as easy as killing an animal. The authorities always state great reasons why people should go to war, great reasons why people should desecrate life. Thou shalt not kill. The law of Dharma is that life is sacred. Killing is Adharma. It is fuelled by negative forces, by fear, by ignorance, by greed, by the lower nature that is in humanity. That is what fuels the forces of Adharma. We have an utmost duty and responsibility to uphold the highest consciousness of God, the law of Dharma.

Why has Almighty God created this drama here in a temple? In order to test the validity of our commitment to serving God. We've been here since 1973, serving the community from the United Kingdom and abroad, many thousands of pilgrims, about ninety thousand pilgrims came here last year. It is very easy for us to be complacent to just carry on doing the aarti, the pujas and everything else, but we are successful here because we rely on God. We obey the will of God.

If we do not stand up for Dharma, if we not try and uphold the highest consciousness of God, do you think for one minute that the power and the presence of God will remain in Skanda Vale?

It won't. God will say, 'OK, you've decided to do it your way. You're prepared to compromise the highest consciousness of mine. Why should I be involved in you?'

The whole purpose of any spiritual centre of excellence is to set an example to uphold the highest consciousness of Dharma in the world. Not to be in the pocket of those in power, not to be in the pocket of the government, not to compromise your values because you may not get a grant for building a new temple, you may not get funding for this, that or the other.

You have to be free to worship and uphold Dharma, to obey the will of God. In ancient times, before kings made any decision of impact they always consulted the rishis. They did this because they had the capacity to realize that the will of God is the most important thing to follow. If you offer your life in service to God and you rely on the grace of God, the Divine will always find a solution to uphold Dharma.

To obey the will of God is one the most difficult things for people to do in the pressure of today's society, but that is why we are doing what we are with Shambo. We have no choice. We can never allow any life entrusted to our care to be killed. He is a member of our family as much as you are, as much as all the monks and nuns in the community. There is a very very simple solution here and that solution is for Jane Davidson, who is the minister in charge of making this decision, to realize that Skanda Vale is a place of worship, it is a temple and that Shambo's life is sacred here.

We are not a commercial farm. We never kill any animal. No animal leaves here. He was born here, he will die here naturally. If an animal is sick, we never put that animal down. We work with our vets and we are committed to spending as much money and as much time to care for life. We know what caring for life means. We have cattle here over twenty years old. We have cows that have not been able to stand up for over a year. We know how to care for them, to turn them over, to treat them like you would a person who is terminally ill.

We run a hospice eight miles from here looking after people who are terminally ill. Our job is serving God in life and the people in government need to realize that that is a world of difference from a commercial farm whose job is to kill to make money. It's quite a clear difference. There are many advanced tests and diagnostics available for bovine TB, as there are for TB in human beings. Tuberculosis is treatable in animals, it can be treated in elephants, it can be treated in cows, it can be treated in gorillas, it can be treated in any animal. If you can treat it in a human being you can treat it in an animal. There just has to be the will to do this.

How can you help us? You can help us by sending an email, writing to Jane Davidson in the next day or two because she'll be making a decision in the next few days, expressing the reasons why Shambo should not be killed. It will be a desecration of his life, a desecration of Hinduism and Sanathana Dharma and a desecration of a place of worship. There is no reason at all to take his life.

BLESS YOU.

Further reading:

Shambo discourse 01/07/2007