

**Satsang with Sri Swami Tattvavidananda Saraswati**  
**Arsha Vidya Gurukulam**  
**The Essentials of Hindu Dharma - 3**

***Question***

Swamiji, we have been discussing the macro view or the larger picture of the universe and how it relates to the creator. I would like to now shift our attention to a human being and his perspective on life. Let me begin by asking you, from the perspective of a human being what is the goal of life?

***Answer***

In the Hindu Dharma we clearly understand that every soul, every life form is essentially divine. If you restrict the discussion to a human being, then you can say that every human being is potentially divine. A human being, however, takes himself to be a merely person or a limited being; because he identifies himself with a given personality. But we say that this personality is not the true nature of the human being. It is actually an imposter and the true nature of the human being is Divinity Itself. If that is the case, then the goal of a human life becomes obvious: the goal of the human life is to manifest that Divinity within. A human being who is an animal-man to start with, has to first grow into a normal-man, and then into a spiritual-man or a spiritual-person, man or woman, and finally the person is supposed to grow into the Divinity Itself. And that happens to be the ultimate goal of the human endeavor. We call it the *mokṣa puruṣārtha*.

***Question***

What does one have to do in one's life to achieve this progress from an animal-human to a human-human and eventually to a divine-human?

***Answer***

For starters, the person has to live a life of duty consciousness. A human

mind is always driven by intense likes and dislikes. These intense likes and dislikes are the only obstacles in manifesting the true Divinity which is one's own nature. And therefore, the best way to neutralize these likes and dislikes is to start living a life of what we call Karma Yoga. It's a life where the entire emphasis is on one's duties rather than on one's rights. In fact the Hindu philosophy and the Vedic Dharma happen to be duty based Dharma. So a student or a family person has to continue to live his normal life, without any major shifts in his goal or profession. He need not do anything dramatic. He can continue to live a clean life wherever he is, in whichever profession he is, by carefully disciplining his life and fitting it into a duty based culture and then relate to the Godhead with devotion, I am sure, eventually the human being will be able to neutralize his likes and dislikes and can rise to the Divinity which of course happens to be his true nature in any case.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This transcript is based on Swami Tattvavidanandaji's TV interview in California with Mr. Vijay Kapoor. Transcribed and edited by Mohan Bhujle.