

**Satsang with Sri Swami Veditatmananda Saraswati**  
**Arsha Vidya Gurukulam**  
**More on God**

***Question***

If we accept God as a witness of all that we are doing, why does it not prevent us from doing evil anyway?

***Answer***

We say that we accept Him as a witness, but we really do not accept Him. We say it, but do not mean it; it is lip service. If we really thought that He was present, we would definitely take note of it. But the fact is that we do not feel His presence. Even if you do not feel it, if you accept the fact of His presence, you will do what is appropriate in that presence.

In our day-to-day life too, if we are in the presence of somebody who is respectable, we always conduct ourselves with a certain humility and discipline. For instance when the parents are there, the children behave in a certain way. However, when they are not there, it is a different matter altogether! Everybody is like that. When we are in the presence of somebody who is respectable, we also conduct ourselves in a disciplined way. Otherwise, sometimes we behave in an irresponsible way.

Similarly, if we keep in mind that we are watched all the time by the most respectable person, which is God, it will automatically bring in discipline and humility in our actions. If we do not have those feelings, it means that we do not really see the fact that somebody is always watching over us.

***Question***

Who is a god-fearing man?

***Answer***

When we recognize that god is always watching, we become god-fearing. It is like our response to the police. When they say that the speed is checked by radar, even though we do not see the police, we become careful that somebody may be watching us. I guess that

sometimes fear also may be helpful. When you have not become mature, we do need a little bit of external control.

***Question***

What is wrong in taking god's support all the time?

***Answer***

There is nothing wrong in doing so. That is a good way to be. If I do something out of fear, it is not a healthy way of doing it. Doing something out of understanding is preferable.

If you can tell yourself that doing what is proper is what He wants you to do, then you may as well follow what He likes you to do. Moreover, if you understand that it is in your best interest, then that understanding is better. However, when that understanding is not there, as is true of many people, fear is ok. Acting out of proper understanding is always desirable.

***Question***

Can we question why He creates at all?

***Answer***

You can certainly pose the question. I do not know whether He will answer or not. It is *mithya*. What is the big deal?

***Question***

How does one know how close he or she is to *paramātmā*? What is the confirmation of that?

***Answer***

You know it; you are the confirmation. What confirmation do you need to know that you are happy? Do you need somebody else's certificate that you are happy? No. It is

something that is your own experience. That is all you need. Therefore, you are the confirmation of when you are totally accepting of yourself and happy with your self.

***Question***

Who can say that all that is here is God?

***Answer***

That all that is here is God, is the perception of the enlightened person. That this *jīva* is my part is the perception of an ignorant person. Therefore, the two viewpoints are given<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Summer 2003 satsang, transcribed and edited by Subbalakshmi Chandrasekaran, Chaya Raj, Jayshree Ramakrishnan and KK Davey.