

PRAYER

-Sri Ram Chandraji Maharaj

The most important and unfailing means of success is the prayer. It connects our link with God and to whom we surrender ourselves with love and devotion. In prayer we stand before Him as an humble supplicant presenting to Him our rue state and completely resigning ourselves to his will. This is the true form of prayer and as true devotee we must also feel satisfied with the will of the Master. It is a folly to pray to God for petty worldly ends except in most exceptional cases when peace of mind is greatly disturbed for want of bare necessities. We should always pray to the Supreme Master, the Omnipotent and the Omniscient alone with a mind totally absorbed in love and submission to Him forgetting even ourselves altogether. This is the proper way of offering prayer which in such a state seldom goes unrewarded. One should always pray to Him alone who is the Master in the true sense. I do not think it proper to pray to the slaves i.e., to those powers which are subordinate to man and which are potentialised by him. The ravages of time have now reduced them to a consumptive state. This is the proper way of offering prayer which in such a state seldom goes unrewarded.

Constant practice brings a man to a state in which he begins to feel himself in prayer all through. This state is acquired when an abhyasi practises in the way directed above and the Divine grace sets into motion. When the final stage is reached he begins to dwell all through in a state of prayer even while discharging his worldly duties, and the same state prevails during all his worldly engagements without the least disturbance or interruption. "I do not ask you to detach yourself from the world but only to attend to everything with a conscious idea of the Divine" (A Poets view). If a person develops that state of mind he is constantly in a state of prayer, which implies he has realised his own serfdom and the Lords Mastership and has established a permanent link of devotion. Every one can attain this state but only after sufficient practice. He who acquires it abides in a state of supplication permanently. He is at liberty to put up humbly before the Master anything he likes. Every one has to assume that state at the time of prayer; then alone is the prayer accepted. This is the relationship of love which having been established in the sphere of self extends upto that of the Master. This is the link which once established is never severed. But still the final destination is far off yet, though the power of thought, which is enormously great, makes it easily accessible.

When the world emerged into the present form, the Central Point was already rooted deep in all the beings. This central point rooted in us being a part of the Supreme, turns our attention towards the source. In prayer we try to reach upto the same Central Point. This is possible only when we create a similar state within. This requires practice. It can be attained by resigning ourselves to the Divine will, which is absolutely simple and tranquil. Apparently it seems to be very difficult, but in fact it is not so, though only for those who aspire for it. When a man creates in him a strong

craving for the Absolute, he is indeed in a state of prayer, and it is for every one to strive for. Whenever a man enters into that state even for a moment, his prayer is granted. But it requires continued practice to accomplish it. (IB-27) People should be exhorted to offer such a type of prayer. If one achieves and settles down in it, what else remains for him to do except remembrance; and that too in a way that it never comes into consciousness even.

No particular time is fixed for the prayer. One can do it when he feels inclined to do it or else he should try to create disposition for it when required.

One thing more by way of practice is to offer daily the following brief prayer at bed time, in the most supplicant mood and with a heart overflowing with love for the Divine.

“O Master!

Thou art the real goal of human life;

we are yet but slaves of wishes putting bar to our advancement.

Thou are the only God and power to bring us up to that stage.”

Repeat the above in your mind once or twice and meditate over it for a few minutes. The prayer must be offered in such a way as if some most miserable man is laying down his miseries with a deeply afflicted heart before the supreme Master, imploring his mercy and grace with tearful eyes. Then alone can he become a deserving aspirant of spirituality.

(Source DEVA VANI)