



Real Faith

Everybody more or less proclaims his deep faith in God. How much of a deep faith they all have. It is so easy avow verbally about the devotion to the Lord. Most of us think faith only means a complete belief in the Lord that he will help us in times of dire need, etc. Actually speaking, we have faith even in our servant whom we entrust with lakhs of rupees for doing some bank transactions through the servant. But you don't love the servant. The real faith is there when you love the other one with all your heart and soul. Where there is love, faith has to be there and not vice versa. Unless a crisis occurs and our faith is tried on the anvil of a real experience, we never know ourselves as to how much faith we have. I remember two stories in this connection.

Story 1:

There was a village which was affected by drought continuously for nearly three years and the inhabitants were all put to great difficulty. They approached the local priest and told him, "Father you always used to say about the efficacy of the prayers to the Lord. Why don't you try tomorrow in order to relieve us of our tribulations and this will enable us also to

increase our faith in the good Lord.” The priest agreed with one condition that tomorrow he will pray for rains but all the people who will come and congregate in the church will come with full faith in the Lord. They all promised and went away. The next day morning they all came at the appointed time and they were waiting for the miracle of rain to come after the pastor says his prayers. Before starting the prayer, the priest once again asked the present audience there as to whether they had full faith in the Lord. When they all avowed it without hesitation, the priest only laughed at them and told, “If you had really believed that today the miracle is going to take place, you would all have come with an umbrella to protect yourself while returning. I cannot see a single umbrella in this crowd. Do you call this faith?” the congregation left in mortification.

Story 2:

The other story is an agnostic philosopher who had absolutely no faith in any God was travelling in the peaks of the Himalayas. Suddenly he slipped and was falling down. The distance to the ground was so much that even the bones would not have been available if you were to fall down. Luckily in between, the root of a plant came from the middle of the wall of the mountain and he caught hold of it. He knew it would not be for long because already the roots of the plant were coming out. Then he shouted loudly, “Lord, please save me this time. If only you oblige me this time, I shall go from house to house in every town and proclaim your glories to the people at large.” A disembodied voice came from the sky, “While in trouble people promise so many things, they seldom remember it when the crisis is past.” The philosopher immediately shouted, “Lord you are partially right. I might have done so but now that I have heard your voice once, I have got full faith in you and I am prepared to do all thy bidding.” The voice again came, “If you really have such a belief in me, first leave off the plant to which you are holding.” The philosopher laughed and told, “Lord, do not take me for such a fool that I will leave the only hold I have.” The voice came, “Fie for your faith.”

****Hari Om ****

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