

INFLUENCES

We were told at the meeting last Monday that one reason to memorize the couplet given was to attract 'influences'. Our System tells us that some 'Influences' come from high on the ladder of creation, some from our own level and others from further down the scale. One good reason to try to be 'awake' is to be somewhat more able to discriminate between the influences that are always pushing us around.

In fact we all wish to be graced by divine influence and even instinctively exclaim 'thank-God!' when something unexpectedly turns out in our favour. Every action we make is an attempt to draw down happiness upon ourselves. Even a thief robs others of their wealth only with the motive of making themselves happy. Since everyone considers their own welfare first their most enduring desire throughout life is to bring happiness to the self. The snag is that most of what we desire is short-lived.

If Hindu scriptures hadn't already told us that all worldly objects appear pleasurable to begin with but then end on the rubbish pile we would probably by this point in our lives have reached the same conclusion. It takes rather more time before we have convinced ourselves that real happiness lies in renouncing sense pleasures in favour of pure influences or impressions (samskaaras). When we finally start this process in earnest then contact with higher centres on the ladder becomes possible.

Contact presupposes a relationship. Relationships that are not on an equal footing require of the supplicant a humble and unassuming attitude. From the lower level audience is sought from a position of having much to ask but very little to offer except devotion. At the higher level there are no needs to be satisfied and everything to offer. But in return for their love the devotee is said to earn the protection of the higher power .

This raises the question: How does one know when that protection is being offered? The answer given is; when a right thought (prerana) appears in one's mind. It is said the Absolute Himself induces right thoughts in a person when He intends to protect that devotee. Dr Roles, I believe, used to refer to this when he used the System word 'conscience'.

Here is a story from Hindu mythology:

Once the Goddesses of Wealth and Wisdom, Lakshmi and Saraswati respectively, were debating as to which of them was superior to the other. Lakshmi said; 'Look, you have been showering your grace on all and sundry, but what use is that when so many of them cannot even afford a full meal? Those who receive My grace, on the other hand, now all live in affluence. If I happen to grace someone, no matter how illiterate , he will very soon find himself a millionaire'. Saraswati retorted; 'alright, try blessing a man who possesses absolutely no knowledge with riches and let's see what happens'. Accordingly Goddess Lakshmi soon found a likely candidate and he became very rich in no time.

One day this man went to the tenth floor of the house he had built. Leaning from the window he was pleased by the commanding view he now had of the city spread out below him and a thought occurred to him; 'why don't I jump down from up here. It would be such fun'.

Saraswati who was standing watching with Lakshmi said to her; 'now just see how foolish he is. What does all his wealth serve him now if he jumps? If you are willing to accept defeat I shall save his life. Lakshmi duly conceded victory and Saraswati put a 'prerana' into the mind of the man and he immediately realised it would be folly to try jumping from his tenth floor window.

In such ways, the myth concludes, Ishwara graces His devotees by instilling proper thoughts at the proper time.

MR

Homework

Please find examples of having received preranas during the course of your own lives.