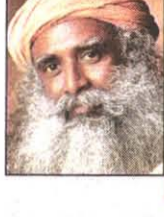


What's life minus God?



Sadhguru

Questioner: Is belief in God, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam a pre-condition for leading a meaningful and joyous life? In other words, can you lead such a life minus God?

Sadhguru: Let's look at the world. All the believers, are they living ecstatic lives? No. There have been some devotees who have been ecstatic, but they are just a handful. Four hundred years ago there was one Mirabai and one Ramakrishna Paramahansa who jumped around in ecstasy. Nowadays, we don't see them though almost 90 per cent of the world believes in some kind of God. If 90 per cent was really joyful, I would retire. Really, I would like to see a day like that.

When I was eight or nine years of age, I was so intrigued to see what happens to people who visit the temple to meet God. So I just went and stood in front of a famous temple, watching the devotees closely when they came out of the temple. All I found was that they were generally talking and gossiping about something or someone whom they saw in the temple. Like what the people were wearing and what they were doing. Sometimes, in most of the temples in India, a devotee walks away with someone's shoes. Who knows maybe it was the God himself who wore the footwear and went. But when the person realises that his or her shoes have gone missing, they'll curse the Creation and the Creator.

I always seen that people who come out of restaurants seemed to have more happiness and smile on their faces than people who come out of the temples and churches. Somebody went and met the Divine and came out without any joy on their face. Somebody ingested a *dosa* or an *idli* and came out more joyful! Doesn't make sense, does it? A *dosa* and an *idli* can't compete with the Divine? That's not good!

This is because there is no experience of the Divine, there is only belief; and what you believe is just social and cultural. "But can I live better minus God?" I don't think there is such a possibility.

What is it that you call as God? Whatever the source of creation is, that's what God is. Can you live without the source of Creation? Because there is a source of Creation, there is a Creation. So can you live well minus source of Creation? There is no such possibility. Can you live without the awareness of the source of Creation? You can but not too well. But if you are aware, conscious and in direct contact with the source of Creation, then you would live absolutely well.

Once our capabilities increase, we start wondering if God is really needed. Yes, God as they believe today is definitely not needed. He is causing problems everywhere in the world. And God's words are causing horrible situations for people, because everybody claims they heard God's words themselves, and they wrote down their own stuff. No two books agree with each other. Now there's constant conflict.

Well into 22nd century, a group of scientists decided to go and meet God. They went there and said, "Hey old man, you've done pretty well with the Creation. Thanks for that, but now we can do almost everything. We can do everything that you can do. We think it's time for you to retire". God said, "Is that so? What all can you do?" "Well, we can create life". "Let me see". So they picked up a little bit of soil and made a little baby out of it; it became alive. God said, "OK, that's impressive, but first get some soil of your own. Don't use my creation".

Whatever you do, it is only from the source that is already there. Minus that, how would you do anything? There is no minus that; you can either be in access or not in access to God. If you are in access, you will live in absolute ecstasy and capability. If you live without access, you may have some capability, but also great struggle. That's what is happening right now.

— *SADHGURU JAGGI VASUDEV, a yogi, is a visionary, humanitarian and a prominent spiritual leader. An author, poet, and internationally-renowned speaker, Sadhguru's wit and piercing logic provoke and widen our perception of life. He can be contacted at www.ishafoundation.org*



MANTRA