

God – Personal or Impersonal

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Whether God is personal, or not, or impersonal, does not matter so much as the fact, do you know Him? Do you know Him? Have you made the contact with God? Have you friendship with God? That's the important thing. I will try to point out this morning a few things about whether God is personal or not. The important thing is, have you made that friendship with God? Is He in you, consciously? He can be, if you really want Him. So remember, that's the important thing.

Have you made the Reality that God Is, not in theory, but through Realization? The Master came, sacrificed for all, that we could do that, if we follow him, because he had that realization – he had God in him consciously. God manifested through him in a dynamic, conscious way. He's in each and every one of us, just the same as in the Master. But have we made Him dynamic to our consciousness? That's the point. That's the first thing.

Now, to know about God in a personal, or impersonal way, we have to know something about the Nature of God. What is the Nature of God? From the Hindu philosophy we read that the aspects of God are His All-Pervading Consciousness and Love, plus the Power of that Consciousness. Vishnu, as God's All-Pervading Love and Presence in everything, plus the Power of His Presence, plus the Kutastha, the Power of which we see at this point [Doctor points to the point between the eyebrows], the Power of God, the All-Seeing Eye, the Single Eye, the Eye of God.

That's what God's Nature is: Omniscience plus the Power of His Consciousness; Intelligence plus the Power of that Consciousness. The Master calls it, "His Omniscient Cosmic Consciousness" – God the Father, plus the Cosmic Energy, the Power of God's Consciousness. That is the Nature of God, All-Pervading. It's important to realize God's Nature – All-Pervading: in every atom, the smallest particle in the universe, to the greatest thing, is God's Consciousness, made from His One Consciousness. He is in everything – All-Pervading, Ever- Present – always contacting every particle of Himself.

In the Bible, we have the same reference. In Matthew, 6th Chapter, 10th Chapter, 29th and 30th Verses in gist's say: Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing yet not one of those sparrows falleth but the Father knoweth it? Doesn't that show God's Omniscience? And then in the next verse: all the hairs of your head are numbered. That's what God is. That's the Nature of God. Omniscient, Omnipresent, All-

Intelligence, plus the Power of that Intelligence. Look what He has done. Universe upon universe He has made. He has made each and every one of us, intricate as we are. Everything is made from God's Intelligence, by the Power of His Intelligence. That's what God is.

Now, surely, you can see, as I point these things out, that God can be either personal or impersonal. He can be anything that you want, when you once know Him, because you become one with God. And, if He has all things, can do all things, so you can have Him in a personal way, or an impersonal way.

God created everything from His Intelligence by first creating Light. This is. . .we must know these two or three things first. He created all things from His One Cosmic Consciousness – in idea first – then He created Light. And in that Light are the multitudinous ideas and forms of God. Now that has been projected, as the physical universe, and as my body, and your body. So everything, everything is God's Consciousness, is it not? Nothing else exists but that. Just like in your own dream consciousness – you can create in your dream, all things. What is it made from? It is made from your dream consciousness. So all things are made from God's Dream Consciousness. God, the Father, Cosmic Consciousness, is the substance of all things.

It says a most beautiful thing in the Vedas, I copied down for you. "Lord, when the entire universe is Your Own Self, which place is not a shrine for Your devotees?" Any place. God is everywhere. Any place you wanna sit, stand, feel – God is there. That's the Nature of God. Can't you see He's so Great He can be personal or impersonal. Anything, He can be. So it, it goes on to say, "Lord, when the entire universe is Your Own Self, which place is not a shrine for Your devotees?" Most beautiful. Any place – any place.

Those of you who've seen "The Song of Bernadette," one statement was, "Prayer is good, even in the city dump." So God can be contacted any place, because all things are His Consciousness.

Then he goes on to say, "And in which place will not the recital of chants bear fruit?" Any place you are – doing your work, any place, chant – "O God Beautiful," any of the chants. There God is, because He is everything. Even in your. . .the fulfillment of your senses, God is there. How do you taste? How do you touch and smell? Only because God is there. Everything is His Consciousness. That's the first thing we have to learn in discussing this problem: God – Personal or Impersonal. He, being All, can be to you either personal or impersonal. Whatever you want to make Him, He will be.

Now going on just a bit – in the fullness of God’s Omniscience all things are possible. He can be personal or impersonal. That’s why in our prayer we say, Heavenly Father, Mother, Friend, Beloved, God. Nothing He can’t do for you, and nothing He won’t do for you, if you know Him, make His acquaintance. So remember, from that Holy Vibration, the Light – the Master used to speak of it, “The Light beyond the atoms” – from that, Divine Mother, all things have come. So God can be personal or impersonal.

Now let us take up the two aspects, personal or impersonal. First, personal. Remember, as I have said, from the Holy Ghost, the Holy Vibration, the Light, all things have come. Now we, as human beings, we like to see form. We like to see things, because our consciousness is used to that. Therefore, we like to see visions of the instruments of God; the great saints – Jesus, the Masters, and our own Master – we like to see them that way, because we’re used to them that way. We like to have God respond by intuitional experiences – I’ll give you one or two in a moment. So, as human beings, we are apt to want God to appear in the personal aspect, and this, of course, He can do.

A little illustration, I’ll have to give you one or two personal illustrations. I hope you’ll pardon my personal reference, but all I can tell you, if I’m honest with you, is what I experienced, and that I want to do. I was coming out to meet the Master – I used to come twice a year – this time I was coming out arranging my practice, and by the time I got through arranging all the troubles of the people – you know they have many, see – by the time I got ready to start I was done, finished. So I got in the train, got in the room, and I didn’t really feel I could make it. I was so exhausted.

We shouldn’t say in SRF we are “tired.” I just needed rest, that’s all. But I needed it, I’ll say that. So there I was, and I really felt, “Well, I don’t know whether I can make this.” So I closed my eyes, as the Master always said, “Remember, when you’re in the Christ Center, the Kutastha, nothing can touch you.” Automatically I looked there, and there in the little Light, in the Light came a little saint, sitting, looking down, you know, as much as to say, “Why worry, everything is all right.” And I felt everything would be all right. Now isn’t that a personal response of God? Wouldn’t you say God’s personal aspect responded to me? Yes!

Another time comes to my mind. Going home from the office, I was exhausted, and there on the street in front of me was the Spiritual Eye, going along. That’s the response of God, firstly, through intuition. Everything you see through the Spiritual Light, the Astral Light within, is an intuitional experience. So God responded in a personal way to me.

Another time I was passing through a terrific test, and, as usual, never forget to look here [The Spiritual Eye]. Give it to God. He won't fail you. And as I looked, came a little – in gold – perfect little figure from one of our Masters, sitting there cross-legged. Doesn't God respond personally? I'll say He does.

So God can be, remember, personal or impersonal. Whatever you need, whatever you really want – He will be that for you. Why not? He is everything. His Omniscience is everything. There's no place you can go but there He Is. But we cannot seem to get out of the delusion of separation from Him. That's what we must do.

I'll give you one more illustration of the Personal aspect of God, and this is the greatest, because, as the Master said on this, about this one thing – it is the only time it has happened, as it did, in this plane, or cycle, in which we find ourselves. The Master had an ecstasy back in 1948 or 49, at Mount Washington. There were several of us there. In that ecstasy he talked to Divine Mother, and Divine, Divine Mother took his voice, and used it. His voice was different. It sounded entirely different, and they went around and round through the Spiritual Realms. And then, finally, Divine Mother took, taking his voice, talked to several of us personally – directly. Don't you think that's a personal aspect of God? These things are true.

So God can be anything to you that you want – personal or impersonal. The thing is, know Him, realize God Is, then He will give you whatever you want, according to your oneness with Him. Realize, He is all things. So, God can be personal, without question of a doubt.

I have to hurry along. I could give you details of the Master's ecstasy, but sufficient to say, God spoke personally through Divine Mother taking the Master's voice. His voice changed – entirely different. It was the strangest thing.

I didn't mind, until He came to me – She came to me, and then I said, "Oh, I hope I'm all right." By the Grace of God I was satisfied. So God is a very wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, Force and Being – especially when you follow the channel He has sent – the channel of the Beloved Master, who manifests Christ Consciousness. I would not have had these experiences alone. It's only by the Grace of God through the Master.

Now let us go on to the impersonal aspect. God, as the Holy Ghost, tends to all things, because in that Holy Ghost is the Intelligence of God. That's God. That's the thing we can hardly understand. We think, if we're gonna light a light, we have to have wires leading the electricity there. We do on this plane, but

God, through the Holy Ghost, can do all things, because His Intelligence is there. And remember, God is what? Omniscience plus the Power of that Omniscience.

Now God can come to us in an impersonal way. I remember one illustration, which will help you a little bit, and in saying this about the impersonal phase of God's existence, it is closer and nearer to you than when He comes as a vision, because in the vision you've got a little part of God's Omniscience, haven't you? But when you feel Him in an impersonal way, as the Great Cosmic Consciousness of God in Creation, in Christ Consciousness, plus the Power of that, you are very close to God, until, finally, you merge in Him. So the impersonal aspect of God is very, very important. It is really closer than when you see the vision, because what happens? You enter into God's Being Itself. That's the point. That's the point. So the impersonal aspect is very important.

You remember about reading of St. Teresa – some of you have read the book *The Saints That Moved the World*; it's a very wonderful book, especially, if you read it in the light of Self-Realization. Now she had that experience of the impersonal aspect of God, and she said, if you read on page 370 – I'll just read one or two words – about Christ Consciousness coming to her in an impersonal way, she said, "He came invisibly, so that not even the inner eye could see Him." Even in the light she couldn't see Him, yet St. Teresa knew about His Presence with unmistakable assurance.

And then going on she says, "He came to me in a formless form" – without form. Why does God have to take form? It is not necessary. He can. He does not have to take form, because He is that which produces all forms. So she says, "He came to me in formless form." She was asked, "How do you know it was He since you did not see Him?" "I do not know how. All I can say with certainty is the fact that I did see the Lord near me." "How did He reveal Himself?" "It was no sensory vision. I saw no form. I saw nothing with the eyes of the body. I saw nothing with the eyes of the soul" – that's the intuition – "but I felt His Presence by my side." "If you saw Him neither with eyes of the body nor with the eyes of the soul, then how can you maintain it was He? Who told you?" "He Himself told me. But even before He let me know, it was impressed upon my soul with much greater assurance than perception by the senses could have supplied."

The aspect of God, the Formless aspect, the impersonal aspect, is the greatest, because in that aspect you enter into God Himself. Remember that. People are hunting for visions, traveling in the astral, all over the place. Forget it. Get God contact. Get contact with God Himself. Then, whether He comes personally or impersonally, who cares, as long as you know God. That's the important thing.

So there you have a few illustrations of the impersonal aspect of God. I'll give you one more just to clarify the matter. God's Omniscience is All-Pervading. His Intelligence is All-Pervading. His Power is All-Pervading.

Coming up over a bridge, back in Boston in the winter, they have ice and snow. Coming up over this bridge, going to a Center meeting, right across the bridge, sideways, was a car that had skidded there. So I came up over the bridge, being late – in Boston you apt to be late due to the storm – and I came traveling up over the bridge to the car, and there was the car right smack in front of me across the bridge. It was my sister's car, and I said, "Lord, quickly, find my sister's car." If it was mine, I wouldn't care so much – "and I'm going to SRF meeting to do your work," this is fine.

As I came up over – there were two people with me, my sister who is living, Sister Yogmata, who was living – as I came up over the bridge; started toward the car I felt, just as I have told you, and there seemed to be some great giant in front, that just pushed the car to a stop, a few inches from that other car. Sister said, "Did you feel that?" I said, "Yes." My sister said, "Minnie, did you feel that?" She used to call me that. I said, "Yes, I did."

So that's the impersonal aspect of God manifested. He doesn't need any wires. He doesn't need any implements. His Intelligence is All-Pervading. His Cosmic Power is All-Pervading. He is all things, because all things are His Consciousness. Why doesn't He know? He knows the sparrows fall. He knows the number of hairs on your head. Why do we doubt God? That's the point. If He wants to come to me personally, I'm ready. If He wants to come in an impersonal way, I'm ready. But I must know God first – know Him, in any way.

Make friendship with God. And we have the ways through the wonderful channel of Self-Realization Fellowship.

So going on, just a few more things, and then I'm through – is the practical way to know God. That is, we have decided that we must know God any way. Personal or impersonal is secondary to me, because when I feel Him, I don't care how He's coming. I know He's gonna take care of me. I know He's gonna be there when I need Him. That's the thing. Now, the point is, how to get that contact with God? That's the important thing.

What is God? God, as we read in the scripture, is the Word – the Holy Vibration – and that Holy Vibration has different aspects, as you heard me say many times – but please listen, and after while it will get in, and you'll feel those aspects of God.

The Word means the Holy Vibration with its aspects of Light, and Sound, but greatest of all is the Intelligence, Intelligence of God in that Holy Vibration – His Great Love. Now, if you contact those aspects, or any of them, or all of them, there you have God right with you. There you have Him. “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God.” “The Word is the Holy Vibration,” as the Master said.

People say, “What is God?” God is the Word. All right. What's that mean to you? It means, in theory, the Holy Vibration. But when it means something different, when it means that you see the Light of God, when you hear the Cosmic Sound of the Holy Vibration, and when you feel God's Intelligence in It and His Great Love – then you have God. You not only know what God is, you have Him with you. So that's the important thing. That is what God is.

And the Master said, has this to say about what God is, "God is that invisible factory of intelligence from which all manifested things are created, born, and harmonized." That's what God is: the Holy Vibration, the Holy Ghost, “the Light beyond the atoms,” which has produced all things. That's what God is.

Now, unless God can be an inspiration to you every day, unless God can guide you in everything you do, unless you find God universally necessary to your life – that's the important thing – unless those three things you find in God, it is rather useless to follow. Therefore, it resolves itself that we must know God. We must not only know Him theoretically, we must taste Him, we must feel Him, we must merge in Him, we must be one with God – then, whether it's personal or impersonal, who cares?

You won't care, when you feel the Presence of God in your heart. When you know that there's not a step you take but that He is with you. When you know that no force in the universe can gather up force against you. Isn't that knowing God? That's what God should mean to us. Let the personal aspect take care of itself, let the impersonal aspect take care of itself. Know God. Know Him in a real way, a vital way, a dynamic way. We can do that. We can absolutely do that. We have the means. We have the method of contacting God – that's what people who follow Self-Realization – many of them do not know. They know the wonderful theory about Self-Realization; the ideals are most uplifting; but we forget that the main object of Self-Realization, which distinguishes it from all other religion, and dogma is, that it gives us the method, the practical method, to contact God. Remember that.

If you wanna be a true Self-Realizationist, follow the techniques, and contact God. Make God your own. This different techniques do this. This different techniques first give us concentration, then it shows us where to put the concentration. Not in outward things. It shows us to put the concentration on the Presence of God in us as the Holy Vibration, with the Light, the Sound, and the Great Love of God. It teaches us that, and those who do it, those who do it, contact God without question. That's the point. That's the thing we must realize.

Theory is wonderful, as I said last time I believe I was here. Theory is interesting – makes you feel good. But it takes the Touch of God, the contact of God, to remove all darkness of delusion. Isn't that wonderful? God's Touch, just one touch will remove all your delusion. You may theorize and theorize about God in many ways – personal or impersonal – but when He touches you, then the darkness of ages passes away. Isn't that the aspect of God we must know? Isn't that much better than just theorizing about impersonal God and personal God? Know Him. Know Him in actuality.

And so in closing, I would just like to say these things, that God being All – being All-Pervading, being All – can answer us in any way, and He does. He may answer you in many ways. You can't follow Him – He's too shy. He is everything. But you will see His Hand working to guide you in everything you do. God is Great, God Is. And the Master said, in one of His letters to me, "It is wonderful to know that God responds through His devotees as Himself."

Imagine, God that Great Author of Universe upon Universe, even will respond through one of our devotees. You can't tell how He'll answer, but if you watch, having faith in God, you will see the way He is answering you. You will see the way He is taking care of you. Such is God. Remember, God is the Greatest of All. He answers in the strangest ways.

One little illustration, then I'm through. In passing through a severe trial, not seeing how I could get out of it, but I can't afford to lose faith in God, neither can you – never losing faith in God. The next morning I received a letter from one of our devotees – a most wonderful fellow – and in that he'd written just the answer – everything. You mean to say God isn't All-Pervading, All-Omniscient, All- Powerful? Receiving that, I knew God had His Eye on me, was watching me. So God watches each and every one of us. Impersonal, or personal, is secondary. The main thing, get that contact with God. Get that friendship with God. Know, above all things, that God Is.