

Be Ye Therefore Perfect

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The subject as you know is —Be Ye Therefore Perfect.“

The first point I want to point out is this: That perfection lies not in this worldly consciousness and not in this worldly existence. It lies in a state of consciousness where perfection is found. If we can just take these eternal truths from the scriptures and our own work and reduce them to the element of reality in the word with the truth you will find it simple. Perfection comes as I have said from being in that state of consciousness where perfection is found. Now in this worldly consciousness the nature of matter is to change. We see that all the time. Matter changes, is not constant, it is in constant flux. In our own body and in worldly conscious we also find that same quality of instability. It changes. Therefore how can perfection be found in worldly conscious in bodily consciousness or in material things? It cannot. It cannot be found that way.

First we should take just an illustration that comes to my mind. You take the cake of ice. In this worldly existence we have this world and material conditions, due to certain conditions. When you remove the condition then these things change and disappear. And the condition, which holds our bodies here in the dream of God's Great Consciousness, when those conditions have changed and withdrawn, the body disappears, like a cake of ice. You have its form, it's cold, it has weight but when you remove the conditions what happens to the cake of ice? It changes, it disappears; so with worldly consciousness; so with all things of this world. Remember that. Do not put your dependence on bodily or worldly things because they pass away. They had a beginning just like the cake of ice had a beginning œ it must pass away. But perfection lies you know, in God's eternal consciousness. It lies in the one eternal light not in a portion of that light, not in a property of that light. Remember that. You see properties of that one eternal light. We see portions of it but perfection is in all of it, eternal life, the one light of God. And so perfection does not lie in, for instance conditions on this earth, which we might call it a utopia of peace and brotherhood. It will not be found there because this light passes away. This light depends on time and space. Right there it sounds its death knell because perfection is not found in time and space consciousness. We know that because we tire easily of things in this world and if we had right here the epitome of heavenly existence we would tire of it because it depends on time and space. But in God's Consciousness, which is above time and space, that's why it is called, Master calls it, Ever-new Joy.

You cannot exhaust it, because it is beyond time and space. That is the real metaphysical reason for those of you that have a real metaphysical mind. It is because in God's Consciousness is beyond time and space and that is why you will never tire of it. In this worldly existence you have the best thing and

everything is wonderful and you want something more. What is that saying the grass is always greener in the other fella's yard. That is the nature of this existence therefore perfection will not be found here. Understand that. Perfection lies in the soul. Perfection lies in the Presence of God within each and every one of us. And, the ray of the soul is a ray of spirit. The soul is a ray of God. In you is His presence. You are a ray of His great Omniscience. That's where you'll find perfection. That's where you'll find fulfillment, completeness. You will not find it in this worldly existence or anything to do with it.

One reference from the Autobiography at this time which fits here nicely pointing out the two points I made that we tire, we tire easily of things of this world even though they are perfection seemingly so. No, we will tire of it. In the AY we read this, the Autobiography, —How quickly...“ Sri Yukteswarji says, —we weary of earthly pleasures. Desire for material things is endless. Man is never satisfied completely and pursues one goal after another.“ You get one house and you want another. You get one automobile and you want another. You get one hat and you want another. It goes on. That's the nature of it. As Sri Yukteswarji says, —That something else which the devotee seeks is the Lord.“ That something is God's Presence, His bliss and His love. That is what you want. —That something else,“ he says, —is the Lord who alone can grant lasting joy.“ And then one more thing that he says pertaining to what we really want, where perfection is, beyond time and space consciousness, —in the Omniscient Presence of God,“ and read this, —... Ever new joy is God.“

We cannot exhaust it. Also when we meditate regularly, we feel that. You cannot stop them from meditating. Last night at the Hermitage we had a meditation, the boys (the monks) say, —Why not have a long meditation?“ Well I said, —You know I have to come down here in the morning and say something.“ Well we will have a little longer. So we had between three and four hours. At the end of it they were just as eager for more. Why, because God is beyond time and space. —He is ever new joy,“ it says in the Autobiography [of a Yogi]. He is Inexhaustible. As you continue your meditations during the years He will beguile you with an Infinite Ingenuity. You cannot exhaust Him. That is why you will never tire of God.

When you first begin to meditate and you have aches and pains and everything, you think, —How long am I going to go through this, I'll tire of that quickly.“ But when you do taste that which is behind it, the reality of God's Presence then you will not tire of that. And so He goes on, —Devotees like yourself...“ saying to Master, —who have found the way to God never dream of exchanging Him for any other happiness. He is seductive beyond the thought of competition.“ God is. All the saint's say, —God alone is!“ Taste that Love, nurture that Love, that will satisfy you œ nothing else will. And in that you will find perfection.

Now the Bhagavad Gita testifies to the same thing. Perfection lies in that consciousness, which does not change, which is not born in human consciousness or worldly consciousness, which always was and will be. That is where perfection is. And that consciousness within us, when we feel the Bliss of God, always was and always will be. That is the Eternal Consciousness of God. The Gita says this, —The soul is never born, neither does it die. Now having been created eternally, any more to be, unborn, perpetual, eternal and ancient it perishes not in the perishable body.“ How can we expect perfection in this body which perishes? How can we expect perfection in outward consciousness where we see the paradoxes and injustices? Who wants that kind of perfection? It will not be found there. It will be found in soul consciousness.

So human life is a perpetual struggle, as you can see now between these two things: the soul consciousness, which is drawing you up toward God, and perfection, and worldly consciousness, which is taking you away from that. There is this continual battle going on between us, in us, between the pull of soul and the pull of outward things. A little story comes to mind now about this pull between good things and bad things. The strange part of it is that this little story was pointed out to me by Reverend Stanley. He doesn't remember it, but it was. It has to do with that collection plate. This little girl went to church, and her Aunt said, —Dolly, were you a good girl in church this morning?“ She said, —Oh yes Auntie, I was.“ The man passed me a plate full of money, but I didn't take any.“ I know Reverend Stanley is the one that pointed that out to me. So the soul belongs to the noumenal region ð the underlying reality, which changes not. But, this outward consciousness belongs to the phenomenal region, which changes all the time. There is no perfection in it. Perfection is in that region of the soul ð the Presence of God within.

Now one thing is passing I must point out to you is this: That the soul constantly comes in contact with this change in conscious of this phenomenal world.

Therefore, it may, and it does, absorb some of those qualities or attributes which are not permanent and which are not perfect. That's what happens to us. The soul living in the changeable body takes on those attributes of worldly consciousness where there is no perfection and the soul forgets it's perfect nature, it's oneness with God. That thing we must not forget.

So the perfect pattern is found in God, and God is found in everything ð every atom; in the metals; in the animals; in the plants striving for perfection. Why, because the perfect pattern is in God. Not in the outward thing. Still you can see in these different aspects of the One Eternal Consciousness, Eternal Substance of God, you can see this common Life Force law work. God is in everything.

You take metal and you do not think it represents life & it does. I was reading about Professor Bose who conducted many experiments along these lines showing this underlying this common Life Force law which is in everything even in the metal, in the plant and in the animal. God is there. The perfect pattern is in Him. So much is represented in the metal; so much in the plant; so much in the animal. Divinity can be shown in the human being. Perfection can be shown there & can be manifested, shown. The pattern is in God. The perfect pattern is in God, whose experiments he pointed out by applying these stimulants and depressants to metals even, that they show that the Life Force is in there, by his delicate instruments & and in the plant life, the same thing.

Heather has a heart and a circulation. In the animals of course, we are familiar with that. Showing that, underlying that, is that One Life that's trying to express itself, trying to express perfection. The key is to be One with that One Light. Not portions of it. Not the principals of it. Realize that! We must know the One Light. Not the portion of it. Not the properties of it. If we just see the properties of that Light in this existence, or we see a portion of it, we miss the key point, because it will pass away. But, knowing the One Light, which is behind all things, Eternal Light, being one with that, then we will manifest perfection, and it will not pass away.

From the Autobiography, speaking about Professor Bose & I must bring this in, —The universal reaction seems to bring metal, plants, and animals under a common law.“ Common Law of God's Light underneath all things, even in the metal trying to manifest perfection. And he says, —they all exhibited essentially the same phenomena of fatigue and depression with the possibilities of recovery and exaltation, as well as the permanent irresponsiveness associated with death.

My father had a small motorboat. We used to run from Plymouth, Massachusetts across Cape Cod Bay to Provincetown. The motor of that boat is a little, small motor. It took about four or five hours to get over there. I remember distinctly showing that metals tire, that there is a common law of Life Force in metals even. Scissors become tired by using them all of the time. And so, this little engine would just about make Province Town, and then it would just die. We would let it rest while we went ashore and enjoyed some of the seafood there. When we would come back the engine would start right up and go ahead. Why, because the metals tire. Because in all things, even in iron, and steel, there is that Life Force, the common law whereby God's Life is manifest.

Also, the whole cosmos, we read, is the materialized Thought of the Creator. This heavy, earthly clod, floating in space is a Dream of God. He has made all things out of His Consciousness & out of that One Life behind all things. That is His Consciousness manifesting in the metal, the animal, the plant, and in you, and in me. If we know that completely; if we know that One Life, there we will find the Protection

in God. He has made all things from His Consciousness, even as man in his dream consciousness reproduces and vivifies a creation with its creatures. We are made in the Image of God.

We can with our dream and our consciousness create everything. So God does. As we know our consciousness completely, as far as it goes so we must know God consciousness. As He, the Author of all things, and His Body is not this small little body that we have. We are a part of His Body. His Body is Universe upon Universe upon Universe; His Consciousness pervades all things. When we know that then, which we can, then we will have perfection.

Finally perfection lies in knowing, as I have said, the One Uninterrupted Eternal Life. Until we know that, we will experience sorrow, because these other things pass away. But remember what Jesus said, pointing out that it is the Christ Consciousness which is in each and every one of us \ae the Presence of God in us. As Jesus said, —Before Abraham was I Am“, not —I was“, —I Am“. That’s the Eternal Consciousness. When Jesus spoke he spoke from Christ Consciousness, —Before Abraham was, I Am.“ That’s Eternal Life. That’s the One Light, which all followers of Self-Realization Fellowship, following its techniques, and with devotion, will find and do find \ae not will find \ae do find, that One Eternal Life.

I know there are many right in this room that will testify to it that they do feel, as Patanjali said, —By merging in the Great Cosmic Vibration of God,“ he says, —then you laugh at death.“ You lose your individuality, and you laugh at losing it, because you find a greater life, Eternal Life of the One Father. And so, —Before Abraham was I Am.“ That’s what we must find. That’s what we can find by following one who had found that \ae our beloved Master. He knew the One Life. That’s why when you went to him, in his presence, you felt relieved of all this duality of this external existence, because he was manifesting the One Life behind all things.

The Gita says the same thing. The 2nd Discourse the 12th Line, —Nor at any time verily, was I not. Nor thou, nor these princes’ of men, nor verily shall we ever cease to be hereafter,“ says Lord Krishna. That applies to each and every one of us, because we are made in the Image of God. That Eternal Life, which is within us, always was and will be. We just see a portion of it, so we sleep a little longer. Why not wake up?! Why not wake up into that One Light of God’s Presence? We can do it! We are made in His Image. We have the power, because our will is God’s Will. We have the feeling, because the feeling which we have is God’s Feeling \ae His Great Love. We must do it. That is all. Someone said to me, —How do you feel devotion?“ I said, —Feel it! How do you eat?“ He said, —I eat.“ I said, —Do the same thing with meditation and devotion.“ The will is the key. Use your will and find God.

Therefore when Jesus said, —Be ye perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect,“ it means that we must unite our souls with God. That’s all. How œ by meditation; by the Science of Yoga. Through the Science of Yoga you will feel contact with the Presence of God within you as the Holy Vibration, the Great Holy Spirit, the Comforter of which Jesus spoke. Having that, then you will contact the One Eternal Light of God. In that you will find perfection, because your soul is a ray of God. The perfect pattern is in God. Manifest that! Allow Him to do it. He is the Doer. You cannot do it, but He can do it.

And as He is All, our own consciousness in all things, He will manifest through us the perfect pattern. Perfection is right within us. As Brother Lawrence says, —...in the Presence of God.“ Manifest that. Allow Him to flow through you. And finally after, —striving, striving, striving, one day,“ Lahiri Mahashaya said, —one day, the divine goal.“ When that comes, then you will realize perfection. You will realize what God is your own Self; Unlimited; Eternal Perfection; Ever-new Joy; Unending œ God Alone.