

The Spiritual Scientist

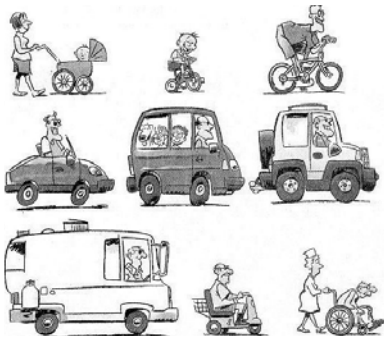
An ezine for those who think!

The Shelter Beyond Calamity

Many of us are shocked when natural calamities kill thousands. But statistics tell us that the daily world death toll is in millions. If death is so rampant, why are we so shocked by it? Because we have specialized in hiding and forgetting the reality of death when it takes its toll gradually through "normal" ways. But when death takes a sudden and massive toll, our delusions are exposed - at least temporarily.



The Vedic scriptures urge us to not dream in vain for a happy life in this world, where death may overcome us at any moment. This existential incompatibility - our desperate longing for life and the absolute inescapability of death - indicates that we belong, not to this world of death, but to a world of eternal life. The Vedic texts explain that we are not mortal material bodies, but immortal spirit souls. We belong to an eternal spiritual world, the kingdom of God, where we live forever in a joyous harmony with God as His beloved children. When we rebel against God's authority, we are placed in the material world to experience the imagined joys and the real sorrows of living independent of Him, where we create our sufferings by our own karma.



The Vedic texts inform us that, during our troubled journey through this material world, we have gone through millions of lives. Therefore rather than being shocked at seeing so many deaths, we can soberly remember that we have ourselves undergone the trauma of death thousands of times. And the same ordeal awaits us again in the not-too-distant future.

The Vedic scriptures further assert that the sufferings of this world are a pointer to, a reminder of, our eternal existence. A fever impels us to take medicine to cure ourselves. The heat of the fire causes us to instantly withdraw our finger and thus save it from being burnt. Similarly, worldly sufferings impel us to seek shelter beyond the temporary material world to the eternal spiritual world. Therefore, the intelligent response to calamities is to prepare to return back to our home, the spiritual world.



When we live with a spiritual focus, we avoid the bad karma that recoils on us in the forms like natural calamities. Moreover, by own indestructible spiritual identity, experience the beauty of our eternal which fills us with bliss. Thus by study gita and the practice of spiritual



Hare Krishna mahamantra, all of us can attain the shelter beyond calamity.

spiritual cultivation, we realize our which fills us with peace. And we also loving relationship with God, Krishna, of spiritual books like the Bhagavad-techniques like the chanting of the

