

The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

Become A Spiritual Hero

Question: Does *bhakti*, with its emphasis on prayer, submission and surrender to God, not make one weak and effeminate?

Answer: Not at all. Consider the example of the quintessential *bhakta*: Hanuman. He is assertive, powerful, intelligent, resourceful and dynamic. Hanuman is no doubt a servant of the supreme hero Rama, but he is a hero in his own right. The dynamics of the Hanuman-Rama relationship reveals an often-overlooked dimension of *bhakti*.



All of us have a desire to do something special, wonderful, heroic. Most people fail to go beyond daydreaming about this innate urge for heroic. The few who are talented and dedicated and fortunate enough may become heroes for a short while. But sadly as age catches up with them, their bodies let them down and their heroic aura fades away. And then they die, leaving all their achievements behind and go to their next bodies to continue their vain quest for heroism.

Bhakti-yoga shows the actual way to fulfill our urge for heroism. If we try to do something heroic in service of the supreme hero, God, then we can do lasting good to ourselves and to others. For example, if we have musical talent and compose devotional music that takes our own hearts and others' hearts closer to God, then that give us far deeper fulfillment than be able to share with others that far greater than the pleasure from the Moreover, if we sincerely glorify God increase that talent manifold so that world. And lastly, even if we have only modest talent, still glorifying God with that talent will give us far greater satisfaction than what the most talented musicians will get by singing worldly songs.



**BEING GOOD IS
ONE THING,
DOING GOOD IS
EVERYTHING.**

The same principle applies to every sphere of human endeavor. By doing whatever we can do best for the pleasure of God, we can all become heroes in our own right. We may or may not make newspaper headlines, but we will make headlines in God's eyes. And real heroism is not about becoming famous, but about doing good to others, which all of us can do by cultivating and sharing *bhakti*.



Hanuman is often depicted with folded palms that hold a mace. The folded palms are a symbol of *bhakti* (devotion), whereas the mace is a symbol of *shakti* (power). Thus, by personifying the paradoxical blend of *bhakti* and *shakti*, Hanuman invites us to realize our own potential for devotional heroism.

