

Title

PATH OF DEVOTION

**With an appendix containing
Sanskrit salutations and prayers
with translation**

**By
Swami Paramananda**

Bird Publisher, 2014

About this eBook

*“The Path of Devotion” by Swami Paramananda; Third edition
With an appendix containing Sanskrit salutations and prayers with translation*

© 1907 by Swami Paramananda

© Bird Publisher S. A., 2014

BISBN 978-999-2727-01-13 (pdf)

BISBN 978-999-2727-02-13 (mobi)

BISBN 978-999-2727-03-13 (ePub)

Published in electronic format, November, 2014 by Bird Publisher S. A.

Available electronically at: ***Bird Publisher.***

Copyright and license

All rights reserved

Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the above publisher of this book.

License Notes

This eBook is licensed for your personal enjoyment only. This eBook may not be re-sold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each person you share it with. If you're reading this book and did not purchase it, or it was not purchased for your use only, then you should purchase your own copy. Thank you for respecting the author's work.

Om Namo Bhagavate Ramakrishnaya!

*Salutation To The Blessed
Sri Ramakrishna*

*Who By His Life and Teaching Proclaimed
The Message of Universal Love and
Tolerance among All Religions*

Contents

Title 2

About this eBook 3

Copyright and license 3

Om Namo Bhagavate Ramakrishnaya! 4

Contents 5

The Path of Devotion 5

Preface 5

I Devotion 6

II Purity 8

III Steadfastness 10

IV Fearlessness 13

V Self-Surrender 15

Appendix 20

Sanskrit Salutations 20

Sanskrit Prayers 21

Litany to the Divine Mother 22

The Path of Devotion

Preface

This little volume consists chiefly of extracts from letters written solely to meet an individual need and with no thought of publication. But in the heart of every true spiritual teacher there lives the Divine Teacher, and when His voice speaks, it is for all, not for one only. Believing that it is that voice which sounds through these words, the one to whom they were addressed desires to prove worthy of the message of unselfishness they contain, by sharing them with all others who perhaps in pain and weariness are striving along the path of devotion. They are therefore sent forth with the earnest prayer that they may bring to the soul of every sincere devotee who reads them the same help and comfort as they brought to the one who heard them first.

Editor.

*He who with devotion offereth to me a leaf, a flower, a fruit and water, that love-offering I accept,
made by the pure-hearted.*

*Whatever thou doest, whatever thou eatest, whatever thou offerest as oblation, whatever thou
givest and the austerities thou performest, do that as an offering to Me.*

*Thus wilt thou be freed from the bonds of action that beareth good and evil fruit, and thy soul,
being engaged in this devotion of renunciation—liberated thou shalt come unto Me.*

*Alike am I to all beings, hated or beloved there is none to Me. But they who worship Me with
devotion, in Me are they and in them am I.*

Bhagavad Gita.

I Devotion

Blessed are those who have devotion in their hearts. It is the only reality in this world, other things are false. Live a pure, holy life; be bold and fearless. Never mind if thousands fall before you; still stand firmly and never give up. Truly what a great thing it is to have love and devotion! Devotion is the only thing that can make one happy.

True devotion has wonderful power. Through it a devotee can bring out divinity even from a stone. It is a living force and can give life to a dead body. They are indeed very happy who have naturally this devotion for the Lord. You know what Sri Ramakrishna says, - that the goal can be attained very easily through the power of faith and devotion, and never through the power of reasoning.

* * *

It is the true devotion that brings God-vision to us. No one can reach Him through mere intellect; nor even by the practices of Yoga or different kinds of hardships. This is the word of the Lord. He is to be attained by true and pure love, unselfish and one-pointed love. God is free. He is not bound by any law. Still He says, "I remain bound to my devotees." As a great Saviour declared, "God is love and love is God." But it is very hard to realize. One can realize and feel this only with a sincere and pure heart. As long as we have the least selfish desire, so long we cannot expect to have this. It is holy and Divine.

When this kind of love awakens, one becomes free from worldly ties. But we must not give up hope because it is hard. However hard it may be from the standpoint of the world, still it must be realized. Without it the heart is but a barren ground. This is our life and this is the only reality in this world. And it is not at all hard for a sincere and true devotee, because his heart is made of love and naturally flows towards the Lord.

Have intense faith in Him, then you will be free from all anxieties. He will bless you and protect you from all evils. Always keep your eyes fixed on Him and pray with childlike simplicity. Do not mind anything. Never be discouraged or disheartened, but live always cheerfully. Then through the blessings of the Lord you will rest in peace and bliss.

* * *

If you want to be a true devotee, you must be above all worldly thoughts and deeds. No earthly condition should ever disturb your peace. Be pure, spotless, unselfish, with an all-loving broad heart. Never claim to be great, but look upon yourself as a humble servant of the Most High, and stand always ready for the service, without thought of danger. Remember that to meet even a violent and untimely death thinking of God and leading a true life is blessed; while to live otherwise even in comfort and prosperity will only take you away from your Ideal and that is the greatest curse. Be always watchful, and never allow yourself to be carried away by any momentary weakness. Act boldly and fearlessly, and never become impatient.

Depend little on outer things, knowing that external expressions can never express the real feelings of the heart. Talk little. It is not words or beautiful language but character that will bring the light. Great Seers spoke in most simple language, but their words were full of light, of life, of hope and courage. Let the plant of your devotion grow in silence on your heart. Water it with the tears of true and sincere love. Look not for results; merely serve with your whole heart and soul.

The true devotee works for his Ideal and for no one else. His eating, drinking, sleeping, moving, his every act becomes an act of worship. He feels that all belongs to the Ideal, even his body, so he feeds and cares for it, not as his own, but as part of the Ideal. If it is hurt or hungry or cold or in any way neglected, he thinks that it is the Ideal that is suffering, so he takes every care of it for the sake of the Beloved. Or he may look upon his body as a temple in which the Divine Ideal dwells, and whatever he does for it becomes an offering to the Beloved. He is therefore watchful only to give to it what is perfectly pure and worthy to be offered on that inner altar of the

heart. This constant thought of the Ideal as dwelling within enables one to free himself from all physical bondage.

Thus true devotion brings you to a state where you live with your Ideal in every moment of your life. Nothing else can exist for you except the Beloved One, and when you live in Him and Him alone, all misery ceases. Your whole heart flows out at the feet of the Beloved and you become lost in Him. This state is blessed because it leads to the ultimate goal, - the true vision of God.

* * *

It is through love that we feel the nearness or presence of Divinity. Love unites God and man. When whole-hearted and one-pointed love for the Ideal awakens, it comes like a flood and washes off everything, - ignorance, narrowness, fear, doubt, selfishness, and leaves what? The Ideal. The Ideal alone is left shining on the heart. Then it becomes easy to renounce everything that is earthly, because nothing has any value except the Beloved. He is the Eternal, the Permanent, the Unchanging ; all other things are transitory and changing. He is the Effulgent Spirit, everything else is perishable matter.

This love for the Ideal enables one to renounce the things of the world without effort. Christ could resist the temptations of Satan and give up all earthly power because of His intense love for His Father in heaven. So when we have whole-hearted devotion for our Ideal, nothing of this world can tempt us and renunciation becomes easy. This is the idea given by Christ of "taking the burden." It really means that we must be devoted to the Lord; we must think of Him constantly. By this we are purified; for whenever we meditate on a pure being, our impurities are naturally washed off. When we take refuge at the feet of the Lord, or cast our burden on Him, we love Him, our whole heart goes to Him and we no longer care for the world. Then our burden drops of? This is true renunciation and true salvation.

* * *

When real devotion comes to the devotee, he grows humble and all-loving. The Beloved is all in all, he is nothing. Everywhere he sees his Beloved, therefore he becomes the servant of all; and through every living creature he serves his Ideal. "Lower than a blade of grass, having endurance like a tree, seeking not honor for himself, but giving honor to all, such a soul is fit to take the Name of the Blessed Lord."

A tree fulfils its nature, no matter how we treat it. If we cut its branches, still it continues to grow and give us shade. So the true devotee worships his Ideal, not because he desires anything from Him, but because He is dear to him, because He is his Beloved whom he loves for the sake of love. So long as we expect anything, we do not love truly and the Ideal remains far from us. Only when we have begun to love for the sake of love do we get true devotion. Then we serve silently and quietly. He who talks of himself is not a true devotee or a true worker. Swami Vivekananda declares:

"The true workers work in silence and pass away in silence. Those who actually give up their lives for humanity are oftentimes not known by many.

"Where there is none to admire your work, not even a single person to encourage, where everyone hates you, there lives infinite patience, eternal contentment and absolute fearlessness in works.

"When a great work comes before us, where there are thousands of people to admire, there a mean coward, a most selfish man also can give up his life in order to prove himself as a great hero.

"But he who can do a very little without letting anyone know, he is a true hero, an unselfish lover of humanity. He is really blessed."