

70. Pray to God for His incarnation

Really speaking, the prayers of the great act as an invitation even for the advent of the Lord. In the external world, when the subjects need any convenience or help, they approach the rulers and inform them of their request. So also, in the internal state, when there is no possibility of achieving and acquiring devotion, charity, peace, and truth, the great and good people who desire to achieve them pray to the Lord within themselves. Then, listening to their prayers, He Himself comes into the world and showers His grace on them. This fact is well known to all.

Didn't Rama and Krishna incarnate because the Lord heeded the prayers of the sages? Many have read this in the *Ramayana* and the *Bhagavatha*. Even Ramakrishna, though he was divinely-born, prayed to Goddess Kali (for he could not bring *dharma* about) to send someone who could preach to the whole world the *dharma* that would uproot injustice and selfishness. This is known to all who have read his life history.

Thus, prayers should be offered again and again for the realisation of the task. No one should become desperate and give up prayers if they don't result immediately in the advent of the Lord. In the external state, how often does a person have to write and how much does he have to wander about for the work to be done —and, perhaps at the end, it may not fructify at all!

How is one to know the consequence of the soul's yearning? Since this can't be known, one has to pray until the world is established in happiness. The happiness of the world is the sign of His arrival; if this is understood, then it is easy to recognise the *Avatar* immediately. It is then that the religion of truth (*sathya*), of compassion (*daya*), of spiritual wisdom (*jnana*) and of love (*prema*) will grow and prosper. So, until these are firmly rooted, people must continue their prayers. That is the responsibility of the people.

The road laid out by holy people has to be repaired now and then, either by those who travel through it or by those who claim authority over it. That is what is called "teaching (*bodha*)". It is for the sake of such repairs that the Lord occasionally sends some authorised individuals, sages, and divine people. Through their good teachings, the path opened by the God-people of the past is again made clear and smooth. Thus, when the Lord's will, the needs of spiritual seekers, and the teachings of great persons produce their combined effect, the happiness of the world will be assured and undiminished.

If all humanity prays at one time for unrest, injustice, disorder, and falsehood to be transformed into peace, truth, love, and mutual service, things will certainly become better.

There is no other way out. Worrying is fruitless. This is no occasion for despair. It is against the essential nature of people to plead weakness and want of strength. Therefore, giving up the search for other means, people must try prayer, service to others, and mutual love and respect. They should delay no longer; they will soon acquire contentment and joy.