

Treasure Hunt

Some enlightened and erudite minds emanate the true light of the soul due to the possession of purity, holiness, and chastity to recognize God and hence strip their heart of all worldly passions and direct their entire love towards God and only God wholeheartedly and absolutely. A God-loving burning mind of the finest order is the most valuable possession a spiritual seeker can ever have. All rational beings, whether men or women have an organic emotion integrated into their existence called love, by which they can embrace both the Divine and the human. Men and women of God love what is of God. Men and women of the flesh love what is of flesh. Every grown-up person understands to some extent what love is. Persons in love are found to direct all their physical and mental faculties to the object of their love. From time immemorial, this alluring theme of love has always provided food for the imagination of the poets and writers, and given birth to numerous brilliant poems, songs, and novels. Moreover, many a heart has been broken, brain deranged, and life led astray or lost, in this dangerous game of love. Still, there are always some lucky souls who succeed in achieving the object of their love. Yet, many among them too sooner or later realize after a blow received through mundane love that such love was transient. At times such emotions serve as an eye opener to many who were first caught in the snares of worldly love, and later a thunder stroke resulting from it awakened their conscience and turned their love Godward. Lord Alfred Tennyson appropriately describes this situation when he says, 'God gives us love. Something to love He lends us; but, when love has grown to ripeness, that on which it thrives falls off, and love is left alone. Such is the fate of most of the worldly love because both the lover and the one being loved are constantly changing in body and mind and are in their transitory existences. The spiritual seekers on the other hand see the faculty of love as an important opportunity to utilize it for his or her own salvation by directing the powerful faculty of love towards God. A true spiritual seeker who has been convinced of the futility of worldly treasures and the utility of loving God cannot turn his or her mind away from God even for the tiniest part of a second. Our heart lies where the treasure is. Unless and until God becomes our sole treasure, how can our hearts pant for Him? Devotion is, therefore, the last and final emotion of the human heart. It won't take root in a person until he or she has finished playing with mud pies, and the worldly emotions cease to overcome him or her. Thus, recalling the golden words from Naradiya Bhaktisutra, 'Gaining that love for God, the true devotee becomes immortal and thoroughly contented. The devotee has nothing left to desire about,

neither the devotee relishes anything worldly, nor does the devotee exert himself or herself to attain anything earthly. Realizing the Absolute God, the devotee becomes intoxicated and fascinated, because finally he or she has found himself or herself completely immersed in the enjoyment of the bliss of the Almighty, the highest and the truest of the 'Self'. The treasure he or she wins in the end is the highest and the most expensive treasure there ever was, there ever is, and there ever can be.