

Image Worship

There are many who slander image worship, but its basis is really man's capacity to see the macrocosm in the microcosm. The value of image worship is testified by man's experience, it does not depend on man's imaginative faculty. What is found in the *Viraat Swaroota* (Cosmic Form) of the Lord is found, undiminished and unalloyed, in the image *Swaroota* (Form) also. Images serve the same purpose as metaphors, similes, etc. in poetry. They illustrate, amplify and make clear.

Joy comes to man, not through the shape of things but through the relationship established. Not any child but her child makes the mother happy. So also with each one and with all things. With each and everything in the universe, if one establishes that kinship, that *Ishwara* (personal God) Prema, verily, what an overpowering joy can be experienced! Only those who have felt can understand.

18

