

For A Saadhaka, Today Is His: but Tomorrow?

Y*ama* (God of death) is as Omnipresent as Siva! Yama is associated with the *deha*, or body. He cannot affect the Jiva. Siva is associated with Jivi; but He will not allow the body to subsist for any length of time. The body is the essential vehicle for the Jivi to understand its real nature. Still, who knows when it becomes the target for the attention of Yama, the Master of the Deha? Who knows when this body will get entrapped in the coils of Yama's ropes? The Jivi, burdened with this easily-destructible body, must grasp the above-mentioned caution and be all eager to merge in Siva, whatever the moment, that very moment! No single moment that is passed by can be turned back. People usually delay doing some things, today's till tomorrow, and yesterday's till today. But the tasks of sadhana are not of such a nature, for them,

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there is no yesterday and no tomorrow. This very moment is the moment! The minute that has elapsed is beyond your grasp; so too, the minute that is approaching is not yours! It is only that Jivi which has engraved this understanding on its heart that can merge in Siva. Without assimilating this truth in the heart, the Jivi is immersed in aims of today and tomorrow, based on the assumption that the body is all important. It thus lays the foundations for worldly attachment; and so, it is born again and again with body and continues to have the Darsan of Yama! It is the right of the Saadhaka to have Siva-darshana and not Yama-darsan! He will not wish for it, nor even contemplate it. Only those who have this relationship of the Deha and the Jiva are Men. Those who have realised this principle will not flag, even to the slightest extent, in their sadhana. These days, man is content with visualising and experiencing evanescent worldly joys. He has no rest. Spending the nights in sleep and the days in eating and drinking, he grows and grows, until, in his old age, Death pursues him. Then, he cannot decide where to go or what to do. All his senses have weakened. No one, nothing can rescue him; so he ends as obedient meat to the jaws of Death!

How sad it is that this human life, precious as an invaluable diamond that cannot be priced at all, has been cheapened to the standard of a worn-out worthless coin! There is no use repenting, after wasting time without profit, without meditating on God, or practising any sadhana to realise Him. What is the use in planning a well, when the

house has caught fire? When is it to be dug? When will water become available? When is the fire to be extinguished? It is an impossible task! If at the very start, there was a well ready, how helpful it would be on such critical occasions! Beginning to contemplate on God during the last moments is like beginning to dig the well. So, if from now on, one equips himself by the contemplation of God off and on, it will stand him in good stead when the end approaches. Start today the sadhana that has to be done tomorrow! Start now the sadhana that has to be done today! One does not know what is in store the next moment. Therefore, there should be no delay in engaging oneself in the sadhana that has to be done. Physical stamina is also necessary for this sadhana, and so, the body has to be tended, though overtending causes damage. To the degree that is essential, it should be looked after with great care.

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