
HEAVEN, A REALITY AND NOT A MYTH

– B.K. Aprajita, Bhubaneswar

In all religions, all nations, people have a very positive idea or feeling about 'Heaven'. However, did it really exist? Who lived there? Where on earth is Heaven? These questions have aroused the curiosity of many yet have not been fully answered. Even our texts and scriptures do not give clarity on these points.

What are the images that come up in our minds when we think of heaven? Whenever we think of Heaven, we think of a place where there is no sorrow, no pain, no injustice; no misfortune and no misery; where there is peace and happiness; where everyone lives with feelings of mutual love and understanding without any threat or fear. In short, we can say 'Heaven' is a world abounding with purity, love, joy and beauty. Compare this to the age where we find ourselves at the moment – an age of crisis, an age of corruption, an age of darkness.

Glancing at today's existence, we find every man, woman and child feeling lonely and scared.

Fears are a gift of modern life – fear of being outdated, fear of violence, fear of loss, fear of disease, fear of change, fear of future and above all, fear of death. With all the inventions of science (which increase manifold yearly), we have not found a way to be ever healthy and happy. Although change is inevitable, the uncertainty of today's life has resulted in immense stress and pressures. New diseases are seizing our mind and body; accidents, murder, maligning of dignity of women, embezzlement are an everyday affair. The pace of our routine leaves us exhausted at the end of the day with no time, energy or health to enjoy the beauty of life. Even success comes at a heavy price. Relations are sour at home and at workplace. Today people feel 'to be rich is to be in heaven'. Yes, only if it comes without fear, tension, stress, bad health... worry about where and how to invest, worry about Govt. laws etc... these take away the pleasure of being rich. Earning money honestly in today's world

is a stressful affair. This world is full of :- 1. Fear, 2. Diseases, 3. Accidents (sudden death), 4. Violence, 5. Pain, 6. Sorrow 7. Strained Relations and 8. Natural calamities and war, and can be truly called 'HELL.' This world is the very opposite of Heaven that we dream of.

However, this Hell has been self-created by Humans. Why and How? The answer lies in the impurity of the Soul. As we became body-conscious, we lost our purity and became afflicted with vices of Lust, Anger, Greed, Hatred, Jealousy, Pride, Laziness, (though the percentage of each is different in different persons). These are so dominant that we feel they come natural to us. However, the opposite is true. We are children of GOD and our natural qualities are peace, love, joy, purity. We yearn for these qualities and give regard to those who possess them because intrinsically we value the qualities natural to us. We feel comfortable, secure, satisfied in an atmosphere where peace and love exist and feel upset, unsettled, unhappy in the opposite. If our natural qualities were greed, anger or cruelty, we would have felt happy and satisfied after acting on these. Instead, we feel restless and guilty.

We all want to go to a world

where there is no illness, no natural calamities, war, hospitals, doctors, medicines, pain, disability, violence, fear, poverty or scarcity. We long for a world where there is peace, love and harmony though it seems to be a dream only because man has failed to erase the vices from within himself. Even with the advancement of Science and technology, we are not really progressing rather, in terms of values and ethics, we are regressing. Vices have increased and proliferated into the entire population. But the good news is the theory of entropy which states that everything must move from order to chaos, from new to old and from old to a harmonious balanced one. This is a cycle of human culture which began with an age of complete truth called Golden Age, moved through silver and Copper Age and ends with Iron Age, an age of complete chaos. This is where we are at the moment. And this is the time when God Himself intervenes and acts as the facilitator of renewal, returning the creation back to its original state of purity. He accomplishes the tasks by teaching Rajyoga meditation and purifies souls in the process. If we wish to be a part of the New World, we need to extend the hand of cooperation in this God's task of renewal. For this, we need to realize our spiritual identity, that of a soul and link our mind and intellect with God, the Supreme Source of all virtues and powers.

When our inner world is in harmony, only then universal harmony will be restored – the world which we remember as Heaven.

DESTROYER OF OBSTACLES – LORD GANESHA

– **B.K. Yogesh**, B.K. Colony, Shantivan

Devotees worship him with fervour and craze;
For his glimpse, they starve for nights and days.
Siddhi Vinayak – obedient son of God;
Everyone's beloved deity – Ganesha, the loving Lord.

However big the hindrances and obstacles,
Destroys them with Godly faith unshakable.
His purity is always intact in deeds and thought,
Everyone's beloved deity – Ganesha, the loving Lord.

The bestower of Godly knowledge and fortune;
Acting on God's will, and to others immune.
Godly advice (*Shrimat*) directs his every chord;
Everyone's beloved deity – Ganesha, the loving Lord.

Power to accommodate symbolized in big stomach;
Spinning of Godly knowledge (Swastika) assuring
good luck.
Truly disciplined, contented, never violating Godly
code;
Everyone's beloved deity – Ganesha, the loving Lord.

Axle in hand symbolizing the destruction of evils,
Rope of Godly bondage destroying the devils.
His sweet word, cheerful state are a sure reward;
Everyone's beloved deity – Ganesha, the loving Lord.

Being conqueror of Maya, mouse is his vehicle;
Encompassing knowledge of soul, God and the
cycle.
Bestows intellect and prosperity to devotees' crowd;
Everyone's beloved deity – Ganesha, the loving Lord.