

A POWER WE CALL GOD

by




(RVM)




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Preface

God has always fascinated me, captivated me and intrigued me. Over the years, several questions have surfaced in my mind, not all of which have I found answers for. Does God exist? Where is God? Can I see God? Can I meet God? How does God look like? Is God like a human being? Are heaven and hell for real or is it just a myth? Does God reside in heaven? Where did I come from? Who gave me life? What will happen to me after I die? Where will I go after death? Will I be born again?

Different people, cultures and religions have different theories as answers to these questions, but there is none that I can fully understand or accept. Isn't the universe very mysterious? Where did this Earth emerge from? The Sun, Moon, stars, birds, animals and flowers — who created all of these? And then we have the breeze that blows, the water that flows and the sun that glows — all this can't just happen on its own! Surely, something is making it happen. But, what is that force?

Who created the human race? There are billions of people, each different and unique! Wow! Who made them all? Some may argue that biologically, we are the result of procreation, that is, the fusion of the male and female energies of our parents. But who made our parents or rather who created the first man and woman on Earth?

This book you are reading hasn't just come into your hands; someone wrote it; somebody created it. Similarly, somebody must



have created the Universe. Who is the Creator of the Universe?

Did the entire magical Universe create itself? Is that possible? Some people say a Big Bang created all this! But who made the Big Bang happen? There are hundreds of theories, but which one is true?

The truth, as I see it, is that some power exists; a power that made all this happen. It is a power that is beyond our limited comprehension; a power we cannot see or discover but can only experience. Yes, such a power exists! It is the Universal Power -


A POWER WE CALL GOD





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Chapter 1 Many Religions, One God!



The world has numerous religions- Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, and many more. Each religion has its own Gods and Goddesses. Each religion claims to be “the religion” and wants the whole world to believe in it as well as follow its God.

Each religion has created its own theology, belief system, culture, values, rituals and customs. As we go through them, we realize that each religion follows a different philosophy of life and that philosophy is prescribed to its followers. Though the “do’s” and “don’ts” of these religions are different, what is it that is common amongst all religions? What is that underlying idea about God that all religions agree upon?

Let us very briefly glance through the beliefs of the most widespread religions of the world to find out about this.

Hinduism

Hinduism is the oldest religion that over the years has evolved on its own, with more than 828–1,000 million followers in India and all over the world. Hinduism has no founder per se and dates back to antiquity. There is some supportive evidence which proves that it existed centuries ago, even as far back as 3000 BC.

The root word for “Hindu” comes from “Indus.” People who inhabited the shores around the Indus River came to be known as Hindus and their religion came to be known as Hinduism. The term and the community were identified as such, as a result of the

various invasions across time.

Hinduism, more than a religion, is considered to be “a way of life”. Its principal pillar is *dharma*, which stands for “right action” or “duty and obligation”. Hinduism uses the concept of soul power or *atma shakti* to explain occurrences in the inner and outer world. These explanations are derived from personal experiences of various sages who appear in the Vedas. Hindus fall under sects and subsects, following different practices and rituals and possess different philosophical texts that explain God’s existence through the knowledge of specific gurus. Most Hindus believe that God is one, but known by different names. Some believe in the trinity theory of God, which states that there exist three different and important Gods by the name Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara. Although torn between different experiential and logical claims, all Hindus ultimately believe in the power of devotion to Gods and Goddesses.

An important way in which Hinduism has guided the way of life of people is by emphasizing on four basic objectives or purusharthas; namely: 1. *dharma* or righteousness in duty; 2. *artha* or wealth spent as per dharma; 3. *kama* or desire as per dharma; and 4. moksha or liberation from desires. *Moksha* is the ultimate goal. Hindus largely believe that liberation should be pursued until the end of one’s life in order to escape the vicious cycles of rebirth (i.e.

life after death) and this is based on the law of *karma*.

Hinduism is a polytheistic religion. That is, it believes in or worships more than one God. The most popular Gods amongst Hindus are Lord Shiva, Vishnu, Krishna, Rama, Ganesha and Mata (Mother).

The list of festivals that the Hindus celebrate is long and endless. Each God has a day of festival dedicated to him/her alone. For example; Shiva is worshipped on Maha Shivaratri, Ganesha on Ganesha Chaturthi, Rama on Diwali and Krishna on Krishna Janmashtmi. The Goddesses are worshipped during Navaratri and are associated with season changes and harvest.

The Vedas are considered to be the fountainhead of knowledge in India. They have been the source of numerous other forms of knowledge such as *Yoga* (a physical, mental and spiritual discipline that leads to acquisition of perfect spiritual insight and tranquility), *Jyotishya* (science of understanding the subtle influences that come to us from the greater universe), *Ayurveda* (a system of traditional medicine native to India and a form of alternative medicine), *Yagna* (a ritual of sacrifice derived from the Vedas, which is performed to please the Gods or to fulfill *sankalpas* (auspicious resolves), *Vastu* (the “science of construction” borne out of a traditional and archaic view on how the laws of nature affect human dwellings), *Tantra* (an accumulation of practices and ideas, characterized by rituals that seek to access the

supramundane through the mundane while identifying the microcosm with the macrocosm) and so on.

Hinduism, therefore, is a vast ocean, with inputs from various saints and learned people; it has evolved over the years to suit present times. It is a religion that advocates all religions are different paths leading to the one Supreme God.

Christianity

Christianity is the world's largest religion with around 2,000 million followers.

Christianity is a monotheistic religion. It is dominant in the West and is the most popular religion today in the world with followers spreading all across in large numbers. It originated in the early 1st century AD. Jesus Christ is the central figure of this faith. He was a Jew by birth and his year of birth is estimated to be between 6–4 BC. He revealed himself to the world as a preacher in Galilee after he completed 30 years of age. Also, most Christians believe that Jesus did not come to start a religion but to restore the broken relationship between mankind and God the Father- A relationship that had been broken by Sin.

The Gospels in the New Testament refer to Jesus as Son of God, as a teacher and a Messiah. According to Jesus; repentance, transformation, love for God and neighbor, and lastly love for

justice are the yardsticks that decide one's entry into the Kingdom of God.

A large number of Christians believe in the Trinity; it consists of three distinct entities—The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. According to this doctrine, there is only one God in three persons. Each person is God; whole and entire. As the Fourth Lateran Council declared, “it is the Father who generates, the Son who is begotten and the Holy Spirit who proceeds.” They are distinct in personality but intimate and one in relationship. Christianity is composed of, but not limited to, five major branches of churches; Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant; some groupings include Anglicans amongst Protestants.

The Bible says that God created man in his own image and as a perfect entity, but that it was man's sins that has degenerated and corrupted the image of God. According to Christianity, all men are born with the seed of sin and they can be liberated only by the grace of God when they surrender to “Him”.

It advocates the spirit of sacrifice since God set an example by sacrificing His only son, Jesus Christ, on the cross to bring about our redemption.

Thomas, the apostle, brought Christianity to the shores of India and introduced it for the first time in Kerala when he visited Muziris

in 52 AD to spread the gospel amongst Kerala's Jewish settlements. True Christians put God above everything and are therefore humble before God and men. They are committed to the promises and prophecies of Jesus and obey God's Commandments. Making time for prayer and trusting in Jesus are crucial to their wellbeing and happiness.

Islam

The word Islam means "submission to God", "peace" and "way of life". Islam was taught by Prophet Muhammad who is considered as the last and final prophet. He was born in Mecca (now Saudi Arabia) in 570AD. An adherent of Islam is called a Muslim. Their holy book, the Qur'an, is considered to be the direct words of God. All Muslims believe in God's oneness and feel that He stands unparalleled.

Belief in angels is one of the foundation on which the faith of Islam is based. There are 5 pillars and 6 articles of faith on which Islam rests its belief. Every devout Muslim is required to perform prayers five times a day. Fasting, called Sawm, that is, abstaining from food and drink (among other things) must be performed from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan.

Zakāt refers to the gesture of donating a fixed portion of one's wealth to the poor and needy and this process invariably aids in

the propagation of Islam.

Every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it must make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

Muslims believe that the purpose of existence is to worship God.

Judaism

Judaism is said to have been founded in 2000 BC and is therefore one of the oldest religions in the world. People who follow Judaism are known as Jews. Previously, they were known as Hebrews. Judaism is believed to have started when God formed a covenant (a sacred agreement) with the Jews through Prophet Abraham.

Judaism is said to be the founding religion of many other religions including Christianity and Islam. It continues to survive widely today with over 14 million Jews.

According to Judaism, God revealed himself to Abraham and advocated the principle of a monotheistic god. Their God is called Jehovah or Yaweh and their place of worship is known as the Synagogue.

Their holy book is called the Torah. The Torah is said to be a tablet that was given by God directly to Moses. It contains the Ten Commandments: 1. Worship no other Gods, 2. Do not worship idols, 3. Do not take the Lord's name in vain, 4. Keep the Sabbath Day holy, 5. Honor your father and mother, 6. Do not commit

murder, 7. Do not commit adultery, 8. Do not steal, 9. Do not give false testimony against your neighbor and 10. Do not covet. These commandments form the core of the Jewish beliefs.

Thus belief in a single and omnipotent God is the fundamental dogma of Judaism.

Sikhism

Sikhism, a religion of Indian origin, was founded in 1500 AD by Guru Nanak Devji (1469—1539) who was born into a Hindu family. Sikhism was born at a time when there was tension in India between Hindus and Muslims. Guru Nanak had then famously said, “There is no Hindu. There is no Muslim. So whose path shall I follow? I shall follow the way of God!” Thus the monotheistic religion Sikhism was born. Its main aim was to admonish the belief in different Gods and adhere to the principle of one God or *Ek Onkar*.

Sikhism comes from the Punjabi word *sikh* meaning “learner” or “disciple.” Today there are about 23 million Sikhs worldwide—with 19 million in India and the rest spread in other parts of the world—most prominently in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada.

Their sacred book is called the *Adi Granth* and their place of worship is the *Gurudwara*. The *Gurudwara* is the centre of the Sikh

communal life.

A Sikh's main purpose in life is to lead life by the will of God and to fight for the good of humanity and thereby become a "saint soldier."

Shintoism

Shintoism is the religion of the Japanese and is the oldest religion in Japan. Shintoism started off more as a tribal or local religion in the Edo or Tokugawa period. The word "Shinto" (way of the Gods) comes from the Chinese words "Shin," which means "spirit" and "Tao," meaning "the way." Therefore, Shintoism means "the Way of the Spirits." Shintos believes in the existence of Kamis or the "Divine Spirits" and worship them.

The number of followers is around 3–4 million. Purification rites and rituals are of great importance to a Shinto; these are performed with water (rinsing, washing, and bathing) or with the priest's wand. The rituals are performed stringently and regularly. The Shintos have shrines where most of the rituals are conducted. The most important shrine is the Izumo Shrine.

The Shintos have no scriptures, no commandments and no founder. Rather than focusing entirely on beliefs, they give importance to rituals; which include formal reading of prayers from ancient collections and making food and drink offerings to

the Kami (which is later shared in a communal meal). Shintoism is seen more as a Japanese philosophy, an aspect of Japanese life rather than as religion. Shintos peacefully co-exists with the other religions in Japan.

Shinto beliefs focus on the existence and power of the Kor Gods that exist in the world.

Bahá'í Faith

Founded by Bahá'u'lláh in Iran in 1863, the Bahá'í faith is another religion in the world. The Bahá'í faith proclaims its followers to work together for the common benefit of humanity. It is said to be the youngest independent religion in the world.

It believes that God reveals himself to humanity through His messengers. Bahá'u'lláh is believed to be the latest of these messengers who taught oneness of humanity and God, and called for harmony of religion and world peace.

The Bahá'í faith has about 500 million followers in the world.

The unique feature of this religion is that it accepts the views of all religions in the world stating that spiritual foundation of all the religions are the same.

As per Bahá'í faith, all human beings have souls that live forever. They also consider human beings as a single race and are against any sort of inequality among people.

Their concept of God is that of a force who is responsible for the creation of the entire universe and called by different names.

Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is one of the oldest monotheistic religions in the world. It was a popular religion in the ancient Iran. Zoroastrians worship Ahura Mazda as their God and their beliefs are based on the teachings of Prophet Zarathustra.

According to Zoroastrian belief, there are only two Gods – the wise God Ahura Mazda and his rival Ahriman. The followers of Zoroastrianism are supposed to follow the path of Ahura Mazda.

Zoroastrian believe in the Day of Judgment on which God would resurrect all the dead and subject to scrutiny. According to their faith, all the good souls will get a permanent place in heaven while the bad ones will be punished into a purgatory till eternity.

Zarathustra has given three commandments to his followers to help them lead a good live. They are: *humata* (good thought), *hukhta* (good word) and *havarsha* (good deeds).

It represents an original attempt at unifying under the worship of one supreme God, a polytheistic religion.

Taoism

Taoism is a philosophical and religious tradition that originated in China 2000 years ago. The word Taoism was originated from ‘Tao’

which means “way”, “path” or “principle”. Laozi is believed to be the founder of Taoism. A tradition that is deeply rooted in Chinese customs, Taoism advocates the principle of unity and opposites; it says the world is filled with complementary forces.

The number of people following Taoism is estimated to be about four hundred million.

According to Taoist beliefs, “Tao” is the ultimate power of the universe. It is indescribable and the source of everything that exists on the earth. Though Taoism has many deities worshipped in Taoist temples, “Tao” is not considered as God and is not worshipped.

Taoism advocates virtues like simplicity, detachment from desires and naturalness which promotes achieving union with nature.

Taoism does not define God or have a set concept of God. It respects and accepts every individual’s personal view about God. A Taoist god represents an enlightened immortal that helps other conscious beings work towards grace.

Sufism

Sufism is generally believed to be the mystical or esoteric or purely spiritual dimension of Islam. It is a tradition based on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad and Qur’an. It is believed to have originated between 8th and 9th centuries. The word “*Sufi*” was

derived from “*ahl-al-suffa*” which literally means “Companion of the bench”. It’s said that the early Sufis were poor Muslims who kept away from worldly activities. They lived on the benches outside the mosque where Prophet Muhammad worshipped God, hence the name Sufi – “Companion of the bench”. Another version says the word “*Sufi*” derives – from the word “*Safa*” meaning pure. As per Sufi beliefs, a true Sufi is man of purity; he is not affected by worldly affairs and accepts sufferings and pain as gift from God.

Sufism, more than a religious tradition, is a way of life – the life of faith, freedom and love. According to Sufism, the goal of life is union with God. It calls for men to be free from the bondage of ceremonies, creed, cast, rites etc and emphasizes on the inner experience and on ecstasy. Sufis believe that the soul never dies.

African Traditional Religions

African Traditional Religions are classified among the folk religions of the world. They occupy a very significant space among the world religions and known to have no founders or prophets. The religions, followed by many, are mostly community-based and handed down to generations. A rough estimate puts 100 million as the number of followers of this tradition.

The major principles of African Traditional Religions are Belief, Worship and Community Loyalty. Whether these religions are

polytheistic or monotheistic in their faith is still being debated, but all these communities believe that there is only one supreme God. Ancestral worship is significant among traditional religions.

Religions and Faith in God

What is common to all these religions? A power! All the religions we read about here have their own Gods and Goddesses and their own beliefs and rituals. Yet, they all believe that a Power exists. Each religion may visualize this Power differently, give it a different name and form, but no religion disputes the very existence of a Power.

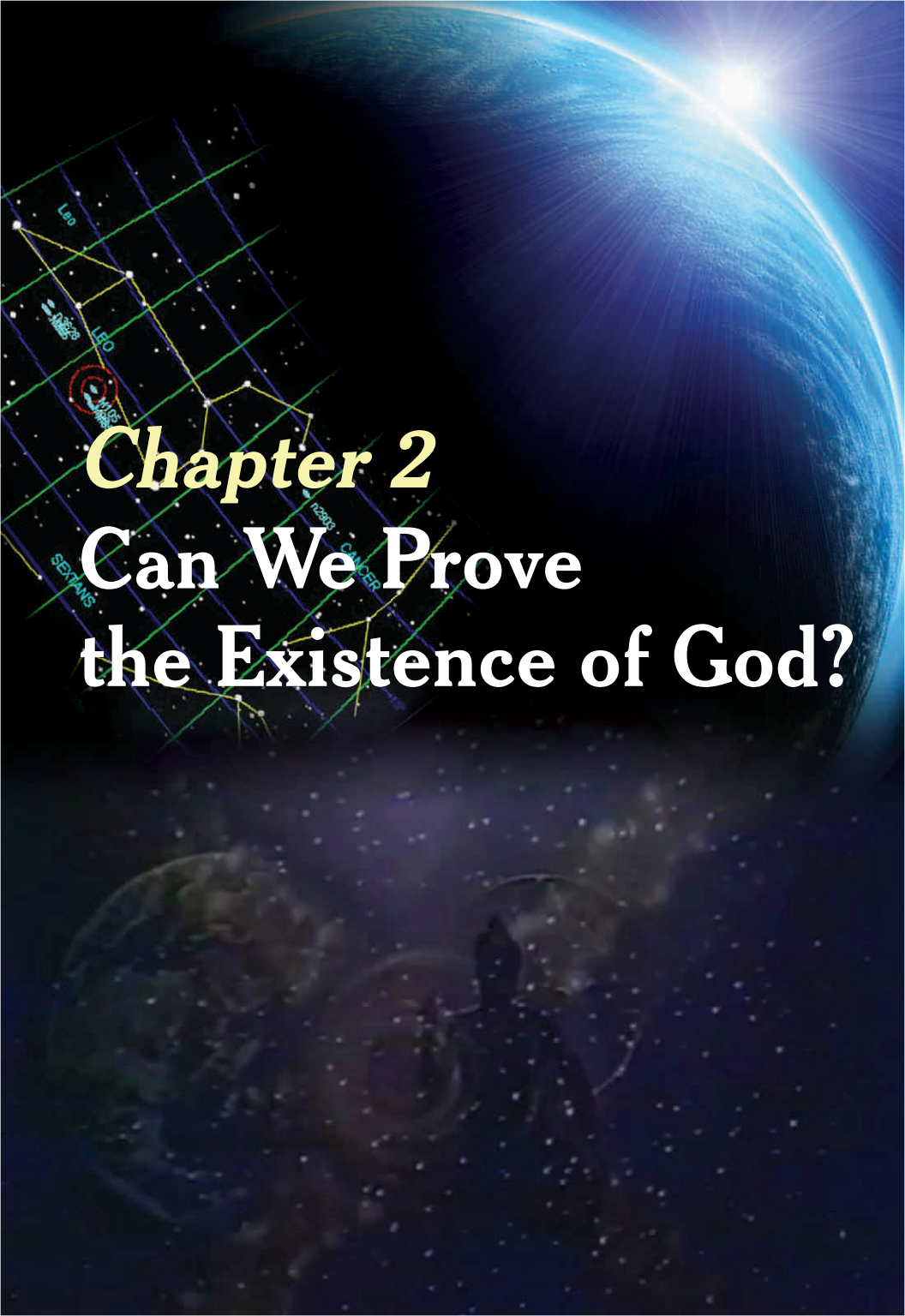
Therefore, that a Power or God exists is not debated or doubted. But has any religion seen their God? Can any religion prove that their God exists – a God who operates the universe and makes everything happen? No. Nevertheless, we know that all that happens in the world cannot just happen on its own. Somebody or some power is making it happen and it is that power, “A Power We Call God.”

*Does
any religion
dispute that
God exists?*

Essence of the chapter:

- Different people believe in different religions.
- Each religion has its own set of beliefs, rituals, practices, values, ideologies and customs.
- Religions worship different Gods and Goddesses.
- Each religion follows its own unique teachings and celebrates its own festivals.
- All religions share a common belief; the belief in a higher supreme power.
- Each religion may visualize the Power differently, give it a different form and name, but no religion denies the existence of a Power.

*There exists a power
above all Religions,
above human understanding -
A Power We Call God.*



Chapter 2

Can We Prove the Existence of God?

Most things can be logically proved and explained. Science and technology have advanced and the modern world now boasts of technologies that have made the world a global village; technology that is breaking through all the barriers of distance and bringing the whole world closer. Today you can easily talk to a person, located in some part of the world, using wireless technology. Sitting at home, you can now know of global events via satellites. Various diseases can now be cured with medication and new surgical methods have been discovered that make the world proud of its intellectual growth. A few centuries ago, nobody could have imagined that we would fly in airplanes from one continent to another or we could get information about anything in this world at the touch of a key on a computer. We may have proved, discovered and invented many such things which our ancestors could never have dreamt of; but can we prove the existence of God?

Can we see God? What does God look like? Is God male, female or beyond gender? Does God have a form or is God formless? Where does God live? Does God live somewhere in the mountains or deep in the oceans or on some other planet in the Universe? Or does God live on the sun, moon or the stars? Does God live in temples, churches or mosques? Does the Power of God exist in a statue?

Yes, God exists. We know that God exists because we know a Power has created this Universe and all the beauty in it—the snowcapped mountains, the turquoise oceans, the gushing rivers, the clouds and the breeze.

Who is the Power that we call God? Can we prove God's existence? Has anybody in this world, over the centuries, been able to prove God's existence? The answer to these questions is – No!

Many have experienced the Power, but very few claim to have seen it. Many may have visualized the Power or felt the vibrations of God; they may have seen the reflection of God in a guru or a respected family member, but nobody has been able to concretely prove the existence of God. God is beyond comprehension!

To share a small story with you- A young child was seen carrying an empty bucket on a beautiful beach at the edge of an ocean. She was filling the bucket with water from the ocean and emptying it into a hole dug on the shore. After she had emptied several buckets, an elderly gentleman who was passing by, asked the girl what she was doing. The girl replied that she was trying to empty the ocean. The man had a hearty laugh and questioned her as to how could she use a little bucket to empty the big ocean and that too into the small hole that she had dug there.

Many of us are like this innocent child, trying to discover God through our child-like innocence. The fact remains that even as the oceans may be a sign of God and the clouds, mountains and flowers may represent God's glory, we cannot yet prove God's existence. Can we take a picture of God? We may be able to take the picture of a statue or even the sunrise, the sunset, the moon and the stars, but we cannot take a picture of God.

The camera of our life has a lens that is insignificantly small to capture the greatness and complexity of God. God is beyond invention, beyond discovery and beyond proof! We can "experience" God in our inner worlds and do so only if we have Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm and Trust.

Essence of the chapter:

- No one has seen God; we cannot prove God's existence.
- There are many questions regarding God that we have no answers for.
- While nobody can prove God's existence; all religions believe that God exists.
- The nature around us is an example of our Creator's work.

*We cannot touch or see God.
God can only be
“experienced”-
An experience
we put our belief in.*

Chapter 3

Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm and Trust



What is FAITH? The word “FAITH” is an acronym for “Full Assurance In The Heart”. It is a belief, an assurance and the acceptance of a truth—the truth that a Power exists; A Power called God. Once you believe that the power exists, your subconscious and conscious mind opens up to the possibilities of this belief and you begin to see its advantages and the insights it brings. It then gradually becomes your philosophy, your choice and the very foundation of your life.

What does faith do? Faith makes you believe; it makes you trust and gives you total assurance in the heart. Therefore, faith makes you surrender; it helps you to let go and accept the divine will. Faith helps you live with peace and tranquility. It brings positive energy and all the positive emotions like courage, confidence, compassion and optimism that come with it. Faith reassures us that God is in charge and makes us realize that God exists. Faith gives us the courage and confidence to Believe and this makes our life truly successful and full of Joy, Bliss, Contentment and Fulfillment.

When we wake up in the morning, we don't go and check if the sun has risen. We know the sun will rise every morning; we don't doubt it- That is FAITH!

Faith creates hope. It makes you believe in a Power that made this Universe; a Power that made you and me. Faith generates strong

positive emotions such as Hope that multiply the belief that faith initiates. While faith makes us believe and gives us the assurance that God exists, hope gives us the expectation that we will be able to feel and experience the power of God.

Faith initiates the discovery of experiencing God, but it is hope that energizes it. Together, faith and hope create an environment wherein we can firmly believe in God. They generate a power, a spirit and an energy that brings us closer to the Power we call God. The word “HOPE” is the acronym for “Having Only Positive Expectations”. To Hope is to believe that whatever has to happen will happen for the best. Hope generates positive emotions like optimism. When we live without hope we become hopeless because we are unable to expect positive results under any circumstance.

Hope is the key to experience God. God cannot be seen; God needs to be felt, believed and experienced - the only way to do so is through hope. If one believes that God does not exist, then one can never experience that Power called God. When we have positive expectations and believe that there is a power that created this Earth we shall experience God.

“I believe in this power and I know that this power will take care of me. I completely trust this power and depend on this power.” When you live with these thoughts, your life will be transformed. A

true believer has positive expectations and has the hope that one day he will experience God. Whereas a nonbeliever does not even accept the existence of God, and thus he will never believe that he will connect with God. A believer believes, hopes and experiences just as a nonbeliever does not believe, is hopeless and never experiences. Therefore, to truly experience God we must choose hope. We must only have positive expectations; which means that we must completely eliminate negative expectations. We must not let negative thoughts take charge of our life because the minute that happens, it completely destroys our life and eliminates the possibility of believing, accepting and experiencing God.

Hope allows us to perceive what we cannot otherwise see but does not rule out the possibility of thinking logically about the Power called God. Hope eliminates doubt and generates enthusiasm.

“ENTHUSIASM” comes from the Greek words “en” meaning “in” and “theos” meaning “God” or in other words, “Belief in God”. Those who live with faith and hope develop a spirit of enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is inspiration. It is a Power within oneself, generated from the belief in God. Together, faith and hope build enthusiasm and an enthusiastic person believes and lives in the name of God.

What does Enthusiasm do? Enthusiasm creates a situation where we believe in God, trust in God, live in God, have faith in God and have hope in God. Enthusiasm makes us completely trust. It makes

us feel powerful, happy, confident and courageous; leading us to truly experience God. How can we experience God if we don't believe in God and if we don't trust in God?

Enthusiasm strengthens our faith and reinforces our hope; building more courage, confidence and positive energy. This in turn creates optimism, love and cheer. The three emotions – Faith, Hope and Enthusiasm – eliminate worry, doubt, fear, ego and revenge from the human heart. The inspiration that comes from enthusiasm, born out of faith and hope, transforms us into stronger human beings who believe and therefore achieve.

What do faith, hope and enthusiasm do? Together, they create a new state of being; a true state of the mind called Trust. What is TRUST? It is: T-Total R-Reliance U- Unconditional S- Surrender T- To the Almighty. When one has faith he has full assurance in the heart, when one has hope he has only positive expectation, and when one has enthusiasm he believes in the power and completely trusts, surrenders and relies on this power. The moment we surrender and rely on this power, we start experiencing and feeling this power. Trust along with faith, hope and enthusiasm completes the circle of creating a situation where we will experience and feel God.

What happens when a person doesn't trust God? He doesn't have faith, hope and enthusiasm. Such a person doesn't believe in God.

When there is a lack of trust or the total surrender in God, one doesn't acknowledge and experience this power called God. Together, Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm and Trust build a positive character and help us live a meaningful life with a sense of fulfillment. With these we realize that a Power exists—A Power we call God; a Power that protects, forgives and guides us and a Power that moulds and makes us who we are.

Without faith, hope, enthusiasm and trust, people live a life full of negativity and hence are filled with doubt, fear and anxiety. People who live without enthusiasm are often hostile and de-motivated, and because they have no faith, they do not believe. Although they cannot prove the non-existence of God, they do not even acknowledge that such a Power could exist. They do not want to acknowledge the possibility of a Power or a positive energy source that could help them sail through the journey of life with joy and a sense of purpose, and make their dreams come true!

Choose to live with faith, hope, enthusiasm and trust. If you choose to live with FAITH (Full Assurance in The Heart), if you choose to live with HOPE (Having Only Positive Expectations), if you choose to live with ENTHUSIASM (living 'with God' and 'in God') and you choose to TRUST (Total Reliance Unconditional Surrender To The Almighty), you will truly connect with the Power we call God. Building a connection with the Power is very

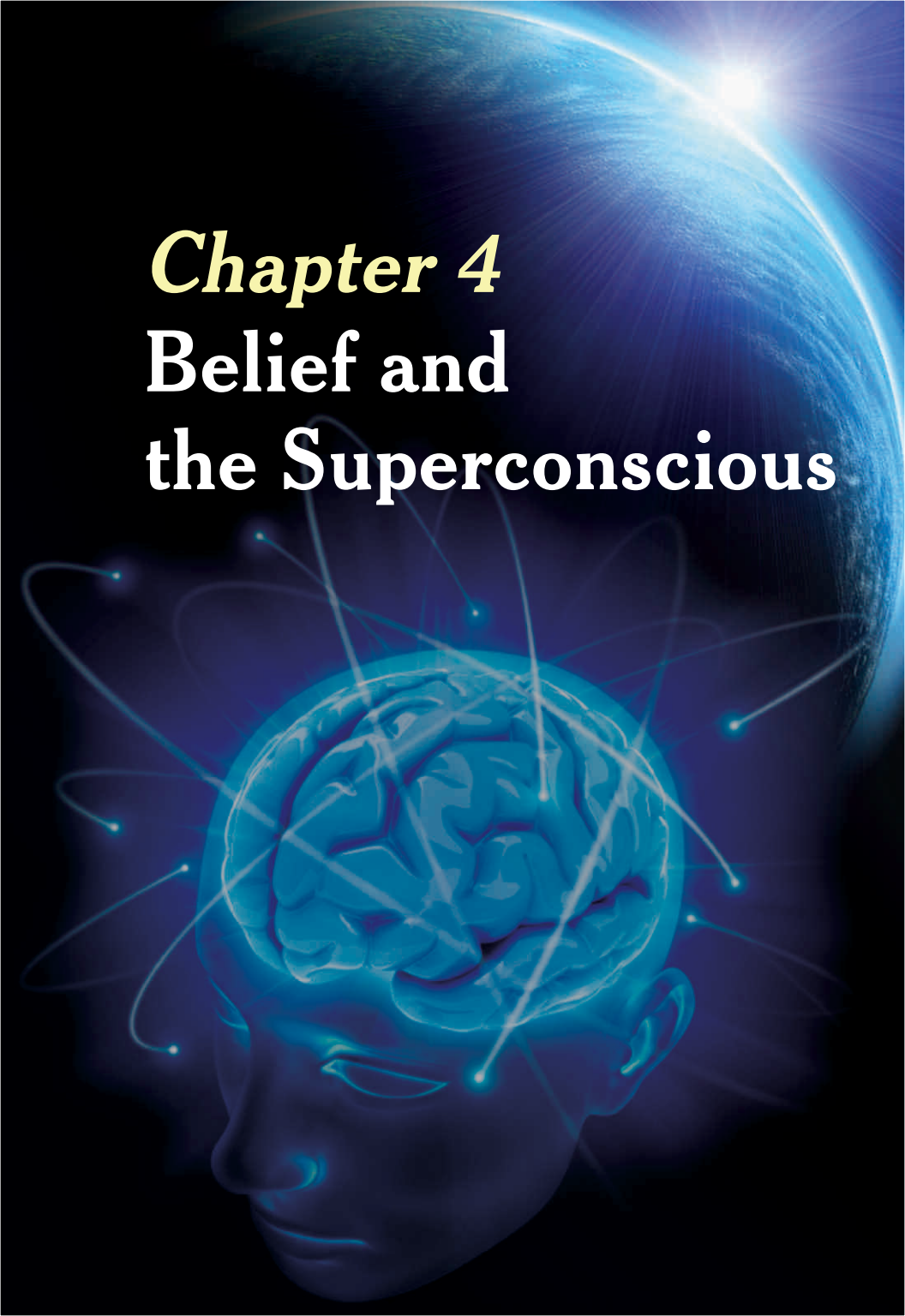
important because that's the way forward to become one with the Creator. Do you believe in such a Power? Do you believe that God exists? Is your mind programmed with faith and hope or do you live a life of doubt and despair? Have you tapped into your subconscious and superconscious faculties to introspect and understand the Power we call God? If you have, then the contents of the next chapter should excite you and further enrich your journey. If you haven't, then how about beginning now?

*Imagination
is activating the
SIM card
of your
super conscious.*

Essence of the chapter:

- Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm and Trust nurture our belief in a higher Power.
- Faith is Full Assurance in the Heart, it helps us trust, bringing along peace and harmony.
- Faith creates Hope- Having Only Positive Expectations.
- Hope makes us believe and generates positivity.
- Faith and Hope bring Enthusiasm; as a result courage, confidence and positive vibrations.
- Enthusiasm strengthens our faith and reinforces our hope.
- Together, Faith, Hope and Enthusiasm bring Trust (Total Reliance Unconditional Surrender To the Almighty). Only when one completely Trusts can he experience and feel the power of God.
- Negative energies are eliminated by Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm and Trust.

*Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm and Trust
connect us to
the Power we call God.*



Chapter 4
**Belief and
the Superconscious**

Each one of us has the choice to believe or disbelieve, to live with faith or doubt, to live with hope or despair and to live with enthusiasm or indifference.

When we are born, we are taught several things by our parents and teachers that get ingrained in our minds. We are made to believe in a religion and a God. Thus, many of us are paralyzed by our habits and beliefs. As a result, we never exercise the opportunity to choose and believe what we like. We are so molded and preset in our beliefs that we continue to flow like a river would; always within its pre-formed and confined banks.

Do you know that it is your belief that creates your thoughts, feelings, actions, habits, character and finally your destiny? Do you know that you can choose your beliefs and even change them? You can do this only if you understand the power of your mind and will.

You must have heard the saying- As you believe, so you achieve! Whatever you believe in, if it's strong enough, you will surely achieve. Belief is powerful and can attract whatever you want in life. Even though all this is true, the world has still neither realized the power of belief nor has understood how it can help in achieving whatever one wants. The world has not yet discovered the Power of the Mind.

Most people in the World think that the mind has only two domains - The Conscious and the Subconscious. But, the mind

actually has three domains— Conscious, Subconscious and the Superconscious. When we are born, our mind is blank; tabula rasa or 'blank slate'; as some call it. As we grow, every thought, action and reaction gets registered in our subconscious mind and takes the form of our habits and beliefs. Soon the subconscious mind starts directing our very life. Many people think that once our character is molded it cannot be changed. The fact is that we can change our character and destiny anytime we want by changing our beliefs. It is a slow process and quite similar to the process of weeding out the weeds in a garden to plant roses instead. Similarly, we have to weed out the old beliefs and plant new ones in our minds. Although the process is lengthy and tiresome, it is worth the effort because it will finally bear great rewards. A nonbeliever, leading his life with doubt, despair and anxiety, can turn into a believer by living with faith, hope and enthusiasm. Not only will the non-believer turn into a believer, but also his entire life will be transformed; connecting him to the Power we call God.

We are all familiar with the conscious mind that guides us to walk, talk and live. We are also familiar with the subconscious mind, which controls our breathing, memory and the domains that are involuntary but necessary. However, the world is quite ignorant about the superconscious mind.

What is a superconscious mind? The superconscious mind is that

domain of the mind which is beyond the conscious and the subconscious. It is the most powerful domain. It acts like a SIM card of a mobile phone, which is able to both receive and transmit signals to the universe. Unfortunately most people don't value and acknowledge the presence of the superconscious mind. Not only can it attract information, but also help us by receiving signals from the universe. It transmits into the universe the questions or the perplexities it is in for the universe to give back answers. The superconscious receives these answers through its receiver and passes it on to the subconscious and the conscious mind and then uses this creative power for imagination and creativity.

It is only when one believes in God that one will be able to believe in the superconscious mind. Understanding the existence of the superconscious mind is a blessing only a believer gets because a nonbeliever will always question how one can prove the existence of the superconscious. A nonbeliever may ask, "What's the guarantee that it exists? Has it been proven scientifically that there is a superconscious mind?" Well, one who believes does not ask these questions because the believer knows that there is something called intuition, telepathy, imagination, sixth sense and hunches. The believers understand, experience and live with the knowledge that there is a superconscious mind. The belief in a believer acknowledges the superconscious and then uses its

power to achieve. The nonbeliever lives with the ignorance of the presence of the superconscious and unfortunately can never experience its power.

When we believe with faith, hope, enthusiasm and trust, we create an impression on our Subconscious mind, leading it to create habits and beliefs about the existence of a Power we call God.

When the conscious and subconscious minds are vibrating with faith, hope, enthusiasm, trust and belief, it triggers the superconscious mind to vibrate and connect to the frequency of the Universal Power.

The superconscious domain of our mind connects us with the Universal Power and through the Universal Power; it connects us with the minds of other people as well. Those who believe, program their superconscious mind to send and receive signals to and from the Universe. But those who do not believe live with anxiety, fear and worry. They vibrate this negative energy to the superconscious mind and the Universe sends negativity; thus letting their conscious and the subconscious mind attract negative energy. As a result they themselves create poison that limits their dreams and aspirations; in turn, their achievements in life.

It is true that only a few people live life with faith, hope, enthusiasm and trust that leads them to believe and achieve. Such people are indeed fortunate and blessed; they pray and use the

power of prayer to strengthen their superconscious mind and its connection with the Universal Power.

So just ask yourself, “Do I live with faith, hope, enthusiasm, trust and belief? Is my superconscious mind activated? Have I experienced a thought that came from nowhere? Do imagination, sixth sense and hunches lead me to believe and thus to achieve, or is this territory unknown to me?” If it is unknown, now is the time to stop and build your faith, hope, enthusiasm and trust so that you too can believe and achieve. You too can connect with the Universal Power to strengthen and energize your life!

If you already live with faith, hope, enthusiasm, trust and belief, then you must have experienced the Power that comes from the Universe. It's time for you to embrace that connection and make it even stronger, triggering your superconscious and creating a channel to receive the supreme energy. The simplest way to activate your superconscious is through Prayer.

*Prayer is a simple way
to connect with God.*

Essence of the chapter:

- Beliefs create thoughts.
- Thoughts, actions and reactions form our habits and character.
- Character and destiny can be altered with change in beliefs.
- As you believe, so you achieve. Believers are achievers.
- Our mind makes us believe on the basis of our thoughts and habits.
- Most people are only familiar with the Conscious and Subconscious mind. There exists another domain- the Superconscious mind; the most powerful.
- The superconscious mind receives and transmits signals to and from the universe.
- The Superconscious mind is responsible for intuition, imagination, telepathy, sixth sense and genius.
- The superconscious mind of a believer, along with Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm and Trust, gets a believer closer to the Power we call God.
- A believer tunes into the superconscious mind and receives powerful ideas, thoughts and solutions that strengthen and energize, and lead to achievement.

The image features a person's hands clasped in prayer, glowing with a bright blue light. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame. In the background, a large, glowing blue Earth is visible, with a bright sun or star in the upper right corner, creating a lens flare effect. The overall color scheme is monochromatic blue, with varying intensities of light and shadow.

Chapter 5
Prayer

What is Prayer? Is it the chanting of hymns, going to a temple, church or mosque, meditating, talking to God or listening to God? Let us explore more. Different people have different comprehension of what they consider as prayer. Those who believe that God is a statue, pray to it. They even touch and hug the statue as if they are actually touching God. But is God actually in that statue? Does praying to that idol mean anything?

True Prayer is connecting with God, communicating with God and talking with God. It is surrendering one's entire self wholeheartedly without manipulation or concealment of anything.

Those who do not understand who God is and where God is do not understand the true meaning of prayer as well. They think that the only way to pray is to go to a religious place like a temple or a church. But is that correct?

While temples, churches and idols do symbolize God and inspire us to think and pray; God does not dwell only inside the walls of these buildings. God is present everywhere. The supreme Power expresses itself through all the creations on this Earth and therefore we can see God in the sun, moon, stars, birds, animals and flowers. We can experience God in all his creations.

So, what is true Prayer? True prayer means believing and accepting God. It is living with Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm, Trust and Belief. It is

living in the ever presence of our Master, our Creator. In whatever form we may see God, prayer is about communicating, talking and expressing ourselves in front of God. It also means to wait in silence for an answer from God, and the answers always come. True prayer is being connected; at all times to the Power we call God.

We may visualize God as Lord Shiva, Jesus Christ, Allah, Rama, Krishna or Buddha. It doesn't matter how we think of God. Prayer is being able to acknowledge God through these forms and then communicating with love and devotion.

There are no rules for Prayer. There is no fixed time for Prayer. Some people believe that God is available only for certain hours and only during certain days. But, God is available all the time, on all the days. The Power we call God is omnipresent, always waiting for us to connect. Those who pray with their true heart, concentration, faith and devotion are able to connect with the Power we call God and communicate well. When a strong link is established through Prayer, one can receive messages and signals from the Power; through one's superconscious.

The superconscious gets activated after one transcends and reaches the peak of Faith and Belief. At this stage, the superconscious starts vibrating at a frequency at which it can communicate with the Power. It then receives a reply from the

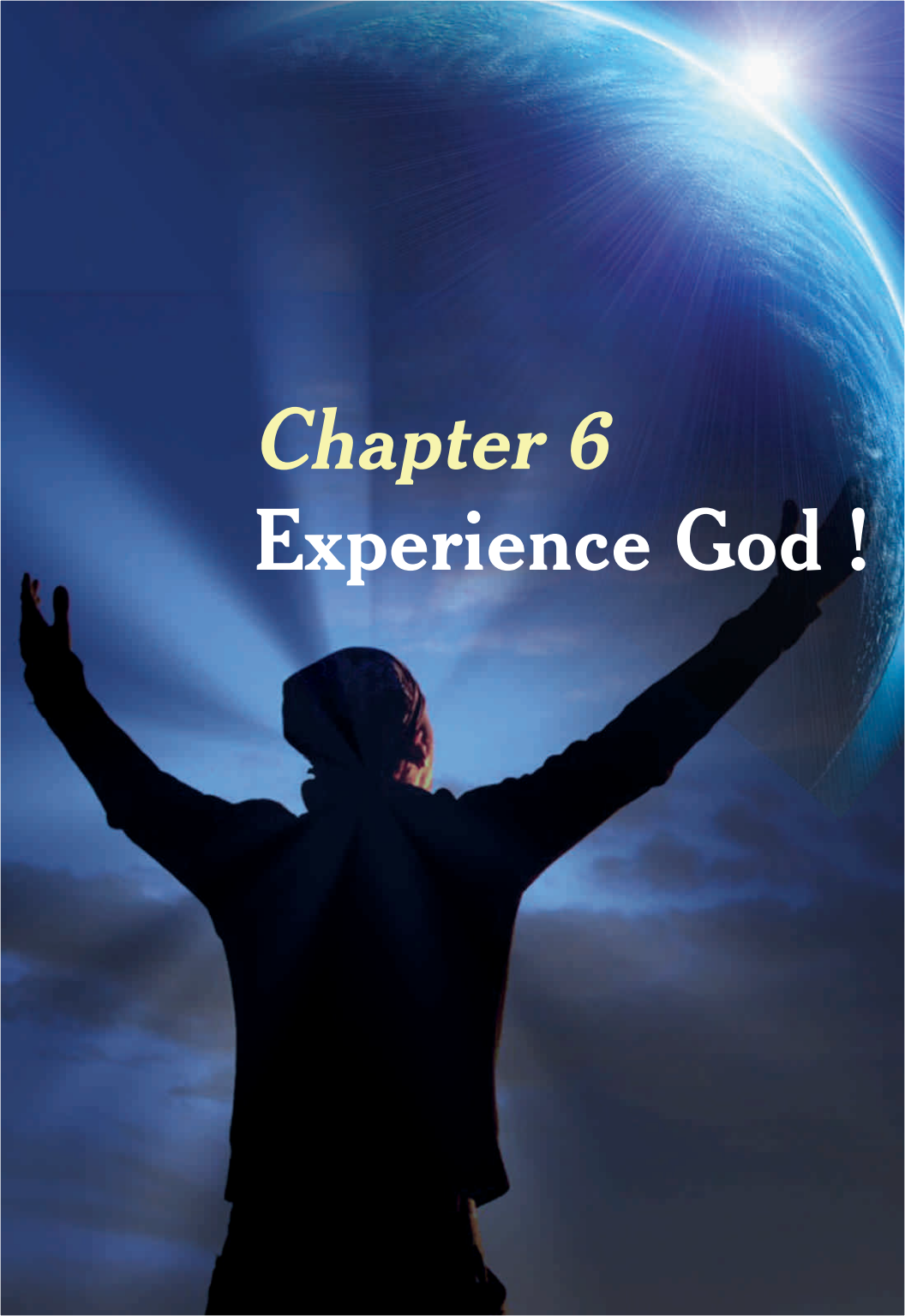
Universal Power through a voice or an earthly circumstance that can be an indication. Sometimes, the superconscious receives God's message through imagination, intuition, sixth sense or hunches; like a spark that comes from nowhere. Only those who believe and have Faith, Hope, Enthusiasm, Trust and Belief can experience this. This is because if you don't believe, your superconscious is switched off and is incapable of receiving signals from the Universal Power; just like a mobile phone when switched off is incapable of receiving or sending signals.

Prayer is also a process of thanking God. It can be practiced by repeating a mantra (a sound representation of God), by a shloka (verses in praise of God) or by taking the name of God. Prayer can be performed on any day, at any time and at any place. While it is advisable to pray in a silent place; praying in front of an idol or at a religious place of worship also yields results as it helps in focusing. An idol or a religious destination creates an environment of peace, which helps one to concentrate upon prayer and avoid getting distracted.

Prayer works! Ask those who have used Prayer to connect with God and you will realize that Prayer actually works. Do you pray? Do you communicate with the power called God? Do you have Faith? Do you believe in the Power we call God? If you don't believe in the Power, then how can you experience God?

Essence of the chapter:

- We Pray to connect, communicate and talk with God.
- God does not dwell just in Temples, Churches or Mosques or even in Idols.
- God is omnipresent.
- True prayer is accepting and believing in God wholeheartedly.
- God is available at all times and at all places.
- Although it is good to go to a place of worship that helps us concentrate on God, it is not necessary to go to a place of worship to Pray.
- Prayer is a process of thanking God and showing our gratitude, as we communicate with God.
- Prayer establishes a link with God; in turn, we receive messages and signals through our superconscious, or some other means, that connects us with the Power we call God.
- Prayer works for those who genuinely pray with the intention of truly connecting with God.

A person in silhouette stands with their back to the camera, arms raised in a gesture of praise or awe. The background is a deep blue sky with a large, glowing orb, possibly the Earth or a planet, in the upper right corner. The orb is illuminated from the top right, creating a bright lens flare and casting a soft glow over the scene. The overall mood is one of spiritual contemplation and wonder.

Chapter 6
Experience God !

Nobody can 'see' God, but everybody can 'experience' God. Different people may take different amount of time to connect with God, depending on the amount of faith, hope, enthusiasm, trust and belief they have; but everybody can experience God. In fact, experiencing God is easy because it is a natural process. To experience God, we must first acknowledge God. We must accept the existence of the Supreme Power. We have already established that there is a Power; a Power that created the entire Universe. Hence, there should be no doubt regarding the existence of God. Though we cannot see, touch, or feel God, we all can experience God. Let us see how we can do that.

Surrender yourself to the Creator with the faith that the Power exists, with the hope that you will be able to connect, and with the belief that the Power will connect back to you. You will create a vibration in your mind that will be able to communicate to the Power we call God. You will then feel the Power of God.

Not everybody can experience the Power of God in a sunrise because they don't have true faith. They don't acknowledge that the sun is a creation of God and that its appearance as a beautiful red ball at dawn indicates the presence of that Power.

Those who believe in God actually feel the vibration from the Universal Power at times such as dusk or dawn. You can also experience God on a dark night when the moon shines amongst

the stars. If you really want to experience God, you can do that anywhere! Some have experienced God when they are high up in an airplane and their flight zooms through the clouds. Some experience God in the mountains, while others experience God in the rivers and the oceans. Ask the divers who have dived deep into the ocean and swam close to the colorful and lively ocean floor. They will tell you how amazed they were at God's creation as they swam amongst the corals and the colorful fish that came so close, as if to kiss them!

The beauty of God's creations helps believers experience God all the time. If we don't experience God when we see a beautiful bird or a loving dog wagging its tail, it only shows that we don't acknowledge the Power of God. Thus, the faculty of our superconscious mind is shut off and the vibration from the Universal Power does not reach us.

To experience God and the vibrations that come from the Universal Power, we have to be in a "switched on" mode; tuning in to the frequency of faith, hope, enthusiasm, trust and belief. Sometimes we have to activate our frequency by patiently repeating the divine name. We have to aspire and wait for the signal, sometimes for days, weeks, months or even years!

Many people have experienced God; some have even felt the divine voice talking to them. If it is not a voice speaking to them,

then coincidentally; a person, a circumstance or a situation gives them the impression that God exists. You can experience God only if you want to. It is not difficult, but sometimes it may seem impossible. You must make up your mind to experience God. You must decide to connect to the Power with full faith, hope, enthusiasm, trust and belief. Sometimes you experience God because you pray in the right way. There are people who pray for hours and days trying to experience God, but fail, because their mind is very distracted and they are unable to “catch” God’s frequency.

Experiencing God is magical! When you look at the sun, the moon, the stars, the birds, the animals and the flowers with the intention of experiencing God, you will find the entire nature filled with magic.

One may look at a beautiful rose and crush it, losing out the opportunity of experiencing God. But someone else can look at an ant crawling, with amazement and gratefulness, bowing down to the Power that made a dot-sized creature move without a battery or a charger! So, God exists. God exists everywhere! Alas! We do not program ourselves to experience God! It is thus that we say, “God is nowhere”. But the one who experiences God says “God is now–here!” The word NOWHERE becomes NOW HERE when you program yourself to aspire, believe and experience the Power of God.

How can you experience God? Where is God? Where does God live? How does God look like? The best way to experience God is to imagine God's presence. Just as a kite flying high up in the sky; you can't see the kite but the thread is in your hand and you can feel the presence of the kite in your hand. In the same way, even though you cannot see God, you can experience God.

The first step to experience God is to acknowledge God; to make God real in our life and to realize that God exists. We don't know where God is or how God looks like. Who is God? What is God? Nobody knows. But we know God exists and because we are sure that God exists, we must learn to experience, not discover God.

Why do we not experience God? Because most of the time we are trying to discover or find God. We go to a temple, a church or a mosque to see God. God is not to be seen, but experienced. You experience God's power when you let go and let God take charge of your life and surrender and accept the divine will. Those who experience God feel the presence of God at all times. When they wake up in the morning, the beautiful rising sun reminds them of God's presence because they understand some power must have made the sun, sky, clouds and the beautiful light that spreads across the horizon. As the day gets along, you hear the birds chirping; who made the birds? Who made them fly up in the sky? Some Power did; there again you feel God. Likewise, as you start

your day, there are people around you whom you love – your family, your friends. You experience God when you understand that all these beautiful people are created by that power we call God. Look at yourself closely. You are unique yourself– your eyes, nose, mouth, ears, hands, head and heart are unique! Then you will feel grateful to God for creating you. Can't you experience God when you look at yourself in a mirror and wonder who made this amazing being? All these little acts remind you to think about God. As you see the sun that glows, the water that flows and the wind that blows, you will realize that all these are created by God.

We can experience God all the time; in the dark skies, the twinkling stars and the shining moon. Simple things like the blowing breeze and the swaying trees remind us that God exists. We thus feel the power and the presence of God.

Do you believe in the Power we call God? Although it's true that those who don't believe in God will never experience God, it is not necessary for all those who believe in God to experience God. You have to evolve and grow. As you grow in your belief, faith, hope, trust and enthusiasm, you will start feeling the presence of God.

I experience God all the time– morning, afternoon, evening and night. Whether I am travelling, singing God's bhajans or doing some work; I experience God. I experience God in my work because I don't believe it's me who is doing the work; I believe it is

God doing the work through me. My hands move because of God, I speak with the power of God and even my mind functions with God's grace. My imagination and my ideas come from my superconscious mind that is always connected with God. I don't know where God is, who God is or what God is, but I know God is! I have experienced God; you too can. You can experience God if you are a strong believer. If you accept the Power called God, you will feel God all the time. Initially you may feel God occasionally, but as your belief grows, you will start feeling the presence of God at all times. Once you start feeling the presence of God, God will be a part of your life. The Power will surround you, touch you and embrace you. You will never be disconnected from that Power. You will live without fear, and live with faith. You will live as a believer; as a little child of God. Just as a child holds his father's hand, you too will hold God's invisible hand all the time. Although you can't see, touch or feel God, you can experience God touching you and taking care of you. There is a beautiful poem called footprints. It beautifully explains how God takes care of us even in utmost tough times. Here's the poem:

Footprints

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,

other times there was one only.

This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,

when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,

I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,

"You promised me Lord,

that if I followed you,

you would walk with me always.

But I have noticed that during
the most trying periods of my life

there have only been one
set of footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,

"The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you."

God will never desert us. Let us learn to be connected with God, let us not forget God. The moment we forget God, we stop experiencing God. The moment we go distant from God, God disappears. Not because God went away from us, but because we went away from God. Let us learn to be closely connected with God at all times. If we learn the art of experiencing God, God will become real in our life. Love God, accept God and believe in God.

When do I experience God? All the time! Whenever I meet a beautiful person, I see God is in that person and thank God for making that person. When I eat food, I close my eyes in gratitude and experience God. When birds open their wings and fly, I experience God in awe. When I see mountains and rivers, trees and fruits, I experience God. I experience God when I see the wonders created by God. There are so many things God created. I can't imagine a single day without seeing and feeling the beauty of God.

Experiencing God gives you joy, bliss and fulfillment. It makes you cheerful, it makes you smile and it makes you feel relaxed. It gives you faith and it gives you courage and confidence. Therefore, try to experience God all the time. It is not difficult; you only need to cultivate the habit. Once you cultivate the habit of experiencing God, your life will be transformed.

Essence of the chapter:

- To experience God one must first acknowledge and accept the existence of a Supreme Power.
- We can experience God through His many creations all around us- the Sun, the Moon, the stars, the animals, the birds and the flowers.
- Vibrations from the Supreme Power only reach those who believe.
- Don't try to Discover God- Experience God!
- God can be experienced everywhere and at all times.

*Cultivate
the habit of
experiencing God,
and your life
will be transformed.*

Chapter 7

My Faith Story



This book would be incomplete without the story of my Faith, my Hope, my Enthusiasm, my Trust, my Belief and my Experience with God. I have not seen God, but I feel the presence of God everywhere, all the time. I admit that there were times when my negative energies poisoned me into a non-God frequency and my link got cut off. But today, after many years of trust, belief and prayer, I feel blessed to be connected almost at all times with the power called God.

My grandfather was a staunch believer...

It all started 39 years ago when I was barely eight years old. I can still remember the days when I used to accompany my grandfather to visit the old Shiv temple. My grandfather was a staunch believer in God; he always thanked God for whatever happened and for all the blessings he received. To him, there was indeed a Power that ruled the world. One sad facet of my grandfather's life was that he was afflicted with polio and was thus restricted to a wheelchair for most of his later years of life. But this in no way prevented him from feeling happy, content and fulfilled. He used to visit the temple every day and sang bhajans (devotional songs). He would fast every Monday and spend the remaining part of the day in quiet remembrance of God. He shared with me the reasons to believe that God exists and considered surrendering and living with faith as the best way to live life. His life conveyed the message that there

can be no fear when God is there; God is all-powerful and hence, we should choose to live with faith rather than fear.

He taught me how to fast, pray and connect with the power of God. At an age when most children can hardly understand the world, he left a lasting impression of hope, faith and belief on my young and impressionable mind.

My father was also a strong believer. It was with his support that I continued my spiritual journey. If I am ever asked about it, I would say that my grandfather was the “starting point for my faith” and my father moved my faith a notch higher. But most importantly, the Power called God itself kept pushing me higher.

My success and achievement can be strongly attributed to my belief in God’s existence. So, while my friends were playing and enjoying life, I was visiting temples. At that point of time I wasn’t even aware of my subconscious mind which was being programmed to connect to the Power that we call God. Faith and Hope grew stronger, and became a habit for me. Today, I am proud to have a life that has been built upon a strong foundation laid by my grandfather. He helped me nurture the roots of faith, and today, the shoots and fruits have grown so strong that they are able to reach out to others in an effort to spread the belief in the power of faith and turn others into believers. I am grateful to him and my father for helping me begin my journey of faith and hope. I

hope I will continue this journey till the very end.

Our Belief in Lord Shiva and Celebrating Maha Shivaratri:

My grandfather impressed upon me the power of Lord Shiva and the important yearly festival, Maha Shivaratri; the day when Shiva's grace is at its peak. On Maha Shivaratri, we would stay awake all night, in an attempt to show gratitude to God. We would sing bhajans (spiritual songs) and chant God's name from ten in the night till four in the morning. Not many people joined us, but those who had faith and belief, and wanted to connect with Lord Shiva, stayed awake that night.

My grandfather started that tradition, after which, Maha Shivaratri acquired prime importance in my life. Over the years, it has become the most important day of the year for me. It continues to generate positive energy, faith and hope in me and in all those who are close to me. We prepare for this auspicious day months in advance. This is the day when millions of devotees experience spiritual vibrations from God. Maha Shivaratri helped us tremendously in reaffirming our faith in God. We spend entire 24 hours of this special day doing nothing else but remembering God. My grandfather suggested to his sons and grandchildren, including me, that they devote this special day entirely to God. On this day, for the past 38 years, all our businesses remain shut. The purpose behind this is to not let our minds focus on anything else. One's

entire being must concentrate only on God, the one who gave us this life.

The Faith Link Continued:

My father taught me how faith can build positive energy and how courage, hope and enthusiasm sprout in those who believe. He taught me that by being enthusiastic, we can live in God and with God, and only then, we can have faith and hope. When we have faith and hope, we can believe and thereby achieve too.

No doubt, it was my grandfather who influenced my tender mind, but if I can think of anyone who actually took my faith forward and sparked its fire in me, it was my father! For the past 19 years, my father has been going to the Shiv Temple every day from his store. He drives for one hour just to reach the temple. He continues this practice even today. His faith in God is so strong and unshakeable that he not only lives with faith, but also spreads the word of God.

Apart from helping me build a connection with God, my father also led me on the path of positive attitude and thinking. He inspired me to begin a new life that allows me to do humanitarian, inspirational and spiritual work. He taught me not to fear. He taught me that I need to be courageous, and to know that God exists. He always believed that God is bigger than the biggest possible problem. He taught me to believe that nothing bad would happen tomorrow because God will be there tomorrow too and

that God has approved of everything that has happened yesterday. My father built my character and encouraged me to believe in God. He is the primary inspiration for me to write this book. It is because of these two people, who came before me that I am able to share with the world the fact that a “Supreme Shakti” (Universal Power) or God exists.

I am ever grateful to both my grandfather and father who created this link and gave me the opportunity to take this link forward to my future generations so that people all around the world can believe in it and subsequently achieve and experience God’s power.

I attribute all the success in my business to my faith, hope and enthusiasm. I pray every morning. Whenever there was a problem in my business, I prayed to God and as if by magic the problem would be resolved. It seemed like God was looking down from heaven and blessing me, and helping me resolve problems and overcome challenges. God gave me dreams which seemed impossible at first but were made possible later. Faith helped me delete the word “impossible” from my vocabulary and dictionary. My strong faith in God gifted me with a personality of courage and confidence, a personality aspect that I like to call PMA – Positive Mental Attitude.

As days went by, my father separated from his brothers and we

moved on to open a new brand called “Kids Kemp”. Though we did not have enough money to build it initially, it later became one of India’s largest retail stores for kids by the name of “Big Kids Kemp”. We are humbly grateful for our success and for every gift that God has bestowed upon us. Together we climbed one peak after the other, achieving success, one after the other. We knew that it was impossible to have achieved this success without God. My father and I continued building our faith together. As days passed, our belief in God grew stronger and we were able to express our faith every day, every moment. We shared this not only between ourselves, but also with our extended family and with the team members who worked with us. We made them believers too, and today many are living a life of faith, hope, trust and enthusiasm. While we were thinking of building an even bigger empire, we realized that “Service to humanity is prayer to God” and hence, we decided to start a humanitarian venture. We set up a trust called the “Humanitarian Hands” and built a hospital called the “RVM Foundation Hospital”. Through this venture, we help people who are suffering on the streets and provide them with all the basic needs and medical care. We look at them as a God-sent opportunity. For us, they are not human beings, but God in disguise. Our faith in God helps us make a difference in the world by reducing pain and suffering, vibrating positive energy and

reaching out to the poorest of the poor who have no money for clothing, food and medication. We reach out to them and serve them, knowing that we are serving God.

And then a Miracle Happened...

Our success in business and in our humanitarian work inspired both my father and me to think of something spiritual, and so we decided to build a temple. As my mind was filled with thoughts of building this temple, an idea, like a flash of lightning from God, occurred to me and I immediately visualized it. I decided that a huge idol of Lord Shiva should be built with Ganga flowing from Lord Shiva's head. Coincidentally, my father too had a similar vision – the vision to build such a temple. My father and I discussed this idea and we made this vision our goal.

Initially, the idea seemed impossible, even to dream! A huge idol right in the center of the city, without an architect, land and money—how could it happen? But it finally did happen! Our dream became a reality. There could be no greater miracle in my life than the building of this Temple and statue of Lord Shiva. Even today, when I look back on things, I can say with conviction that it is not the work of the architect or the sculptor, but purely the work of God!

When we had the vision - we had no money, no land and no architect, just an inspiration from God to move on. Only God made

it possible. God brought together the landscapers, construction experts and others who worked together to make the temple a spiritual destination that attracts millions of people today. He gave us money, through our business success, to make the dream real.

The idol continues to shower its blessings everyday on millions of devotees who come from far and near—not just from India, but from all over the world. It is an idol that vibrates energy of faith and showers it on those who believe. It all started with a dream – an impossible dream – which God made possible!

My faith story grew stronger and stronger from the age of 8 in 1974, to the age of 29 in 1995. I had a revelation that perhaps with the opening of the temple, a new chapter of my life had also started. It was the beginning of a new story; a story of faith and hope, a story that transformed my life from a business tycoon to a philosopher, author and a motivational speaker. God was inspiring me to act on God’s behalf and do as God wanted me to. I know that this power, whatever it may be, guides every footstep of mine. God makes me, shapes me and moves me into doing what God wants me to do.

I Never Knew the True Meaning of Prayer:

I never knew the true meaning of prayer until the Shiv Temple was inaugurated in 1995. Like everybody else, I too thought that God existed in a place unknown to us. Because most people don’t

understand where God lives and who God is, they look up to various images of God; in the form of statues, religious leaders and everything else other than God Himself. I myself had it all misunderstood until I was 29. When the Shiv Temple was built, I evolved and slowly started understanding the true meaning and most importantly the power of prayer. I realized that God was beyond this statue. I had seen this statue being built—it was concrete and marble and made by humans. I also saw the power that came with the consecration of this temple and with the vibrations that grew stronger by the day.

My prayer experience evolved, and I started praying to the statue and beyond. I could look into the eyes of Lord Shiva and be lost in a trance. Slowly but surely I started understanding the meaning of true prayer. I started experiencing God. I could hear God's word. My mind started receiving messages as I deeply connected myself through prayer. It felt as if God was talking to me and at first it seemed unbelievable. Every day I would receive flashes and spurts of visions, like hunches; they seemed to come from God. It was like a sixth sense that came from prayer and building a spiritual connection.

My faith grew stronger and stronger. When I prayed, I could feel the two-way vibrations—that which went to God in the form of Prayers and that which came back from God as blessings. I couldn't

see God, I didn't know where God was but I could still connect with God.

At every step, my Guruji, Dada J.P. Vaswani, guided me and mentored me, making me a stronger human being. My faith story would be incomplete without mentioning about my spiritual master, mentor and guide, Dada J.P. Vaswani. He came into my life when I was barely 25. He touched my life and I was transformed with spiritual values. Although I was already a believer in God, Dada, as he is called fondly, reinforced my beliefs. He made me understand that whatever I believed in was true. He supported my thoughts and guided me forward. He showed me the right way when I was going wrong.

Dada taught me so many important concepts like "surrender" and "acceptance". He made me understand that if I really want to build a connection with God, then I must learn to surrender my life to God. Dada guided me to let go completely so that God could take charge of my life. He made me realize that there is a law of karma that works and whatever happens; happens with the will of God. Thus I realized that yesterday was controlled by God and tomorrow is in God's hands too, therefore we shouldn't worry about the past or get tensed about the future.

The ethics that I have built on my spiritual path are primarily due my guru, Dada J.P. Vaswani. He taught me that the journey must

be onward, forward, upward and God-ward. I learnt from him that the purpose of life is to aspire to connect with God. Repeating the divine mantra is the key to build this connection. It doesn't matter which God we believe in; for that matter, my own Guru, Dada, is a devotee of Krishna, whereas I am a devotee of Shiva. Dada comes to the temple whenever he is in Bangalore. He even dedicated the idol of Lord Ganesha at the Temple for devotees. Dada taught me the power of faith. He showed me how belief can make wonders happen. He taught me to accept the divine will; teaching me the beautiful words: "Thy will, not mine, be done, O Lord".

For much of my philosophy, I am grateful to Dada. He has planted in me the seeds that grew into my own philosophy. He never stopped me from my philosophy of "Rejoice, Value Life and Make a Difference." He is completely spiritual and gave up everything in life. But I chose not to give up everything. Regardless, he never made me feel inferior or condemned, or criticized my way of living. He appreciated my lifestyle of a non-sadhu, a semi-*brahmachari*. It was because of him that I learned the power of Ojas. At one point, I was able to follow the path of a *brahmachari*, a celibate; transmuting and converting my sex energy or *Ojas* into success. He taught me this secret on how God's procreative energy – Ojas could be tapped and converted into power, from which I wrote a book called 'SuccSex,' which is now available all over the world.

Dada made a tremendous impact in my spiritual life. Therefore, in my faith story, he is one of the strongest pillars; a pillar upon which my entire faith is built. While my grandfather and father are responsible to have started me on this journey, it was Dada who helped me graduate in this spiritual journey. His influence on me is so much that I sometimes refer to him as my God on earth. I have met many spiritual masters, gurus, mentors and sadhus in my life, but I could not find in anyone the magic of spirituality that came from Dada. His simplicity, humility, straight-forward approach toward religion and spirituality inspired me to understand the meaning of God.

Dada is a great inspiration in my writing this book. Without his guidance and the knowledge acquired from him, I wouldn't have been able to reach where I am today. Even the first chapter in this book about religions is largely extracted from his book "Many Religions One Path".

"Dada, I am indebted to you. I am grateful to you for being my mentor, my guide and my guru. Therefore, to a large extent this book must be dedicated to you."

The temple that I built also enhanced my positive power and activated my superconscious mind. I built an immense reserve of courage, confidence and compassion amongst my already vast positive reserves. At the age of 40, I could feel God's love for me as

my positive prayer connected me and helped me evolve and transform. I started seeing God everywhere; God lived in my heart. I wanted to fly in the sky and become one with my Master. There was tremendous progress in me, without my knowledge, because my heart grew more compassionate doing humanitarian work, my body became more resilient as a positive thinker and my soul evolved as I started writing bhajans (spiritual songs) and even singing them.

I was not a singer, but I decided to sing for God. Then another miracle happened—my voice changed and I could sing like a professional singer! Without receiving any professional training, I could now sing. But then, with God all things are possible. Anything can happen if you believe enough and it did happen, once again.

Many a times I would attempt something important without a chance at success. Everybody thought that it would be impossible to achieve, but I made my attempt with faith and I succeeded! When we started the “Kids Kemp” retail brand, everybody thought that we would fail, but we had faith and we succeeded. In 1990, when I was 24, we started a large store - “Big Kids Kemp” and everybody was waiting for the day when it would be shut down. Big Kids Kemp was another step of faith and Belief. It was out of the main shopping district and people thought it would never succeed. But, It Did! The retail world was shocked when they saw us starting

India's largest departmental store in 1997, when I was 31. They were completely dumb-founded! But I just smiled with faith, as God made the impossible, possible. I knew all along that it was not me but God who was doing it. Of course, I had to do my best, but if it was not for my faith, all my achievements would never have happened. The world didn't know my secret that God lived in my heart. My love for God and God's love for me were the secrets of my success. As I progressed from 30 to 40, I could feel God's presence with me all the time, inspiring me when I needed it and guiding me when I was going wrong. When I fell down, he lifted me and carried me across the difficult path.

My faith story is no fairy tale. Every line of this story is true; I know it, and God does too. From the age of eight till date, every aspect of my life has been a miracle – a miracle that became possible with faith, a miracle that has its roots in hope and a miracle that took to its wings with enthusiasm. God made my life magical and while the world could not understand these miracles, I always smiled with humble faith. My humility knew that I was nothing and God was everything. The nonbelievers around me would mock me asking, "Who is God? Where is God? What are you talking about?" Well, the existence of God needs no proof and my faith was unshakeable. My faith grew stronger and stronger, as did my love for God. I never doubted God and always accepted whatever

happened as God's will.

My faith evolved and made me realize the true meaning of God. As I was a staunch believer in Lord Shiva, my mind opened up to believing that God is one. There may be different religions, but it cannot be true for the Hindu God to make the sun and the Muslim God to make the moon! I could see it all so clearly... God exists! God is the Master of the Universe. I knew that nobody has a clue as to what God is and I felt very sad that religions were taking people to God, but only up to the very basic level! Religions have been misleading humankind, perhaps unintentionally, to provide for their own personal agendas. I felt disappointed that religions were popularizing themselves at the cost of losing focus on God, ultimately resulting in making their religion more important than God. This further influenced me to evolve into this new life that I was blessed with. The humanitarian challenges around me invited me to vibrate positive energy and my spiritual connection finally let me transform my life.

At the age of 40, I shut down my business and decided to become a philanthropist, philosopher, author, speaker and singer. To me this was life. My faith had graduated further to understand that the purpose of life was to experience God. Like Jesus said, "What would it gain a man if he gained the whole world and lost his own soul?" And thus with the blessings of my Guruji and the support of

my father I stepped into a new life.

I don't have a business to run anymore; although I have a large rental income that supports my humanitarian, inspirational and spiritual aspirations. I have faith; I know that my life is in the divine hands of God and I believe that God has a purpose, and whatever is happening is as per the divine will. I travel extensively trying to experience God and God's creations. I move from place to place and country to country, trying to see the beauty that God has created. God willing, I will be travelling the whole world, shortly. As I go from place to place, I try to reduce pain, vibrate positive energy and make people believers.

I believe that this is the purpose God has for me; I didn't chase it though I aspired to be closer to God. It just happened as I let go and I let God take charge.

My faith has always been such. There was a time when I used to ask God for things to happen, but over the last many years I have not asked God for anything. I always pray to God to give me what is best for me and I always do get the best, because I trust God.

I know that without God we are nothing. God is everything. I don't just say this or express it, but I say it with full conviction and complete belief. The trees, flowers, oceans, butterflies and the bees are proof enough of God's existence. It doesn't matter which God one believes in, and it doesn't matter what form people pray

to; what matters is their devotion and dedication to the Supreme. I celebrate every festival and bow down to all Gods and Goddesses because I know God is one.

As I transformed my life, I had the choice of giving up everything and following the life of a sanyasi (someone who renounces all worldly pleasures and dedicates their entire life to spiritual pursuits) or living a normal life as a karmayogi (someone who does not renounce worldly duties, instead strives to work for others and rejoices in the welfare of others without expecting anything in return.), as some would call it, doing my best each day in making God's world a better place. But I was inspired by different models. From mythology, Raja Janak was my inspiration, about whom I learnt through my Guruji. In recent years, John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie have inspired me to live a life of meaning and purpose. To give up everything and live a life of seclusion in the mountains seemed to be an easy way out; while trying to connect with God. But my faith led me to believe that God wants me to live in this world and love God as I lead people toward God and switch on a light to show the path for believers to walk upon. So I live a normal life, rejoicing in all that the world has to offer and encouraging others to do the same. I don't believe that God has made this beautiful world for nothing. God made the oceans and the mountains, the flowers and the fruits and all the beautiful

people around for us to live and love. “Why give it all up!” is the message that my faith brings. I love God and I am deeply connected to God. I can laugh in my love just as I can shed tears while singing my spiritual bhajans for God; this helps me express my true connection. At every step, I thank God for whatever he has done for making my dreams come true and as I move on, God will strengthen me further.

I believe my creativity is triggered in my superconscious mind by God, just as my knowledge and experience are. I know that whatever I do, God gets it done through me. I have lived with this faith and this faith has taken me to the top.

Therefore, I surrender my entire life at God’s divine feet. I surrender in two key ways- First, I surrender completely and in total faith; this gives me peace as it leads me forward; motivated and inspired, knowing that God is in charge of every step and every action that I take. Second, my faith doesn’t stop there; whatever happens, I accept it as the divine will. I know that God lives in every yesterday, just as God is in every tomorrow and thus I accept all that happens with a smile.

Years ago, I would feel defeated. As I grew in Belief, my faith conquered this feeling of defeat. However, there were times when I was discouraged. I overcame this discouragement with courage and confidence to feel positive again. There were times, after

I grew out of defeat and discouragement, that I still felt disappointed by what was happening. . Today my faith has grown to a level where I am never disappointed. I know that all those things that happen are the will of the divine master – I view them as God’s appointments rather than disappointments.

Thus I live in acceptance and surrender in faith and hope and with enthusiasm; as I devote and dedicate myself to God. I have had it all, name and fame, successful millions and all that a man could desire and yet nothing enamors me more than my love for God. My faith excites me, my love for God entralls me and every creation of God makes my heart dance. I believe that this is not the end. I am 47 now and for the remaining part of my life, I believe that God has a purpose and meaning for me. Thus, I seek to do nothing. Yes, I set goals—daily goals, weekly goals, monthly, quarterly, annual and even five-yearly goals. But actually I don’t do them; the pen writes whatever God decides. My vocal cords sing, but the voice comes from God. My mind thinks, but the thoughts come from God. Whatever I do, I offer it as a humble offering to God and beg God to accept it. I know that my Lord will lead me forward; as my Guruji says, “Onward, forward, upward and God-ward”.

Essence of the chapter:

- My own life is a testimony to experience God.
- Days like Maha Shivratri and Mondays built my faith stronger.
- My Faith started with my grandfather and was taken to the next level by my Father.
- My Guru. Dada J.P. Vaswani, guided me, mentored me and made me a stronger person, becoming a pillar of my philosophy.
- My financial success is because of my Faith in God.
- After building the Shiv Temple, a new Power was born. It took my belief and connection with God to a different level.
- From a successful business man to a philosopher, author, speaker and singer... It all happened with the grace of God.

*I am Nothing...
God is
Everything!*

Chapter 8

A Temple of Faith Where Dreams Come True



Before I end this book, I must tell you the story of the Temple of Faith where dreams come true.

In the previous chapter, I recounted my Faith story, my history, success, challenges, beliefs, philosophy, circumstances and life. I mentioned there that at the age of 28, in 1995, I built a temple. This chapter is the story behind the creation of that temple; its conception, creation and legacy. The temple, I believe, was born from God, it continues with God and God willing, it will spread the power of God forever.

One morning in 1993, I had a vision; a dream to build a temple with a gigantic statue of Lord Shiva, sitting in an environment of peace, serenity and tranquility. It came as a picture from God, as if it was telecast to my superconscious mind from God's satellite. It created an impression on my subconscious mind and compelled me to act on it.

As if by magic, my father received a similar vibration and was excited about the idea of this temple. I set out searching for vacant land. I searched and searched, but couldn't find a suitable place within my budget, not even in the outskirts of Bangalore City. But I didn't give up hope. The image engraved by God in my mind inspired me to continue my hunt.

I was simultaneously looking for a land to expand my business and was in luck when I found a large property, big enough to house

both the temple and my new business venture. I was truly blessed! I could now own a large departmental store on the busy Airport Road and create this Temple of Faith deep inside, away from the hustle and bustle of Bangalore traffic! But when I began my search, I had no money, no land and no architect. I only had an inspiration from God to move on. And then it all fell into place. As we identified the land, our business grew and the money came. We found an architect and a *shilpi* (sculptor). Many people were to work together, internally and externally; it was like constructing a big, 65-foot tall, building! God gave us the power and the energy required for our venture. When we asked the landscape designer to design river Ganga flowing down from the head of Lord Shiva idol, he said that it was impossible. Since it was God's project, we told him that nothing is impossible! We then made it possible.

The construction of the temple began in 1994. Once the foundation, columns and the base structure were ready, it barely took a few months for the iconic idol to come alive.

It was magical, mystical and spiritual to experience God being created by man! It was much later that I realized that it was not man who created the idol, but God himself was working through the hands of man. I say this because the sculptor who made this idol has tried to replicate this idol in other cities of India, but has not been successful in doing so. Here, the sculptor built the 65-

feet-tall idol in less than six months without a plan or a blue print or even a measuring tape! It was not a human achievement but God working through him. As the temple was nearing completion, we reached the auspicious date, Monday, February 27th, 1995, the festive day of Maha Shivratri, but we didn't know how to inaugurate the temple.

A common friend brought to our attention that the Shankaracharya of Sringeri (a revered spiritual saint) was coincidentally in Bangalore and that we could approach him. Just two days before Maha Shivratri, we humbly approached His Holiness and he agreed to consecrate the temple. The D-day arrived and instead of the expected 3,000 people, an astonishing three lakh plus people visited the temple! When the pundits (spiritual priests) chanted the mantras "*Om Namah Shivaya*" and "*Om Triyambakam Yajaa Mahe,*" vibrations encompassed the idol, the temple and everybody present there. It was the most scintillating and spiritual moment of my life. It felt as if God was physically there! And the magic has continued ever since.

Lakhs and lakhs of devotees visit this temple every month. The temple, by itself, has evolved and grown into a spiritual destination. The laurels and additions to the temple only grew every year.

Over the years, the temple has added many idols, structures and activities to enhance the spiritual vibrations in the temple and help

devotees build a connection with God. Some of these have been mentioned below, in detail, for you to understand the significance and importance of each of these additions.

108 Om Namah Shivaya Yatra – A spiritual journey seeking Lord Shiva’s blessings!

In order to build a connection with God, one needs to have strong faith in God. In an effort to help devotees enhance their faith in God, the temple initiated 108 Om Namah Shivaya Yatra in 1999. In this activity, 108 coins are dropped one by one chanting “Om Namah Shivaya”. If one does this with complete faith, one is sure to have all their dreams come true. My experience is that whatever we ask God with utmost faith, we will get it. Devotees pray for good health and surrender all their problems to God while taking this spiritual yatra. Whoever performs this Yatra, again and again, with complete faith, will witness miracles!

The Spiritual Havan –Offering oneself to God

To build a strong bonding with the Creator, one has to surrender and accept the divine will. The temple introduced the Spiritual Havan, a symbolic surrendering to God, in 1997. It is a fire ritual where twigs and ghee are offered to God. While performing a Havan, we are symbolically offering whatever we have to God; the one who gave us this life, and seeking God’s blessings. Havan, a century old pooja, is a very powerful form of ritual, which has to be performed with utmost faith.

Faith can eliminate all your problems

Lord Ganesh is known as '*Vighnaharan*' meaning, the one who removes all obstacles – "*Vighna*" means problem or obstacle and "*haran*" means remover or solver. The *Vighnaharan* Thread activity was started in 2008. As one offers prayers to the 32-foot-tall statue of Lord Ganesha and surrenders ones problems while tying a holy thread, one can actually feel problems diminish. One ties the thread and as one leaves they also leave behind their problems.

A sacred pilgrimage through 12 *Jyotir* Lingas

It is the wish of every true devotee to have a darshan (get a glimpse of God) of the 12 sacred *Jyotir Lingas*. But due to various reasons, it may not be possible for everyone to visit these sacred places as they are scattered in different parts of the country. To help devotees fulfill their lifetime wish, the temple set up the *Barah Jyotir Ling Yatra* in 2001. These 12 *jyotir lingas* are: Mahakaleshwar at Madhya Pradesh, Kashi Vishwanath at Banares, Mallikarjun at Andhra Pradesh, Nageshwar at Gujrat, Rameshwaram at Tamil Nadu, Somnath at Gujarat, Grishneshwar at Maharashtra, Vaidyanath at Bihar, Omkareshwar at Madhya Pradesh, Bheema Shankar at Maharashtra, Triambakeshwar at Nasik and Kedarnath at Uttarakhand. This is thus a symbolic pilgrimage through the 12 sacred Shiva Lings. It helps a devotee feel truly blessed on visiting all the 12 spiritual destinations.

With Faith, Miracles are Possible!

Faith has magical powers. Only true believers can experience the power of faith in their lives. The temple started the Miracle Coin activity to help devotees experience the power of faith. A Miracle Coin is dropped in the holy *Manas Sarovar* at the Temple by chanting “*Om Namah Shivaya*” seven times and making a wish. If this is done with utmost faith in the Creator, all your wishes will surely come true!

The doctor of doctors!

We all know that God gives Life and takes it away too; it is not in our hands. However, with God, miracles are possible. Miracles are born out of faith! The Healing Stones installed at the temple in 1995 are also a spot where miracles have happened. They are very powerful and are known to have magically cured numerous ailing patients over the years. Many devotees have touched this healing stone and have been cured. Even when a hospital fails, Hope works!

Special Poojas to Enhance Faith

To help devotees build a connection with God, the temple introduces various kinds of Poojas. Some of them are: *Rudra Abhishek* for bringing peace in the family, *Ganpati Abhishek* for removing obstacles, *Mrithunjay Havan* for good health, *Navagraha Havan* to remove any harmful or evil effect of the world on a person and bring prosperity, *Parvati Swayamvar* to find

a suitable life partner and avoid delays in marriage, *Family Blessing Pooja* for bringing prosperity and happiness to the family, and *Knowledge Blessing Pooja* for students to excel in their studies. The temple does not encourage any *Pooja* or ritual without first understanding the meaning of the *Pooja*. These *Poojas* have been successful in building people's Faith. The temple teaches people to Pray with Purpose; understanding every act of Prayer.

A spiritual Journey to attain Moksha

According to Hindu Mythology, a pilgrimage to different holy places helps one attain *moksha* (liberation). However, it is not possible for everyone to visit all these holy places. The Shiv Temple has made it possible for everyone to visit all the different holy places in 10 minutes, under one roof! In 2010, the *Pahadi Shiv Dham Yatra* was introduced in which the devotees can symbolically climb the Himalayas, passing through Haridwar, Rishikesh, Badrinath, Kedarnath and finally reach Amarnath. The devotees get a chance to witness all the shrines and also touch the sacred Ling of Amarnath, formed out of ice. This journey through the mountains amidst the frosty breeze and a walk through the snowy mountains give one the illusion of being at the actual shrines. This generates spiritual vibrations in devotees, strengthening their faith in God.

Letter to God

This activity was started to help devotees share their inner feelings

with God by penning them down on a letter. After writing the letter, they have to fold it and offer the paper into the holy pyre at the *Havan*. This symbolically ensures that whatever they want to share with God becomes ashes and fumes, and thus reaches God.

Bhajans help to connect with the Universal Power

Bhajans are songs in praise of God. A *bhajan* sung with devotion connects you with God. The temple started live *Bhajans* to help devotees build a stronger connection with the Universal Power. It conducts regular live *bhajans* as well as plays recorded *bhajans* in which devotees from all walks of life can participate. Understanding and singing *Bhajans* is a sure way to tune into the frequency of experiencing God.

Somvaar Ka Tyohar, the Festival of Monday

The temple organizes a number of programs every Monday to help devotees build a strong connection with God and feel the spiritual vibrations that come from the temple.

This Festival of Monday called “*Somvaar Ka Tyohar*” was specially introduced in 2007. Every Monday, live devotional songs are sung. Many people, no matter which God they believe in or which religion they belong to, attend these special programs. The temple conducts Special *Bhajan Sandhya*, Midnight *Aarti*, Special *Aarti* every two hours and Special midnight Shiv *prasad* distribution. This is a simple way of devoting one day a week, one day out of seven, to the Creator who created us as a mark of Faith, Belief and

Surrender to God.

Unique Light and Sound show

With the aim of helping devotees find answers to several questions rooted in their hearts, the temple started a unique Light and Sound show. Held in the temple every day, the spiritually stimulating show is accompanied by colorful lights, mellow music and a sublime story; bringing devotees closer to the Power we call God, through various philosophical themes that help people enhance their Faith in God.

Power of Faith activities

These are some of the various activities that are held at the temple to help devotees connect with God. Each activity, with its unique meaning and significance, is a way to connect with the Power we call God.

Over the years, with God's inspiration, several activities have been initiated in the temple. God has always inspired more and more people to do something that helps believe in God. The temple is now a destination of faith where prayers are answered.

Not only has this temple made people believers, it has also vibrated in them the power that comes from God. The Temple spreads the message to serve suffering humanity. The thought behind this belief is that those who are sick and suffering in pain are an image of God Himself and serving the poor is equal to worshipping God.

A Temple of Faith Where Dreams Come True

Every rupee that has been collected from this temple has been spent on building the faith activities and on serving suffering humanity. The temple has been instrumental in constructing the charitable RVM Foundation Transit Home and the RVM Foundation Hospital. It has supported thousands and thousands of destitute; reducing their pain, providing food, shelter, medical care, clothing and giving them a new lease of life. Miracles have occurred at the Hospital, because it is God's Hospital. Those who could not get cured in a super specialty hospital have been cured at the Hospital; they have walked out after regaining lost health. Being God's Hospital and Home, there is no cash counter; it is absolutely free of cost.

Over the years, devotees have repeatedly visited the temple, especially as their dreams kept coming true, through their belief in God and the temple. Some devotees even cry at the temple, thanking God for saving the life of a family member; even after a doctor had declared that there was little hope for recovery. People have come and prayed and as if by magic, they were cured.

Yes, miracles have occurred in this temple! It is a Temple of Faith where dreams come true. All those who believe in God and pray in this temple receive blessings and their wishes get fulfilled. There are a few who pray without faith and hence remain disappointed. It is faith in the Power that actually makes prayers get answered. The statue of God serves as a faith generator, a symbol of the

A Temple of Faith Where Dreams Come True

Supreme Power, which God Himself created. Words cannot express the emotions and feelings one experiences at this temple. One has to personally experience the power that comes from visiting and praying at this magical site. It is a simple yet powerful temple where spiritual aspirants experience the vibrations that come from God.

If you have visited this temple, then you were probably fortunate to have felt the vibrations. And if you have not, you must definitely visit and experience the inexplicable Power present here; of the great Power we call God.

There is a Power; this Power is beyond our comprehension. This Power is too vast and complex for our minds to capture. However, at the Shiv Temple, you can experience this Power. Don't mislead yourself into believing that the statue is the Power. God is beyond the statue; the statue is just a means to surrender to Him, to experience Him and be blessed.

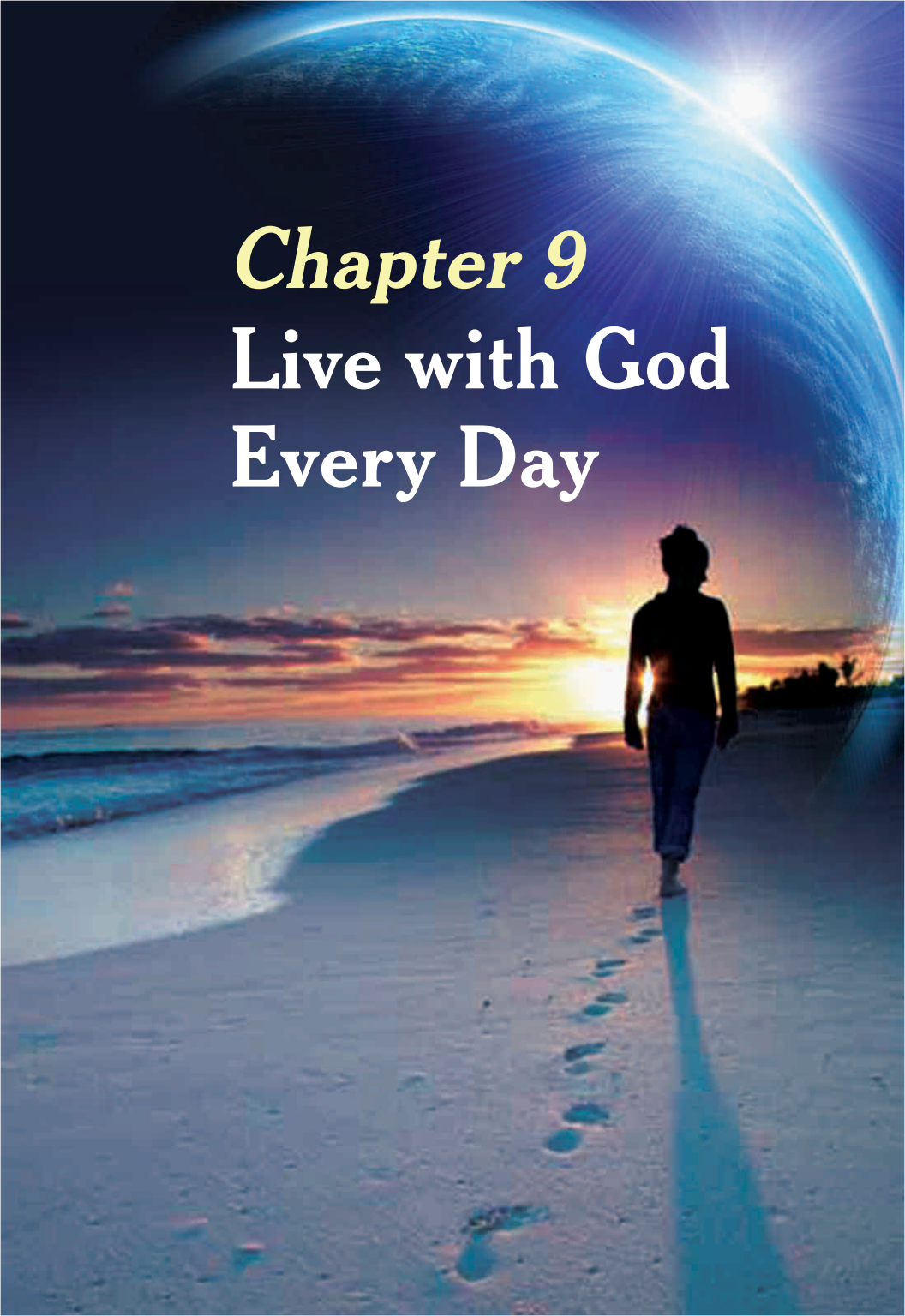
!!Om Namah Shivaya!!

*If you have Faith,
and visit this Temple,
you will experience God!*

Essence of the chapter:

- The conception, creation and legacy of the Shiv Temple is a mystery that can be understood only by believers.
- God gave us power and the energy required to build this Temple. It is not a human achievement, but God working through men.
- Over the years many concepts, structures and activities have been added in the Temple, each with some spiritual significance.
- This Temple started as a Religious Project, but today it is a Spiritual Destination with people of different religions visiting everyday to establish a connect with God.
- This is not just a Temple; it is a destination of Faith where prayers are answered, if one believes.

*Miracles happen here every day.
Who knows, you might be the
next one to experience
the Power of God.*

A person is walking away from the viewer on a sandy beach towards a vibrant sunset. The sky is filled with orange and yellow light, and the sun is low on the horizon. In the background, a large, glowing blue globe of the Earth is visible, with a bright light source on its surface. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

Chapter 9
**Live with God
Every Day**

Whatever be your religion, whatever be your faith; if you have read this far, you surely aspire to connect with God. Surely, you have experienced some vibrations or you have lived with faith, hope, enthusiasm and trust or you believe that your superconscious mind is activated and you pray. But have you experienced God? Do you feel that connection? Are you living with the mysterious Power?

I have experienced the divine presence and I feel it continuously. You too can experience it. You can choose to live with God beside you, every day or doubt his presence. Although I respect all religions, I don't allow them to confuse me. My focus is concentrated only on the Power; the Power we call God.

There is great joy in living with God every day. My belief in this spiritual connection gives me faith, hope, enthusiasm, confidence, courage, compassion and love. Anybody can choose these positive emotions and decide to live with God every day. And what does it take? Nothing! It costs nothing. It just needs our attention, focus and time. Once we commit ourselves to God, our philosophy and lifestyle automatically becomes spiritual. Once we learn to live with God every day, our life is transformed. There are no problems; only circumstances, developments and challenges that God will solve, because we live with Faith. Those who pray; they surrender and accept God's Will. They do not resist whatever happens;

instead they go with the flow, doing their best. They know that God lived in yesterday and will live in tomorrow too.

Those who live with God live in the ever presence of the Lord. They start their day with God's name and even end it with God's name. They are ever prayerful and thus ever powerful. They seem to believe that they have a wireless connection with the Master of the Universe who guides them and cares for them at all times. Yes, when you live every day and every moment with God, you will be ever grateful and ever humble; knowing that you are nothing and God is everything. Small symbolic acts like folding your hands in prayer before a meal, thinking of God before starting anything important and thanking God for everything good that happens are small rituals that help you live with God every day. Once we build this connection and live with God, we experience bliss and fulfillment. Since we have surrendered to the almighty, there is no more anxiety because we know God is in charge.

Are you willing to make God your partner? Are you going to live with God every day? Have you decided to surrender to the "divine will" and accept whatever happens with the simple words "Thank you God, Thy will be done"?

If you have decided to live with God every day, then you are amongst the few who are truly blessed. You are fortunate to have understood and experienced God. While others are not even able

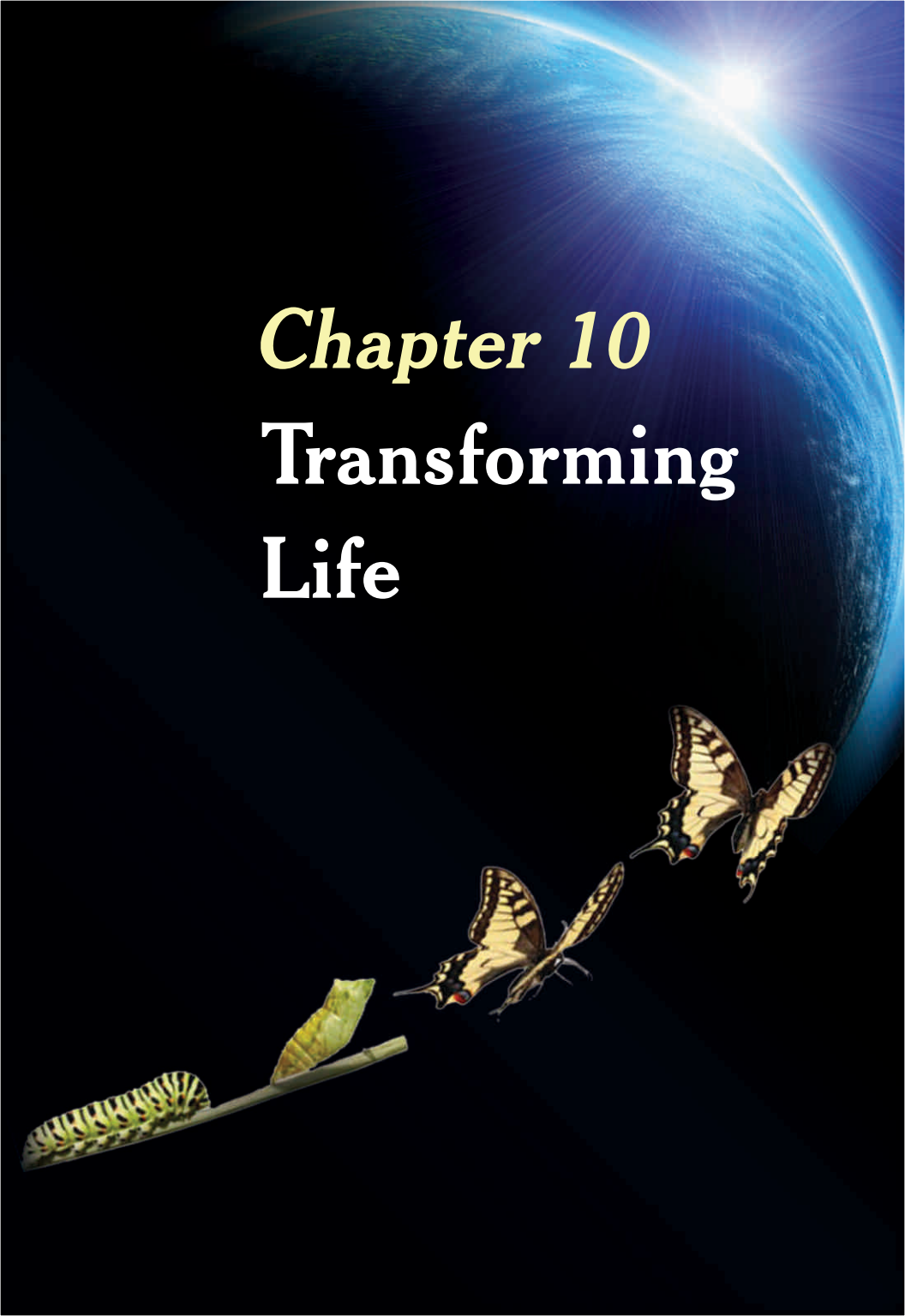
to start this journey, you have come a long way. You feel the presence of God at all times, and then you surrender completely to the divine power. You are in love with God. You have faith, hope, enthusiasm and trust, and you believe in the power of these powerful positive emotions. And since you believe, you achieve.

There are still fewer who have graduated further, who believe in God completely but don't subject themselves to any religion. They believe in all religions and bow down to all Gods. They know that there is A Supreme Power and they bow down to that Power. Whatever be their symbolic idol, these Spiritual Graduates have evolved and are blessed to experience the Power. They live with God every day and their progressive journey helps them to experience stronger vibrations. Their prayer is unconditional and their belief unshakeable. Through their superconscious, they are ever-connected to the Power and live fearlessly. With each passing day, they build a stronger connection because they live with God. Only those who experience this can understand it. You too can aim to graduate spiritually.

Essence of the chapter:

- There is great joy in living with God everyday; concentrate on the Power we call God.
- Those who live with God in each moment live with joy and fulfillment.
- Surrender to the power; let God take charge.
- Do not confuse God with religion; there are many religions, but only one God.
- Aim to graduate spiritually.

*The non believer
says
God is NO WHERE,
the believer
says
God is NOW HERE.
It's a choice!*



Chapter 10
**Transforming
Life**

You have just read about a Power called God. You may not have come across anything new here, but I am sure it would have triggered certain questions and thoughts in you about your belief in God.

Before concluding, I am eager to know what you are going to do next. Are you going to build a stronger connection with God? Are you going to activate your spiritual tele-receiver for your superconscious to get connected with God? Are you going to build hope, faith, enthusiasm and trust to live with more courage and confidence? Are you going to become a strong believer? What changes are you going to make? How is your life going to be impacted by this book? Or have you gone beyond spiritual graduation and think you can share some further learning with the world? To truly derive some meaning out of this book, the important question to ask oneself is, “WHAT NEXT?”

You read about many religions in this book; do you still believe that there are so many Gods or have you started believing in a Universal God? Do you still condemn people of other religions? Do you realize that though religions may be very positive in their intention, their actions are unfortunately taking our focus away from God? Are you going to change and focus on God rather than focusing on religion?

God is one Power, one entity, who made this whole Universe. We must realize that while we cannot see God and know where he is or

how he is; we can surely connect with and experience God. Are you still questioning the existence of God or are you going to have complete faith, hope, trust and enthusiasm, and believe that God exists?

What about prayer?

How much is this account of faith going to influence your habit of praying? If you already have the habit of praying, will it be enhanced? If you don't have the habit of praying, will you start it anew? Are you going to strengthen your communication with the Power? How are you going to experience God? Are you going to experience God the way you have been doing or will there be some change?

I connect with God whenever I see God's creations. Are you going to do the same? When you see a little dog wag its tail; will you try to see God's beautiful creation in it? When you see a beautiful bird fly or a butterfly flap its wings; will you stop and think that there is God in our everyday life? Are you going to experience God?

The purpose behind sharing my faith story and the story behind the existence of the temple is to share what happened in my life. Introspect! What has happened in your life and what impact has God made in your life? Are you going to use or rather attract the power of God and hence transform your life? Are you going to get closer to God? I hope this book will trigger certain thoughts and

questions in your mind and generate the desire to introspect and think. You too will be able to connect with the Power called God and start a new journey from this moment onwards. You have read the book 'A Power we call God'; you can now choose to either accept or reject God. It is up to you. It is for you to introspect and decide whether you must accept the fact that this whole universe wouldn't have come into existence just like that! It is for you to appreciate that you are so unique and there must be an author, a creator, an artist who has made you.

You can either choose to accept God as a power in your life, or ignore God and continue living. Your life will continue anyway. If you choose to ignore, I don't know if there will be any change, but surely you will not receive the Joy and Bliss that comes from achieving fulfillment. There are some who build a strong connection with God and through that connection they are able to live a fulfilling life. Although they cannot see God, they connect with God because they have faith. Remember FAITH is "Full Assurance In The Heart" and when you have faith you don't wait for proof, but rather you live with faith, belief, trust and hope. You will hold onto the faith and you will feel the presence of God and the power will touch you through your superconscious mind, giving you ideas and imagination. Through your superconscious mind, you will feel the presence of God at all times.

Some of those who read this book might transform their lives. They

might be touched by the power called God. Some might read this book like a story, just a story being told to children; because they don't look at this book with faith and belief. However, it is not that the nonbelievers have proof to disbelieve the presence of the Power; they simply choose to ignore it. They are indifferent toward the fact that God exists and this indifference is a big loss to them as it takes God away from their life.

After reading so much, you can continue to traditionally believe in a God of your religion or you can think beyond religion. You can be spiritual; you can feel that your praan, jeev, spirit, your life or whatever you call it, is the creation of a Master; a Power- A Power we call God!

When your faith in God is strong, but you know that you can't prove the existence of God, your life will still be transformed. You believe in this power and your faith, hope, belief, trust and enthusiasm will take you forward. It triggers power in your superconscious mind, and while it triggers the superconscious, it helps you through imagination, sixth sense and telepathy to move on from achievement to fulfillment; becoming closer to the Creator.

This can be just another book like the hundreds of books you might have read; how can this book transform your life? Of course, you fold your hands and pray, but that prayer is different because that

prayer is vague; you don't even know to whom you are praying; you don't even realize that you are praying to a Power. But now, after you have read this book, your prayer will have a meaning because you have experienced God. By now, you must have learned, through my faith story, that God exists and that you can live with God every day. Your spiritual tele-receiver would make you realize that this Super Power; the Universal Power will help you transform your life. Yes, the choice is yours to continue to live a life as a nonbeliever or a believer, to live with doubt or faith, to have positive expectations or negative and to live and believe in God or just ignore God and forget to live in or with God!

After reading this book some may become believers and by becoming believers, they will become achievers. But there are others who will just continue their journey, a journey of doubt, pain and hopelessness. When you connect with the Power called God, your life becomes fulfilled; you cross over the difficulties of life because you learn to surrender and accept; you learn to let go and let God take charge of your life. You will be filled with Strength, Energy and Power. You believe that this power controls you. You believe that there is a power which is the source of your life and it's also the destination of your life. You stop worrying about life because you know that only those who don't believe in God, worry. There can be only one emotion at any point of time in your life –faith or fear. And because you live with faith, you eliminate

fear. Yes, the lives of those who believe in God transforms! They arrive at the peak of a new mountain, a mountain called fulfillment, at the peak of nirvana, moksh, everlasting joy and blissful contentment. This is possible because of faith and strong belief in God; a strong connection and total TRUST (Total Reliance Unconditional Surrender To The Almighty) in this power called God.

Are you going to build a connection with God? Are you going to transform your life? You have to make that decision NOW!

God bless!

Essence of the chapter:

- God is one Power who made the whole Universe, a Power beyond our comprehension.
- Only through Prayer can we form a connection with God.
- Believe in God, it will help you live with Faith, Hope, Belief and Enthusiasm. Belief will bring a meaning and purpose to your life.
- The choice is yours. You can choose to be a believer or a nonbeliever.

BELIEF

B - Being Aware

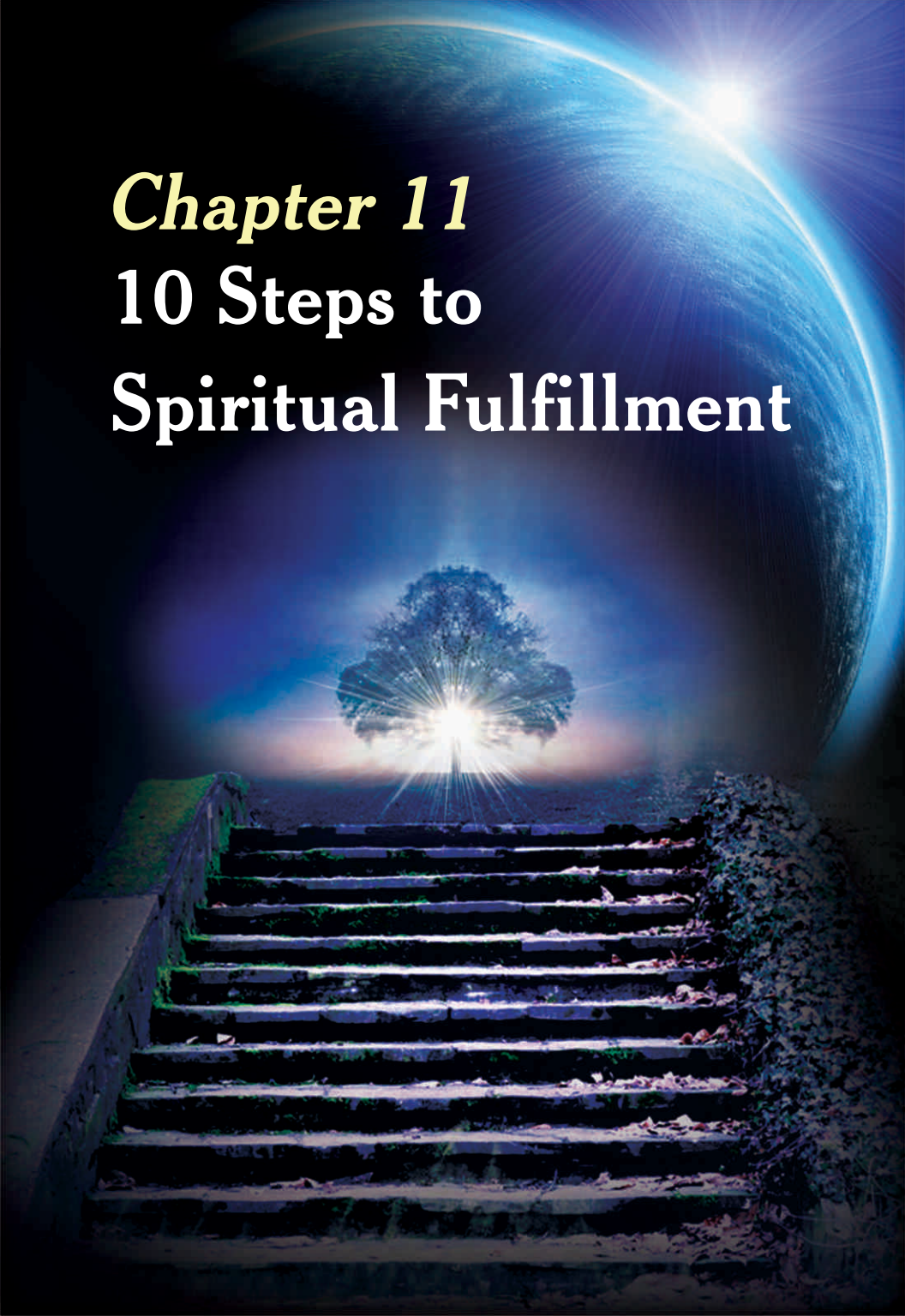
E - Enthusiastic

L - Living with Trust

I - In Surrender

E - Everlasting Hope

F - Full Faith



Chapter 11
10 Steps to
Spiritual Fulfillment

The world believes in something that is quite different from what I believe in. The world believes that God exists in Temples, Churches or Mosques. But is that true? If it is, then why hasn't somebody met God, discovered God or can say where God is? The fact is God is omnipresent. God is a power beyond our comprehension and way beyond our imagination. God is vast! We are incapable of explaining God or understanding God.

Therefore, how does one achieve spiritual fulfillment? How can one truly believe? If you have reached up to the end of this book, you surely aspire to connect with God; you want to pray and you want to believe. Spiritual fulfillment can be achieved in 10 simple steps.

The 1st step is to UNDERSTAND GOD. Who is god? God is a Creator, a Power. God need not be given names because nobody knows exactly who God is, but we all know that the Power exists. We don't know where or what, but we are sure that somebody made the whole universe and made you and me. Therefore, we must first understand that there is a Creator; who we call God!

The 2nd step is to ACCEPT GOD - accept that there is God; a Creator. While the first step is to understand, the second step is to accept God. This happens when we live with the knowledge that there is a Creator whom we call God, a very powerful energy who created everything. So the second step is to accept this Power and make this Power real in our life.

The 3rd step is BELIEF in this Power. While the first step is to understand that the Power exists and the second step is to accept that Power; we actually progress when we believe in this Power. At this stage all our feelings, actions and behaviors show that we understand and accept God. This is a step that takes us forward in the journey of spiritual fulfillment. Those who believe in God don't doubt. They understand that the Sun, the Moon, the stars, the birds and the flowers are all creations of the Creator. Their entire life is a testimony to the existence of the Power; the Creator.

So now that you Understand, Accept and Believe- What next? The next step, **the 4th step, to spiritual fulfillment is to have FAITH.** You already know the acronym of FAITH - Full Assurance in the Heart- but now you put your faith in the Power. There is no doubt; you are completely and unconditionally confident about that Power. You know that the Power is supreme and you know that the Power can do anything. Your entire life is thus lived in a way that you have no fear; you have no doubt because you have full assurance in your heart.

After you Understand, Accept and Believe that a Power exists, and you have Faith that this Power is very strong and is in complete control of the universe; then **the 5th step is that you must have HOPE.** You must live Having Only Positive Expectations. You must have hope that the Creator is a Power beyond human imagination

and this Creator can do anything. Your hope is capable of hoping for the impossible. It is capable of asking for miracles, if you believe that it is possible. If you have hope, you believe that the sky is not the limit. Of course all expectations must be Positive for hope to work.

Halfway down spiritual fulfillment, **the 6th step is to have TRUST**. TRUST is Total Reliance and Unconditional Surrender To The Almighty. Trust is never 99.9%; it is either 100% or 0. Therefore Trust, and Trust completely, if you want to be a true believer who aspires to attain spiritual fulfillment. You must trust this Power so much that nothing should be able to make you lose your courage, confidence, hope and faith. Your trust in the Creator must be so complete that there shouldn't be even an iota of doubt or hesitation in your life. When you live this way, with trust; you are surely on your way to spiritual fulfillment.

Once you have finished these 6 steps, you go on to living **the 7th step - ENTHUSIASM**. When you have "en theos" ("in God") it means you live in God, believe in God, trust in God, hope in God and have faith in God.

After you climb the first 7 steps- when you Understand, Accept, Believe, live with Faith, Hope, Trust and Enthusiasm; you then go on to **the 8th step - SURRENDER**- complete surrender. Like a feather surrenders itself to the air or like a leaf that surrenders

itself to the sea; you are tossed around in your life because you surrender, you let go and let God take charge.

The 9th, pre concluding, step is ACCEPT - Accept the will of God. “Thy will, not mine, be done, Oh Lord!” let these words be the philosophy of your life. Live life accepting everything that God does, knowing that the Creator, the Master, knows better. Whatever happened yesterday was for your good and whatever will happen tomorrow, will happen for your good too. Don’t accept grudgingly but with joy, and you will soon arrive at Spiritual Fulfillment.

Finally, if you are truly keen to achieve spiritual fulfillment, then **the 10th, final step is LIVE WITH GOD**. Start your day with God and end your day with God. Live each and every moment with God. Feel the presence of God as you breathe, walk, talk, pray and as you rejoice. Whatever you do, let God be with you. Tell yourself, “I am not alone, God is with me”, for God is with you if you are a true believer. God is with you as long as you think of Him, the moment your mind gets distracted, the connection breaks. Although God still takes care of you even when you forget him, the connection definitely breaks. If the connection with God breaks, you cannot achieve spiritual fulfillment till you reconnect.

Take this journey of spiritual fulfillment. Let these 10 steps transform your life. You will experience everlasting joy and be blissfully content as you experience spiritual fulfillment.

Essence of the Chapter:

Everyone must climb the 10 steps to attain spiritual Fulfillment.

These 10 steps are as follows:

- Understand God
- Accept God
- Believe in God
- Have Faith
- Have Hope
- Trust God
- Enthusiasm- Live in God
- Surrender to God
- Accept the Will of God
- Live with God

These 10 steps will take you to Spiritual Fulfillment and are sure to Transform your life!

After reading through the 11 chapters of this book, what do you feel? Do you feel that God exists? Do you feel there is a Power? Does your mind accept that God is beyond religion? Do you now believe that you can experience and connect with God anytime? Do you feel that your religion and your belief system must evolve, transcend and transform to something more? Do you think of this book as just another theory or philosophy? Does this book appear to you as some religious propaganda or does it come across to you as a spiritual realization?

The effort of this book is not to start a new religion, definitely not! There are already enough religions in this world; in fact, we need less of them rather than adding another one. The purpose of this book is to unify the religions of this world to focus on God. To focus on the Power rather than clutter our mind with rituals, superstitions and theology that only confuse us. The choice is ours! We can choose to change and believe in a God that is beyond our comprehension or believe in earthly Gods that have been created in the form of statues and at places of religious worship. Of course we need a form; a God to pray to. Thus we may continue praying, but with a much more profound realization.

Think of God as a large Power. Value God as a Power that is beyond our understanding and imagination, then you are truly communicating with the Power; the Creator. Yes, God is a Power; a

Creator who has created the entire universe. Although we don't know where this Power is, who this Power is and what this Power is... We know this Power is!

May the Power give you the wisdom and the willpower to accept that the Power exists. Believe in this Power, live with this Power and enjoy this journey called life. Always remember- this Power loves you, takes care of you and will support you every moment you live- The Power We Call GOD!

*We don't know
Where God is,
Who God is or
What God is...
BUT GOD IS!*

About RVM

RVM, one of India's most dynamic young retailers, who revolutionized retailing through his mega stores Kids Kemp, Big Kids Kemp and Kemp Fort, was known for his business acumen. At the age of 40, when he was at the pinnacle of success, he transformed his life and adopted a life philosophy of RVM – Rejoice, Value Life and Make a Difference.



Today, he is an acclaimed philanthropist, philosopher, author, speaker and a singer.

However, few know about RVM's spiritual journey which began at the age of eight when he started believing in Lord Shiva. In fact, his faith in Lord Shiva is so strong that he has been fasting every Monday for the last 39 years!

Initially very religious, RVM started his spiritual journey just like anybody else thinking that God was a statue. But by the grace of the Creator, RVM gradually realized that God is beyond just the Linga, Shiva or a statue. He transformed his life through his belief, transcending from Religion to Spirituality.

Today, RVM advocates that God is a power, a Creator, who created the sun, the moon, the stars, the birds, the animals and the flowers. So it doesn't matter whether you are a Hindu, Christian or a Muslim. RVM believes that religion has no significance when it comes to spirituality.

He believes religions are only steps that are supposed to take people closer to God.

In 1995, he along with his father built a Shiv Temple on Old Airport Road, Bangalore. With a 65-foot Shiv statue, today, the temple has become a spiritual destination thronged by people from different parts of the world. All devotees, regardless of their caste, creed, religion or social status, are welcome at the temple.

RVM's effort in this world is to try to make people realize that more important than religion is God and we must believe in this Creator, the Power called God.

RVM writes lyrics for bhajans and also sings bhajans at the Shiv temple. He travels around the country advocating how we shouldn't condemn other religions but live with the spirit of brotherhood, embracing all religions. He believes that although nobody has seen God and we don't know what God looks like, we can experience God in the wind that blows the water that flows and the Sun that glows.

RVM is also involved in humanitarian work. With the aim of reducing pain and suffering in this world, RVM started a 200-bed free hospital for the poor, which is now being converted into a 1000-bed facility. He also runs charitable homes for the homeless and destitute, as he believes service to humanity is Prayer to God.

RVM, also a philosopher, author, and a speaker, motivates people to live a life of positivity through his talks, books, and daily positive thoughts. He inspires people to choose to live a life of joy, Bliss, Happiness and Fulfillment.

A Power We Call God



Have you ever thought, “Who made the sun, the moon, the stars, the birds, the animals and the flowers?” Somebody has done it; some Power has done it.

We often refer to this Universal Power as “God”; Hindus may call God “Bhagwan”, Muslims “Allah” and Christians “Jesus”. Whatever be the name, nobody really has proof to show who this Power is or what this Power looks like. However, nobody denies the fact that a Power exists, a Power that makes the sun that glows, the water that flows and the breeze that blows. There is a Power- A Power we call God!

This book can transform your life with Spiritual Fulfillment. It will make you think and question the rituals you perform. It will make you start a new spiritual journey; a journey which is sure to make you Experience a Power called God! Come, Discover that Power Today! Learn how you can get closer and remain ever connected with that Power!

*We don't know Where God is,
Who God is or What God is...*

BUT GOD IS!



(RVM)



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All proceeds from the sale of this book go towards helping the poor and the destitute, and serving those who are suffering in pain.

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