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Make Manifest the Heaven Within Yourself

There is no such thing as the heaven or the hell in the physical sense of the term. These terms are born out of speculation and imagination. The way we live, behave and interact with our fellow-beings, the way we think, believe and speculate determine whether there is heaven or there is hell. The motto of our life is not that of co-existence, but that of co-living. Co-existing means that somehow we carry on our relationship with other human beings. It presupposes our attitude of neutrality or indifference on our part. But co-living is altogether a different thing. It stands for living in harmony, love, friendship, sympathy, compassion, tolerance and a positive interaction with our fellow-beings. Just as diversity adds to the beauty of nature and becomes an integral factor of unity, so does diversity add beauty to human existence. But behind that diversity there is a great principle of unity which calls us to treat our fellow-beings as ourselves. As human beings, there is no difference between one human being and another. All human beings have been created by God and are therefore His children. We are all brothers and sisters. Religion enjoins on us to treat others as ourselves. By so doing we create heaven on the earth. If we fight each other, live a life of friction, conflict and enmity, we create a hell on the earth. The best way to create Heaven on earth is for us to live a life of cooperation, sympathy, compassion, charity, friendship and positive helpfulness. Thus, we ourselves are responsible for making this life a heaven or a hell. Let this heaven within you manifest itself.

Angularities of our individuality create friction and struggle at every step in life. In case we are able to round up our angularities, we can lead a frictionless, smooth and co-operative life. Remember we are not here merely to co-exist; we are meant to co-live, and make the best of the circumstances and situations with which we are surrounded or in which we have been destined to live. Our way of living makes our life a hell or heaven, which do not exist in some remote region. They are our own creations and they are here and now. A disciple asked his master to show him hell and heaven. 'OK' said the master and took him to a very far distant place. There they came across a gate on which was written 'HELL'. Inside they saw a fountain and its water was flowing freely and going a waste, because people were fighting with each other who to fill his bucket first. Because of their sense of egoism, they would fight among themselves rather than make the best of things present.

The master and the disciple proceeded further. They came across another big gate on which was written HEAVEN—inside, the same persons, the same fountain, but not the same atmosphere of friction and quarrels. Everyone was standing in a queue and taking his bucket of water by turn. They were happy and lived a beautiful life.

It is an irony of fate that some of the modern thinkers consider

co-existence the ideal of life, as if we were like dead entities or at the most heaps of stones or garbage. We are living creatures, endowed with the faculty of thinking. So, we must try to co-live, using our faculties of thought and feelings. Co-living makes a heaven of life and the secret of it is cooperation and sacrifice. If co-existences were enough, there should not have been any creative work or a life of happiness.