

EDITORIAL

The greatest practice of spiritualism is that we dedicate the outcome of our sincerest efforts to the universal spirit as a flower of dedication. This is done to make sure what we may achieve does not remain ours. If we try to treat it as our bank balance, the whole purpose of spiritualism will be defeated and we will be caught in the trap of selfish desire. Even to pray for one's own salvation is a desire and it can be conflicting with the basic principle of spiritualism.

Ramakrishna repeatedly says that we have to develop our love towards divinity. When there is love, the give and take rule of the world tends to disappear. Our prayer must not remain mechanical; rather we have to try to get immersed in it. And that helps us evolve from one plane to another. Gradually, we proceed toward what the Buddha called ultimate enlightenment. That is why Rabindranath Tagore sang that all

LET'S REACH OUT To the ocean of eternity

ARUP MITRA

our love must be running unto the ultimate. While it may be addressed to an individual, it must not remain confined to a limited sphere. An individual can only be a medium for it to be passed on to the ultimate.

Difficulties and obstacles will always be there because life is a process which travels through various states. The biggest mistake we will be committing is if we keep thinking that suffering should disappear just because we have taken recourse to spiritualism. But the effect of suffering on us keeps declining. And the more advanced one is, the less is the effect of suffering. But it does not mean that suffering itself

would be nonexistent. If we pray with an objective that suffering must disappear, it will only lead to frustration. May our prayers be so strong that suffering does not create an illusion in our mind, and dissuade us from developing our personal association with the universal spirit.

When we pray for wisdom, we must be aware that a wide range of phenomena exist in the universe and it is not possible to discover everything given the sheer vastness. We can only try to seek something which may be the source of all phenomena. After knowing it perhaps all thirst is quenched and all that is unknown is understood. It must be

possible: ancient sages said that to taste the water of the sea, you do not have to drink the entire sea; just a drop would do.

Our sense organs are our biggest gifts. We use them to acquire basic knowledge and gradually rise above them. We do not remain satisfied for example, with what we witness. We may record our observations but still keep our search alive. This is the essence of spiritual approach to discovery of truth. What is fundamental in a limited sense may not be so in a larger context and what is true in a wider context may appear something else in a limited space. Therefore, the combination of observations and intuition is the only way out.

Life is a space of limited opportunity to reach out to the ocean of immortality. The greatest joy and the highest optimistic message of life is that this transient position offers the possibility to attain what is beyond comprehension. ■