

What is Enlightenment?

Papaji

Q: How would you define enlightenment? What is enlightenment?

Papaji: Don't become anything, even enlightenment is becoming something. I am enlightened and before that you are not enlightened, so don't label yourself. The very question what is enlightenment is coming of that place, before enlightenment. When you speak about enlightenment yet this word is coming from somewhere else and enlightenment and bondage are more words, before that mind, before that thought, before that nothing, only silence, so silence is the name and silence is not the name.

Q: I see that this enlightenment we are all in. And what you are talking about is beyond the mind?

Papaji: It is the suggestion of the mind that there is bondage and that there is freedom, so check where this notion itself is arising from, that somewhere else is no other than your own Self. Self is Self realized, it doesn't need any of your efforts, any of your method to realize itself, it is ever realized, for this you don't need any kind of practice, just keep quiet and that's all in this simple existence and you are at home.

Q: Something happens here in the world in your presence.

Papaji: Something is happening because of silence, because of peace, because of silence, because of absolute silence; if your mind is silent, if your mind is quiet, there is God, there is silence, this is the silence and that is contagious

Q: How can one realize the Self?

Papaji: There are two ways, one is inquiring and the other is devotion. Both are equally good. A third way is karma through service, which we are not dealing with here. Now *vichar* means inquiry, this you have to do by yourself by questioning: Who am I. This is quite enough, when you ask you hold on to the question and then there are no other thoughts in the mind because the mind is engaged already in this question and the solution of the question, who am I you stick to it, keep very alert, absolute attention, the mind can have only one thought at one time, so holding on to this inquiry no other there it will come, the mind is already occupied, this will take you where originally you belong to.

Q: Could you talk about devotion, how is it different from *vichar*?

Papaji: In devotion you have to do nothing, you have only to surrender, simply surrender to God who will look after everything, even now it is God who is looking after you. With surrender, the devotee merges into the divine to God itself; surrender is freedom, love of freedom itself, you see.