

ARE WE REALLY FREE?

The Independence Day (15th August) reminds us of those brave men who, without caring for their body, mind, wealth and family, sacrificed everything to free Mother India from the clutches of the foreigners. Mother India did become free from the clutches of the foreigners for namesake on 15th August 1947, but some of her unworthy children bound her in new kinds of bondages. This bondage is the bondage of vices, corruption, racialism, mutual enmity and improper customs.

The father (*bapu*) of India, Mahatma Gandhi's dream of the kingdom of Ram during the freedom struggle, remained just a dream. Some children of Mother India themselves transformed the kingdom of Ram into the kingdom of Ravan. Just as Ram is not just a non-living idol or a picture or a character of some mythological story, but he is a living soul, who sets an example of living a life in accordance with the code of conduct in India itself. Similarly, Ravan is not some ten-headed personality, but there are some living souls in whom there is the dominance of lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego. Ravan means the one who makes others cry, i.e. the human souls who play the role of Ravan, perform such deeds that cause sorrow to others.

The face of a donkey is shown over the head of Ravan, which is a reminder of body consciousness contained in us human souls. For example, however much a donkey is cleaned, it rolls in the mud again and becomes dirty. Similarly, God is giving us the teachings to assimilate the divine virtues by considering ourselves to be a living point form soul, but because of the *sanskaars*¹ of body consciousness for 63 births, we consider ourselves to be a body again and again and are entangled in the bondages of sorrow and vices.

We burn [the effigy of] Ravan every year, but every year we make his effigy bigger. Actually, the effigy of Ravan that grows bigger every year, symbolizes the increasing vices in our mind. It is the effigy of an enemy that is burnt. And our actual enemies are body consciousness and these vices, which we have to burn to ashes. It has also been written in Gita: Lust is the biggest enemy. It is because of the desire of lust of Ravan that Sita had to go to jail. When Sita violated the line of shrimat (the directions of God) under the influence of other's opinions because of the attachment towards traditions, she had to go to Ravan's jail. Even today, the Arabian Yavans are taking the maidens and mothers of India to the foreign countries to fulfill their desire of lust by enticing and misleading them. When the desire of lust of Soorpanakha² wasn't fulfilled, she provoked the ten-headed Ravan and brought about a war between Ram and Ravan. This is just a mythological story, but the secret behind this [story] is that lust is the sole reason for sorrow in the beginning, middle and end. If we stay within the limits mentioned by God, neither there will be any Ravan nor will anyone be able to outrage the modesty of us souls in the form of Sitas.

Bapuji of India used to call that Supreme Soul Ram as '*Patit-Paavan Sita-Ram*' in the prayer meetings daily. So, won't the Supreme Soul Ram come to transform this world in the form of the kingdom of Ravan or *Shok vatika* (the jungle of sorrow) into the kingdom of Ram or *Ashok vatika* (the garden of joy)? The period of the defamation of the religion mentioned in the Gita has already arrived. And the father of the entire world,

¹ A trait remaining in the soul as the result of deeds performed

² Sister of Ravan in the epic Ramayana

meaning the incorporeal Supreme Soul Ram (*Ishvar*, Allah or God) is giving the knowledge of God and teaching Raja yoga by entering the body of an ordinary forest dweller (i.e. the one who possesses the attitude of disinterest in the unlimited) like Ram to transform this *narak*, *dojakh* or hell into *swarg*, *jannat* or heaven. But He cannot be recognized with the help of any miracle but with the help of the eyes of knowledge.

The true kingdom of Ram or [the feeling of] *Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam* (the entire world is our family) can be established only by considering ourselves and others to be living point form souls and the children of the incorporeal Supreme Soul and burning the vices in the form of Ravan, for which Bapuji and millions of Indians sacrificed their lives. Om Shanti.