



The Wisdom of Shirdi Sai Baba and the Eastern Masters

“I am the *Atman*, the Eternal Witness, am unblemished and pure, omniscient and ever free. I am the Pure Consciousness present in all the creatures. Being unwavering and secure, I am filled with the joy of Oneness or non-duality...

“Know that a constant awareness that ‘I am *Brahman*’ is itself pure knowledge, while the generation of the feeling that I am a sinner, unfortunate and luckless, is ignorance...

“Hence first recognize ignorance. Clearly understand its nature and description, so that release can be obtained from its bondage. Devotion alone, is the means of knowing this...

“Once refuge is taken in devotion, ignorance is dispelled and knowledge arises...

“This world is a market place of *Maya*, full of variegated things, real and fake. Many are the customers here, who buy the fake mistaking them for the real. And even the great and wise are at their wits’ end, separating the fake from the real...

“Hence one must have with him a knowledgeable expert. He (the Guru, Teacher) will at once show why a fake thing looks like the real one and ignorance will then disappear at last.”

Commentary

Happy New Year to all! I chose this quotation because I felt the themes of identity and discrimination would be a great foundation for our new year. I’ve heard a lot of people using the

“new year, new you” slogan as a means to whip up motivation for the next new way to tinker with the individuality (a.k.a probably make you feel bad about yourself). So, I thought it would be sweet to instead celebrate the I AM that has, is and always will be your own true, real, adorable and perfect Divine nature, as well as the deliciously perfectly imperfect individuality that’s riding the roller coaster of life in the “blue.”

The Guru can be either an outer Teacher such as Shirdi Sai Baba or Jesus, or the Pure Knowledge of scripture and teachings. Both bring us to the wholeness of our true identity, including profound compassion for the body-mind unit. This isn’t a puzzle from which our minds can extricate themselves through reason, but rather the fruit of our devotion, attunement and alignment with God.

This week’s quotation is from the Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter 51.

Love,
Erin

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