

Free Will Is Not Necessary

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Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/382>

Bettina: Dear Guruji, I'm reading Swami Dayananda's *Bhagavad Gita* commentary. I see how and why he is arguing to establish the concept of free will. He is giving some reasons why there must be some kind of free will. I would like to write an essay on that, if you are interested. It would be on the topic of "free will." And to give my point of view already (but not my arguments), I don't even see the need to establish the idea of "free will" to establish the necessity and the willingness in a (seeming) "person" to behave according to ethical and moral rules and to follow *dharma*. I will try to show and to argue that it is not needed, that it is not necessary to deal with a "wrong" notion and somehow to compromise the truth in order to "make" people to follow the laws. But I have to read more to get his point of view more clearly. Maybe I'm just getting him wrong and in the end no essay is needed.

~ Love, Bettina

Guruji: Dear Bettina, before you spend a lot of time making your arguments, let me ask you this: For whom is free will NOT necessary? To be sure, it is not necessary for the self, but it is necessary for the individual.

Why? Because without believing that you have a choice you will do nothing for *moksa*. If you do nothing you will not get *moksa*. And if you do nothing for *moksa* you are still doing something, and the something you will be doing is living by your existing *vasanas*. And since these *vasanas* are not for *moksa*, you will just get more *samsara*. So if you want more *samsara* it is definitely NOT necessary to have free will. You can just be an animal dancing to the tune of your *vasanas*.

It seems you are confusing *satya* and *mithya*, i.e. projecting what is true for the self (no free will) onto the apparent self.

If this argument doesn't work, write your arguments and I will show you why they don't work.

~ Love, Guruji