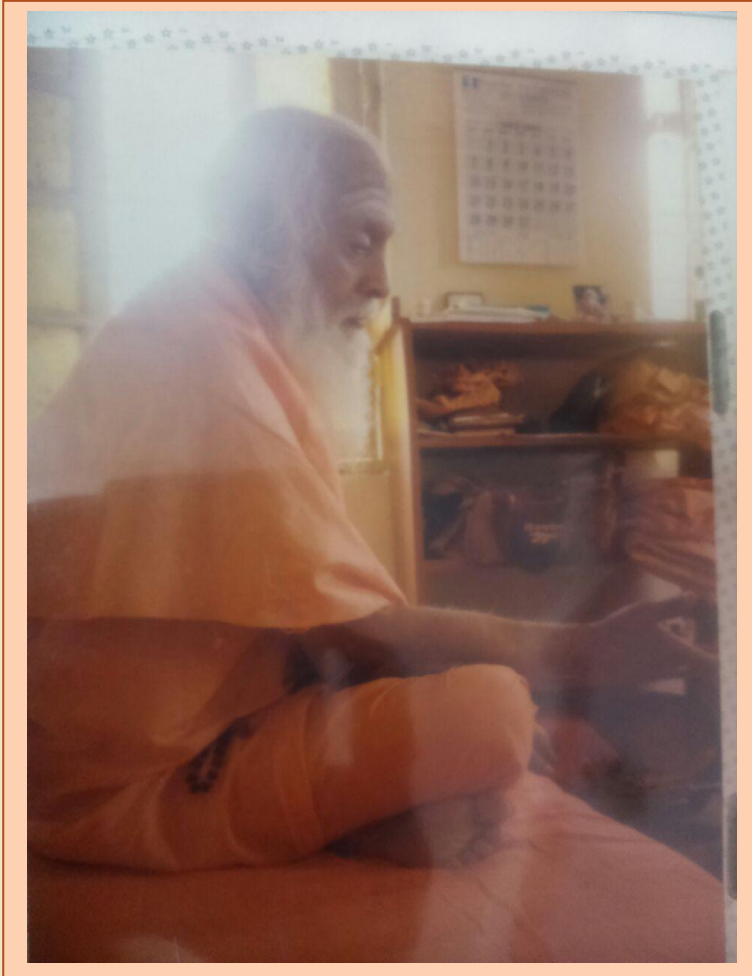


## Letter to Mr. R from USA

*By Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj,  
Tiruvannamalai, 2004*



### QUESTION FROM MR. R:

**Question:** Free will vs. Destiny. Is everything destined or to what extent we have free will?

### REPLY OF GURUJI:

**Response:** All such questions are irrelevant and unnecessary as these arise in a state of ignorance – a basic ignorance where you do not know who you are but assume that I am Mr. R having this particular body-mind complex i.e. a separate individual with a name and form. Suppose Mr. R is sleeping and having a dream that he is a beggar in some desert, tired and without food. Now in the dream questions will arise in the mind of the beggar – “Is this an African desert or Egyptian desert, will I be able to find shelter and food before night, etc.

etc. All these problems are in the dream state where you are ignorant that you are Mr. R, the millionaire mathematician. If some wise men comes in the dream, will you do efforts to wake up or will you be asking questions which have no meaning the moment you wake up as Mr. R. In this ignorant state even if 100 questions are answered, more and more questions will continue to crop up – LEAVE IT AND CONCENTRATE ON METHODS TO WAKE UP FROM THIS IGNORANT STATE.

Anyway let me answer the question:- The replies will be different in different levels of consciousness. [There is only one consciousness but depending on the quantum of ignorance and various levels of conditioning of our mind, they look like different levels].

1. Take a cow which is tied to a post in your garden with a 20 feet long rope. Within the 20 feet range, it has a lot of free will – it can roam in any direction, it can be standing, walking or lying down or sleeping but beyond 20 feet its movement is restricted. Only if the master releases and takes it along with him for a long walk, it can go. Beyond 20 feet it is completely under the Sweet will and mercy of its master. Similarly, the fact that I am born to a sweeper, living in a slum area, illiterate with brothers and sisters or no brothers – this environment has been fixed by birth i.e. destiny. Within that level if he takes interest, goes to a night school and studies – it may be considered as free will exercised through extraordinary effort.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Explanation: A man is standing before you. You ask him to lift up any one of his legs. Nor the man has a choice or free will to lift up either left or right leg. At this state you ask him again to lift up one more leg. The man cannot raise his second leg also up, however much he may will it. So now destiny restricts his movement. No more free will. So this speck of consciousness had the first choice to remain as the Infinite Consciousness or to manifest as limited Consciousness limited by a human-body complex. When once it took the first step, the Law of Karma began to operate and he continued to transmigrate from body to body, birth to birth – No More free will – till the Infinite Consciousness [may be called as God] took pity attracted the spark back to be united with itself.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Explanation: The aforesaid were all relative truths which came to the mind at different levels. Ultimately, the entire life is a dream drama. When Mr. R is acting in a drama, he has no choice. The dream drama script is a pre-recorded video cassette which goes on unrolling the drama events. So the actor cannot do a single action or talk a single dialogue unless it is in the Drama Script. Here Mr. R has become so identified with his Drama role as Rama [in Ramayana] and is weeping really at the loss of Sita forgetting he is Mr. R or has identified with his beggar role in the dream that he is feeling miserable. He thinks he is the beggar.

In the Drama, even though he has to act as per the script, he can be thinking of his house and what his wife will be doing at home – say reading a Hadley Chase or Herold Robins but

acting as per Drama Script. No Director can restrict his mental action. Similarly whatever events may happen in life [as per Drama Script of God] you have the choice to keep the Director i.e. God in mind constantly and contact him mentally – Smaranam of God. This is the free will on the mental side. On the physical side every happening, every event every movement in your life is destined by the Drama Script of God. Use this mental free will – think of HIM or meditate on him and get out of this Life Drama once for all – become identified and united with the DIRECTOR God. This is Exactly what RAMANA SAID – “WITHOUT HIS WILL NOT AN ATOM CAN MOVE”.

Let us consider it as a dream. In the dream you are caught in a lonely place with ten dacoits around you fully armed. All fear and tension. This dream is pre-conceived. You can't alter it. But how to get out of this crisis of Fear and imminent death? Only way is wake up. The dream came by itself. How to make it go. The entire dream is going on because as a dream figure you got interested in the dream world and attached yourself to the house, the money, wife, sons in the dream with love and with the dacoits through fear and hatred. So you first withdraw your mind for a few minutes from the entire scenery of dacoits, the gold and money you are carrying, the wife and sons left at home, etc. Make it blank [No thoughts] – [you have the free will to do it as it is a mental process] – Where will the mind go? Mind is only THOUGHTS. THOUGHTS require support of something – if you withdraw it from the outside world of miseries [DACOITS with guns] – it can only go and unite with the dreamer Mr. R – The dream breaks – you are awake and happy.

The Cosmic Supreme Being sees millions of dreams [of all the people in the world] simultaneously while awake – one is your life, another mind, another Venkatraman's, etc. In your dream you have become all the actors. So God himself became you, Swamiji, Venkatraman, etc. and is involved in the individual drama, forgetting his real form as the Supreme Lord. The only way is – wake up by withdrawing your interest in the evanescent world.

Leave off all your thoughts of the world either by Self Enquiry or Japa or meditation or prayer, etc. Concentrate on the Lord – you will be united with the Lord while alive as Mr. R i.e. you will have real Self-knowledge. So all death, all miseries, etc. are all dream events, they cannot touch you, the Lord. You will enjoy the drama – whether a tragedy or comedy.

Remember, while in dream everything looks as real, as solid and factual as in waking state. Only when you wake up it disappears. Similarly WAKING STATE IS Dream No. 2 and when you go into a different dimension by Quantum Leap by stilling your mind, then only you wake up. Once awake you remain awake in Super Conscious State – when NO WORLD – NOTHING ELSE EXISTS. No sorrows can assail you. The World actually, you may continue to see but it becomes a Paper Tiger – Nothing can agitate you. All Bliss.

NO MORE WRITING from my side in this trip of yours. Whether you understand or not, further doubts arise or not, it can't be helped. Think on these lines or do not think but go

with faith on the path shown by saints – any one of the paths that appeals to you is enough. Go with faith on the DIVINE – even if you choose a wrong path it will divert you to the correct channel.

**Note:** All the capital words / emphasis / sentences are as written by Swamiji. No editing has been done in order to retain the original form of the letter.

\* \* HARI OM \* \*

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