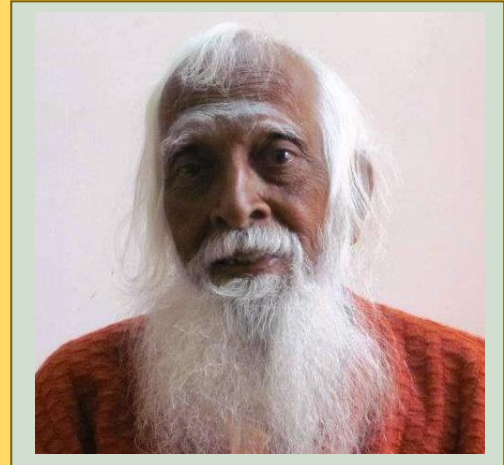


## **Bereavement should not be a cause of sorrow**

*Source: Source: Stories for Inspiration, by Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj*

### **Message from the Master:**

**The wealth of the world, its possessions and power are a loan to us from God. If He takes back anything, we cannot protest or grumble over it. What all God does is based on infinite compassion ultimately redounding to the benefit of the person.**



### **Bereavement Should Not Be A Cause For Sorrow**

A Rabbi (a Jewish Priest) loved his two sons more than his own life. Every evening when he returned home, he would spend all his time conversing and playing with his children and have dinner along with them.

One evening when he returned home, he was puzzled to see that his children were not there to greet him. He felt restless. His wife did not take the trouble of offering any explanation. After a little while, he sat for his evening meals all alone and his wife served him in silence. Suddenly his wife broke the silence by putting a question - "If someone left two precious diamonds in my custody and, after several years, claimed them back from me, would I be right in refusing to return them?"

"What a question! the Rabbi exclaimed. Go immediately and restore the diamonds to the right owner without delay."

After the Rabbi finished his dinner, his wife took him to the children's bed room where the dead bodies of their two children were lying covered by a white sheet. Both the children had been run over by a lorry while they were playing in the road that evening. The Rabbi was unable to control his grief and he burst out weeping loudly.

“Why do you grieve?” – asked the wife of the Rabbi. “Did you not tell me that what belongs to a person must be restored to the owner without any delay when demanded?” - The Lord had left these two precious diamonds in our custody. The one who gave them has taken them back. Let us be grateful to God for giving us immense joy all these years in the company of these children.

The Rabbi repeated, “yes, He gave. He has taken. Blessed be His Name!”

Many a person, irrespective of his education, status and other qualifications is shaken to the core and driven to a state of deep and irrecoverable state of sorrow and depression, when someone near to him dies especially at the prime of youth and middle age.

This story which has been taken from “Ticket to Heaven” by J.P. Vaswani should be an eye-opener and a matter of highly logical solace to such people.

The famous philosopher J. Krishnamurthy while mercilessly analysing such cases of bereavement used to tell the people “No body weeps for the dead person but weeps for oneself”. It is more a case of self-pity. It is because one has lost a valuable companionship, a source of insurance for future security etc.. that one grieves, for all the grief is based on selfishness. Apart from this, saints like Ramana Maharshi have told that when a soul discards the heavy burden of its body, it gets into a state of ecstatic joy. Often enough, death is a step towards further evolution in the next birth.

Should one begrudge the happiness and the prospects of evolution of the departed by grieving over it?

Everything we have really belongs to God as averred in Isavasyopanishad.

The wealth of the world, its possessions and power are a loan to us from God. If He takes back anything, we cannot protest or grumble over it. What all God does is based on infinite compassion ultimately redounding to the benefit of the person.