

## **Spiritual Enlightenment by A.C.Sekhar**

Ordinarily 'Enlightenment' means to be free from ignorance, false beliefs and prejudices. But speaking in spiritual terms it has a different meaning. Lord Buddha, a prince of a royal family, having had many worldly pleasures is reported to have attained 'Enlightenment' after a quest of many years, wandering amongst a variety of people including some ascetics. But Buddhism is perhaps only religion in the world which does not lay any emphasis on God for such 'Enlightenment'. Similarly Christ, Mohammad, and great founders of many religions are reported to have had 'Enlightenment' but none of them had ever explained to their followers what the so called 'Enlightenment' was and how to attain the same.

They only spoke to them as dictates of 'God' or 'Revelations' etc. Their followers had such implicit faith in their leaders not only because of their convincing teachings but also because of some acts and miracles in the lives of their leaders. Such miracles may have been the offshoot of their state of 'Enlightenment' and consequent power of thinking processes, like telepathy. The great sages of Hindu legends like Sankaracharya and other Acharyas, also did not or could not explain to their followers what exactly was the 'Enlightenment' they had but advised them to find out for themselves the Truth and Reality of Creation, the Universe, and in fact their own existence.

They also indicated some paths to reach the goal like, Bhakti, Gnyan, Karma etc. In Bhagawad Gita also, an indirect mention is made of a person as 'Sthitha Pragnya' who may become 'enlightened'. The Hindu way of life and thinking has emanated only through interpretations and commentaries of Vedas and religious scriptures by whatever one understood and got convinced from them as "Truth".

In the context of the above, it seems necessary to analyze how and why "Enlightenment" as conceived in the context of 'Spiritualism' could not be explained in clear terms for ordinary people to understand the same. Certainly it could not be for lack of any language or communication skills as existed in the days of the great sages of the past. There seemed to be certain pre-orientation of mind towards what one experienced in practical life on the basis of which ordinary people interpreted any new learning.

Even today, ordinary people make a clear distinction between worldly life and spiritual life, and try to understand any new learning with the background of their individual experiences in the respective fields. Many think that spiritual life is something beyond their reach and understanding. The meaning of 'Enlightenment' was being sought by several people only through such experiences. However all people, particularly the common people, may not have the requisite opportunities or adequate experiences to understand what they hear or read about 'Enlightenment' in spiritualism.

If one can visualize the art of the great 'Creator' and in fact the Creator himself, in all that we see and experience, and even in what we may not be able to physically see and experience, then surely we enter into a state of 'Enlightenment' in which the great Seers may have entered. In the Advaita philosophy of Sankaracharya there is supposed to be one state of mind when you do not experience any difference between Creator and Creation, and they are inter-convertible, between light and darkness when your energies remain constantly active unaltered, between day and night when your state of Conscience does not alter, between joy and sorrow when your emotions remain constant unaffected by situations around you. This is a state of highest BLISS and since there cannot be any higher state, you are said to have merged completely with GOD - the Goal of Divinity.