

The Spiritual Scientist

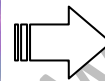
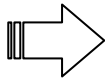
An ezine for those who think!

Love: The Heart of All Religions

The Vedic texts reveal God to be much more than the stereotypes of a stern judge or a pliant order-supplier. God, the Vedic texts explain, is an enchanting loving person, replete with all the qualities that attract us to various people in this world. We are attracted to beautiful people; God is supremely beautiful. We are attracted to powerful people; God is supremely powerful. Similarly, God is supremely wise, supremely wealthy, supremely famous and



supremely renounced. The Vedic texts explain that, over and above these six excellences, God has a seventh, most endearing excellence: the supremely loving nature. God personally and fully reciprocates love with every single soul. The one God who is known in different religious traditions as Jehovah, Christ, Allah reveals Himself in various eternal forms in His own kingdom. Prominent among those forms are the forms of Rama and Krishna. The names "Rama" and "Krishna", though often thought of as referring to Hindu gods, refer etymologically to universal attributes of God. "Rama" means "the source of all pleasure", and "Krishna" refers to "the all-attractive one".



In fact, the Vedic revelation of God is even more inclusivist, even more appealing. God is not just male, but also female. God manifests Himself eternally in two forms: one male and one female. Thus God is not just Rama, but Sita-Rama, where Sita is not just the eternal consort of God, but also God in a female form. Similarly, God is not just Krishna, but Radha-Krishna. The reciprocation of love between the Divine Couple is the original divine romance that goes on eternally in the spiritual realm. All souls share in that divine romance according to their individual spiritual natures.

The Lord, out of his causeless love for all souls, sends His sons, messengers and messages to remind us of his love and to invite them back to their original home. However his love for us is so great that he is not satisfied with these spiritual relief measures. So he himself descends to this world periodically as an "avatar" to display his world of love and thus attract the forgetful souls to return.

When the Lord descends, he teaches primarily the path of love, also known as *bhakti-yoga*, to help souls regain their spiritual rights to an eternal, joyful life. Thus *bhakti-yoga*, also known in short as *bhakti*, is not a sectarian Hindu process, but is the universal essence of all the theistic religions of the world. All these great religions declare their ultimate perfection to be developing the practitioner's love for God, which is the purpose of *bhakti-yoga* too.

