Spiritual practice for God-realisation: Vol. 3

Introduction to Spirituality

(English)

Compilers

Proponent of the 'Hindu Rashtra'

Sachchidānanda Parabrahman (Dr) Jayant Athavale

H.H. Sandeep Gajanan Alshi



Sanatan Sanstha

Sanatan's Texts available in various Indian languages

Marathi (341), English (201), Kannada (196), Hindi (195), Gujarati (68), Telugu (45), Tamil (43), Bengali (29), Malayalam (23), Odia (22), Punjabi (13), Nepali (3) and Assamese (2)

Over 9.43 million copies of 362 Sanatan's Texts as of Sept. 2023

Introduction to the Compiler

Brief introduction to the unique mission of Sachchidananda Parabrahman (Dr) Athavale

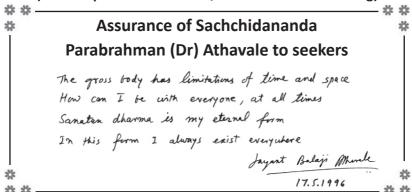


- Established 'Sanatan Sanstha' to propagate Spirituality
- 2. Propounder of 'Gurukrupayoga' for faster God-realisation: By performing spiritual practice as per 'Gurukrupayoga', 127 seekers have become Saints and 1,046

seekers are progressing towards Sainthood as of 18.10.2023.

- 3. Unique creation of Spiritual texts on various topics such as Deities, spiritual practice, daily conducts, Nation & Dharma, etc.
- 4. Founder-Editor of Hindu Periodical 'Sanatan Prabhat'
- 5. Proponent of 'Hindu Rashtra' (Divine Rule) (Year 1998)
- 6. Uniting Saints, Sects, devout Hindus, patriots and social workers and providing spiritual guidance to them to establish the 'Hindu Rashtra' (Divine Rule)

(For complete introduction, visit - www.Sanatan.org)



Introduction to H.H. Sandeep Alshi



Besides compiling Sanatan's Texts, H.H. Sandeep Alshi also composes Prasar material (for example - Sanatan Almanac, Dharmashikshan Posters, etc.). He writes inspiring articles for the 'Sanatan Prabhat' Periodicals which provide information on

spiritual practice, Nation & Dharma.

Contents

(Speci	al sub-points under the main point are given here.)			
Chapter 1	. Sanatan Sanstha, its Founder and perspectives			
	in propagating Spirituality	11		
1A.	Sanatan Sanstha	11		
1B.	Importance of pravachans and satsangs	13		
1C.	Speaker: Reasons for our turning to Spirituality	13		
Chapter 2. Spirituality - Its meaning, importance, superiority				
	over science and related misconceptions	17		
2A.	Subject and its importance	17		
Chapter 3. The nature of Sanatan's satsangs and				
	their uniqueness	29		
3A.	How will the subject be presented ?	29		
3B.	Audience	37		
3C.	Satsang	39		
Chapter 4. Spiritual practice - Its meaning,				
	importance and types	44		
4A.	Spiritual practice	44		

Introduction to Spirituality		7		
4B.	Importance	44		
4C.	Types	44		
Chapter 5. Virtues essential to perform				
	spiritual practice appropriately	48		
5A.	Belief, spiritual practice, expressed bhāv,			
	spiritual experience, faith, devotion, unexpressed <i>bhāv</i> and <i>Ātmānubhūti</i>	48		
5B.	Listening to the spiritually evolved	55		
5C.	Overcoming the obstacle of intellect	55		
5D.	Perseverance	56		
5E.	Obeying the Guru	57		
5F.	Vivēk (Discrimination between right and wrong),			
	vairagya (Detachment), humility and sākshibhāv	- 7		
	(Observer stance)	57		
Chapter 6	Fundamental principle of spiritual practice and other important principles of spiritual practice	58		
6A.	The fundamental principle of Spirituality	58		
6B.	Important principles of spiritual practice	58		
Chapter 7. Which mistakes should be avoided while				
	performing spiritual practice ?	74		
7A.	Searching for a Guru	74		
7B.	Remaining entangled in sectarian spiritual practice	74		
Chapter 8. Eight-fold spiritual practice		76		
8A.	The sequence of eight-fold spiritual practice will			
	depend on the stage of the seeker	76		
8B.	Steps in the eight-fold spiritual practice	77		

Chapter 9.	Appropriate perspectives about some actions	
	associated with spiritual practice	111
9A.	Reading	111
Chapter 10. Additional guidance on spiritual practice		
10A.	Practice what is taught instantly	114
Chapter 11. Result of spiritual practice - Spiritual progress		
11A.	Discretion, detachment, humility and	
	observer stance	121
Chapter 12. Conclusion		122
12A.	Information about satsangs	122
Chapter 13. Epilogue		123
13A.	Perform the following for spiritual progress	123
13B.	Fruition of spiritual practice	123
Appendix		
Scientific perspective of the Compilers		

Note For non-English and spiritual words used repeatedly in this Text, please see Glossary at the end of the text.

The reason for prefixing spiritual title 'Sachchidananda Parabrahman' before the Name Paratpar Guru (Dr) Athavale

As per the instructions of Saptarshi through the medium of Saptarshi Jeevanadipatti, Paratpar Guru (Dr) Athavale is being addressed as Sachchidananda Parabrahman (Dr) Jayant Athavale since 13.7.2022. Before, He was addressed as Param Pujya [His Holiness] and Paratpar Guru in Sanatan's Texts. He has been addressed accordingly on the cover of this Text and inside the Text wherever required.

satsanas.

As a part of their individual spiritual practice, some seekers deliver lectures or conduct *satsangs* (Interactive spiritual discourses) in various places on behalf of Sanatan Sanstha. Since the subject of Spirituality is very vast, seekers often find it difficult to select the exact topic to be covered at such lectures or at the first *satsang*. This Text is, therefore, written for their guidance. It is hoped that it will also be useful to those who are unable to attend such lectures and

A majority of people are uninformed about the exact kind of spiritual practice they should perform from amongst the thousands prescribed in the Scriptures. Consequently, those not performing spiritual practice, as well as those who perform spiritual practice inappropriately, benefit little by merely listening to information on Spirituality. On the contrary, their faith in Spirituality may begin to waver as they do not get spiritual experiences due to practicing inappropriate spiritual practice. Many people who religiously attend kirtans (Narration of the glory of God through stories, punctuated with devotional songs) and pravachans (Spiritual discourses in places of worship such as temples), think that they are performing spiritual practice. Similarly, those who read or study Scriptures or Texts on Spirituality consider that they have attained a fair amount of knowledge on Spirituality. In both the cases, however, this is not true. Those attending such *kīrtans* and lectures or reading Texts on Spirituality mostly do so as a pastime or as a hobby. They never really perform spiritual practice in the true sense. Sanatan Sanstha organises lectures and satsangs to make 35

35

people aware of what exactly is meant by spiritual practice and how to perform it in the correct manner.

The duration of our lectures is one to one and half hours. This Spiritual Text is written as a handbook for the satsangs. To highlight the part which could be suitably included in the introductory lecture, a line has been drawn alongside the contents and that specific point has an asterisk against it in the 'Contents'. The duration of weekly satsangs too is approximately one to one and a half hour. The entire content of this Spiritual Text can be covered, in suitable parts, over the weeks that follow. Once that is done, the topics included in Sanatan's various Texts are taught sequentially in satsangs and lectures. We are deeply indebted to H.H. Bejon Desai of Nashik, Maharashtra, India, for His valuable suggestions and His grace towards our endeavour. We pray unto the Holy feet of Shrī Guru that may some individuals make efforts to understand and commence spiritual practice as mentioned in this Text. - Compilers

(The comprehensive preface to all the Volumes on 'Science of Spirituality' is provided in Sanatan's text - 'Fundamental analysis of Dharma'.)

35



Note The points that ought to be covered in the first spiritual discourse of approximately 1½ hours have been marked alongside the text inside with vertical lines.

Shrichitshakti (Mrs) Anjali Gadgil, one of the two spiritual Successors to Sachchidananda Parabrahman (Dr) Jayant Athavale, used to obtain subtle knowledge earlier through 'A Scholar' or 'Gurutattva'.