

## **One must understand one's true nature**

At one time, the emperor Akbar and the king Birbal were going on some mission when they came across a brahmin beggar. Spotting the beggar Akbar said to Birbal: "Did you see that a man of your own caste was begging on the street?" Birbal replied: "Maharaj, he has not yet understood his true self. The day he finds his true self, he won't behave the way he behaves now." Saying that Birbal called that man over to him and said: "I shall pay you a sum of five rupees per day, if you will recite the Gayatri-Mantra 1000 times per day." From that day onward the brahmin began to recite the Gayatri-Mantra 1000 times a day. Within a few days, he had a change of heart & he decided to recite the Gayatri mantra for his own spiritual growth instead of for the benefactor. He also stopped accepting the money from Birbal. He actually declined to accept an offer of 10 rupees for the recitation of the Gayatri Mantra 2000 times made by Birbal, left his home, & went away for tapasyaa (spiritual practices). He succeeded in his tapasya and returned to Delhi as a great sadhu. In time, he became very famous, and many people began to visit his place for his darshan. The emperor Akbar also visited his place along with many gifts, but he didn't even cast a glance at Akbar. He didn't even accept his offerings. Akbar enquired of Birbal: "What is the attainment of this sadhu?" Birbal revealed to Akbar: "Lord this sadhu is none other than the beggar we had met on the road. But now he has found his true self."

Everyone must try to understand the true self. That leads to an awareness of the very fact that he is not just a JEEVA (a temporal animate being) with a separate identity from the Brahman (the Eternal Self), but his true self is inseparably one with the Brahman.

**Hail Satchidanand Sanatan Brahman With Love**