

How Sanyasa originated

Wherefrom did the idea of sanyasa emerge? Sages, given to contemplation, derive power to probe into the very core of existence. This develops because of absorption into their very source during meditation. Without waiting to judge or measure, they merge. In that merger, all boundaries stand dissolved, extinct. The inward merger is struck. That from which all measurements proceed, creation commences, time originates. They come face to face with the Creator and His magic which creates. The ability is subjective. It depends upon personal worth and excellence.

Sanyasa is the ultimate design and purpose of human life. Maybe, the last object of pursuit for many. But it is verily so. Creator does his 'work' because of the spirit of sanyasa he is able to preserve in the process. In every form of life, living is meant to outlive. Every time, one lives, he is outliving. Ultimately, your body, which enables living, leaves! In fact, you should outlive your body, before its fall. Does it happen?

Sanyasa asks you: "Will you learn to leave, outlive, before your body leaves? Can you forestall death, realizing your immortality? If not, it is a tragedy. Culture me. That is the answer, remedy."

The ancient Vedic Sages discovered this secret, by inner communion. They divulged it with fervour to their intimate disciples. They sang and danced, filled with the freedom and joy it gave. It was evolved into an ideal, practiced as a culture, disseminated as a staunch pursuit, to be adopted and tried by every one, soon or late. Being the ultimate truth of our life, of the Creator's way, it derived eternal status, power and fame.

Ever since, sanyasa and Sanyasins have adorned our country in each generation. Entry into it is an assortment. As a cherished goal, beloved pursuit, a distress measure, to gain strength for serving people, to instill dharma and impart wisdom into the masses, to glorify the Creator, to exemplify His mercy, to save oneself and others, thus numerous are the inspirations and persuasions of seekers. But all do converge.

Kings who ruled and got disgusted in the end, found solace and answer in sanyasa. Emperors who loved to conquer have laid their weapons down and surrendered at the feet of recluses, accepting them as Teachers and Saviours. Householders leave home and relations to find fulfillment in sanyasa. Sanyasa tops every human endeavor and attainment. That alone can answer the ultimate human needs, making man full at heart and free.

The eternal culture has stood itself, from then till today. It made no organization or creed for support. No institution was meant to be born of it. Spirit of sanyasa institutes itself in individual hearts and minds. By its own beauty, compulsion and worth, it appeals to one and all, faster or slower.

-Swamiji