

Illusion

An illusion or false impression comes from the misunderstanding that all seems so real at face value. Immerse a stick into a glass of water and what do you see? The stick appears to be bent. An ignorant person would say either the stick is bent or their eyes are at fault. But ask a student of science and he will say no, neither the stick is bent nor are the eyes at fault. Further more, the knowledgeable student will explain by using properties of refraction and reflection of light as to why the stick appears to be bent. The reality is that the awareness the student has from his knowledge of science made all the difference. The Satguru does exactly this. By blessing us with the God knowledge he removes the veil of darkness and ignorance right in front of our eyes and shows us our true identity. He guides us by setting an example himself first and then asks us to follow the same in order to live a blissful life.

To a worldly person the materialistic world appears to be real, permanent and a source happiness. But a person with the God-awareness can tell how false the world is. Nothing lasts forever whether it be wealth, power, fame, or other worldly assets including relationships. Everything has a life span. The human body is made of five elements and is temporary. What he has today will vanish tomorrow. Therefore it is in ones best interest to accept all possessions as belonging to the creator (God) and that we are mere caretakers. We all know that our body sheds old cells and produces new cells every day. Scientists have computed that an average person sheds all their old cells for new ones every seven years. That means a man aged 50 would have undergone a bodily cell change seven times over! The very body he was born with is no longer there. However, the Satguru through God knowledge has already shown us that this body, which we think we own, is not ours anyway. Only the Satguru, as the embodiment of truth, can make us aware and distinguish between the true 'real' and the 'seemingly real'.

How ironical it is that, what looks real to the worldly eyes is actually unreal and what looks unreal is actually real, the eternal formless God. As Guru Nanak says "Adi sach, jugadi sach, hai bhi sach nanak hosi bhi sach". This can only be realised in true essence by the awareness blessed by the true master. The world when seen through the worldly eyes looks so real. When television was first invented the inventor was branded a fool trying to bring a moving picture from the air. Even today when I watch a family drama, an action thriller or an interesting documentary I get so carried away that I think it is actually real. The characters, the scenes, the emotions all seem so real. Only if I could take a step back and remain detached would I be constantly aware that it is only a programme, not real and thus an illusion. However, would I like it if some one was to remind me of this whilst I was watching the programme? Probably not! Thus it is better to be fully aware at all times. To be aware at a given moment is to be fully present and feeling the consciousness all around. Such constant awareness is nurtured and strengthened by way of God-remembrance, selfless-service and congregation. May God bless us all to do these noble deeds.

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