

34th Episode – Understanding Smriti and Shruti

Following 33rd episode of “*Importance of Guru Purnima*” towards Maha Kumbhabhisekam of Panching Gua Charas Jalalingeswarar Shivan temple, with good intention and thoughts for all devotees, the following write-up is prepared.

As discussed in the previous 33rd episode, we looked at significance of “*Guru Purnima*”. Unquote “**On Guru Purnima, there is a certain alliance between the Moon and the planets, which creates a receptivity in people to that dimension which we refer to as the guru**”, Unquote.

In this 34th episode, I would like to share details and significant of Smriti and Shruti, but before we get into the details one needs to grasp the real meaning of Sanatana Dharma. There are many sources of inspiration and mostly related to Hindu scriptures but Sanatana Dharma is more to that.

As rightly explained by Sadhguru, Sanatana Dharma is the **dimension of life** which **does not change**, which is the **basis of our existence**. Whether it is a worm, an insect, a bird, an animal, or a plant, all of them are ruled by Sanatana Dharma, the fundamental laws that govern existence.

Transactional laws have to change from generation to generation. That is a different matter. Sanatana Dharma is not a transactional dharma – it is an existential dharma. Wherever you are, whether you are Indian, Hindu, non-Hindu, whatever you are, Sanatana Dharma applies to everyone.

Let us understand the word “dharma.” Dharma means “the law.” Dharma does not mean religion. We are only looking at what the underlying laws are for your life to happen in the best possible way. We understand unless you stick to these laws, your life cannot happen well. These laws are not an imposition but the foundation of existence. If you know the laws, and you are in tune with them, then your life happens effortlessly. If you do not know, you will simply suffer for no reason.

Does Sanatana Dharma belong to a Hindu or an Indian person or some other person? –That is not the point. Wherever you are, whether you are Indian, Hindu, non-Hindu, whatever you are, Sanatana Dharma applies to everyone, because these are the laws which guide the fundamental process of life.

Sanatana Dharma applies to every life. It talks about how to handle the unborn, the born, the grown-up, the dead, different stages of life, and all dimensions of life. This is a very profound way of seeing life.

Smriti and Shruti

Now let's understand what is the significance of Smriti and Shruti. If we had come here a hundred years ago, we would be dressed differently, and we would be doing something else. If we had come a thousand years ago, again we would be doing something different – maybe we would be a farmer or a fisherman.

What we are doing, how we are dressed, how we speak and how we act is of the times; it keeps changing. How the next generation will act, how they will dress and what they will do, will be totally different from the way we do it right now. This is one dimension of life – we call it *smriti*. **Smriti literally translates as “from memory.” What you have learnt by memory is smriti.**

Either we are doing the same thing that our parents and our culture did, or, in reaction, we are doing the opposite thing. But this is a constantly changing process. Not only from generation to generation, in our own life, every few years, our smritis are changing. From our memory, we are changing many aspects of our life. Smriti is something that every generation should reinvent or amend.

Smriti is something that every generation should reinvent or amend. Evolution does not necessarily mean doing something better than the previous generation. It is just that because situations are changing, we are evolving to fit into those situations. Situational transactions always have to change and evolve. We can debate and say that how people ate a hundred years ago is not the way we want to eat today, because our work habits have changed.

Your smriti and my smriti may be different. But there is something else called shruti. This can be interpreted in many different ways; one dimension of it is, tune of life. **The tune is not set by your – but creation.**

So Sanatana Dharma means to understand what governs your life so that you live a profound and beautiful life. In our culture, no one is talking about morality, commandments, what you should do, what you should not do, “If you do this, you will go to heaven. If you do that, you will go to hell.” All this is not there because we inculcated this dimension: If you are in tune with the laws, you do not need punishment, you do not need reward. It is just like if you understand the traffic rules and you are driving accordingly, you do not need a policeman.

Right now, they say there are over 1 trillion life forms on this planet, but I think there are many more that you have not even seen. From a micro-organism to a human being and everything in between, they all have come from the same soil. From the same soil, a tree or a creeper are growing. From the same soil, you have eaten, and you have this kind of body. From the same soil, I have eaten, and I have that kind of body.

You cannot become a tree, a dog, a cat, a cow, an elephant, or a tiger – do what you want. The source is the same, but look at the manifold expression. So obviously, there is a law governing it, no matter what. It is fixed like a railway track, and you are going on it.

The only question is, how fast and how far will you go? How profoundly do we perceive the law, and how much are we in tune with it? Essentially, the entire system of yoga is about being in tune with the rest of existence, so that your life happens joyfully, exuberantly, to its fullest capacity. The only thing that can go wrong with your life is this: do you find full expression to your life or not? What can go wrong with a tree? The only question is, will it grow into its full capacity, or will it die as a half-grown tree? The same is true with the human being. If you are in tune with the laws, you will grow to your full possibility. If you are not, you will become stunted in some way. Fundamentally, this is our only concern, even if people are not aware of it.

The Sanatana Dharma does not belong to you or me – it is laid down by creation. It is for you and me to be in tune with it. This does not mean that in the rest of the world, no one knows about it. Many individual people know about it. They may not have written it down as shruti and smriti. But a whole lot of human beings around the world have been in tune with it, because everywhere, human beings have blossomed and lived well. **All our desires, ambitions, and longings are about becoming a full-fledged life. If you want to become a full-fledged life, understanding the laws on whose basis this life is happening, is very important.**

Shiva Shambo
Om Nama Siva Ya Om
Help Ever Hurt Never
Service to Society is Service to Almighty
Master Ir. Sivabalan - Temple Trustee
31st July 2020