

# Does God Exist?

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**Questioner:** Does God really exist?

**Sadhguru:** You are asking this question obviously because it is not yet in your experience. If I say “yes,” it doesn’t get you any closer to it. If I say “no,” still you don’t get any closer to reality. There is a beautiful story...

On a certain day, Gautama, the Buddha, was sitting in a large congregation of people. It was early morning, the sun was yet to come up. A man came. This man was a great devotee. He did not just go to the temple, he built many temples himself. He was a devotee of Rama. All the time, “Ram Ram Ram Ram,” nothing but Ram. His clothes were printed “Ram Ram” — you have seen such things... All his life, this devotee would not utter any other word than “Ram.” He made God his fulltime occupation.

He was aging, life was passing away and a little doubt came: “Suppose there is no God, my whole life would go waste doing ‘Ram Ram Ram.’” Such problems will not come to you because you are smart. Five minutes in the morning, five minutes in the evening and your devotion is over. You are keeping God like an insurance. You do everything; just in case something goes wrong you can say, “I’ve paid my premium.” [All laugh] But if you invest your whole life in God, this question will come up at some point: “Am I just wasting my life or is it true [that there is God]?” Just a little doubt came because there are these people who don’t believe in God... He thought, “Even for them, the sun comes up in the morning; even for them, flowers bloom, even for them, everything else happens and it looks like they are

having a better time than me.” So there was this little doubt, “Suppose there is no God, my whole life will go waste.” After having been such a great devotee all his life, now to ask this question was very difficult. So, he came in the early morning before sunrise, stood in a corner and asked this inevitable question, “Is there God?” Gautama looked at the man and uttered a clear, emphatic “NO.” All the disciples went “whooff!” One big relief, because any number of times they had posed this question to him: “Is there God or no God?” Whenever they asked such a question, he became silent. For the first time he said clearly, “No God.” The message spread: “The Enlightened One has declared there is no God.” There were celebrations throughout the day. Joy spread around, because just imagine if there is no God, your life is completely yours! Nobody is sitting up there keeping accounts what you are doing, how to torture you in hell — no such things.

The day passed well. In the evening, another man came. He was a Charvaka. Charvakas are out and out materialists. They do not believe in anything other than what they see. India is the only country which has allowed such people to flourish. Even today in Tamil Nadu, this is an active culture. As there are missionaries of God going from village to village trying to spread the message of God, there are missionaries of “No God” going from village to village trying to prove to people that there is no God. So, he is an expert Charvaka. It doesn’t matter what kind of a devotee you are, if you talk to him for ten minutes, he will prove to you, there is no God. To thousands of people he

has proved “No God.” Age is passing away. Just a little doubt came: “Suppose there is God? All these believers are saying that He has all kinds of torture equipment up there. So when I go there, what will He do to me?” He is sure there is no God; just a little doubt — age, you know... There was an enlightened being there; he wanted to have a confirmation. So he came in the evening after sunset, stood in a corner, in the shadow and asked the same inevitable question: “Is there God?” Gautama looked at the man and said, “Yes.” Once again, the disciples were confused. In the morning he had said “no God.” In the evening he said, there is God. What was the game?

Whether you believe or you disbelieve, you are playing the same game. Whether you believe there is God, whether you believe there is no God, you just believe something that you do not know. Your problem is just this — you are unwilling to see that you actually do not know. You do not even know where creation begins and where it ends, then how do you know where the Creator is? You do not even know the nature of yourself, how do you know the nature of the Creator? You just believe some nonsense that you have been culturally told. So, believing and disbelieving are not two different things, it is just believing in a positive way or believing in a negative way. This will not get you any closer to

reality. If you believe what I say, you will have a nice story to tell at the next tea party that you go to. If you disbelieve what I say, you will have something negative to say, but it doesn’t get you any closer to reality. So, what is your interest? Do you want to know or do you want to play around with this forever?

See, the only reason why the idea of a Creator came into your mind is because you saw the creation. If there was no creation, would you think of a Creator? It is because of the creation that you have imagined a Creator. So, creation is the one which has started this question in your head. This whole gamut of belief systems in your head has started because you are unable to explain the nature of the creation. Because you do not have any logical explanation for the way the creation is, the extent of the creation, the magnitude of the creation, the magnificence of the creation, a simple childish answer is, somebody is sitting up there and doing it. Because you are a human being, you think God is a big man. She could be a big woman...

If you were a buffalo, God would be a big buffalo — not just with two horns, with eight. I want you to understand, you have assumed unnecessary significance about your existence here. For a long time, the so-called religions on the planet went about telling you — not in the East, but generally in other parts of the world where the human being is created in the image of God and the Earth is the centre of the universe — this is the most important place in the existence. You know Copernicus? Copernicus said, “The earth is not the centre of the universe. It is not even the centre of the solar system,” and he promptly died. The next one was Galileo [who, after being tried by the Inquisition and found “vehemently suspect of heresy,” was put under life-long house arrest]. Since those times, science has explored many things and now we know the whole solar system that we exist in right now, will evaporate one day. Compared to the cosmos, it will just be a tiny empty space, nothing is going to be missed. It’s not just that if you fall dead, nothing is going to be missed in this existence — if the whole planet dies, nothing will be missed. If the whole solar system dies tomorrow morning, nothing will be missed. So don’t assume too many

things. Since the context of your experience of life on this planet is yourself, the only way you can experience life is through yourself, so naturally everything looks as if you were the fundamental of this life.

If you are experiencing only the creation, it is a very insignificant life. But the very source of creation has been packed into you. This body is created from inside. If you begin to experience yourself as the Creator, it is a phenomenal life. Yes, you are



the centre of the universe. This is the choice you have — you can either exist here as just a piece of creation, as just a bundle of flesh and bones or you can exist here as the very Creator Himself. This is the choice every human being has. The choice is yours because both are right here. There is a creation, obviously something created it; you didn't create it. You are not the Creator. Because you are human, you think the Creator must be a big human being. If you were a bull, you would be thinking of a big bull — and it is a big bull, I'm telling you... [All laugh] Don't get lost in the bull. Because your experience is always from the context of who you are, you try to create these images. If you see these images as stepping stones for your higher possibility, it is perfectly okay. This is a beautiful aspect of this culture: This is the only culture which does not have a concretised idea of God. In the same family, five different people can be worshipping five different types of gods and goddesses and there could

be one of them who doesn't believe in anything, but still they are all a part of it. There is no such thing as a heretic in this culture because there is no concretised idea of God.

This is the only culture which understands God is our making. We know the whole technology of creating gods. We have 33 crore gods and goddesses in this country, do you know? This happened when the population was 33 crores... [Participants laugh] Every village has their own Goddess or God. Because we understand this is our making. Whatever we can relate to best, we make it our God. If we like a coconut tree, we'll make the coconut tree our God. If we bow down to a coconut tree, nobody in this country thinks it is an odd thing. If you do this anywhere else, you will be dismissed as a pagan. It is not just to the coconut tree, not just to the temple, you were taught that whoever you see, the first thing is, you bow down to him because whether you can see it or not or whether he himself can experience

it or not, the Creator, that which is the source of creation, is packed into his body also. So the first thing you do is bow down, then you can abuse him if you wish. [All laugh] Just remind yourself constantly, the source of creation is packed everywhere. Is it packed in a coconut? Yes. So, if you see a coconut, bow down to it. Whatever you see, bow down to it because you may not be experiencing it that way right now but you will begin to consciously recognise it more and more so that slowly, it will build into an experience.

You are a piece of creation; you clearly know this creation is happening from within, not from outside. So, the source of creation is trapped within you, He cannot escape — this is the time to know. You are alive, you are conscious, you are good enough to sit here — do not wait until your deathbed. This is a good time to know because the source of creation is a trapped entity right now; let's make it happen.

*Source: Isha Foundation*