Is there God or Not?

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 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." 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 full-time occupation. He was aging, life was passing away, and a little doubt came. "Suppose there is no God, my whole life would 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 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 doing 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 the 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 "woohoo!!!" 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. 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? 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. You problem is just this - you are unwilling to see that you actually do not know. You just believe some nonsense that you have been culturally told. So, believing and disbelieving are not two different things.
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. Because you are a human being, you thin 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.

If you are experiencing only the creation, it is a very insignificant life. But the very source of creation has been packed into you. Yes, you are the center 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. 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. Is the only culture which does not have a concretized idea of God. This is the only culture which understands God 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, bow down to a coconut tree, nobody in the country thinks it is an odd thing.

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.

Collected by:
- Poonam Gupta