

OM

One God: Many Names



Narrator: This script is based on a lecture given by Svami Rama Tirtha on January 26, 1903, in the Golden Gate Hall, San Francisco, California...

The Teacher: Come on, boys! You have done a good job. Here is a dollar. Go and buy the thing of your choice.
(They leave)

English boy: I want to have watermelon.

Persian boy: I want to have tarbuz. I have not seen watermelon. I don't know what it is.

Panjabi boy: I want hindvana. I have never tasted either watermelon or tarbuz.
(They started quarrelling among themselves while walking on the street.)

I want watermelon;
I want tarbuz;
I want hindvana.

They went on singing their songs. A passerby (the wise man) who knew their languages was smiling. All the boys approached him and requested him: Please help us.

The man said: Give me money! I will solve your problem.

The man asked the English boy: What is your name?

English Boy: My name is John.

The man asked the Persian boy: What is your name?

Persian boy: I am called Mujib.

The man asked the third boy: What is your name?

Panjabi boy: My parents gave me the name Gopal.

The man left. He bought and brought a covered fruit, put it in a hidden place, and cut a 1/3 piece.

The man: Come on, John. Have your (desired fruit).

John: Oh, this is my watermelon. I love it. Thank you, Sir.

The man: John, now you can leave.

Come on, Mujib! Have the fruit of your choice.

Mujib: This is my tarbuz. How nice of you. I am very happy. Thank you, Sir.

The man: Mujib, you can leave now.

Come on, Gopal, and have what you wanted.

Gopal: Oh how nice! I got my hindvana. I love it. Many many thanks, Sir.

John: Let me see what you got, Mujib! [Sees] This is the same watermelon that I got by the Grace of Jesus Christ.

Mujib: No, this is my tarbuz. I got it by the Grace of Allah.

Gopal: (To John & Mujib) Let me see what you both got! Oh, you got the same thing I got by the Grace of Bhagavanji. Oh, wonders! We all got the same thing.

John: No, I got watermelon, not hindvana, by the Grace of Jesus Christ.

(They started arguing, shouting, jumping, dancing about the names of their favorite fruits and their Gods).

Narrator: The wise man had not yet left, because he wanted to see their reactions. **So the boys came to the wise man and**

requested him: Please help us. We all will appreciate very much.

Wise man: Formerly you were quarrelling about the names of fruit. Now you all are arguing about the names of gods.

Wise man: John! Who is Jesus Christ?

John: Jesus is the Son of God in Christianity. Thus, He is my God.

Wise man: Mujib! Who is Allah?

Mujib: Allah is the God of Islam. So He is God to whom all Muslims pray.

Wise man: Gopal! Who is Bhagvanji?

Gopal: Bhagavanji is the name of Hindu God. Since I am a Hindu, He is my God.

Wise man: You all know; you belong to different countries; you speak different languages; and you pray to different gods. That caused this problem. I hope you all understand now.

All: Yes, we all understand now.

Name and form are illusion
Here the wise man plays the role of the Master and all the boys as disciples.

Master: John: Tell me if you remove all the different names such as watermelon, tarbuza, and hindvana, what will be left?

John: I think just a fruit will be left.

Master: Mujib: What is your idea?

Mujib: I also have the same idea.

Master: What do you have to say, Gopal?

Gopal: I agree with John.

John: Master! If our names