

he not do anything to make things better. On the other hand, there are those who believe that God is omnipresent — present in every creature, and every particle. If God is everywhere, why are things going from bad to worse? Why should anyone pray? If we argue that God has given free will and all that is evil is the result of human failings, then what purpose is served by God's omnipresence? The very act of prayer is contrary to belief in God's omnipresence. If God is omnipresent why does he need to send messengers to mankind at different points in history in order to rid humanity of evils? If God is present everywhere in the world there should be no need to undergo penance in order to attain to *moksha* or liberation from the cycle of birth and rebirth.

The belief in the omnipresence of God is most likely an erroneous extension of God's omnipotence. Since God is Almighty, the faithful believe that He is also present everywhere all the time. But if a person or thing is present somewhere, the qualities of that person or thing can be experienced there. For example, a jovial person spreads cheer, a kind person spreads kindness. Likewise, if God were present everywhere and in everyone, we should be experiencing His virtues and powers all the time. If God were omnipresent, the world would not witness any moral or spiritual degradation that would necessitate

His intervention. Mistaken beliefs, including that of an omnipresent God, are the result of human ignorance. Those who truly love God can experience His company everywhere and at all times. His powers and virtues are boundless but for that reason He need not be omnipresent. (*Purity*, June 2013.)

In Theosophy God is described as an omnipresent, omnipotent, immutable Principle. Perhaps, to admit that God is not omnipresent is to accept that God is finite — probably a person sitting on a golden or lotus throne, on the outskirts of a planetary chain or a solar system. God, in Theosophy, is symbolized by Absolute Abstract Space. Space is really the container of everything — itself limitless, without beginning or an end. It remains unchanged by presence or absence of objects contained within it. Coming into existence of the Solar systems and Galaxies or their destruction has no effect on Space. There are two aspects of One Reality or God: transcendental and immanent. In the *Gita*, Shri Krishna says, "I created this