

# WHERE IS LORD SHIVA?

by  
AiR





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## PREFACE

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Where is Lord Shiva? Is He in the Shiva Temple? Or is He in Rameshwar, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Kedarnath, Amarnath? Some would say He is in Kailash, the abode of Lord Shiva at Manasarovar.

Many devout devotees have taken the pilgrimage up to Kailash and Manasarovar, praying and hoping that they will see Lord Shiva. Even if they do not see Lord Shiva physically, they at least hope to get a vision or a dream of Lord Shiva. But will this happen?

A true Seeker seeks Lord Shiva using his

gift of the intellect. A Seeker practically thinks and seeks answers to questions - Where is God? Who is God? What is God? One who truly seeks Lord Shiva with bhakti, dedication, and devotion is the one who ultimately finds the truth.



# Where is Lord Shiva?

“Where is Lord Shiva?” What a silly question!

Lord Shiva is in the temple. Lord Shiva is in the Lingam. He exists in all the temples around the world. Lord Shiva exists in so many forms such as Nataraja, Bholenath, and Mahadeva. Who does not know where Lord Shiva is?

If Lord Shiva is in the temple, how can one meet Him and talk to Him? Have you ever wondered how we can communicate with Him? Does the search for Lord Shiva ends in holy



places such as Rameshwaram, Haridwar, Kedarnath, Amarnath, and Badrinath?

While this question may be well answered by a staunch believer of Lord Shiva, if one stops for a moment and actually goes deeper seeking the truth and to meet and connect with God, then the question actually gets answered.

### **The Staunch Believer and the Seeker**

Basically, there are two kinds of devotees – the staunch believer, who goes to the temple to pray and believes that Lord Shiva's presence is in the statue of the temple. He prays and is satisfied with the belief that his prayers

would reach Lord Shiva. He bows down to Lord Shiva saying “Om Namah Shivaya”.

Then there is the Seeker who asks questions. He questions – this is Lord Shiva, but actually where is Lord Shiva? How did Lord Shiva come about? How did Lord Shiva appear on Earth? How can I become one with Lord Shiva? Is Lord Shiva identical to the one talked about in the mythological stories?

The one who asks many such questions goes into a quest. In this quest, one actually asks – Does Lord Shiva lives in Kailasha? Is Lord Shiva seen at the Manasarovar?

Generally, most people visit places of worship with a desire to find Lord Shiva. They feel that the power of Lord Shiva can be felt and He would be easily accessible to them in these places. Many people have the belief that they will get Moksha or would be liberated from the sins of their lifetimes by visiting certain holy places.

### **Lord Shiva is Everywhere!**

The fact remains that Lord Shiva is a form created by religion for us to be able to pray, to communicate, and to connect with God. There is no doubt that places of worship have a certain vibration to set one's mind to communicate with

God. Lord Shiva is very much present in the idols. But Lord Shiva is not only present in idols. He is present everywhere! The power called God is the Creator of this universe who is Omnipresent – present everywhere.

Yes, Lord Shiva is present in you, in me, in the mountains, in the rivers, in the sky, in the clouds, in the insects, and the butterflies. He is in every atom. There is no space where He does not exist. In fact, everything is a manifestation of God. God is manifested in all the forms that we see.

This truth is difficult to grasp at once as we have grown up with a concept of God

as a separate entity. We are used to the rituals and forms of prayer, which make us communicate with God, with a dualistic approach that God is separate from us.

Furthermore, mythology adds to our imagination as we think God to be someone in heaven with a set of characteristics. We also hear many people renouncing the world and going in solitude searching for God.

### **Find Lord Shiva Within You!**

One who really sets out to find Lord Shiva should understand and realize the truth that God is to be found only when one turns inward. Lord Shiva

resides in the temple of our heart, and when this realization dawns, one can see the Lord in anything and everything. For such a realized soul, there would be no place devoid of His presence. He would see Lord Shiva in every person and every being, animals, plants and in every inanimate objects.

Adi Shankaracharya has described this realization of God within oneself when he answered his Guru Govindapada's question, "Who are you?"

*Mano Buddhi Ahankar Chittani Naaham  
Na Cha Shrota Jihve Na Cha Ghraana Netre  
Na Cha Vyoma Bhumir Na Tejo Na Vaayu  
Chidananda Rupah Shivoham Shivoham*

“I am not the body, I am not the mind  
I am not the ego  
I am not the five elements of earth, air, water, fire  
and space.  
I am Shiva. I am Shiva.  
Shivoham Shivoham”

We are not the body, mind or the intellect. We are the Atman, the Soul that is part of the Paramatman. We are like the wave in the ocean that would finally merge in the ocean. Such is the relationship between the Divine and us. So, it is futile to search and try to find Lord Shiva anywhere else. **He can only be found within us!**

God is a Power, a Shakti. God is formless, but present everywhere. God is not

visible to our human eyes. He is beyond our ability to see, imagine, or comprehend, but can only be realized.

Jesus said, *"The Kingdom of God is within us"*. Yes, it is where God resides. We should realize the Divinity inside us as well as in everything around us.

*"If you don't find God in the next person you meet, it is a waste of time looking for him further"* – Mahatma Gandhi

*"Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our hearts and in every living being."* – Swami Vivekananda

Great Masters at all ages have realized and propounded the same realization



that God is only found within. There is no duality, no separateness. We are all a part of the same consciousness!

The Mahavakyas in the Upanishads says *Tat Twam Asi* – “You are That” and *Prajnanam Brahma* – “Everything is Brahman”.

We are one with Lord Shiva! We are one with all. The challenge is to realize the oneness. || Shivoham Shivoham ||

## **About AiR**

AiR is not what the dictionary defines as the invisible gaseous substance surrounding the Earth, which is a mixture mainly composed of oxygen and nitrogen.

AiR is the author of this booklet. AiR is a Spiritual Seeker who has set out to find the truth about life.

Born as Ravi V. Melwani, he was a very successful retail businessman who revolutionized retailing in India with the stores – Kids Kemp, Big Kids Kemp and Kemp Fort. After making millions, he realized that life is not just about making money. He shut down his

business and instead of making money, transformed his life to RVM and started making a difference with H.I.S work – Humanitarian, Inspirational and Spiritual work.

His objective was to “Make a Difference” in this world before his journey was over. He was the happiest man on Earth living the RVM Philosophy – to Rejoice, Value Life and Make a Difference.

However, one day, several questions and thoughts flashed in his mind: What is the purpose of life? Is life just meant to seek happiness and to live and to die, without any purpose? What happens after death? Will we be reborn? Where

is God? Where is Heaven? Are we the Soul? What is Enlightenment? Several questions like these took him on a Talaash, or a search for the truth.

After a few years of intense search in silence, deep in the mountains, he realized that we are not this body, but we are the Atman, the Soul. Thus he changed his name for the second time from RVM to AiR (the Atman in RVM or the Soul in RVM) as realization dawned upon him that we are not this physical body, but we are the Atman. He metamorphosed to AiR and gave up his entire life as RVM. He started the study of Atman, God and Life. This led to several realizations that formed the

mission of life – to realize God and to help Seekers realize God.

As RVM, AiR had built a Shiva Temple in the year 1995, which attracts millions of visitors all around the year. As AiR, he now believes that Lord Shiva lives in the temple of our heart. The temple in Bangalore is now called Shivoham Shiva Temple. Being a devoted believer in Lord Shiva for long, he now believes that religion is just a kindergarten of spirituality, and we all have to go beyond religion to truly realize God.


AiR booklets are small, easy-to-read booklets for Seekers who want to realize the truth about God, life and themselves.

Who are we? Where did we come from? What is the purpose of life? Where is God? Where is Heaven? Is Rebirth real? Does the Law of Karma exist? What about the Soul? What is Enlightenment?

These AiR booklets attempt to clear such doubts and answer questions about God and life that many people have in their mind and also help Seekers to move forward on the path of self-realization.



Are you a believer? Are you a bhakt of Lord Shiva? Are you seeking Lord Shiva? Then, go through this small booklet with devotion and dedication, and seek Lord Shiva with all your bhakti. You will surely find Him!

For more information on AiR booklets and AiR, please visit [www.air.ind.in](http://www.air.ind.in) or  9739522222.