

## Discussion Guide for the Film

### THE SECRET OF SURANESH

*The Secret of Suranesh* is organized around a series of fundamental spiritual questions, questions that most people grapple with throughout their lives. Read the questions to your group, then wait to see if their answers agree with the conclusions reached in the film...

Q1: How can we know that God exists?

- a. In Act One, Karjad introduces the idea of the unseen world: the world of spirit and the world of God, or “the Source.” “The Source is everywhere, but nowhere. It is like the wind, which is felt, but not seen.” Until we can come to terms with the fact that there is more to the world than meets the eye (materialism) we cannot progress to higher levels of spirituality.

Q2: Is God a blind force, or a “personal God.”

- b. Every being possesses the attributes of every simpler being. If God is superior to humans, which, by definition, He must be, then He must possess all of the capacities of the human. One of those capacities is the ability and the desire to relate to another individual on a personal, intimate level, and not just as a blind force of nature, such as gravity or radiation. This is why Sralla says that the Source is “like a person. Something like a mind, with a will, and a plan.” In other words God, must be a “personal God.” A blind force would be no God at all.

Q3: If God is a personal God, does He love us?

- c. Enkishi leads Suranesh to the conclusion that the greatest element in the universe is love. And then asks him, “So why would the Source do anything *but* for love?” With this, she explains that all of God’s actions, regardless of how we might perceive them at the moment, flow from love. Another proof of God’s love for humanity is that He sends teachers, known as Prophets or Manifestations, to help us grow.

Q4: If God loves us, why do we suffer?

- d. Much of our suffering is our own fault, says Enkishi. When we turn to selfishness instead of to the teachings sent from God, we bring suffering, predictably, on ourselves.

Q5: We all suffer from our own rebelliousness and selfishness, but many who suffer are innocent, even children. Why would a just God make innocent people suffer?

- e. If God exists, He must be all-powerful. If He is all-powerful, then He loves us, because love is the ultimate force in the universe. If he loves us, He should be just. Therefore, the suffering of innocents can only be explained in one way: that there is no other way to advance the wellbeing of the WHOLE of humanity without the suffering of the innocent. In this life, God places a premium on the advancement of humanity as a whole, occasionally at the expense of the individual. Finally, since God must be just, we must also conclude that there is some reward for the innocent in a world beyond this one.

*Thanks for watching!*

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