

## PODCAST 200, WE ARE DIVIDED

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh episode 200.

The topic for discussion is this: 'We are divided'. We are split in every way.

From the economic point of view, we are divided into the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. From the point of literacy, we are divided into the literates and the illiterates. Like that, we are divided in every area of life. In other words, we are split.

Even the human mind is split because of two extremist life philosophies. A split also exists in the field of religious philosophies. There are two groups of religious philosophies and both are exaggerated. Both are logical extremes. So let us study them from the religious or theistic point of view.

One of them has a materialistic approach while the other has a spiritual approach. One represents the materialist and the other represents the spiritualist.

Who are materialists? They are the ones who follow the philosophy of "eat, drink and be merry," which is the materialistic point of view. They claim that life is just an accident and that life is not going anywhere. For them there's no meaning to life, no significance, no coherence, rationality or logic.

In addition, materialists say that we are not preparing for something in the future. Nothing is going to happen, so there's no need to think in terms of goals. Don't think that God, truth, liberation, *moksha*, *nirvana* have to be achieved. These are all just illusions that don't exist. They are all empty. They are only dreams of the human mind, so they are not substantial.

Therefore, you must squeeze whatever you can out of each moment because there is no undercurrent or hidden meaning in life. Life is accidental. You are not created for any purpose. This is the point of view of the materialist.

Materialists say that life is absolutely empty of meaning. So whether you live or whether you commit suicide makes no difference because life and death are just the same. Life is nothing but a way of dying. You are destined to die, but how you die does not matter and when you die also does not matter. How long you live does not matter either. Nothing in this life matters.

This standpoint is a half-truth, and half-truths are always dangerous. Half truths are more dangerous than lies because they have a bit of truth in them. So this is how the materialists argue and this is how they lead their lives.

On the other hand, we have the other part of religious philosophy, the spiritualists. They are religious. They are theists because they believe that there's a purpose to life and that life is not an accident.

Spiritualists believe that in each and every moment there is a running thread which exists from this life to eternity. They believe that life is unfolding and something is going to happen in the future. The future is not going to be barren or unfruitful. Instead, it is going to be creative.

Therefore, preparation is needed in order for you to unfold, to develop, so that your seed can become manifested and your essence can be realized. When this happens, you will know who you are and you will also know what this existence is. Life is not chaos. It is a cosmos and there is an order in this cosmos. Even behind this disorder there is order.

So what is needed is the kind of vision which can penetrate deeply. On the surface, you may see only a sequence of moments, but you cannot see eternity. On the surface, you can see only the body and nothing more. It is just as when you go to the ocean and you are standing on the beach. You cannot see the depth of the ocean. You can only see the waves. But the ocean is not just waves. In fact, the waves cannot exist without the ocean, whereas the ocean can exist without the waves.

So now let's look at what seems to be the other extreme, the extreme of the spiritualist. The spiritualist says that this moment is useless and time is useless. He believes that only eternity has meaning. So don't waste time in rejoicing and delighting at this moment. Don't waste this moment. Instead, prepare for the future. Sacrifice the present for the future. Sacrifice all that we have for what the future holds in itself, which is a promise.

To a spiritualist, making life a continuous approach towards the truth, making life a constant effort to realise oneself or God or *nirvana*, is not significant. On the contrary, the other life (life after death) is significant. To be here is not significant, while to be there is significant. The other shore is significant. This shore, this life, is to be used only as a jumping board. You have to go to the other shore, to the life beyond. Real life is on the other shore. On this shore there is only illusion, *maya*.

So the spiritualist says, "Don't waste your time on anything that keeps you on this shore. Don't be happy on this shore because if you are happy on this shore, then how will you be able to leave it? Become sad, become serious. This shore is the shore of sorrow. This shore is not the shore of life, but of death. This shore is nothing but accumulated sin."

So be sad that you are here. Be indifferent to whatever this shore can give to you. Don't be attached to anything here. Don't fall in love with someone. Don't fall in love with the beauty of this shore. Be alert and remember the other shore, and keep your eyes on the other shore. This is how the spiritualists feel and this is how they lead their lives.

So I have described to you the extremes of these two classes of people, the materialist and the spiritualist. However, this is not all! There is still something more significant, so we cannot choose just based on the two extreme philosophies.

After analyzing both points of view, we may conclude that this world and the other world are not opposite. To eat, drink and be merry and to be prayerful are not

opposite. There is a third class of people and they say that this shore and the other shore belong to the same river of God. This third class of people bring both schools of thought, both philosophies into agreement.

So please kindly note that each moment has to be lived as if you are a materialist and, at the same time, each moment has to be given a direction, as if you are a spiritualist. In each and every moment, one has to be delightful, rejoicing and celebrating. At the same time, one must remain alert and conscious, being fully aware about the future unfoldment.

However, that future unfoldment or development is not against this moment's rejoicing. In fact, it is because you rejoice in this moment that in the next moment the flower of your heart blossoms more. The more you are happy in this moment, the more capable and likely you will be happy in the next moment. If today has been heaven, tomorrow cannot be hell because it will be born out of today's heaven.

If today has been tremendously beautiful, if it has been a day of song, a day of dance and laughter, then how can tomorrow be a day of sorrow? From where and how will sadness enter into it? No, your tomorrow is going to be the same.

So whenever tomorrow comes, it will come as 'today'. It means that when tomorrow arrives, it will already be 'today' for you. So now you have learnt the secret of how to live today.

Therefore, learn the way to live from the materialist. From the theist, learn the direction which has been shown by real spiritual people like Buddha, Mahavira and Lord Krishna.

Make a synthesis of both materialism and spiritualism. Do not divide time and eternity. Don't divide matter and mind. Don't divide earth and sky. Don't divide the roots and the flowers. They are together. This togetherness should be the goal.

When the divisions disappear from inside you, when there's no conflict in you, you have become one. Then you become luminous and a great grace arises in you. Then you'll be as happy as any spiritualist and as silent as Buddha.

This is the third way. So there is the materialistic approach, the spiritualistic approach, and the third approach which is the synthesis of both, where one does not negate the other.

Now I would like to bring to your notice a few points which may seem to be contradictory, but they are not.

This relates to our children. We want our children to be very humble; but on the other hand, we want them to be ambitious. On one hand, we want our son to carry on the ideal of humility, humbleness, and simplicity, while on the other hand, we want him also to succeed, be ambitious, and achieve a lot. So now, he is forced to become split.

An ambitious man cannot be humble. A humble man cannot be ambitious. You want your son to be prayerful and to be true and honest. However, a man who is trying to succeed in the world has to be dishonest. Of course he has to be dishonest in such a way that nobody ever discovers his dishonesty. So he has to be very cunningly dishonest. He has to pretend to be honest and yet remain dishonest. He has to pretend to be humble and yet remain egoistic.

See, these are completely opposite goals. You can put them both inside one person, but that person will always remain divided. If he succeeds, he will think to himself, "What happened to my humility? What happened to my prayer? What happened to my compassion?" If he becomes humble he will think, "What happened to my ambition? I am nowhere."

This is how the mind thinks. On the one hand, it thinks of values and yet on the other hand it wants to be very successful and wants the freedom to exercise its choice. This is how the world works. That's how people think in the times that we live in.

I also bring to your attention another example of division in order to show how divided we all are. Everyone is divided and you can see it even in your own life.

When you are not with a woman, or with a man, not in love, you think about love and you fantasize about love. Love seems to be the goal. It seems to become the very meaning of your life.

Then, when you are with a woman or with a man and you are in love, suddenly you start thinking in terms of spiritualism. You begin to think that this is attachment, or this is possessiveness or this is lust, and a condemnation or disapproval arises in you.

So you cannot become alone again but you are also uncomfortable being with somebody. Thus, if you are alone, you hanker after the crowd. If you are with somebody, you start wanting to be alone. This is how we are split and this is something to be understood.

We'll meet again. Thank you for your time.

Sai Ram!