

PODCAST 202, BE IN SEARCH OF THE NEW

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh welcomes you to the episode 202.

Well, a man is yet to become a man. What do I mean by that? What I mean is that a man may be masculine by birth, but he has to evolve into manhood later.

You become a real man the day that you become responsible for your growth. You become a real man the day you decide that you have to create meaning in your life.

It is as if you are given a blank page at birth. You have to sign it and you have to write your song on it. Your song is not already there, but you are there and therefore the possibility exists that you will write your song. The song has to be sung and the dance has to be danced. The dancer is there, but what is the meaning of a dancer if he has not danced yet? Even to call him a dancer is meaningless because, unless he dances, how can you call him a dancer?

Similarly, unless a seed becomes a tree, it is a seed in name only. It is not yet a real seed until it sprouts into a tree. Also, unless a tree flowers, it is only a tree by name. It's not really a tree until it blooms. Again, until a flower releases its fragrance, it is a flower only by name, but it is not yet a real flower.

So, you create your existence continuously because if you do not create it, you'll be just like driftwood, accidentally moving here and there with no direction.

Therefore, the whole vision, the whole perception of all the possibilities available to man, starts from the first step. It is just like climbing the steps of a ladder. In the case of man, the first step is the physical plane, the biological plane. This may be viewed as being somewhat low. It can be perceived as only sensual pleasure. However, we should remember that out of that, love is born.

Love is meaningful only when out of that love, prayer is born. If love remains only at the level of the senses and if it is just a circular repetition, a mechanical thing, then you will remain meaningless because your biology will be your only energy.

However, this biological energy has to be transformed. This energy is like raw material, something like a raw diamond. So, you have to cut it, and you have to polish it. You have to give it shape and form. You have to give it beauty. It all depends on you. If you go on carrying the raw stone, it will remain valueless. It will only be a burden on you and so it would be better to throw it away. It would be better to throw it because what is the use of carrying it unless something better, higher can evolve from it?

Now let us look at life as a river. The river of the body has no shores, no limits, and if you plunge into it you can be lost. Therefore, you must rise above the body. This does not mean that there is something wrong and that you should be against the body. Remember this point. Don't conclude that you should be against the body.

However, it is important to note that you should not be confined only to the body. If you can use it, then make it a stepping stone. If you can go higher than the body, then your body is beautiful and it has been of great help. Without the body, it would be impossible to rise above it and to go higher.

The senses or sensual pleasures are just like a seed. The seed is just pure possibility, waiting for the right soil, waiting for the right season, waiting for the gardener, the skilful man who can help it to sprout. A seed is not actual, it only has potential. It will not necessarily become a tree. It may not become a tree at all. It may be lost completely. For example, if you put that seed on a stone, it will remain a seed. Ages can pass and the seed will not sprout.

Many people are like that seed. They are those who have not yet found their soil, they have not yet found their correct season. These are the worldly people.

A religious person is one whose seed has found the right soil and has begun disappearing. So, when the seed disappears, then the tree is born. When you disappear, then your soul is born. When the soul disappears, then God is born.

You are just like the hard shell of a seed. That hard shell represents man's ego. The worldly man is an egoistic man. The non-worldly man is a humble man. What is meant by the word 'humble' is that the man is ready to disappear, just like the seed is ready to die in the earth. The word 'humble' comes from the word 'humus'. Humus means the earth. The humble man is one who is ready to disappear into earth. This means that the humble man is one who is ready to lose himself.

Jesus said again and again that if you don't lose yourself, you will not regain yourself. If you don't lose yourself, you'll never become your true self. Blessed are those who are ready to lose themselves. What does he mean? What He means is that blessed is the seed (the man) which loses its hard shell, (the ego). By losing its hard shell, the seed becomes vulnerable, and opens its soft heart to the soil, so that the soil can work on it.

Similarly, such a man moves to the unknown. He drops the confinement, with the known, he drops the commitment with the known and he becomes committed to the unknown.

When this happens, dangers will certainly be there. Storms will be there, clouds, thunder and lightning will be there also. Just as for a small plant the whole world is a crisis as a thousand and one risks will be there, so also it will be for the man who moves into the unknown.

For the seed there's no danger. The seed is closed, it is windowless. It is imprisoned, protected, well protected. But a small plant is fragile so you have to watch it. The seed is very hard and secured, but a small plant can be destroyed very easily. The flower is even more fragile. It is as fragile as a dream, as fragile as a bubble. And a fragrance is even more fragile. It almost disappears. It becomes indefinable.

All growth is towards the unknown, towards the soft, towards the fragile, towards the indefinable. Growth moves us towards disappearance. Only the gross disappears

and only matter appears. God is invisible. The mind is also invisible. Only matter can be touched. Matter is tangible, but the subtle is intangible. That's why God cannot be seen because God is the fragrance of the flower -- very subtle, very subtle indeed.

Remember that with the gross there is more security. Lust is more secure than love. Also, love is more secure than prayer. But if you are looking for security, you'll remain confined to lust.

So, one is born in order to realise the different steps towards his own evolution and to become a real man. Otherwise, what's the meaning of being born, if you have not grown and if nothing has happened to you yet? The longer you live in lust, the uglier you will become. If you have to die while you are still in the same state, then your whole life was a waste. You never even went one step further than your birth. Naturally, birth needs to be at the body level, but death need not be!

So one must climb up and move a step higher. One should progress from the seed to the fragrance. That represents the evolution of man.

But many people live in a repetitive cycle. They go on repeating the same routine. They keep on doing wrong things but are not even aware of what they are doing. They are not even aware of how many times they have done the same thing. They are not aware that their actions bring nothing, no results. But they keep doing the same things, not knowing what else to do. So they keep going around in circles, moving in the same circular way.

In the East, we call it *samsara*, the wheel. The world is called the wheel. Just as when a wheel goes on moving and the same spokes go on turning up and down, up and down, up and down. If your life is like a wheel and the same spokes keep on moving, your life will never have any meaning. Meaning arises only when you take a step beyond yourself.

And remember this too. If you take a step beyond and then you become stuck there, once again the meaning and the significance disappear. So the meaning is in the new, in the next step. If you want to be constantly meaningful, eternally meaningful, then you have to keep on growing and growing and growing.

If you are stuck anywhere, then the meaning immediately disappears. The significance is in not getting stuck. It is found in the flow. Meaning exists in evolving. So remember that you can also get stuck at the stage of love. If you get stuck at love, then again the meaning, the importance disappears. Then again you become stale. Then the river is no longer moving and once again you'll become dirty. The flow is lost.

Therefore, when the river is flowing it is fresh, it is constantly refreshing. When the river is not flowing, it becomes stagnant. Stagnant, yes. The same is true about life. If you get stuck at love again, the flow is lost and again you are in a rut.

Prayer is needed, but there are also higher things than prayer. Prayer is the last step which can be defined. Prayer is the last thing which can be talked about, although not adequately -- in fact, very inadequately.

Prayer appears to be the last step, but it is not the horizon. It is not that the earth stops at the horizon. The sky does not finish at the horizon. The horizon simply shows our limitations because our eyes cannot see beyond it. That's all.

Prayer is the horizon of the energy of our body, but it's not the end. There are higher things than prayer. But words don't exist which can describe those things. When you reach prayer, then you'll know that there are higher things than prayer, and you will know that growth is eternal.

People are almost dead because they are stuck. They go on seeking the same thing again and again. We should note this and we should be in search of the new. The very search renews us and rejuvenates us.

If you have some beautiful experience today, don't ask for it again tomorrow because now it is meaningless. You have known it and now it is finished. It was beautiful, but don't try to repeat it because repetition kills beauty. Repetition makes everything boring. Once you become accustomed to boredom, you'll become dead. You'll just simply revolve in circles.

Ask for something more. Seek something new. Grope for the unfamiliar and the unknown. Go beyond it. Then you will go on evolving.

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

Sai Ram.