

OM SAI RAM!

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh,

PODCAST 237, “JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN”

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*The following text contains excerpts from Prof. Anil Kumar’s book
“Sai-Chology,” pg.242-247*

JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN

If we are proceeding to a familiar destination like New York or Mumbai, we are going to a place known to us. But Baba’s message takes us to an undiscovered destination.

At this stage, fear arises when we hear of the unfamiliar and the risk or danger that is involved. We start feeling uncomfortable.

Why is it called the ‘unknown’? Because of a simple fact: Known things are seen, heard or experienced. All things that are known are associated with the physical senses. Therefore, known things are those that we are able to speak about, narrate and describe.

EXPERIENCE BEYOND THE SENSES

Unknown’ things are beyond the senses: the eyes cannot see it, the ears cannot hear it, the mind cannot think about it, the skin cannot touch it and the nose cannot smell it. For experiencing the unknown, these senses are unfit instruments. The senses of perception are unfit and therefore the mind cannot estimate and put the unknown into a framework which it can understand. Then, one cannot talk about it because talk fails when the mind fails. Mind fails when it is confronted with the unknown.

A simple sequence: A known factor is estimated by the mind. We can talk and express something about it. Yet, the real destination, the real experience, is **beyond** the mind and speech. That is why the *Upanishad* says: *Yatho vacho nivartante* – the mind returns, totally failing to estimate, to think. *Vacho* - the talk also fails. *Nivartante* - returns. Because the mind cannot reach the unknown and words cannot speak about it, that is Divinity! Therefore, it is unknown. So, Baba’s message takes us to the realm of the unknown and the incomprehensible. That is the destination that we have to always remember.

BHAGAWAN’S DISCOURSES ARE NOT THEORETICAL

Sai’s discourses are not a matter of theory or ideology. This is certain. This is because theories can be explained, ideologies can be understood, whereas Bhagawan’s divine discourses are neither theoretical nor ideological, but practical. Therefore, His Master Voice is a practical handbook of life and a guide for spiritual seekers to follow, adopt and be benefited by. That is the purpose of the divine teachings.

His Master Voice is not to make us knowledgeable or powerful. Some people collect and accumulate Bhagawan's message. They make notes of Baba's statements. But, His message is not for accumulation. Let us not overstuff our head like a computer. We should understand that Swami's message is not to make us grow in theoretical wisdom.

Then, what is the purpose of His Master Voice? What is the intention? It is only to make everyone of us dissolve and disappear!

In the mundane sense, a person evolves. When one gets a postgraduate degree one feels more evolved than a graduate. With a Ph.D. one feels higher still. In this manner we keep "evolving" or rather, climbing steps, climbing higher and higher. Books give information and knowledge and after reading them we develop "ego".

But, Bhagawan's discourses are to make us **dissolve**. A simple example: In a tumbler of water we mix a spoonful of sugar and stir. Where is the sugar now? The water and the sugar are very much there but can we see the sugar? We cannot see it because the sugar has dissolved.

So, His Master Voice is to make everyone of us dissolve and disappear. Once we dissolve, we are like the sugar dissolved in the water.

Similarly, when we assimilate Swami's spiritual communication, we get absorbed, transmuted and transformed, so as to finally dissolve and disappear. Where do we go? We cease as an entity and our identity disappears. In this process our sense of separation and ego both disappear. Along with this, our feeling of superiority also disappears.

In this transmutation, we become one with the whole, like a drop merged with the ocean. The drop was separate; but once it is back in the ocean, it becomes the ocean – as mighty and vast as the ocean itself, once it rejoins it. His Master Voice will make us experience that vastness and totality in depth, in letter and in spirit.

So, His Master Voice is to make every one of us dissolve and disappear, not to make us grow in knowledge in any way.

BE ALERT

The Master Voice of Bhagawan through His discourses wants each one of us to be alert. What does 'alert' mean? We have to remember: What point is Swami going to make now? What timely reminder is He going to make? What pearls of wisdom will we collect this morning?

We need alertness because we take things for granted. When it comes to Swami's discourses we adopt an attitude of *deja vu*.

But we have to understand that we are not the same this year. Therefore, the same thing has to be said in a different context, with a different meaning and repeated with different applications, relevant to the changing situation. This may appear to be

repetitive but nothing He says is repetitive, if only we take it inwardly and with reflection. The divine message is not repetitive, though outwardly it may appear to be so.

The sun rises every day. In spite of this, sunrise is beautiful, fresh and magnificent. So, can we say that sunrise is repetitive? Similarly, can the smile of a child be boring? If one finds the smile of a child repetitive, one is lacking the right spirit.

The sunrise, the sunset, the breeze and the rain – all these are cool and fresh. Though they happen regularly, they are not repetitive. Similarly, Bhagawan's Master Voice is not and never will be repetitive, which we understand when we are alert, awake and aware. If we sleep, nobody can help us.

GOD IS EXISTENCE

Our objective when we hear Bhagawan is to grasp the context and the depth of it, in order to absorb the significance. We should listen to His Master Voice with open-mindedness and not with our bias and prejudices.

If we say, "This is exactly what Christ or Krishna said," it means that we are projecting our viewpoint. Yet, God is Existence! God is neither past nor future! God is here, now. We cannot say that this is past or future.

If we hear or listen to Him with a preconceived notion (knowledge, information, history), we miss the entire taste of it.

BE ALERT, AWAKE AND AWARE TO RECEIVE EACH MESSAGE

If we eat the same dish we ate yesterday and eat it again today, we cannot enjoy it. This is the same with all dishes. We then need to put on a long face and eat. We should drink and eat as if we are going to taste for the first time. Similarly, we listen to Swami's discourses as if or as though we are listening to Him for the first time.

We should not count the number of talks that we have heard. We have to be alert, awake and aware, so that with all freshness and fragrance we receive His Master Voice in all its significance!

More gems from His Master Voice in the next session!

Thank you for your time!

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