

Podcast 107 - SURRENDER

Om Sri Sai Ram

All our life depends upon our intelligence and how we manage to do things. Two essential things are: intelligence and intellectuality. Both are required. By being intelligent, you will be very efficient. By being an intellectual, you will be very proficient. Both are necessary to be successful in life.

Right from the beginning, we are being trained to read, write, memorize, get by-heart and reproduce at the time of examination. In other words, we are growing more and more in our memory day by day. So, it is all concerned with the head - how powerful the head is. But now the time has come where we have to bring our energy from the head to the heart.

Over decades, since all the exercises were taken by the head, we have become head-strong. Now we realize it is the time for the heart to be given a chance to head and to lead our life henceforth. Because when once the heart takes charge, it will be against all sorts of conditioning, education, culture and religion. It may not endorse and accept all these things. Then what happens? The heart that has been just physically functioning now it becomes alive once again. We feel the rhythm of the heart. That's really a very interesting thing. Particularly in the spiritual field, the heart has got to be alive and very functional, not the head.

Then the next thing that happens in the spiritual field is surrender, surrender. The questions would come naturally, what is to be surrendered? To whom should we surrender? Why should we surrender? What happens when once we surrender? These are all questions that arise. Let us discuss and share our views along these lines of thought.

We hear this word 'surrender,' people saying that I have 'surrendered' my property; I have 'surrendered' my belongings. Surrendered is used in that sense. But actually, spiritually it is different. Surrender is not giving out or losing your physical material things. No!

Surrender means you simply surrender your ego. Nothing else! Because if this ego is not surrendered, all else that is surrendered is a big zero, useless. And this surrender naturally brings together, brings both of you - you and your God - together very close because you are offering yourself in deep love and trust. Therefore, surrender is the love, the greatest love that is.

And then usually when you surrender your property, you lose something and there may be a time when you may feel sorry about it. But here, surrendering in the sense of ego, you enjoy and you rejoice because you have offered your own self. In this sense, surrender is a dedication. You are ready to pray to our God to hold our hand and lead us further and farther.

And we are also afraid that if we surrender our ego, we may lose our individuality. This is purely a misnomer. No! By dropping your ego, you will become more of an

individual. Individuality is not lost. Kindly note this point. You will be more individual now.

And then, why should I surrender to my Master? Why? Then I question why? Because we are not capable of surrendering to that which is infinite and which is so vast. You cannot surrender yourself to the entire universe. Therefore, you surrender to your Master as the representative of the whole of the universe.

And I can give you one simple example. You may not look at the open sky completely by standing outside. No! But when you look through a window, you can look at the sky and that is quite open. On the other hand, if you just go out and look at the open sky like that, what happens? You will be frightened because it is a scary scene. And hence here is a Master who is a window for us, through whom we look at the infinite universe.

A simple example how surrender is to be taken: When we want to learn the art of swimming, what do we do? We first get into shallow water, and later into deep water. We don't begin with the deep water. No! It is highly dangerous. Start with shallow water, that's all. Slowly, slowly you can get into deep water and swim freely anywhere.

Like that, surrendering to your Master will enable you to surrender to the whole of existence, the whole of the universe. And what is it? How does it look? If I ask you how does it look, what do you say about love? Your answer is this. You will know love by loving. In a similar way, surrender is known when once you are surrendered.

Alright, if I do not surrender, what happens? You have to exist as an ego, that's all. And that ego is not real; it's most false. You are surrendering to that which is false, which does not exist. In other words, after all, the ego is built by the society. It is propounded by the society. You think 'I am that, I am this, I am that'. It is because the society has given you all these labels that will make you really highly egoistic. And the ego is so dangerous. Its nature is this: it follows you wherever you go like your shadow. I may be wrong in comparing it with a shadow because the shadow requires a substance to exist. But for the ego, that's not necessary. It is already there in you. You have built that up, nurtured that ego over years.

And so, when once that ego is given up, what happens is there will be the closest relationship between you and your Master. You are so close that not even lovers are that close or that intimate.

Therefore, let us surrender happily, willingly. Don't be afraid of anything because in this willing surrender you will not be dominated by anybody. And on your own accord, you stop fighting because of the love there, and you will never consider the other an enemy. And when you are not fighting, all that energy is saved, and that energy which should have been released is now saved because of surrender. It will be food for you and will be a source of nourishment. That's what it is.

So, after all, we use the word 'surrender' repeatedly without going deeply into the subject. When once we go deeply into the subject and try to pick up these views, we would have trust in it. We will be quite eager to surrender as soon as possible.

Now, what is surrender? Well, let me say surrender can exist when there is neither love nor hate. Because if you say love, there will be a trace of hate hidden within it. Yes, love carries a little trace, a little bit of hate within. Therefore, true surrender means what? Neither love nor hate because love implies hate also.

Alright, if I don't surrender, what happens? If you don't surrender as I mentioned, you remain as an ego. And when you surrender to nobody, to no particular thing, then what happens? Ego imprisonment disappears. You will not be imprisoned by your ego because you are surrendering to nobody, that's all.

Alright, the question may arise why do you say nobody? I may be surrendering to my teacher. Oh! I fall at his feet so that I feel it is surrender. Not really! When you surrender to the feet of a Master, please know that he is not there. The spirit of the Guru, the consciousness of your Guru is so vast, is so infinite that you see in front of you only his physical body, but he is not there because he is all over as consciousness.

Therefore, when you say, "I surrendered to the feet of my Guru," yes, you surrendered, correct, but Guru is not there. Just think:

***Manasa Bhajorey Guru Charanam,
Sai Charanam Pranamaamyaham.***

Think of the feet of your Master and salute Him, offer your respects.

***Nirmala Hrudaya Virajita Charanam,
Sakala Charachara Vyapaka Charanam,
Bhava Sagara Udharaka Charanam,
Sai Charanam Pranamaamyaham,
Sathya Sai Charanam Pranamaamyaham.
Manasa Bhajorey Guru Charanam.***

Charanam, feet, where are they?

Sakala Charachara Vyapaka Charanam,

They are spread all over this universe.

That concept we should have. That understanding we should have when we bow down to the feet of Master. And surrendering to the feet of Master is just a device. It is just an excuse to give us a glimpse of surrender. Our Guru keeps his feet available for us to do *namaskar*.

But on the other hand, "I don't surrender," yes! Okay! And then with your existent ego, what happens? What happens? By ego, you lose your independence. Ego creates all kinds of devices, and ego makes you feel that you are somebody.

And by surrendering this ego, what happens? You will be non-ambitious. It is ego that is ambitious or even overly ambitious. You become yourself, that's all, the true self, and the surrender will make you lead a simple ordinary life, and in turn the Master will give you to yourself. You are thinking like ego till now, that you are an ego till now. He will make you know that you are the spirit or that consciousness. He gives you as consciousness to yourself, to your supreme consciousness meaning the true nature, the nature of the self, your true identity or the reality. That's what it is.

And another aspect of surrender is this: surrender gives you no scope to feel that you are the doer and that you are doing. No! Because when you think that you are the doer, worry arises. As a doer, you get tired soon. If you are a doer, there'll be too much of pressure. Ultimately it will make you mad also. But if you remain as a non-doer, thinking that 'I am not doing' then what happens? You will never be exhausted. You will be infinite and you will be joined with that infinite source, the super energy, and you will be able to forget all the limitations.

In other words, a non-doer what he does is he will do everything, but forget then and there itself, forget the past – do, yet do and forget. That is what you call the non-doership. You don't claim that 'I am the doer' because to be joined with the source, this is essential. Alright, we get the doubt whether we are correct or not, so we have to check for ourselves.

Thus, ego is a poison and everything is crushed by this ego. But anyway as I said, let us check ourselves. Let us examine ourselves. By this surrender is there any well being in me? Am I feeling healthier? Do I have that harmony with everybody around? Do I feel good with this? When you get positive answers, yes! Yes! Yes! Don't worry, you simply follow. No worry now, you simply follow because you are sure that you are very joyful now, that you are feeling good, that you are feeling healthy by the surrender. Why not just follow?

So, all this, as I stated earlier, happens when we listen to our heart. Listening to the heart is an art because there lays the fulfilment of our life. So, we will be naturally very obedient to our Divine Master because we have surrendered to Him and we feel very close and closer to our Master. But fear arises: What will happen to me? I am very, very close to Swami; I am coming closer to Swami, what will happen to 'me'? Fear arises, it's quite natural. But when you go a little closer, this fear will go. There is no doubt about it. But then the fear that arises initially is understandable.

But you cannot run away because of that fear. No, because His attraction and allurements is tremendous. He goes on alluring you, that's all. You cannot leave Him and you drop your fear as you come closer and closer. But as you come closer and closer to our Master, what happens? You stumble into your Master, you stumble. You don't walk straight with all the courage, you stumble. You begin to feel that you

are nobody, that you are nothing, that you are an abyss, that you are abysmal. But yet the magnetic force of our Master pulls you. Yes!

And then sometimes you may feel frightened when you are close to Him, but yet you cannot escape from Him. This is really paradoxical, highly paradoxical, because you will know soon this fear is nothing but a mind game. Fear comes because of the mind. Therefore, when once you know that, yes, you are completely free.

Then what happens? False is gone and new self is born. False is gone and the new self is born. What is the false self? Ego! Ego is gone and new self is born as consciousness. You are that infinite consciousness, nothing less than that.

But there is a difference compared to an ordinary teacher under whom we are trained, from whom we get a lot of information, and who trains us to memorize. That's what is done in schools and colleges. In other words, our education will make us a bio-computer. But with the Divine Master, it is different. He brings in you a transformation for which surrender is needed. That is based on love.

And as your Divine Master starts working with you, sometimes you feel you are hurt. You are hurt because the Master tests you, as I said in the earlier lecture. The test is so severe; sometimes the test is unbearable. Every area of life becomes questionable – financial aspect, social aspect, the family aspect. What is happening, you do not know. You begin to suffer a lot because you are put to the test by your Divine Master. You feel burning all through, meaning the Divine Master is acting as surgeon on you, and He wants to test you. But even at that stage, you cannot run away from Him. It is impossible because the surgeon already opened the body to conduct the surgery. Where else can you go? Where is the chance to run away from Him?

Then you will not be calculating in life, what is it I got? What is I have not got? What I would have got by remaining where I was? All that calculating, cunning mind is gone completely. You are ready to take the risk at any cost. That is really marvelous. Then you stand at the same wavelength as your Divine Master. Your energy meets His, Divine Master's energy. At that moment, surrender happens. When your energy and His energy are along the same wavelength, surrender happens. That's what we have to understand.

And it is a kind of a progression, a kind of movement in the positive direction. Or sometimes you may feel that, 'Oh, I had been to that master, I had been to that master earlier.' You don't have to feel guilty about it. All of them helped you to come to the present Divine Master. Gokak came from Aurobindo School of Philosophy. Kasturi came from Ramakrishna Mission - just two examples. Most of the Christians are from Christian school of philosophy.

So, we may belong to different religions, whatever it may be, whatever may be. But they all helped us because they are not contradictory. They are not our enemies. They helped us to come closer and closer to our Divine Master, Bhagavan Baba.

And then we may also get a feeling that surrender is an authority because when you surrender, that person will have all the authority over you. Is surrender such an authority? No! Surrender and authority are opposite poles. Authority and surrender are just opposite. That's very essential to know.

Authority is not exercised in the spiritual field. It is not imposed. No! And surrender is voluntary. You just surrender all by yourself, not by any authority. And then this kind of surrender, submitting to the will of the Divine Master, is not authority. If it is so, it is just out of your choice; whereas the 'authorities' as we know, as we look at the term, by surrendering to everybody there, is an imposition, a pressure on you.

"I surrendered myself to Swami." That feeling you should have because it is left to your choice. And then in other fields, authority will never allow you to disobey. You have to scrupulously follow and obey. Not to reason why, not to question why. But here in the field of spirituality, in surrender you never say 'no'. You obey, not because it is an imposition; you obey because you want to obey. You want to obey, that's all.

This we are not able to understand initially because we are taught how to obey through exercising authority. Teachers and parents always order and get things done as per their demand. That is authority. But the Divine Master to whom you surrender is not ordering. You don't have to obey always. Here you are obeying because you want to obey out of your freedom because you love Him and you enjoy His presence. The Divine Master is like that. He may assign you any duty, be that cleaning the floor or any such menial job. But yet you'll have all the satisfaction because you are sharing your energy with your Divine Master, which is most valuable because of your love and trust.

And another point to be remembered is never surrender with doubts. Doubt is impotent. So when you surrender to Him doubtlessly, it is said that your surrender is total and your surrender is doubtless. Then it becomes natural. So, in that state of doubtlessness, surrender is happening. Surrender is not a process, surrender is not a mechanism, and surrender is not a doing. Surrender is happening on its own. Surrender is created. Why? How? Because you don't have any doubts. Therefore, that doubtless state takes us to the stature of creation, creating a total surrender. Or else if you say that it is just an act or process, it means it is dead. It is not to be done.

Therefore, be with the Divine Master. There is no hurry at all. Listen to Him and feel Him, and then feel Him, that's all. But if you start thinking, doubts arise. By not thinking, one day when you are unaware, surrender happens. Do not close the door. Let the doors be kept open. Then ego has to die. You disappear as an ego. Then who remains? Your true self or consciousness.

Thank you very much for your time.