

## Podcast 114: MY HOME

Om Sri Sai Ram

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh, 114th part.

I am so happy that all of you are interested in these topics and the contents mentioned here. It is all Bhagavan's Divine Grace which is helping all of us to go ahead with this project. I feel like thanking all our translators, those that have been helping us in every way possible. They have brought us this far.

Well, the topic of this morning is, "My Home", my home. What is it? My home. What do you mean by 'home'? It is the one place where we belong, where you can be at home. Yes, you belong to your home and you can be at home, where you can relax, and you are accepted as you are. This is the idea of a home. That sense of belonging, the feeling of relaxation and acceptance by everyone makes me feel at home.

Now, I mean this home is a different home from what we usually refer to. This home is a spiritual home. What do I mean by a spiritual home? Here nobody tries to change you. Nobody expects anything from you. Everyone loves you as you are and there is no bargaining in love. It is just for love's sake, love for love's sake only, unlike our former homes where people are having some expectations, where people want us to change as per their views, and where the love is conditional.

But the spiritual home I am talking about has got nothing to do with our parents. Yes, it has nothing to do with our place of birth, no, what we call 'my native place' or something like that. This home has nothing to do with the birth place. This spiritual home is a psychological experience of belonging. Yes, and that's a beautiful experience where people understand you, yes, understand whatever you do. And there is no condemnation at all, unlike our former homes where we want somebody to reach our standards, and sometimes there may be misunderstandings, and at times our actions are not accepted. Unfortunately, we also face condemnation there.

But the spiritual home is different. It is tremendously beautiful to become a part of this spiritual home where we are not condemned, where we are not alone, where there is complete total understanding, and where there is complete acceptance. Yes, tremendously beautiful, yes, in every way. And the more we belong to that family or spiritual home, we will be receiving love from everyone, from everyone there. And we also love each member of this home. It is a movement; it is a process. It calls for dynamism. It prepares you to be happy there and to celebrate. It is a place of celebration, this home, and every day is a celebration.

Just think of that spiritual home that I am trying to talk about. Many people come here to Prasanthi Nilayam from far-off places, from far-off countries. When they reach Prasanthi Nilayam, they feel highly relaxed. They are not bothered about the comforts and the conveniences they are used to till now. They forget about all the paraphernalia, all the pomp they had there at their native places. They forget everything!

When once they step into these precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam, they feel highly

relaxed, totally relaxed. They feel at home, and when we meet them, they say, "I feel as if I have come home." That is the feeling that one gets here in this Prasanthi Nilayam. This adds to the richness of our life.

Or else what happens is all our houses, our homes, whatever we may have elsewhere, however palatial the buildings are there with a vast campus, green lawns and the gardens of a very special source, whatever it may be, they only fulfil our ego. There is no possibility of any change in us. We remain the same. After all, we may have our possessions increase day by day, and this possession may be in the field of knowledge also.

Therefore, the normal houses will not only make us feel egoistic, but also will not help us to change in any sense. Perhaps we may pride ourselves because of possessions that we acquire from time to time. And in this sense, even knowledge is also a kind of possession. By learning what happens is we dissolve.

And in the spiritual home, let us not think that we are going to become more and more, no. On the other hand, you become less and less. And if you are really learned there, you are not there; only learning is there. Learning is there, not knowledge.

As I pointed earlier, knowledge is also a possession which is borrowed. But this learning is a continuous process. We continue to learn here in this home of Prasanthi Nilayam. Every day is a new experience, every moment is a new experience, and every *darshan* of Bhagavan is a new experience. Meeting a devotee is an experience. Nothing is repeated, so we continue to learn more and more. Thereby we become less and less, and we become real seekers. Yes, we become real seekers in the sense that we don't become seekers because of accumulated knowledge. No. We are true seekers here, when once we come home to the real Prasanthi Nilayam, the abode of peace.

What are the features of our home, Prasanthi Nilayam? What are the features? We develop an affirmative attitude, a positive attitude. We begin to say, "Yes, yes!" We'll never deny anything. We also have a quality of surrender, because for so long, as we are egoistic, we would never permit ourselves to surrender. But the spiritual home will make us surrender, while our capacity of receptivity increases more and more.

In regular houses, other homes, we want to show off; but here in our spiritual home, we want to receive. And sometimes in our regular homes, as we know, there will be somebody to say, "No", somebody to resist. But in a spiritual home, there will be no resistance and there is no competition at all.

The members of this spiritual home are not competitive. Instead they are cooperative. And we feel more and more responsibility. We don't throw the responsibility on anybody else. I think I am trying to draw a line between a spiritual home and our regular residences where we stay, where we have been and continue to stay. The spiritual home I refer to is altogether different.

Then a very good thing is we belong to a group here and everyone is related to the other. Everyone is related to the other. No one lives in isolation, no. We are connected somehow or other. We feel as if we know each other for the last so many

years, though we are meeting here for the first time only. This is what relatedness is.

Relationship is different from relatedness: relationship is with known people, while relatedness is with everyone, with the whole of existence. As the river flows continuously, a group gets into the boat for a boat ride. (Boat represents the body, *sareera*.) They will have a good ride on the boat. Boating, yes, one will certainly enjoy boating. River is one, boat is one, but those of us who get into that boat are quite a good number.

In a similar way, this home, spiritual home is Prasanthi Nilayam. All of us reach our spiritual home, understand each other, and get related to each other because we are seeking the same goal, yes. And we also feel that we are pulled, pulled more and more to this place by one unknown force, and we feel more confident. Surprisingly we don't find anybody who resists, no.

And then if any devotee comes and tells how he experiences the Divinity, his views of realization, it's nothing but sharing of insights. Sharing these insights is really a marvelous thing. And we'll also drop all our trickiness because earlier we are after some tricks. Here we must drop cunningness as this home has no place for cunning politics, no.

And as we go around Prasanthi Nilayam, our spiritual home, we find devotees from all over the world. Name the country, the representative is here. This is a small alternative world, a mini-world, yes. Here people can be true and there will be nobody to exploit you, no exploitation. And when once we have lived here with the feeling of Divinity here, we cannot live anywhere else because we got used to this system.

Well, when once we taste the beauty of this place, we want it again and again. And having been here for several years, when once we step out, you feel that you are a stranger and you will not feel at home, and you will not feel that you are understood thoroughly. It is unlike the spiritual home, where there is understanding and a kind of acceptance and reverence towards each other, a respect for the individual, yes.

It is almost a new world based on love, in love and for love. And then in the ordinary world, as you know, one is against the other, and there is no love. It is here in the place of love that you feel free. But in other homes, there is no freedom of the individual, no respect for the individual. You feel at times that you are forced to do certain things and forced much against your will. So, in fact, we have our own structures on the individual, our own individuality, and therefore, we have to accept and follow our own intuition.

But outside we will be very successful if we live the life of a slave, if we are ready to yield to the pressure of the other members. Here it's not like that. You are quite free and you don't have to have the feeling of a slave at all. It's not necessary. Nothing will be forced upon you, no need to understand, and nobody in any way worried about you, no. There's nothing to get worried about because all are safe in the presence of the Divine Master.

Nobody bothers about what you are doing and what you are expressing because everyone thinks of Swami only. How am I bothered to know what you are saying or what you are doing? No. And this freedom will always keep us at ease with no tension, no worry at all.

And surprisingly enough, here in the spiritual home of Prasanthi Nilayam, everybody accepts you. Nobody reacts, nothing. Nobody condemns you, nobody evaluates you, nobody judges you. This is a place of total freedom. You become free of others and they become free of you. You become free of others and others become free of the fear of you. Yes, it is in this spirit that love grows, and surprisingly the growth happens and relationship is possible. Rather I would say relatedness is possible. This is truly our home, Prasanthi Nilayam.

Here I must also add a point before I conclude. At one of the meetings, one speaker got up and said in the presence of Bhagavan, while addressing a huge audience, he said, "All of you come and visit Prasanthi Nilayam." Swami got up and said, "Not necessary. Wherever you feel calmness, peace, truth, righteousness and love, wherever you are free, where you are composed, equanimous, that is Prasanthi Nilayam." Baba said, "My desire is that every home should be a Prasanthi Nilayam."

Therefore, my friends, don't think that I am limiting myself to Prasanthi Nilayam in the geographical sense, no. Prasanthi Nilayam is a psychological home of freedom, free from fear, where we are assured of benediction, safety and security. How blessed we are to have this concept of a spiritual home, which is a replica of the ambience of Prasanthi Nilayam.

Let us pray to live up to that expectation, to that standard of life.

Thank you for your time. We meet again.

Sai Ram