

Podcast 120: Misinterpretations

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh 120th episode welcomes you. Thank you very much for your time and your support.

The present topic is this: We find in every faith and every religion distorted versions which have not been matching the original teachings. What the Master says is distorted subsequently. What Christ said was distorted later. What Buddha said earlier was distorted later.

This kind of distortion happens in every religion and in every ideology. Sometimes what comes out is actually just the opposite version of the founder. So, let us think of these kinds of distorted or digressed versions. I don't say perversions. Let's be satisfied with the word 'distortions'. That is enough for the day.

What is this distortion or digression? Why? It may be due to the organizers or priests or interpreters. Why? Because these people are in between the original Master who is the founder, and the masses. So by the time the Master's message comes to the masses, it is altogether distorted. In fact, history tells you that the truth has been found many times, but it has never been possible to make it available to the people. Therefore, this is something very interesting which requires our thought at least for some time.

Instead of the original teachings, in these distorted cases the organization becomes a wall, composed of power seekers, hierarchies, bureaucrats, bureaucracies and what not, with the result that what happens is the man who found the truth, stands alone. He is completely helpless. So, distorted versions damage the very purpose of the Master or the leader or founder. This we find everywhere. We don't have to mention any specific names in this regard.

On the other hand, we find many books published in the name of the Master or the leader. And there are many, many people who also make statues with the help of sculptors, and start worshipping them. Books written on these Masters are treated as holy books, while the statues are worshipped. But the pity is that nobody is interested in the truth, nobody. That is really very, very unfortunate. Nobody is prepared to listen to Him. That's what happens. So in the name of culture, people may worship statues, while uncultured people may resort to crucifying the Master, like Jesus Christ was crucified. Then we'll find, on the other hand, there are many that worship the Holy Scriptures.

In other words, we find today spiritual exploitation. In addition, we also find many people in every religion, the so-called priests, who say openly that they are the mediators and they are very necessary. Yes, they may be priests of Hindu faith or pastors in the Christian faith. They all claim to be the mediators. But actually you will know that these people are only functional. They are an only functionary, that's all. They are not more than that.

And on the other hand, we also find in an organization a number of people who are acting in such a way that without them the whole society will collapse. How unfortunate it is! They conduct themselves like that, as the 'showman', as if the whole system runs because of them. And they build a bureaucracy which makes us feel frustrated. These people will make everybody feel that without them, everything is going to go wrong. Well, anyway, this is their way of gaining power.

I heard somewhere that Stalin never wanted a holiday. Never! One day his own daughter asked him, "Why don't you have a holiday? Why?" Stalin said, "Let not the country feel that it will go well without me. Should I let the whole country feel that it would be very fine without me? No! The country has to feel that it is only nice because of me. Therefore, I don't want any holiday."

Thus, if you look into history, people who are interested in power are the people who are most empty, suffering from an inferiority complex. These are the sick people in this world. Just read every biography of any of these people. Yes.

So, what happens in this system, what does it do? The blissful, blessed people are punished. Those who are miserable and mad, they are rewarded. That is the situation. Mad people are rewarded, but not blissful and blessed people. Is it worth it? Let us question ourselves, 'Is it worth it?' It is not in the least.

And moreover, if we are very happy and blissful, people, those around us are not happy sometimes. Why? Insane people, mad people, serious people are accepted, while blissful people are not accepted. So, when sane people with intelligence or intelligent people are removed, the insane crowd is immensely happy. Therefore, the insane crowd wants insane people only. They don't want anybody who is sane or intelligent.

Then what is sanity? Sanity operates always above the mind, being higher than the mind, whereas the mind is the place of all insanity. Let me be very clear about it. In other words, a transcended mind guarantees sanity, and sanity means going into silence, where there are no thoughts, no desires, no emotions, where nothing exists. It is only in sanity, in intelligence, that we find peace and sound health, good health. This has to be realized on careful analysis.

Wherever there is silence, a certain magic prevails. That is the reason why all over Prasanthi Nilayam, silence is insisted upon: the more profound the silence, the deeper the magic. In that silence, life becomes a song, a dance, and a celebration, for that matter. So, sanity is always above the mind. As has been pointed out clearly, sanity also confers peace on all of us. This is real health.

Therefore, let us understand clearly that the distortions and digressions separate us from the reality, from the truth. We have come into the spiritual field not in expectation of any position, any power, or any acquisitions or positions. We have come into this field only for transformation, inner growth and the experience of the Self. But the opposite is happening, most unfortunately, most unfortunately.

So we have to try to overcome this situation. But unfortunately, we are brainwashed by these interpreters who drive us away from the truth, the reality. We get addicted

to the system and to the priestly class and to these interpreters. But let us know that they are not the be-all and end-all. So instead we should be addicted, no doubt, to beauty, poetry, drama, sculpture, painting, not addicted to the misinterpreter's teachings, distorted versions and digressed interpretations. No.

Well, you may question, why? Will these interpretations take us away from consciousness? Yes, it makes you unconscious, there is no doubt about it. Therefore, do not think that nothing happens to us. We need a 'brain wash' now. By 'brain wash' I mean keeping the brain clean and empty every day.

If the rooms are not cleaned and washed, cockroaches get in. Therefore, let us keep our mind clean so that nobody will try to put cockroaches into our mind. We should experience a clear mind in fact. Let us not allow anybody to throw rubbish into our minds. Therefore, let us wash our minds. It is an up-to-date religious laundry cleaning that is a required cleaning every day. Therefore, my intention in this talk is to share with you a common thing that happens everywhere.

I am reminded of Vivekananda, who visited Madras Ramakrishna Mission. There he saw an idol of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Vivekananda laughed and said the name of the Ashram is Advaita Ashram, meaning 'non-dual'. How do you find the statue of Paramahansa? The theory says everything is Paramahansa alone, alone is his Divinity. Then why do you just concretize him into a statute? Therefore, his original theory is different.

Buddha never said anything about God. But we come to know that he is worshiped, his idols and all his statues everywhere are worshipped in a big way. Is it not enough of a distortion? Why are the scriptures also distorted, the scriptures also? What Christ said is altogether misinterpreted by many people.

Therefore, in this talk I appeal to all our fellow devotees to be very careful with these perverted versions, misinterpretations or distortions, and be highly vigilant to know the truth. Be ever conscious. Don't be dragged into the state of unconsciousness, or be away from the truth. For this process, I recommend a 'brain wash'. Wash our brains, keeping them clean so that nothing could be thrown into them.

May Bhagavan bless us with the correct perspective, the right understanding, grasping the depth and profundity of His teachings, so that we will be benefited by them. When so much of Bhagavan's literature is available to us, so many cassettes and so many discourses are available to us both in audio and video, why do you need interpreters? Why do you need somebody to tell you what the truth is? It's a pity. It means that we want to go along the wrong path.

Let us not do that. Let us go to the source straightway and bask ourselves in the truth, bask in the light of His wisdom.

Thank you very much.