

Podcast 153: "WHAT IS HIS LAST WORD?"

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, 153rd episode.

Many people ask me, "What is the last word of Swami?" Some people even ask, "Did Swami say anything towards the end of His life?" Like this, people go on questioning and trying to know what His last word was. "Has He said anything at the end of His life?" They want to know.

I am very sorry to say, my friends, that it is very silly to ask that question, "What was His last word?" We humans have the first word and the last word. Why? Because the first and the last word need not be the same; they may be even contradictory. But in the respect to the Divine, the first word is the last word, and the last word is the first word. That's all. Both are the same. Therefore, the last word need not be said, as the first word still is valid. It is the last word as well. Therefore, it is silly to ask, "What did He say at the end? Has He given any last word?" Well, I don't think so. And I also have come to know that He did not say anything, no, because He said all that was possible earlier.

In fact, if you go deeply into philosophy, the first word is AUM, so AUM is the first word. It is an eternal word, an immortal word, a vibrating word, a radiating word, a pulsating word. 'Aum' implies creation, sustenance and annihilation. 'Aum' implies the waking state, the dreaming state and the deep sleep state. And 'Aum' also indicates the gross, subtle and the causal body. So 'Aum' implies so many things, and that is the first word.

But as an Avatar, Bhagavan might have said the first words, "*Manasa Bhajare Guru charanam*" – "Surrender to the Lotus Feet." Until the end, He was singing the same song. "*Bhajana Bina Sukh Shanti Nahin*" – "Without *bhajan* there is no happiness and peace." So, what is the last word? That is the first and the last word. That's all.

But my friends, Bhagavan's ordinariness is absolutely extraordinary. He may look ordinary, but that ordinariness is absolutely extraordinary. And He may be giving an opinion as though He is just a human, like Sri Ramachandra, *Aham manusham manye ramam dasharathamajam*. "I am a human being, son of Dashratha," declared Rama. It was also so with Swami. His humanness was so pure that one can say it was even superior to any divineness. Yes.

It is also surprising because we cannot believe that a man can condense so much meaning into such small and simple statements. All statements of Bhagavan are profound. Meditate over each statement because each statement carries a complete philosophy of life. Its implications are tremendous and far-reaching. Then, why do you ask for 'the last word'? Are these divine statements not enough for you? Yes, we have not been able to transcend the meanness, the animality of our so-called humanity.

So now, when Swami is not available physically to us, it is absolutely necessary to have a new god, one created out of our own consciousness. So then, the last word can never be said. Even if somebody succeeds in saying the first word, it is more than enough. Swami really succeeded in His first word. That's more than enough.

And He has succeeded in saying the first word of a new life, of a new man, of a new earth. Why? Rabindranath Tagore said at one time, "I have not been able to sing the song that I had come to sing. I tried my best, but each time something was missing."

Therefore, there's nothing like the 'last word'. Perfection is impossible in existence. Perhaps the silence, that pause, is the last word. The last word cannot be spoken because it is too divine, too sacred and the lips are so mundane. During the last phase of Swami's life, we have seen His voice had changed. But in spite of that, it had become more of the heart and less of the mind. It forgot logic. It remembered only love. He did not give any argument any more. Rather His presence itself became the only argument.

Because in the last stages His voice was quite feeble, yet His presence was enough of an argument. He is Love. His value was intrinsic. And you cannot calculate in terms of usefulness or utility, or by way of interviews, gifts, or receiving letters, so on and so forth. No. He is beyond all this as the beauty of a starry night, or the beauty of a lotus flower? His presence is the music that you hear when the wind passes through the pine trees. You can't calculate this in terms of what you call 'utility' or 'use'. What is the use of a starry night, or what is the use of lotus flowers? No. It's beyond, it's beyond.

He was so luminous, self-luminous. This is not coming from the outside. He is self-luminous, light coming from the deepest being, like a fountain. It's just like a fountain, yes, radiating and showering on others. That is what Bhagavan is. The message from the head which is rational and convincing should come down to the heart that is irrational, illogical, but irrefutable. Mind it. Then it should go down into the being which is beyond both. It is beyond the head and the heart.

The being is neither rational nor irrational. Being is supra rational, supra rational, no question of refutation. You cannot refuse it. It is self-evident. The statements that are coming are self-evident statements from the deepest part of the being. We have not realized these depths, or the profundity of the statements He made and the various implications therein. All that is beyond rationality and irrationality.

In fact, His statements are supra-rational, as I said in the beginning. His very presence, the very thought of Swami is enough, which we should not bring down to the level of interviews, gifts, letters and such that are nowhere now. Why do you speak in these terms particularly when Swami has withdrawn from us? Look at Him like a starry night, like the beauty of a lotus flower, like the feeling when the wind blows through the pine trees. Enjoy His self-luminosity. There lies the realization.

And my friends I can also say that we are all brothers in one way, born of the same earth, sustained by the same sky, nourished by the same stars. We are brothers. But we are specially blessed. Why? Because we have found a Master. When we look at

Him, naturally your eyes radiate so much love in turn. The moment you have known your Master, your eyes are filled with love for your Master. Falling in love with a beautiful body is nothing. After all, it is lust. Your falling in love with your Master cannot be compared to falling in love with a beautiful body, which is nothing. After all, it is superficial. But falling in love with the being of our Master has additional depth, which is immeasurable! Immeasurable!

Therefore, let us think of this irritating question that many ask, "What was His last word?" Some even ask when He's going to come again. I give them this regular answer. "He has not gone to come again. He has not gone. Then why did you ask me when He is going to come again?"

Therefore, it only means we have not gone into the depth of Sai's message. We have not studied Sai's doctrine, or its profundity. We did not care for these things. We were only worried about our mundane requirements, worldly demands and publicity - the number of interviews we got, the number of gifts we received, how close we were. These are all vanity, these are all vanity. It is not spirituality.

True spirituality is to know that Bhagavan is beyond His name and form, beyond time and space, that He is cosmic energy, that He is your inner voice, that He is yourself supreme, that He is your consciousness. Therefore, He goes on talking to you through your inner voice and conscience.

So where is the question of the last word? Is it not foolish enough to ask that question? Some people would say, "I miss Him." What does it mean? Do you miss yourself? When Baba said, "I and you are one", when you say, "I miss Him, Baba," what does it mean? You are missing yourself. Are you mad or what? You cannot miss Him. As you cannot miss yourself, you cannot miss Baba too.

So let us not bring that spiritual philosophy down to our low level of thought, the cheap level of seeking and desiring. It's so cheap. Swami is a Superman. Swami is totally Divine. He wants us to look within, to know Him and to enjoy Him.

For God's sake, never put these questions: "What is His last word?" "When will He come again?" These are very silly and it's out of the question to ask such questions.

Thank you.

Meet again.