

## PODCAST 160: BE AN AUTHENTIC INDIVIDUAL

Om Sri Sai Ram

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh, 160th episode.

We have to remember one thing in our lives: each one of us should live an authentic individual life. We should be authentic individuals in this community so then we may be strong enough. But unfortunately, we prefer to be in the crowd. A crowd is just sheep, not human beings, while an authentic individual is quite different. You will have all dignity and pride, yet never consider that you are a mechanical part of humanity.

As an authentic individual you will want to contribute some beauty, joy and ecstasy to the world. Such an individual is not a beggar. Instead he shares his love with overflowing compassion, bestowing it with intelligence, wisdom and enlightenment.

Therefore, why don't we try to be authentic individuals? Why do we want to behave as part of a crowd? Crowds always encourage us to be cunning. So a crowd employs cunning ways against individuals. Why? It is because a crowd is always weak. The crowd wants to let down an individual, particularly a man with the spirit of an authentic individual.

I will just go through the biographies of people, of authentic individuals. Then we'll understand that they will be rebellious, turning against untruth, dead tradition and superstition. We know that the *Upanishads* were created by dignified people. These gurus never went to see the emperors. Instead the emperors had to go to their hermitages to meet or see these gurus. The emperors had to make an appointment to meet them! That is the stature of such authentic individuals.

Today we come across people who are powerful. They think that power makes people. They are hungry for power, even greedy for power. They will do anything to gain power. Ultimately, they sell their souls to be in power. Everything cannot be like that with everyone. We have to be real lovers of people. Once you are lovers of people, you'll be creators like painters, poets, singers, dancers, sculptors.

So, the real lovers of the people will like to participate in creation. So they have real power because they shower people with their creativity and with their love. They create trust in people, desire, and a longing to be creators. These are all the brilliant aspects of authentic individuals. They are definitely not part of a crowd.

We may feel that we may not have as much as others. But the more you possess, the more you are possessed because you become a slave of your own possessions. We must know that we have to use things, but you cannot possess them. No.

Take the moon for example. We all enjoy the moonlight. But we cannot possess the moon or its moonlight. Is it possible? Impossible! Some people want to possess people. That's much worse. By trying to possess people, you'll be destroying their

freedom. In fact, this freedom is the very soul of humanity. When they do such harm, they come down to the level of an animal.

Let's not be very rich, stingingly rich. Let us not be very, very poor. So, moderate poverty is good. By moderate poverty I mean we need not be so rich as to keep so much currency in our basement that we cannot use it. And we should not be so poor as to starve and die. So 'moderate poverty' is good.

Just now I was talking to you about the power mongers. The powerful people cannot tolerate somebody who has no power and yet is respected by millions of people. Because these people who are after power only know and understand the language of power. They don't understand the language of love and creativity. Why? If we study deeply enough, we'll know that poetry creates, while merely a powerful president destroys. In addition, this authentic man, an individual man, reaches the heart of humanity.

I'll give you one anecdote. Akbar had in his court a musician par excellence by the name of Tansen. One day, Akbar asked Tansen, "Tansen! You are such a wonderful gifted musician, one that the world has not seen till today. But I would like to know your teacher. He certainly must have been greater than you."

Then Tansen said, "My Lord! My teacher is Haridas. He lives in a hut very close to the Yamuna River."

And then Akbar asked Tansen, "Why don't you request your teacher Haridas to come over to my court and entertain us with his music."

Tansen replied, "My teacher Haridas never sings unless it happens spontaneously. He'll never sing on demand."

But Akbar was very keen to listen to Haridas, the teacher of Tansen. So, like a thief he had to go to the hut of Haridas to hear his melody. He was really dumb-founded. He was very, very happy.

Then he asked Tansen, "What's the reason that music of your teacher was so attractive, so melodious."

Then Tansen replied, "My Lord! Music is a miracle in the life of Haridas. Music is magic in my life, as a member of your court, by the name of Tansen. My knowledge is a technique, that's all. But my heart is empty. I sing in your court, expecting some money from you like a beggar. In other words, indeed, it is due to greed. So, I am selling my music more or less, and not otherwise singing."

Then Akbar was stunned. He understood that Haridas, to whom music is a miracle, sang that music born out of love, out of abundant love and fullness of heart, not out of greed. Haridas is mad, drunk with the divine. His music does not come out of effort, no. It comes only out of sheer joy, like the fragrance from flowers. That is the height of music in the life of Haridas.

In one way all this is possible once we enter into our own subjectivity or consciousness. New experiences that we cannot even dream of start happening once we enter into our consciousness or subjectivity. New experiences of ecstasy, blissfulness and the peace that passes understanding, lead to a living silence which gives birth to a soundless music, an overflowing of love in all directions.

Therefore, experience with consciousness will lead to an arising compassion and the realization that you are part of the whole. You are only a seed, and the new man in you will be the flower. There's a new man. Then you are a flower. This man of consciousness, of awareness, will have all dignity, not humiliation. He will know that he is only a potential that will be actualized later. It is a life of fulfilment. That will be your glory. It will be your fragrance, this experience of consciousness. The man of this awareness of consciousness can bring in a new humanity, a new world. Let us remain true to the earth. But unfortunately, religions teach in the opposite way.

So, be natural, spontaneous, and love solitude. In fact, we have lived too long, too near small and pitiable people. So we are not able to grow for that reason. But we should be creators. We should be creators.

By being so, there are certain problems because this creates vengeance in the small-minded people. When individuals are ecstatic and blissful, the small-minded people will be vindictive. That creates a vengeance in them. So people prefer to be in the crowd because they have this smallness of mind, this petty-mindedness. But it is dangerous to be with them for long.

When I say, we have to be creators I mean that we have to be creators in respect to painting, music, dance, sculpture and the like. Do something creative, something original. And once you are aware of the consciousness, be an authentic individual and a creator above all. You'll never be angry. Even if there are genuine grounds for you to be angry for some reason or other, you are not angry with anybody because you consider others are to be pitied. You will know they are sick and pathological, and that they need your compassion.

So, the crowd feels deeply hurt watching these authentic individuals, the creators and the men of consciousness. The crowd will even feel inferior, developing an inferiority complex. So, the crowd is ready to take revenge in the name of morality, culture, and religion. These are all false excuses. It's all out of an inferiority complex.

Being a small man, one in the crowd, you cannot contribute anything. On the other hand, you'll be a burden in society. Being the creators and contributors, you'll make life more beautiful, more juicy, more loving, and more musical.

Finally, I appeal to my fellow pilgrims on the path of spirituality to lead the life of an authentic individual, not the life of mixing among crowds, in order to be contributors and creators. Don't be merely one among the crowd, developing an inferiority complex and becoming vindictive towards a creative man.

Sai Ram.