

PODCAST 93: “WHAT IS HAPPENING?”

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prashanti Sandesh 93rd episode welcomes you. Thank you very much for your time. The topic for this morning is this, “What is happening?” I repeat, “What is happening?”

Yes, this question we have to put to ourselves individually and also collectively. *What is happening in the presence of Bhagavan? Are we aware of it?* The more we are aware, the more we will be benefited.

In one of the talks, Swami gave the meaning of the word, *Upanishad*. *Upa* means near, *ni* means little apart, little distant, *shad* means sit. It only means, sit down near. *Upa* - near, *Ni* - little distant, *Shad* - sit. Sit down near. In other words, it is sitting at the feet of the Master. That's what *Upanishad* is.

So, what is happening by coming to Prashanti Nilayam, and having Bhagavan's *darshan*? The first thing is, it is *Upanishad* unto itself because we are here sitting at the feet of the Master and the place is where He was born, where He worked till His 85th year, so we naturally feel the presence of our Bhagavan. And what we do is, we allow ourselves to take every one of us into his own arena, into his own brilliance, into his own state of blissfulness. And what does Bhagavan do? What's happening then?

He brings consciousness to every one of us. He will wake us up and He will remind us constantly what we are in reality. He allows everyone to be one's own self. This is really marvelous. He constantly reminds you that you are embodiments of the divine, that you are embodiments of love. That way He allows you to be yourself.

And His love is so immense as we think of Bhagavan's presence. We see many of our members of Sathya Sai Organisation all over the world, coming forward with wonderful programs. They organise study circles, they also come, write books; they organise seminars, discussions and multifarious service activities. The educational activity is fantastic.

All this has been the prompting of Bhagavan within ourselves because His Love allows all creativity within us to manifest. And He gives us greatest freedom to be one's own self. What a wonderful thing it is! In His presence, we never feel weak. No. Depressed? Certainly not! Because in the presence of the Divine Master, we are in the field of energy and we are receptive and available to that energy, and so we are energetic and dynamic.

As we repeat our visits to Prashanti Nilayam, we find ourselves, within every one of us, the birth of a new being. A new being is born and we also find a paradigm shift or metamorphosis or a conspicuous change in our individual lives. Old life is finished; we have new life, having come to Bhagavan.

I know some of my friends telling me, if I ask them what is your age, some say five years or ten years, twenty years. What is it? They are more than 50. Why do you say 10 years, 20 years like that? It means they calculate their age on the basis of or from the date of their visit to Bhagavan. The first time when visited, when they visited this place and saw Bhagavan, is their birthday. From that day they count and tell me their age. It means they have allowed the Master to transform them. There is a transformation within everyone, whosoever visited this place.

Till now what had happened: we were living in almost closed houses, with windows closed, doors closed, with no fresh air. We don't smell the fragrance of any flower, no light. So, we can't call them houses by any standard. They are graves indeed.

And I also met some of the senior devotees who spend their whole life here, 50 to 60 years. Just out of curiosity, when I asked them, "Where have you been to? Have you been to pilgrimage any time? Have you been to any other place, other than this?" You know their reply is this: "We were wandering, wandering, moving, visiting several of the places till now. But having been here with Swami, we are getting in tune with Him and hence wandering stopped." That's something miraculous.

And we also meet some of the devotees who say that their doubts are dispelled, that their doubts disappeared. How? I never see them talking to Swami. I never noticed Swami talking to them. But they come and tell them that their doubts are gone, that their doubts disappeared. How does it happen? It only means Bhagavan talks to them from within. Bhagavan clears all their doubts from within because Bhagavan is the in-dweller, *Antaryami*. Therefore, it is quite natural that our doubts disappear.

And when once we come here, we are no longer reasoning and we are no longer scientific. We don't want any logic or investigation or rationality. That all appears to be a changed game to all of us. Because having come to Him, our priority is to experience Him. That experience is beyond all science, technology, rationality and logic.

And we also feel that Swami appeals to our hearts. Swami touches our hearts without talking to us. There may not be any occasion at all, there are no words and sentences; but yet He touches our heart. Why? He constantly tells you, you are the **being**, not the body and the mind, and that being is Bhagavan Baba Himself.

Swami will not appeal to your mind. He is not meant for your brain. He doesn't appreciate your memory. Because for memory or recapitulation or recollection, some machine like computer is enough. But what Swami is interested in is making you a light unto yourself. You should be an authentic being and we should know constantly that we are immortal. We are nurtured and nourished by the energy of our Divine Master - by His light, by His love, by His laughter also. His sheer presence is enough.

And we feel: Swami, what is it that we can give You in return? We cannot pay in full the debt of our gratitude. Accepting Master, I bow down my head to Your feet. I am immensely grateful to You. I have nothing else to give You. I offer myself to You Bhagavan, [[there's] nothing here. My heart beats, which is in complete synchronicity

with the heart of you, Bhagavan. The heart is full of gratitude and gratefulness Swami, for all that You have given me, for all that I have been experiencing.

By and by we realize that every trip to Prashanti Nilayam we are in a training centre. We are in a training centre; we are in a sadhana camp. In other words, we are in a mystery school. And what happens is, seeing Bhagavan, reading His literature, singing His glories and *kirtan* and association with His devotees, *satsanga*, a stage comes when 'I' as an individual does not exist anymore. I am one with the rest of the community, with the rest of the devotees because 'I' disappears. Just as a drop disappears into the ocean, we will experience that we become ocean itself.

In other words, from this [individual] I-ness, I experience that state of Divinity. And then in this association, in this state with Bhagavan, what happens? I begin to search myself. It was Gokak who said, "I find my long-lost self." We have forgotten ourselves, we have lost ourselves. We are in search, in constant search of our own selves. And in that search, what happens? 'I' as a body, 'I' as a mind, 'I' as an ego become less and less. I have learnt to be patient enough and I have learnt to wait so as to receive His attention and Grace.

Though I may feel depressed or frustrated at times, but nevertheless the very presence of Master gives me all the courage that is needed. But in the process, I have to drop many of the unreal things, meaning body attachment, the ego, the possessive instincts and all the bestial temperaments. I have to drop them. But as I begin to drop myself, as an ego, as I try to go beyond the body, it is rather painful because all along till this moment, I have identified with the body. I have identified myself with the mind, with the ego. To come out of it, it is really agonizing. It is very painful; but when we totally come out of this narrowness, we enjoy the ecstasy or supreme joy.

To be in Prashanti Nilayam itself is a great benediction. We very soon realize that this is the right path because Swami says: "I am in you, you are in Me." I begin to experience that witness state. And finally, I come to the conclusion that Swami has helped me to grow within, the inner growth, which is the greatest growth in the whole of this existence.

My friends, in this context, I would like to draw your attention to some of these facts. Let's not consider Swami as an individual, as a personality. No! Bhagavan is not the personality, Bhagavan is a phenomenon. Bhagavan is not an object to be possessed. No! Bhagavan is not a person. No! Bhagavan is beyond. Bhagavan is energy. That we have got to understand.

Therefore, whenever I say, "Here, here in Prashanti Nilayam," I mean whenever you contemplate, whenever you begin to feel that you are in Prashanti Nilayam, yes, you are right over here. That Prashanti Nilayam is beyond geography. Let us not consider that Prashanti Nilayam is a place in the state of Andhra Pradesh, in the district of Anantapur, in India. Totally wrong! Prashanti Nilayam is a state of mind. Prashanti Nilayam is an attitude. Wherever you feel peaceful, wherever you feel like making self-enquiry that particular place is Prashanti Nilayam. Therefore, don't

mistake me Whenever I say 'Prashanti'. It does not mean only restricted to this place. Bhagavan is universal. Bhagavan is not local.

I can also tell you another point. When we read Swami, we are in communion with Swami. When we exchange our views, discuss in study circles or share our experiences with each other, we are enjoying His divine presence.

*Govindeti sada snanam,
Govindeti sada japam.*

We always think of Swami, chant His name, *Japa*.

*Govindeti sada dhyanam,
Govindeti sada japam.
Govindeti sada snanam,
Sada govinda keertanam.*

By singing His glory all the time, by being close to His literature, by being in constant thought of Bhagavan, yes, we are in His divine presence.

Therefore, what I always mean by letter and spirit is this: Prashanti Nilayam is universal. Bhagavan is the cosmic personality. Bhagavan is cosmic, the cosmic divine energy, who brings about a silent revolution within every one of us.

Thank you very much for your time.

We'll meet again.