

PODCAST 97: Who is Searching?

Om Sri Sai Ram

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh. The question that often comes to our mind is, 'Who is searching? Whom are we searching? Who is searching actually?'

Some of the devotees say, "I have come to Swami. I have known Swami. I have taken Him as my Master." In all humility, I may say all these statements are wrong. You have not chosen your Master. You cannot choose your Master also. Why? Because you are not that aware, you are not that conscious, that intelligent as to select your Divine Master. So, forget about it, that "I have chosen my Master; I wanted Him to be my teacher." That's all wrong.

In fact, Swami is searching for us. Swami is in constant search of His devotees. That made Him say, ""You are here because of Me. No one could come here unless I will. I wanted you to be here." Therefore, it is totally false to say that I am in search of a Master. No! Your Master is in search of you. He is in search of a true devotee. And my looking for a Master is not at all important because I am asleep and dreaming.

So, how does the Master act when once He takes charge of our life. First thing is, He creates a beautiful dream for all of us. We know all of the devotees speak very highly of their visits to Prasanthi Nilayam. They go on boasting of the interviews. They go on publicizing the miracles they experienced. Everything seems to be propaganda, publicity, a boasting, totally unaware of what we are doing. Actually speaking, this is all a dream created by our Divine Master. We also have experienced all that we have had earlier and are not repeating later in the second stage.

In the first stage of our visit to Prashanti Nilayam, in the first stage of our coming closer to Bhagavan, life is full of miracles. Every day is a miracle. We have lots and lots of things to say and share. And slowly He takes it out. The dream is taken out and the second stage comes when such sequence of miracles won't happen.

Then we get a question, where is the path? What is the path? Where is the path? What is the path to the Divinity, to reach Him, to earn His Grace? Because having had all these experiences before, in the second stage when we are no longer experiencing, we want to know the correct path to go back to the former stage of experience and to have those miracles once again.

So, we ask, what is the path? What is the way to please Swami, to please our Divine Master? Then the Master will tell us that there is no path. There is no goal. Why? Path means distance. Goal means time. Path and goal need time and space.

When you say, "This is the path," it means you have limited Him, space is limited. And if you say, "That is the goal," time is involved. But God is beyond time and space. So, He has to say that there is no path, there is no goal. Then what am I to do? He remains, you remain as what you are. You remain as you are with total relaxation, with no tension at all. That is realization.

So, realization is not because of any attempt, and no path will take you to that state of realization. And realization is not at all a goal either. The only thing is let us be calm, quiet, silent, and enjoy. That is enough of realization.

Then comes the third step: there how the Divine Master takes charge of our lives. In the third step what happens is He will see that you are awake. You will not lie in slumber and sleep any longer. He will see to it that you will all wake up. Then you will understand the oceanic level of our Divine Master. How great He is! How deep He is! Till now you have been considering Him as the Divine Master from the physical point of view, the height, weight and chest. But now we understand that He is so deep, so vast. And that He is everywhere and that He is capable of doing anything.

And who is He then? Your own self. He is your own reality. He is none other than your own reality. Because He is outside to make you see Him within. Outside Swami will help you to see Swami within you. That's what it is. Swami is your own reality. Swami is your own consciousness. That is the experience that we get into in the third step.

What happens? We remain outside, we remain outside, and so there is no chance of disappearance. There is no chance to disappear in Swami. I mean in total meditation, we disappear. So also, in watching Swami, while having darshan, we should disappear. We disappear. So, when we disappear naturally, we'll be one with Him. But that's not happening. We are remaining outside, remaining outside myself, my own reality. This has to be understood.

And the next step is this. I realize that I am a spark of the Divine. That Swami is in me. And now the next step is that Swami is in me, is in everyone, as the reality, as consciousness. It only means as consciousness, we are one and the same. As reality, we are all one and the same.

But how do we consider that we are separate from each other? It's only because we are in sleep. We are in fast sleep. Therefore, we consider ourselves separate from each other. But when once we are awake, we'll understand that we are all one. There is total unity, everything is a whole, and everything is total. That we'll get the feeling later.

And the next step is this: we are eager, we are eager to be with Him, to be in Him. This is what Swami calls 'Constant Integrated Awareness.' Constant Integrated Awareness means contemplation of ourselves, being one with Him, not as a separate entity. We meet 'I' as an ego. Meet Swami, the self within, the reality within. Melt in Him, in His presence and merge in Him. So, meet, melt and merge are the three steps that happen in this process when once we are awake to our consciousness.

To give an example, the river is restless. The river goes on flowing continuously on and on until it merges into the mighty ocean. The river is sleepless. It is restless. It travels until it merges into the ocean. Same thing is applicable to our lives. River will never get tired and it will never go back. No river turns back. Impossible! In existence

nothing goes back, nothing is backward. The whole existence marches forward. And in this forward march, there are so many risks, threats involved. But yet the ultimate should happen, the merger of the river into the ocean.

Likewise, we individuals may try to remain separate. No! That is the cause for all our misery, our troubles. When once we consider that we are all one, the whole thing is nothing but consciousness, Divinity, the reality, what happens? There will be no fear at all. You will be fearless, because you have merged, melted in Him. That is total disappearance of the individual as an ego, as an individual personality.

But the question arises, what will happen to me? When once I merge into the Divine, what will happen to me? My friend! Rebirth or resurrection happens. Till now you are considered as a single individual. When once you enjoy the consciousness, get merged into consciousness, you will know that you have a new life thereafter. That is resurrection or what you call the rebirth.

Swami introduces all these aspects and takes us along these steps until we merge in Him. Therefore, how true it is when He said, "You are not in search of Me. I am in search of you."

And a very mysterious thing is this: as I merge into that consciousness, the eternal reality, what happens? I am God. I am that consciousness. I am the truth. I am that reality. That will be the state. I'm not an individual here. I am universal. I am cosmic. Yes! I am not simply an individual here, separate from the rest of the creation. No! I am cosmic. The whole universe is full of awareness, full of consciousness. That will be the state when once we disappear as individuals or separate entities.

To such a qualified person, to such a seeker, for such a person, Swami has been searching all along. Then what happens is, when river merges into the ocean, there is no river separate. The river is the ocean. River becomes the ocean. What a promotion it is! A limited river, river that flows in the narrow direction, now attains the state of an ocean altogether.

Therefore, we as individuals, when once we merge into our consciousness, when once we are awake to our reality, what will happen? We will certainly understand that we are universal, that we are safe, secure and fearless. Just as the river is promoted to the stature of an ocean, we are promoted to the state of being universal, cosmic.

Just as a child, a month's baby, is safe in the womb of the mother, enjoying all the warmth and nourishment, similarly, all the warmth and nourishment is given to us when once we have this universal approach and universal experience. Therefore, we should remember that life takes us to higher realms of experience, to greater heights of excellence.

Sai Ram