

PODCAST 154: NO NEED

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prashanti Sandesh.

The topic today is, 'No Need'. I repeat, 'No Need'. Let me share a few thoughts on this topic.

Do we need mediators? We don't need them. Do we need communicators? We don't need them. Do we need middlemen? Not necessary. Do you need any astral body or subtle body to mediate? Not necessary. In other words, we don't need them. Put into one sentence, we don't need mediators, communicators, middlemen, subtle forms, or astral forms. Whatever form it is, we don't need them.

The question is why? Why don't you need them? Will they be of some help to you? May they be of some use to you?

The answer is this: Bhagavan Baba repeatedly said that there is no one between you and Me. "The relationship between you and Me is love to love and heart to heart only. Absolutely no one is in between you and Me. I do not communicate through anybody. I do not possess anybody. I don't have to. Do not believe this."

These statements Swami made repeatedly - not once, but for decades He repeated them. But we fall into that trap because of our weak-mindedness. Secondly, we may not be well-informed about His spiritual discourses or messages. We may also feel diffident and also lacuna in the area of our faith, and therefore we fall prey into these hands.

So, the topic is 'No Need', which means there is no need for any mediators, middle men, communicators, or any such bodies. There's just I and my Swami. That's all. Nobody in between! "Why?" You may ask. Because the interpreters will interpret in their own way, and sometimes they distort the true version. So in the course of time, the truth will be lost.

Here I should also mention another development among some of the devotees. Some of them come to me and say, "Sir, Baba told me this in my dream. What would you like to say about it? How do you interpret this?" Some other person comes and tells me, "Sir, Swami told me such and such, but I am not able to understand. Please interpret for me."

This looks very funny and very sad also. When Swami told you, who am I to interpret? It is meant for you exclusively. What authority do I have to interpret and stand between you and Swami? So, the one who asks is foolish and the one who interprets is much more foolish because no interpreter would be able to interpret properly. Why? Because it is a matter only between you and your God!

So, religion needs no mediators. Please understand this. I repeat once again, religion needs no mediators. And in fact, between you and existence, there is an immediate relatedness. We are immediately connected to existence, so no mediation is necessary.

But all you have to know is the language of existence. What is that? It knows only one language, the language of silence. That's why Swami lays much emphasis on the observance of silence. Further He goes on to say that, "It is only in the depth of silence that the voice of God can be heard." Therefore, the language of existence is silence, and in that language of silence you can understand the truth. You will know the meaning of life. And you will also come to know the significance of all that exists.

So, no one needs to interpret. Please understand that you have to find yourself. But if you still allow anybody to interpret, you are building a China wall. So, no one needs to tell you what is good, or what is bad. No one needs to give you a road map to follow. No. Why? Our heartbeat is also the heartbeat of the universe. Please understand this: our life is a part of the total, yes. We are growing within existence. We are in existence and we are growing there, so we are an essential part of this existence.

So just be in silence; it is enough. And in that silence we'll listen to the music of existence and feel the immense joy of existence such that life becomes a constant celebration of existence. And this facilitates and penetrates into our heart. Only then transformation happens. So then, who is a religious man? A religious man is nothing but pure ecstasy, and his heart is full of songs. His being is ready to dance at any moment!

I think I am quite clear in this, by trying to inform you that we do not need any interpreters or any mediators. Time and again Swami said this over many decades but we don't seem to pay heed to His words and directions. Therefore, we need to remind ourselves of this as a matter of caution and as a reminder from time to time.

There are some interpreters who say that our present life is useless, and also the world is useless. They go on condemning the present, while praising the pleasures of the other world, life after death. But we do not know about that other world. It all seems to be fiction. These interpreters want us to sacrifice reality for a fictitious idea, condemning the present world and praising the world that appears in life after death. I don't understand.

So, to be closer to the truth, please understand that any mediator is your enemy. If you just pay a deaf ear to him, when you are indifferent to him, then that mediator or interpreter will be highly disturbed. Why? Because this is his business, and you are also influencing his customers. In other words, in religion, to an interpreter, or a middleman, or a mediator, or a communicator, this is a business. But in fact, to be religious, you don't have to belong to any religion at all. You can still be religious. Why? Because religiousness is a quality or a fragrance of your consciousness.

And what's happening today? We follow fixed ideas and dead principles. But every day we need a spontaneous awareness to respond to reality. Life is changing moment to moment. Reality is new but our own response is thousands of years old. How ridiculous it is! Our response is based on thousands of years of an older past, while the reality is new, right now. This is a fundamental problem and here we elders fail to convince the youngsters to walk along the path of spirituality.

Here Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba comes forward with His messages delivered exclusively for the youth. How He encourages them! How His talks are in tune with the modern times! How He challenges them! How He wants them to face life in general. Swami's discourses are not based on the past. No. He will bring you to the present. That's what spontaneous awareness is.

But on the other hand, mediators disturb you. They can lead you astray because they themselves do not know the truth. Further they know the argument or sophistry. They can convince your minds of anything if they want to. That's why a mediator is a nuisance, a big obstacle. We should never entertain them at any moment of time.

Furthermore these people - the middleman or interpreters, are gifted with very good argumentation. They may argue again and again, but they fail to prove anything. So, what is required is that we should have our personal experience rather than get into a quarrel which is dangerous. Let us rely on our personal experience, and not simply on arguments or sophistry, no. So let us have an experience where no arguments can destroy that personal experience. Your experience has a quality of being self-evident; thus no other proof is necessary. Beware, the so-called humbleness of the mediators or the interpreters is just hypocrisy, yes.

Then there are some mediators who proclaim that a great future awaits you. I read somewhere that a girl walked very close to a car which was parked there. There that girl shows a photograph of a beautiful building located in a very spacious area with all green lawns. The house is very well built, very beautiful, highly attractive, and she showed this photograph to that car owner. "Sir, this is the building. This is what it is." She went on narrating.

Then the owner asks, "Where is this house? Where is this?" And the reply is, "It is the house where you can stay in the life after death. This house is there in paradise or what you call heaven." This is how interpreters and mediators behave. It is very tragic to fall into their hands. So, let us be highly cautious. These people are even selling properties in paradise! So cheap! And they say, "You don't have to pay money, just believe." Just this belief is enough to own a big property in heaven. See how ridiculous it is!

And there are also some people who would say that they are redeemers. They redeem you. Is it possible? It is *Bhagavad Gita* that says, *Uddhared atma atmana*. You have to emancipate yourself. You have to redeem yourself. Nobody can help you. Nobody can redeem anybody else. One can redeem one's own self. If you think others are going to help you in this redemption, then that creates imprisonment or slavery. All such claims are not spiritual. They are only psychological.

So, why is this happening? It's because we have dropped every effort to transform ourselves. The truth is very simple. It does not need any scripture, no. It needs a meditative awareness. It needs a silence within yourself. That is the temple of God. That's what is meant when Swami says, "The pure heart is the temple of God."

Every religion destroys man's dignity by calling him a 'sinner'. But rather than that, religion should endow you and every man with dignity, which makes him more beautiful and more truthful. Instead of this, religions prefer to call you 'a sinner'. Well, this is suicide – it destroys yourself and your esteem in your own eyes. Then your self-respect and your dignity are completely gone.

So, instead let us know that you are the highest evolution in existence. Existence has hoped and dreamt for you to bring you to even higher stages of consciousness. That's what Baba says, "You are God. Realize the Divinity within." That is the hope of existence. Existence within you dreams to become a superman or divine. In fact, Swami sang one song speaking about the *gopikas*: "The whole universe is a temple. Where is the main entrance? The whole universe is His temple, where is the entrance? Where is the main gate?"

So, Swami says that the whole world, the whole universe, is a beautiful temple. The sky, full of stars in the night, and in the day, full of the light of the sun, birds singing, flowers blossoming. These are enough to know that this whole world is a beautiful temple. This spaciousness is your freedom.

So, all that is living is nothing but divine. Please understand this. There is nothing separate from that. Everything is divine. Everything is sacred. Nothing is profane. No. To divide it into that which is sacred and that is profane is the duality within you. It is the duality within you that divides the body and the soul.

So, all that you need is to find a way to total freedom - freedom from all kinds of psychological and spiritual bondage. You yourself will become your own redeemer. You don't need any other redeemer. No. You will be a far superior man than all your redeemers have been. Please understand this.

In conclusion I appeal to you once again that there is no need for any mediators, interpreters or middlemen, or any other person to stand between you and your God.

Sai Ram.