

PODCAST 172: COME OUT OF CONDITIONING AND LOGIC

Om Sri Sai Ram

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh.

Today we see many of us being helpless for one reason: because we are conditioned. As a matter of fact, everybody is conditioned and this conditioning starts from our childhood. The moment we are born conditioning starts. The parents will condition us, children we play with, the neighbourhood, school, church, the state and the temple, they will all condition us in one way or another. The child learns by imitating. So, in the normal situation everybody is conditioned.

But everybody has to come out of this conditioning one day or another. It looks so easy to come out of this conditioning, but it is difficult. It is not as simple as undressing, no. It is like peeling off our skin. It is hard, tough and arduous. Why? Because we have identified with our conditioning. We know ourselves only as Catholics, Communist, Hindus, Mohammedans, Christians. That's what it is. And the greatest fear of dropping this conditioning is the fear that we may fall into an identity crisis.

So, here comes the point of renunciation or *sanyasa*. What do you mean by *sanyasa* or renunciation in the common sense? It is certainly not running away from the family; and certainly not leaving your properties, or going into the forest. No! What is *sanyas*? It is to take away our conditioning, to make ourselves empty. Why? Because once we make ourselves empty, we become a witness even to this state of conditioning being dropped. When the condition is dropped, even we can be a witness to that state.

Therefore, as it has been said, it is difficult to drop the conditions or conditioning because that's our whole past, our mind, our ego, and all that we are. But if we are ready, if we are courageous enough, if we have guts enough to come along with the Master, it is possible; it is not impossible.

But whatever may be the conditioning, you have got to drop it. One thing is this: this conditioning has been forced on us from outside. Since it has been forced upon us from outside, it can be taken away from us from outside only. Conditioning is not latent or an inborn character.

The Master will help us to take away all the rubbish that has been heaped upon us till now. When this rubbish is removed, God starts becoming alive in us. Once all the obstacles are removed, the spring of our life starts flowing. The innocence is regained. This innocence regained is paradise regained, and we again enter into the Garden of Eden.

Just let us imagine how Earth must have been so blessed when Jesus walked on it. How blessed are those disciples who walked with him! What a tremendous transformation they must have had in their lives! Those few people must have been fortunate who broke bread with him, drank wine with him, and must have laughed,

danced, sung, and celebrated with him. Those are the real Christians. How can I be a Christian if Christ is missing?

So a master is absolutely necessary for a disciple to go through this mutation or transformation. The Divine master is available to us. His heart is open for all of us. The only thing is we have to go in. But all the junk that we are carrying will be dropped, should be dropped. It is always difficult, but not impossible.

So the Master will save the most essential core which is the real thing. The Master will save our very center. Then even if the circumference gets identified with our faith - that which makes us call ourselves Catholic, Communist, Hindu, Mohammedan and so on - it will not affect us.

What I mean to say is when once our center is known to us with the Divine blessings of our Master, once the rubbish is all thrown out with the help of our Divine Master, still at the circumference, even if we are identified with a sect, it will not affect us. This is the point.

If the center is not recognized, yes we are completely, completely conditioned. On the circumference, you can be anything. But the center becomes what it really is, which is consciousness. Become a witness. This is important. Religion only speaks of the content of your consciousness. But don't get identified with the content; you are only a witness.

In our upbringing we may get identified with any religion, but they're all separate from us. We are pure consciousness, a mirror reflecting all that has been put upon us from the outside. So when once we know that we are separate, we are free from all conditioning, and then that conditioning now can be put to use. When once you identify with your conditioning, well, you are gone. But once you know that you are separate from this conditioning, you can make use of this conditioning. I think I am clear.

Just for clarity, I may be permitted to repeat. When once we know that we are separate from all conditioning, then you can use this conditioning. In other words, we are not supposed to get identified with it. All that upbringing and conditioning belong to the circumference, but you are a witness.

Be a witness in any place of worship. You may go to church or a temple. You may read any scripture, *Geeta* or *Bible*, whatever it may be; and this witnessing will become the foundation for your liberation. So liberation is not something different or imaginary. It's only getting free from this conditioning. That's what liberation is all about.

Today in the world, everywhere life seems to be contradictory. Therefore better we understand that life is life by itself, and is contradictory. Existence itself is only possible through contradictions.

But what happened was it is only Aristotelian logic that becomes disturbed because of contradictions, because we are trained as per Aristotelian logic. The Aristotelian logic gives you a linear mind, a one-dimensional mind. Well, that becomes a

problem. So logic will be of no use to mystics. Only logic may be of some use to scientists.

But today in these modern times, scientists are escaping from the Aristotelian prison. If you want to be true to life, you cannot be a follower of Aristotle. To be true to life, you'll have to say things as they are. If you want to be true to Aristotle, then you have to repress a few things of life, or deny at least, or avoid, don't look at them. Choose only what fits with your logic.

Well, this will not be appealing to mystics or even to scientists. The whole world has existed up to now according to one-dimensional logic, while the existence is actually multi-dimensional. So, it is rooted in contradictions. In fact to call it a contradiction is again to use a word from Aristotle.

Therefore mystics prefer to use the word 'paradox' and not 'contradiction'. The 'contradiction' word is used by Aristotle. But mystics call it 'a paradox' because in the very old 'contradiction', there is condemnation. Something is wrong. Something has to be put right.

But a paradox is a totally different phenomenon. Nothing has to be put right. A paradox is a mystery, elusive and inexplicable. Existence is a mystery. Mathematics is incapable of understanding it. The mind is utterly impotent in understanding it because the mind knows only one way - the Aristotelian way is the mind way. But now mystics have always been revolting. Now physicists are also revolting. According to Aristotle, there is no mystery. Everything is explainable in logical terms. That is his fundamental tenet.

But modern philosophy says nothing is explainable in terms of logic. If you try to explain life in terms of logic, you destroy the very life. So if you have to explain the beauty of a rose, you take the rose to the chemist to dissect it, to analyze it and to find out where the beauty is.

The chemist is capable of analyzing the rose, but he will find only chemicals, not beauty. Beauty will evaporate. Beauty is in the 'paradox' of the rose. It should not be according to logic. So hence, logic is blind. So, many problems are due to this Aristotle way of thought. It has been a deep-rooted disease.

Thank you once again. We'll think on this topic in the next podcast.

Thank you.