

## PODCAST 174: ALERT, AWAKE, AWARE

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, 174th episode.

Actually we need to be alert, aware and awake. We cannot be lethargic, passive and indifferent.

If you become alert that this Earth is going to die, your life will be transformed. Let the Third World War be used as a device for our awareness. Let's not be frightened about the Third World War. This alertness will bring about transformation in spite of the impending threat.

Jesus used to say again and again, "Watch! Beware! The Day of Judgement is very close by." In your life, this very life, you will see it happening. Yes. It has not happened up to now. But it was a device. Jesus was creating a situation in which people could become aware that the time is very short and much has to be done. So we should not go on playing with stupid games, like money, power, and prestige.

Here I would like to share with you an episode connected with the life of Eknath, a great mystic. A man used to come to Eknath for years, who must have been a man of very philosophical bent.

He would ask Eknath again and again, "I cannot believe that a man can be so innocent as you, so saintly, so holy. Sometimes great doubts arise in me. Maybe you are holy only on the surface? Maybe deep inside your mind you still desire things that we desire. You may still be ambitious. Maybe your ambition is very subtle so we cannot see it. Maybe deep down in your dreams, you still commit sin. Help me to get rid of this doubt because this has become a barrier between you and me."

Eknath would laugh and would never answer. No. One day early in the morning that man came and he said, "I could not sleep the whole night. Now it is too much. It is becoming a nightmare, a nightmare! Seeing you, I see such beauty, such grace that I cannot believe it is possible in a human body. Seeing you, I believe God is. But the moment I go home, doubts start sprouting and mushrooming. How can it be? After all, he is also made of body and mind. Maybe there is still some sexual desire hidden in his unconscious."

That day Eknath did not laugh. On the contrary, he looked at this man seriously and said, "Friend, today I have to impart something very essential, very urgent to you. Before I discuss your question, I would like to say that I have to give it to you because I may forget. If I go on discussing with you, I may not remember."

Then this man said, "What is it, Master? What is so urgent?"

Then Eknath said, "Just the other day by chance, I looked at your hand and your life line is finished. Just a little fragment is left. Seven days at the most. Today is Sunday. I don't think that you'll be able to survive till next Sunday. By next Sunday evening, you'll be gone! Now you can ask your question."

The man stood up. He said, "What? A question! What? A question? I'll come again."

Eknath said, "Wait! Why is there so much hurry? It is enough time. Seven days!"

The man said, "You say it is enough time? Seven days? I cannot waste it on stupid doubts and what I am going to do about you. Whether or not you suffer from sexuality or sin, that's your business. I'm going home."

Eknath tried to hold him, but he escaped. He said, "I have no time for your philosophical matters anymore." Just a moment before he had come, he was so strong and so young, and just a moment afterwards he's going down the steps of the temple of Eknath, and he was shaking and trembling. So much so that he had to take the support of the wall.

He went home. He gathered his family and he said, "Only seven days are left. I'm going to die. Tell all my friends, all my enemies to come. I'd like to forgive and be forgiven. Only seven days are there. So what is the point of quarrelling with people and fighting and competing? It's finished! The game is finished."

He laid himself on the bed. He became so weak that he could not get up from the bed. He was fed on the bed and continuously he was chanting, "Ram, Ram, Ram," remembering God for the first time in his life. And every day he was asking, "How many days are still left?"

And as the seventh day started coming closer and closer, he became more and more oblivious of the world. He started looking at people indifferently. He started forgetting people's names, their faces. He stopped recognizing people. He stopped recognizing his own wife and children, and his own father and mother.

The seventh day came and he was crying. He was chanting the whole day and asking again and again, "How far away is the sunset? Because Eknath has said, 'The moment the sun sets, you are finished.' Exactly at sunset I'm going to die". And the sun was coming down every moment, coming closer and closer to the western horizon.

Just a few minutes more, and then Eknath arrived. The whole family started crying and weeping. Eknath said, "Wait, let me see the person." Eknath went there and shook the man. It was very difficult for the man to even recognize Eknath, though he used to call him his Master. Though for at least twenty years he had been sitting in satsang with him, in communion with him, and yet he could not recognize him!

Eknath said, "Can't you recognize me? I am Eknath, your Master." Then a little recognition arose and he said, "Yes, vaguely. I am in a very cloudy state. How far is the sun from the western horizon?"

Eknath said, "Forget all that nonsense! I have come to ask you one question. In these seven days, what was going on inside you? Sex, greed, anger, or jealousy? What was going on inside you? I have come to ask that question."

The man said, "I am dying, and yet you're talking philosophy. Death is so close to me and I could only remember God. I don't remember even for a single moment that sex was there, or greed was there, or enmity was there, or anger was there." No. They all had disappeared.

Eknath said, "You are not going to die. You are not going to die. Get up! This was just an answer to your question. The day I became aware that death is, since that day my inner being has changed. It doesn't matter whether death is to come in seven days or seventy years, once you become aware that this life is going to slip out of your hands. It has already slipped. Then you have to prepare for the next show. Then you have to prepare for something beyond."

I want you to become aware that this Earth is not going to live for long. If this becomes an awareness in you, it will be a transforming force. And if millions of people are transformed in this way, this Earth may be saved. But that will be just a pay-off, a consequence. Why?

For that matter when Jesus said, "The day of judgement is close," that is an abstraction. But the Third World War is coming closer every day because Russia is preparing, America is preparing. They go on piling up atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs, death bombs and they go on inventing new ways for killing humanity instantly.

On one side, this Jesus statement is there that the judgement day is close. This is really in our minds. Why not use this as a device? Jesus declaring that the day of judgement is so close, why can't we use that as a device. It can shake you up and it can wake you up.

And if millions of people become meditators, there is a possibility the World War may not happen. But that is not our interest. Our interest is to get ourselves saved, and really we should be worthy of that.

And then as a note towards the end, I may share with you that there's no future and no past; all is present. Don't think of the future because if you think of the future, you'll miss the present. We should be so rooted in the present that it is only the present that extends into the past and into the future. Once you have known how to live in the present, then all is present.

So, if someone talks about the past or the future, don't misunderstand him because actually there is no past, no future, but only the present. Let us try to live in the present. Let's not think the Third World War that might happen in the future. In fact in psychology, in our mindset, this already happened. So we should be very careful in this moment, taking care of the present. Be alert, awake and aware.

Thank you very much.

I just want to remind you of what Baba said: The present is not a simple present but it is omnipresent because the present is the result of the past. The past was the foundation for the present and the present is going to be the foundation for the

future. Therefore in the present lies all the three periods of time - the past, present and future. So take care of the present. The future will take care of itself.

One time He also said, "The past is beyond recovery, and the future is uncertain. So take care of the present."

I wanted to add this small note to this talk and therefore I had to get back to you.

Thank you very much for your time.