

PODCAST 178: FAILED / FRUSTRATION / NO NEED TO BE A GENIUS

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh welcomes you.

The world is a great device of God. Just as the Masters create small devices for their disciples, God creates the ultimate device for all beings. The world is His device.

A small example: At Christmas time a professor of philosophy and logic went to a shop with his wife to purchase something beautiful - a new toy for their only child, as a Christmas gift. They tried many toys, but they were all old, and a little bit modified here and there. That's all.

Well, they were not satisfied. The shopkeeper, seeing that they were not satisfied, went inside the store and brought out an absolutely new toy which they had never seen before. It was a jigsaw puzzle. He said, "This is the latest and the best. You must like it.'

They tried to fit the jigsaw puzzle together. First the wife tried - ladies first, yes. She failed. She could not figure it out. Her husband laughed - the male chauvinist laughed. "Wait, I'll do it!" as he was a logician, a professor of philosophy. If he cannot do it, then who will be able to do it?

He tried very hard. At first he was very much inspired, but finally he was simply perspiring. The whole inspiration became perspiration! He was almost drenched in perspiration and a crowd gathered. There was no way to figure it out. The puzzle remained a puzzle, and it became more and more puzzling.

Finally he asked the shopkeeper, "What kind of jigsaw puzzle is this? If I cannot do it as the Head of the Department of Logic in the University, and mathematics is my hobby - if I cannot do it, then how do you hope that a five-year child will be able to do it?"

The shopkeeper said, "Who told you that anybody can do it? This toy represents the world. It is made in such a way that it cannot be fixed. This is just a lesson for the child about how the world is."

In other words, we cannot solve the puzzle of this world. We cannot fix this world. You can earn money. You become the richest man in the world. You become an Andrew Carnegie. But at the peak, when you have become the richest man in the world, suddenly you see that your whole life has been a waste.

Money is there, but there is no contentment inside, so the whole life has gone down the drain. You can see the misery of Andrew Carnegie, the richest man. When he was dying, somebody who was writing a biography said to him, "You must be the most contented man in this world."

Then Carnegie said, "Contented? I'm the most discontented man in the world. Don't you know I am the wealthiest in the world? This is my discontent. Now I know there's

no more to wealth. All that is possible, I have attained. Yet, I am dying, empty. My life has just been a waste. Next time if God gives me another opportunity, I'm not going to try money anymore. It has failed." But hope is still there. He'll probably try politics, though those who attain political power also fail. So then they think, "Maybe it is knowledge. We should try knowledge,' and so on and so forth.

Remember the world is made by God as a device. Everything is bound to fail. You can hope and you can try. But nothing is going to succeed. The day you understand that nothing is going to succeed is the day of great transformation. It is the day, yes, of transformation. It is the failure of the world that brings you to a new awareness that the cherished goal cannot be found in the world, so let us try going inwards. We have not tried that yet. So move inwards.

Contentment is a quality of your center, but it is not found on the circumference. Yes, it's not found on the circumference. Fulfilment is when you have arrived at your real authentic being. It is not found in the ego. Therefore it's very clear that it is only in the center, in the egoless state, which is our real being, where we have contentment. Having tried all attempts in the fields of wealth, knowledge and power, we are bound to fail. So then turn inwards and then we'll understand what the reality is.

It's also time to know that we are frustrated because of this situation. Yes. Why frustration? Frustration comes through expectation. When you don't understand, there'll be deep frustration. Therefore we are going to believe and behave as if we feel hurt; so we feel hurt because of deep frustration.

So sometimes we often feel that we are not worthy enough or that we have not risen to the occasion. Therefore we are frustrated. So frustration is mainly because of expectation. So let's not have any expectations at all of anybody at any time.

To expect that people should understand you is a subtle desire to dominate them. Why? If they don't want to understand you, it's perfectly ok. It's their life. If they don't want to go in a certain way, it's their choice and they are free. So let there not be any attempt to dominate anybody.

So when you want to sleep, yes sleep. When you feel like going to bed, yes by all means; you can get up the next morning. But let us not be bound by any kind of restrictions of this kind. Some people ask, "When should I go to bed? When should I eat?" These are all stupid details. Stupid, yes. Therefore the Master is not there to answer these stupid questions.

The Master is there to share his insight with us. The Master opens up his heart before us and if we can partake of anything, he is obliged. He is thankful in some way and his love, his understanding help us to become more loving, more understanding. But misunderstanding is also accepted. Therefore we heard of J. Krishnamurthy, Jiddu Krishnamurthy. Well, sometimes he seemed to be frustrated because he was taking things too seriously. He is not playful. Therefore let us not take things so seriously.

A true master is not serious, and when he says anything to us, it is all his playfulness. There is no problem with that playfulness. The Master simply enjoys when you understand or when you misunderstand. The enjoyment of the master remains undisturbed.

The master's effort is totally different. He wants us to have a new consciousness, not a new religion. It is a new consciousness, not a new doctrine that we have to know. And the only way to bring a new consciousness is to go on hammering from all sides so that slowly, slowly chunks of your mind go on dropping. The statue of a Buddha is hidden in you. Right now you are a rock. If the Master goes on hammering and cutting chunks out of you, slowly, slowly the Buddha will emerge.

It takes time. There's no hurry either. The Master is not in a hurry because the problem with hurrying is more. So the whole thing will be further delayed if you are in a hurry, while if you are not in a hurry, all things start happening sooner.

The Master waits forever. The Master can wait infinitely; but the miracle is if you can wait infinitely, things can happen instantly. Right now the Buddha can pop up in your consciousness. Suddenly a bud can open and become a flower, and one never knows when it's going to happen. So, one has to simply go on working, while the work should never be thought of as work but as worship.

Working with you, the Master is worshipping you. Talking to you, the Master loves you. He's not giving a doctrine; he gives his heart. 'Handle with care.' Therefore the reason for frustration is expectation. This better be known from the beginning itself. For this we don't need to be a genius; it's not necessary.

Great truths take time to sink in, and the greatest of all is that you're potentially Buddhas. It is possible for your mind to accept it. You can accept somebody far away - a Siddhartha Gautam being a Buddha, or a Jesus Christ, or a Zoroaster. But they are so far away - millions of light years away. They have become mythological. They are no longer thought of as real persons. They have lost all substance. They have become pure shadows, pure poetry with no words, and pure silence with no sounds. You can imagine them, but you cannot feel them.

Know that you are a Buddha, but you are unaware of the fact. On the circumference maybe there's a great storm. Just like the surface of the sea is stormy. Yes, it is stormy. There're always waves, bigger and smaller. There's always turbulence or disturbance. But at the depth, there's not even a trifle. All is silence.

You're the center of the cyclone, but you are not aware of your center. You're not aware of your center. Priests have condemned you, according to your circumference. They only know your circumference. In fact they are interested only in condemning you. So whatever they can condemn, they serve very predominantly in you. They choose that which can be condemned because through condemnation you are reduced to slaves of religion - Catholics, Protestants, Hindu, Mohammedan, Jain, Buddhist, and slaves of societies, cultures, civilizations, political ideologists, communist, fascists, and Gandhian, yes.

The only way to reduce you to a slave is to condemn you so badly that you lose all your self-respect. It'll be done because your circumference is there and you are also only aware of the circumference. You are fast asleep, snoring at the center; only at the circumference you are a little bit awake, and that too only because of the disturbance and noise.

In the marketplace, you are a little bit more alert. When you sit silently in your meditation room, you start falling asleep because the only kind of alertness that you know is that which is created by the noise around you. You only know one kind of awareness which is pathological because it comes out of a disturbance, not out of stillness. We got used to all these circumstances.

Therefore, we'll go deeper into the same subject in the next talk. But for now it's enough if we know the cause for our frustration. We don't need to be a genius to understand that our problems are there because there is too much awareness of our circumference.

Thank you for your time.