

OM SAI RAM!

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh,

PODCAST 248, “VISION OR DREAM?”

July 4, 2024

*The following text contains excerpts from Prof. Anil Kumar’s book
“Sai-Chology,” pg. 369-374*

ALL DREAMS ARE ILLUSORY

In one of His discourses, Swami made the point that all dreams are illusory and imaginary, that all dreams are delusion and false. This statement of Swami confused many devotees, who sought answers and an interpretation of this statement. The reason for this confusion is that at other times, Swami has said that He does not appear in a dream unless He wills it. Why then did Baba state now that “Dreams are only imagination?”

The confusion is understandable because in some interviews, Baba has said, “Did I not appear in your dream?” When devotees came with questions or to take *padanamaskar*, it was reported that Swami said, “I gave you *padanamaskar* in your dream. So, why now again?” Or, “I answered your question in the dream. Why do you ask Me again?”

IT IS PURELY PERSONAL

People/devotees speak openly about their dreams and have made these dreams a matter of publicity. Such sharing of dream experiences has become a matter of vanity and advertisement. They have turned them into an achievement. These are all the evil effects of the dreams.

When people speak openly about their dreams, they should realise that it is purely a personal affair and it is in bad taste to advertise it so, and thus claim to be a great devotee. In this way, those who have these dreams become egoistic, while those who do not have such dreams become frustrated. There is a negative effect on both. Therefore, Swami strikes a note of caution.

SPIRITUALITY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH DREAMS

There are some undesirable episodes on dreams that need to be noted. A rich and reputed doctor approached a lady and told her that Swami appeared in his dream and He wanted him (the doctor) to marry that lady. The woman foolishly agreed. They were married and lived together for ten years. The doctor, who is settled in New York, came back to India and told his wife’s sister (also a doctor), that Swami asked him in a dream to marry her! That foolish woman agreed and he married her also! From this, we wonder the extent to which dreams have taken us. Such things amount to cheating others and lead to the exhibition of one’s ego, self-praise and self- glorification. Also, these are negative points on the spiritual path.

There is also another such instance that had come to my notice. Such cases show that people have gone too far with this emphasis on dreams. Do we consider spirituality a matter of dreaming? Indeed, spirituality has nothing to do with dreams – it has everything to do with the dreamer.

DREAMS ARE MIND-ORIENTED

The dreamer is more important than the dream. Dreams appear and vanish; dreams come and go; dreams are psychological, mind-prompted and desire-focused. Unfulfilled thoughts surface and manifest as dreams. Unfulfilled desires and tasks have their fulfilment in dreams. These dreams are psychological and mind-oriented, and are a result of the day's reflections.

Here Bhagawan has used three key words: Reaction, reflection and resound. Reaction, reflection and resound are nothing but the management, manipulation and manoeuvring of the mind. So long as there is mind, reaction, reflection and resound occur. They appear and we cannot dismiss them.

Therefore, when the mind itself is false and questionable, when the very existence of the mind is a hindrance, how can we depend on the dream, which is a projection of the mind? When the mind itself is non-existent, when the mind is an obstacle to the experiencing of Reality, how can we rely on the mind's projection in the form of a dream? Dreams are mind-oriented. Therefore, Swami said, "All dreams are imagination. All are illusory. They are not Divine."

Second point: Think of the dreamer, not the dream. Today's dream says that you are the winner. Tomorrow's dream may say that you have lost. In today's dream, one may be the winner, but tomorrow's dream, who knows? Someone else may be the winner. But the dreamer is the same. The dreams go in succession, one after another, like cinema reels, like films. But the dreamer is the Reality.

A VISION AND A DREAM ARE DIFFERENT

Point three: the question then arises; is the appearance of Baba in our dreams, and all that transpires in it, illusory and false?

The answer is that at the behest of His will, Baba appearing in a dream, and unambiguously telling us something, is a Divine phenomenon. It is not a dream but a *vision*.

We should be convinced that Baba appearing in a dream is no longer a dream. It is a Vision. A vision and a dream are different. Dreams are worldly. Visions are spiritual. Dreams are the reaction, reflection and resound of the mind. The vision is from our intuition and is intuitive, while the dream is psychological.

Dreams confuse us because so many things happen in them. But a vision is unambiguous, so there is no room for confusion.

Fourth point: Dreams present a choice to accept or reject. In our dream, we may feel like going to a movie. In the waking state, we have the choice to go or not, to do or not. The dream gives us ample scope of choice. **Vision is choiceless awareness.**

Fifth point: A dream is based on the past, or on events pre-occupying us in the present, or on future events based on past experiences. E.g. If we had a desire to be a collector and we could not, therefore, we dream of being a collector and enjoy that position in the dream – nobody can order us about! So, a dream may be of the future or of the past or a projection of present worries, but a vision is timeless. A vision is not conditioned by past, present or future. The vision is direct.

A simple example: “Come to Puttaparthi.” Shall I come or not? There is no choice.

“Do this!” Shall I do this or not? No choice. It is direct.

“Speak the truth.” That is important to do now and important for the future also.

So, the vision is a command, a directive. The vision is Divine. The vision is spiritual, non-confusing, intuitive and within; while dreams are confusing, ambiguous and based on the mind with its vagaries, whims, fancies and choices. Therefore, the psychological dream is different from the intuitive vision.

We should be clear that things heard or experienced by us cease to be contradictory. We don't have to be confused about the statements made by Swami. We have to just go deeply into the subject. A dream concerns something in which we are totally engrossed and deeply involved.

A simple example: Being away from my mother, I think of her often throughout the day. I dream and in my dream she appears and talks to me. So, this dream is based on our thoughts. It is thought-based, whereas a vision is beyond thought.

Now, when there is no thought about Bhagawan during the day, being totally busy with our work, suddenly Swami appears in our dream at night and says something. When He is not in our thoughts while we go about our daily activities, not thinking of Him at all, suddenly He appears in our dream and starts talking to us. It is not a dream; it is a vision. So, a vision is something, which is not anticipated, which is not planned.

Hence, there is no contradiction or confusion. When Baba says dreams are false, it only means **mind-based dreams are false**, mind-projected dreams are false. However, Baba appearing in a dream is not a dream, but a vision! Visions are true; visions are spiritual.

There will be more divine clarifications in the coming sessions.

Thank you for your time.

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