

OM SAI RAM!

Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh,

PODCAST 249, “TEACHER - GURU – MASTER”

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The following text contains excerpts from Prof. Anil Kumar’s book Sai Vedam, pg.21- 29 and pg 32.

WHY IS THERE DISCONTENT IN THE SPIRITUAL SPHERE?

One: We have been wondering why many of us feel dissatisfied or discontented. We know many people complaining that they have not reached anywhere as per the expected standards along the spiritual path. Discontentment is there in the spiritual path. Why? There is discontentment and dissatisfaction in the world. And the same dissatisfaction is prevailing here in the spiritual path also. Why? That is a question which troubles many of us.

I DO NOT KNOW WHERE I STAND SPIRITUALLY

Two: I am able to know exactly where I stand in the world. In the field of education, I know where I stand: undergraduate, postgraduate, doctorate, post-doctoral dissertation, post-doctoral degree. Where I stand academically, I know. Spiritually where I stand, where I am, I do not know!

Academically, I know my personality, Economically, I have my identity. Politically, I know what I am – whether I am a citizen, or a man of some position or whether I have some authority or controlling ideology – what I am I know. Spiritually what I am, I do not know!

HOW TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE IN THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION?

Swami has made certain observations on this particular point.

ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE ARE AFTER TEACHERS

There are two kinds of people. The first set of people are those, the seekers of Truth, no doubt, who are after somebody to teach them, to let them know the technique, to let them know about meditation, to inform them about Divinity, to let them know what the sacred texts say about everything. So, one class of people is after somebody to inform them, to let them know. That person we can call a teacher. So, many people are after teachers. What does the Bible say? What does the Bhagavad Gita say? What does the Koran say? What do the sacred texts say? So, all this that has to be taught is done by teachers. So, one class of people are after teachers.

THE SECOND CLASS OF PEOPLE ARE SEEKERS OF TRUTH

Then, there is a second class of people. The second group of people are not after teachers. They are in search of the reality. They are in search of the source of knowledge. They are in search of Divinity. They are in search of Truth, embodied in a physical frame. They are in search of Divinity in a human form. They are in search of a personality, who holds all the essence contained in the sacred texts, moving in our midst. You call him a Master. You call him an Avatar. You call him a prophet. You can call Him in any way you like. They want to learn from that very personality, not through the medium of a book. This is the second class of people or seekers of Truth.

So, we have two classes of seekers of Truth: the first class who are after teachers; the second class who are after Avatars or incarnations or prophets or the Master or *guru*. We could give any name because *guru* is also an *Avatar*.

THE FIRST CLASS OF PEOPLE WILL HAVE A FUND OF KNOWLEDGE

Now, the first class of people, those who go to a teacher, will have a fund of knowledge. They can answer any question from the book. "What does T. Murthy say? What does King Solomon say about it? What is in the Book of Psalms?" They are ready to answer. "What does Mathew say about it? St. Luke ... according to St. Luke's gospel? According to Mathew's gospel? According to *karma yoga*? According to *bhakti yoga*?" etc. etc. It is a flooding of information as you find on the Internet or on the computer!

So, the first class of people are like computers or the Internet, having a fund of information. They can boast of knowledge. They can feel proud of their stuff, the resource material and other information. They can be happy about it. They wanted that and they got it. We have nothing to complain about.

The second class of people is in search of the reality, a *guru*, a prophet, an Avatar. What happens here in this second class?

SILENCE IS THE VEHICLE OF COMMUNICATION DONE BY THE PEOPLE IN THE SECOND CLASS

The greatest eloquence or the highest standard of communication, the depth of communication, the gravity of intimation, and the highest of communication is done by utter silence. By utter silence! Not eloquence, not oration, not teaching, not speaking. Silence is the vehicle of communication. Silence is the greatest eloquence. Silence is the highest style of communication. This is done by the second class of people seeking a *guru* or prophet or Incarnation.

TEACHER TEACHES – GURU COMMUNICATES

The first is a teacher who teaches. The second is a *guru* who does not teach. He communicates. Teaching is different from communication. Teaching is a process done by verbalisation. Teaching is verbal. But communication, it can be or could be through vibrations. So, a teacher teaches, while a Master communicates. A teacher confers knowledge, while a Master gives you wisdom. A teacher speaks verbally with his lips, while a Master communicates non-verbally.

TEACHER DOES EVERYTHING BY REMAINING OUTSIDE

A teacher does everything by remaining outside. A simple example: A teacher is there. Here I am. He teaches me. A teacher is outside. A teacher is different from you. You are not the teacher unto yourself. No. I go to a teacher and that teacher teaches me. This is an external expression, an external medium of communication. A teacher who is more informed, a teacher who is better informed, a teacher who is more experienced teaches me externally. He tells me. I hear. His communication is external. My hearing is external though the windows of my ear.

GURU COMMUNICATES FROM WITHIN

But the Master is different. He communicates from within. He's not outside. The Divine Master is inside. The Divine Master talks to you from within. The Divine Master directs you from within. The Divine Master is in touch with you from within. And ultimately, you and the Master are one. You do not remain separate, whereas you are separate from your teacher. A teacher is higher than you are; a teacher is more informed than you are; and a teacher is more experienced than you are. But here, you and the Divine Master are one and the same. No question of experience here because you are the experiencer in relation to the Divine Master.

So, in the presence of the Divine Master, you do not experience. You are the experiencer. Whereas in the presence of a teacher, you are a student, you are a disciple, you are a listener. You are passing through the process of listening, hearing, teaching and learning. But the presence of a Divine Master is not teaching, it is not learning, it is not hearing. **It is becoming one with Him.**

YOU AND THE MASTER ARE ONE

So, there are not two here. You and the Master are one. There, when you and the Divine Master within become one and the same, there is stillness. There's absolute silence as you find in the depth of an ocean. It is only towards the shores of the sea that you find the gushing waves making a sound and the foam dashing against the shore. The noise – you may call it Miami Beach or Marina Beach, it doesn't matter whatever beach it is – if you stand near a beach, yes, you find the sound of the gushing waves.

But in the depth of the ocean...there is no noise. It is only silence. It is only the silence. So, a teacher communicates with all the sound of the gushing waves toward the shore, where the student hears him, in order to receive knowledge from him, while the Divine Master is silent, making you silent. In that silence, both become one. Silence unifies; sound divides. Silence brings people together, while sounds diverge and divide.

So, that stillness is the communication of the Master from within. That's the reason why we are at a loss. We do not know whether we are near a teacher or with a Master! Some of us say, "Swami is not talking to me!" because we consider Swami as a teacher. So, "He's not talking to me. I think that I am His student. I consider that I am His student. I consider that I have come here to learn from Him, to hear from Him. He's not talking to me. Therefore, I am frustrated." This is the thinking of the first class and it

is quite understandable. We can be quite sympathetic, showing concern, with no hatred, without any evaluation of high and low, with no assessment or judgement, without any sense of guilt. We can understand.

So long as we come here with the feeling that we are coming to a teacher, so long as we are here with the feeling that we have to hear from Him, that we have to learn from Him, that He would speak to us, when that does not take place, then frustration, depression, disappointment, insecurity, sense of fear, all negativity arises in us because every visit is not so blessed. Every day is not so blessed. Every day you cannot expect an interview. Every visit you cannot expect an interview. Every moment you cannot expect Swami to talk to you. Then that expectation will certainly lead to frustration and depression. That's what happens.

BHAGAWAN IS NOT A TEACHER – HE IS A MASTER

The only reason, the first and foremost reason for our frustration is our expectations. And the second reason is our confusion. Why confusion? Because we take Swami to be a teacher, while He is a Master. Bhagawan is not a teacher; He's a Master. If He's a teacher He can teach, He can talk to you directly. **As He's a Master, He talks to you from within.**

He communicates to you from within. That is what you call 'inner voice', what you call the 'conscience'. The Divine Master communicates to you from the point of your conscience, from the level of your inner voice, not from the physical level, of that height, of that personality, wearing that robe, merely a physical frame. The physical frame that you find outside starts communicating with you from within. That's what *Antharanga Sai, Anaatha Naatha Sai* means. '*Antharanga Sai*' means the 'In dweller'. Baba being within you, He communicates from within.

Professor Anil Kumar shares more Divine treasures in the next session.

Thank you for your time.

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