

PODCAST 163: NOT THAT EASY

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, episode 163 welcomes you.

In the last episode we discussed the topic of creativity and now let us learn or let us just discuss the threats and the challenges that we have to meet in the process. You can be a super man, you can be a creator all by yourself but the path is not that smooth. The process is not that easy. But we should be prepared. Life is a challenge, face it.

The creator cannot be part of the crowd. Please understand that. A man of originality and creativity refuses to be part of the crowd because the creator learns how to be alone. He doesn't have to mix with anybody. So he goes apart and he enjoys the beauty of solitude. Only in that space your potential starts changing into actuality, not in a crowd, and not in the dint of noise. So it is in solitude or aloneness that your creator comes out.

Then what are the obstacles along our way? Why are we not able to be super man or a creator? Why? Because we have not developed our being or we are not conscious of our superiority. On the other hand, if anyone brings his genius to flowering that hurts us. If anyone is an original man or a super man that hurts us, and we cannot forgive him.

So in fact all great creativity is not that simple. It is complex. Being too simple is not a great virtue at all. Any idiot can do it. To be a man of Einstein calibre we will know it is a complex phenomenon. So, only small people will never try their own talents because it is an arduous task. It needs work and continuous refinement so we are not able to know our own talents, our own innate gifts of God.

So a man who wants to be totally free and creator needs to be totally free. He has to find enough strength in himself to create values to judge himself and, if need be, to punish himself. So a creator, a man of originality, would be able to judge himself. He'll be able to create values for himself and will be ready to punish himself.

Here lies our dignity in being alone. It is not that we are condemned. Further, to be alone one needs tremendous strength. But without being alone, you are not really a human being. In your aloneness you should be a creator. If you are not a creator, you will go insane or mad. If you are a creator, even in your solitude you will be able to maintain your intelligence and bring it to its fullest expression. That's what we understand here.

Then I should also bring to your notice the story of a Dutch painter by the name of Van Gogh, V A N G O G H, a Dutch painter. That man wanted to be a painter right from his childhood. He hailed from a very poor family. His father could not afford to send him to learn painting from anybody. So what was he to do? But he was very particular about being a painter. So to maintain his life, to eat and sleep and have shelter, his younger brother paid him for seven days. But Van Gogh fasted for three days and the rest of the money he received for the remaining part of four days. Then

he purchased his paintings, and Van Gogh's paintings have gone far ahead of his time, far ahead. The people in his contemporary world could not understand the meaning of any painting that he did.

Throughout his life he was not recognized yet today roughly about 200 paintings must have survived and each is worth more than a million dollars, a million dollars! But Van Gogh lived in utter poverty, just like a beggar.

A pioneer will be laughed at like that, but his brother finding his plight like that, would send somebody with some money. "You take this money and buy a painting from Van Gogh, my brother." Well, that man went with his money, and Van Gogh has shown him all the paintings. That fellow could not understand the depth of each painting. He said, "Ok, you can give me any painting. Anything will do."

Immediately Van Gogh could know that it is manoeuvred by his own brother. He told him, "Please tell my brother not to waste his money like that. No, you don't have to buy like that. You may please leave me alone." This is what he said.

So, most of the paintings were unsold in his lifetime! But Van Gogh said, "I am utterly content in creating them." The creator's joy is in creation itself.

Then religion is creativity. We cannot join a mob or a herd or a crowd, no. And I can also tell you Van Gogh fell in love with a close relation. Well, he loved her very much and so he asked her for flowers and she asked why. "Flowers, because we love them, we love them." That's what he said. Flowers were brought, and more flowers were brought. But then Van Gogh still went on questioning and questioning.

What happened was then Van Gogh said, "The flower is so beautiful! Will anybody ask why the flower is beautiful? My painting is like a flower. It is like that. Why do you ask the meaning of my painting? It's not a commodity. It's a creative activity. Nature creates. I am part of nature."

He loved that girl. One day this girl asked him, "Do you love me?" He said, "I love you, honey." Then the girl said, "Then keep your hand on the flame of the candle." Van Gogh did it. Got his hand burnt. Love needs no proof.

Noticing this, people thought that he had gone mad. Her parents have driven him out. But Van Gogh said, "My love is greater than my life!" However his brother knew his aptitude, his creativity, and that he is not following the crowd. So he sent a prostitute to divert his mind. The prostitute wanted to draw his attention and conversationally said, "You are beautiful." Then Van Gogh asked her, "What is beautiful in me?"

The prostitute said, "I love your ears." Immediately Van Gogh went inside. He has cut both his ears and put both of them in her hand.

Then people thought he was completely mad and they put him in a mad house. When he was about to commit suicide, he declared, "The paintings I wanted, I finished. All the paintings that I wanted to paint are completed." To be a creator

needs strength, the strength of a lion. That's how Van Gogh was believed to have committed suicide.

We should also know that we have not developed our being. Yes. That's absolutely necessary. It's also equally important that I become a law unto myself so that I can judge. I should also love to be alone. Therefore to be a creator is a challenge. It is not that easy. It is not that simple. Everybody wants to be a follower, which is an easy way. But life is not like that.

Why, Bhagavan Baba started his life all alone. He faced all challenges right from His childhood. But He could withstand them. He could face them successfully. See this. Therefore, undergoing all tortures and all challenges, that little boy of Puttaparthi has grown up to the stature of an Avatar.

Therefore, creativity is not just imported stuff or exported stuff. It cannot be bought. It has to be caught. Everyone is gifted with this creativity. But we have no time to go within and know what we are, what it is. Therefore the point is, in that space we have in solitude, our potential changes into actuality. Otherwise, we are in the noisy world and we do not know what is happening.

Therefore Swami insists on silence for most of the time. He says, yes, we should observe silence because it's only in that silence we can enjoy the voice of God. It is only then the creativity opens up within us.

Therefore my friends, life is not that easy. Life is not that simple. It's not anything like following a political party or any ideology. It is a lonely travel. It is a lonely travel on a pathless land.

In spiritual life we travel all alone, all by oneself, and enjoy that solitude with no attraction for any fame, name, recognition or whatever. It's a kind of self-effacement. Then with the creator within us, the super man will wake up. You become a creator such that the Creator, the Divine above, feels very happy. You are really worthy of Him if you also become a creator as your Father is the Divine Creator Himself.

Thank you.