

## QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

### Q. 296: HOW TO BE A SERVANT AND A MASTER OF A DIFFERENT KIND?

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Question and Answer session welcomes you.

#### Q. 298:

We have a very interesting question to deal with in this session. The question is, "**How to be a servant and a Master of a different kind?**" I repeat, "**How to be a servant and a Master of a different kind?**" That is the question. Let us try to discuss this question to a certain extent.

We can answer this question in a different way, which is this: Never become a controller of anything because if you try to be a controller, you'll be in conflict. If someone becomes a master, someone else has to become a slave, and the one who has been made a slave will take revenge on you. As his freedom has been taken away, he'll take revenge. This is what we usually find and explains why a servant is always willing to take revenge against their master.

Also, it is difficult to imagine how much trouble husbands have gotten into by becoming masters. Why? Because the woman you have become the master of will go on finding ways around the clock to make it clear to you who the real Master is! So the wives are always busy proving who the real master is!

It is another matter that she may write in letters, 'My Swami,' meaning 'My Master' and 'your *daasi*' meaning 'your servant'. But she always lets it be known that she is the real master in the home!

Struggle and conflict are inevitable because wherever there is ownership and control, there's bound to be conflict. Ownership is the beginning of conflict. Until husbands come down from their throne of ownership and control, no friendship will be possible between them and their wives. Therefore, mastery must be of a different quality.

That is what this question is all about --.mastery must be of a different quality. This mastery must not be possessive or assertive. For instance, God has never come to you to say, 'I am Master of all, I am Master of the whole.' This statement, this assertion comes from your side: "Yes, You are the Master!" It does not come from the side of God.

There's absolutely no claim of mastery from the side of God. Hence God is peaceful. Otherwise, God's condition would be even worse than a politician. If He claimed that He was the Master of this whole animate and inanimate universe, the whole animate and inanimate universe would put Him right and would give Him a good taste of their thoughts! "So you think you are the Master?" That would be their question.

God makes no declaration, no assertion of mastery. Please mark this point! This is why even if someone went on shouting at God, 'You do not exist!', there would still be no response from Him. Why? Because even to respond that much would be a claim of mastery. Even that much of a response would naturally be a claim of mastery. Therefore, God is silent, un-answering.

Only those who become God's servants from their own choosing can experience His mastery. This self-declared servant-hood is a different thing altogether. Ordinarily servants are made. They are not self-declared. Nobody in the world becomes anybody's servant of his own free will. Servants are made. And when servants are made, somebody else is saying he is the Master. Then conflict becomes a natural outcome.

But someone who serves the Divine out of his own choice becomes the servant of one who has never claimed mastery. Otherwise, conflict will be a natural outcome. Please be very clear about this idea. I repeat, one who serves the Divine out of his own choice becomes the servant of the Divine, who never claims mastery. In other words, Swami never claims mastery. We accepted this servant-hood. It's our own choice.

To choose freely to be a servant is very interesting for two reasons. One is that when someone becomes a servant of the Divine on his own, of his own free will, then by doing this, not only is he making the Divine his Master, but he is also becoming his own Master. This is a very important point. Because to become a servant of your own free will is the greatest mastery. It is proof of the greatest strength.

The mind is never ready to become a servant. Not at all! One's very soul wavers. Every cell, each fibre refuses to be a servant. But there may be a situation when, even though God never comes to ask you to be His servant, even though He never meets you and He never declares His mastery, still you go out of your own free will and you place your head at the feet of the unknown and you say, "From now on I am your servant and you are my Master."

Not only is this man making God his Master, but he is also letting it be known that he is his own Master! He is the Master of his own mind. He is real, his passions, his desires, his wishes, his soul and his mastery are so vast that if he wants to, he can even become a servant without anybody making him one.

Usually, when somebody becomes a servant, somebody else has made him one. In this case, his soul becomes very weak. When somebody becomes a servant without being made a servant, his soul becomes strong. If I make you serve me in some ways, I'll only be weakening your soul. If under pressure you agree to be a servant, your soul will be destroyed. On the contrary, if you are ready of your own free will to be a servant without anybody forcing you into it, your soul will be strengthened.

What wonderful statements are these! My friends! You must have noticed by now what I am trying to say. In a sentence, or rather to put it in a nutshell, **we have to be servants by our own choice.** We are not to be made servants! No, not to be made so! Instead, we are willing to be servants. Out of our own free will, we accept this servant-hood. There lies the greatness.

Its implication is that you become your own Master. You become the master of your own passions, emotions, feelings and of your mind. And then, looking from the point of view of the Master, it should be made very clear that a master-ship is never a claim. No Master claims. Instead, you go to him and express your willingness to be his servant. That is the beauty, that's the beauty of it.

So there's one story here which I want to draw your attention to relating to a great saintly man by the name Diogenes, D I O G E N E S. Diogenes was wandering in a forest and some people captured him. He was a beautiful man. He is of Greek origin and is the only person who can be compared to Mahavira because he lived naked and had a very beautiful, very powerful and majestic personality.

Some people were going to the slave market to sell some slaves and they saw this man alone in the forest. They thought to themselves, "If we can somehow capture this man, we can sell him in the market and we'll get so much money for him". But they could not gather enough courage because it seemed that it would be difficult even for eight people to overpower him. Diogenes was so strong. Yes, he looked very powerful and strong and very rooted in himself.

Seeing them so disturbed, Diogenes said, "You all look like you are in some kind of trouble. What is it? People often come to me with their problems and I help them. If you have any problem, tell me."

They said, "It is a difficult situation. It's not the sort of problem that we can discuss with you."

Diogenes said, "There's nothing to be afraid of. Just tell me without any fear."

They said, "The problem is that we are trying to figure out how to capture you. We want to chain you and take you to the slave market and sell you. We are expecting to receive good money for you."

Diogenes said, "That's a very good idea. I see no obstacle in your way of doing so."

Then Diogenes stood up and those people became afraid. They thought to themselves, "This man seems to be dangerous."

Diogenes took their bag, pulled the chain out of it and placed it on his own wrist. Then he placed the other end in their hands and said, "Where is the road to the slave market? Let's go."

Those people said, "What are you doing?"

Diogenes replied, "I am my own Master. I can even become a slave if I want to. I'm my own Master. Nobody else in the world can make me a slave. But if I want to, I can become a slave and nobody can stop me. You'll not be able to stop me now. You'll have to take me to the market. Now I am determined to be sold in the market." See that!

They became very afraid. It was the first time that the slave started walking ahead and the so called 'masters' started following him.

He was a very healthy man and was walking so fast that these people became soaked with perspiration because they almost had to run to keep up with him. Many times they said, "Diogenes, please walk slowly."

But he replied, "I am my own Master. I don't listen to anybody else."

They arrived at the market and a crowd gathered around them. These so called 'masters' were not even courageous enough to say, "We have brought a slave here for sale." Rather they themselves looked like the servants. People were wondering what was going on.

Diogenes said, "You idiots! Announce it right now! The market is about to close. It's late in the evening!"

Diogenes stepped up on the platform from where the slaves were being auctioned. (This is the reason I tell you this story-- only to tell you what he said.) He stood up there and said in a loud voice, "Listen all you slaves! Today a Master has come to be sold in the market. The Master has come to be sold in the market."

This mastery has a totally different dimension of consciousness. It's very difficult to fathom the mastery of a man who becomes a slave at the feet of the Divine, out of his own free will. But the Divine is the Master of all and is peace incarnate. There's no conflict in its mastery because there's no claim in it. In other words, mastery is not a claim. When it's not a claim, one becomes a Master of all. Servant-hood is something that you impose upon yourself, exercising your free will.

This is what I would say in response to the question, "How to be a servant and a Master of a different kind?"

Thank you very much.