

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, Q. 271:

WORTHINESS, AGREE WITH BEING, NEVER RUN AWAY

Om Sri Sai Ram

Welcome to this Question and Answer session, Prasanthi Sandesh.

Q. 271:

It is beyond our imagination and comprehension to estimate the value of the presence of the Divine Master and the role of your Divine Master in our individual lives. Why do we doubt Him from time to time, and some of us even leave Him? What's wrong with us?

Let us deal with this topic for some time. Let us think of the Divine presence of our Divine Master, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

As the sun rises, something starts happening in the birds -- some joy, some life, some thrill. A song wants to burst. A peacock wants to dance, opening its tail feathers with all the colours of the rainbow. Night is over. The flowers suddenly wake up. It is time to open their petals and release their fragrance in the fresh morning winds.

The sun is not doing anything directly. Its presence is enough. Something starts happening in its presence. The Master's help is exactly like that. His presence is enough! His presence is enough. This has to be experienced and has to be fully grasped and understood by every disciple and every spiritual seeker.

It means that the Divine Master will be entering into the spiritual domain of our hearts. In that way, the Master's presence is a help that does something directly, which will be most beneficial for all of us. If you are open, if you are available -- and that is

your responsibility to be open, to be available, and to be receptive -- then, without any effort on the part of the Master, things start happening within you, the disciple.

The Master does nothing. His presence is catalytic. It is a very indirect persuasion, something more like a whisper, not like a gong that wakes you up, but a whisper -- just like the wind passing through the pine trees, a very silent song, or like a message pregnant with immense significance but without words.

He makes it available to you. Now it is your responsibility and your freedom to take it or not. All the responsibility falls on the disciple. There should not be any expectations projected on the Master. Otherwise, if those expectations are not or cannot be fulfilled, you will be frustrated and angry with the Master. As a result, you may turn against the Master.

What an unfortunate sequence of events! The Master has not done anything! It was your expectation which turned into frustration. Everything happened within you. Yet the Master becomes your target unnecessarily.

Let us ponder over these points: The attention somebody craves for is that the Master should recognise him publicly. He is not interested in asking any questions. He is not interested in that. What he wants is that his name should be proclaimed publicly, so that he can get some recognition. This recognition is nothing else but a desire for what is wrong in him.

We also come across some disciples leaving the Master because their expectations are not fulfilled. Why has he left his Master? His ego was the cause. His expectations were the cause. He remained stubborn, closed, unreceiving. He behaved like a stone and not like a flower. But he cannot admit this to others. His ego will not allow him to admit that he was not receptive.

Therefore, the only way out for him is to find fault with the Master and, if he cannot find any real faults, he has to invent some. That's the only way he can save his ego. He has to invent stories to explain why the Master was wrong.

For instance, one man lived with the Master for almost ten years, and now he has written a book full of lies against Him. Everything is false, but he has to do it just to save his ego. Otherwise, people will ask, "Why did you leave now? After living with him for ten years, why did you leave?"

The answer is this: There can be only two reasons. Either the disciple is wrong or the Master is wrong. The disciple thinks that he cannot be wrong. But let us think about it: A person lived ten years with the Divine Master. Ten years is a long time -- it is one seventh of our lifetime, and also the best part of our life, which is our youth.

It took ten years for this idiot to find out that he was with the wrong Master? Now, how many years will it take him to find the right Master? His youth is gone after being with the 'wrong' Master. At the same time, he cannot live without a Master because he is not ready to accept his responsibility. He is not ready. He will move in the same vicious circle again.

If you come with expectations, you cannot find the right Master. Please note this point. To find the right Master, you have to be with the right attitude. That means you have to be without expectations.

As far as the ego is concerned, 'you are ' and the 'Master is not'. But, as far as the universal self is concerned: the 'Master is' and 'you are not'.

The whole problem is that the meeting of disciple and Master is possible in two ways: If the Master is a pretender, then he is just as you are, so there's a kind of communication between you and him because he is an ego and you are also an ego. He

fulfils your ego, while you fulfil his ego. It is a mutual arrangement.

Or, the second possibility is that the Master is not there as an ego. So, you should also become 'no ego,' without ego. Then, a communion happens. Only then, has the Master-disciple relationship come into existence.

It's a rare flower, very rare, and it comes into being only once in a while. The disciple has to grow into *being*. It has nothing to do with knowledge. There are people who are just *being* and if you come across a person who is in that state of being, you will feel nourished.

There are also people who are not in their being. They are just like black holes. When you are with them, you'll feel drawn into that same black hole.

The teacher and the student have a certain communication, but that communication is superficial because it is created only by words. In contrast, the Master and disciple have a communion. It is not made of words, but rather it is a transfer of *being*, an exchange of life energy.

Q. 272:

Sometimes we feel unworthy of a Master. Someone feels unworthy. What is to be done? What has to be done in order to be worthy?

The very question of how you can be worthy of your Master makes you worthy of Him. The question arises out of humility.

The Master accepts you as you are. The desire to be more worthy simply means that you want to be more humble, to be more absent as far as the ego is concerned.

In this situation, 'not to be' is the way of being. The more you erase yourself, the more you allow the Master in.

Just open your doors and all the windows; do not hold anything back. If you are holding something back, it means that you have a suspicion. In case you have to leave, in case this man turns out to be not the right Master, you can withdraw. So people give in very cautiously and they waste a lot of time unnecessarily.

Tomorrow is uncertain. The Master may be or may not be there. Only this moment is certain, so don't hold back. Come totally open to receive the Master, because he is ready to give you His totality, and only totality can connect with another totality. If you are partial, you cannot connect with the Divine Master's totality.

But you are on the right path. The very question, how can you be more worthy, is an indicator that you are relaxing, that you are becoming humble, and that you are getting ready to receive a guest and become the host.

Now comes a very simple question. ***If the disciple does not agree with some of what the Master says, is he a disciple?***

The disciple is absolutely free to agree or disagree with what the Master says. But the disciple cannot disagree with what the Master does not say. There has to be total agreement about that, because that is the real being.

What the Master says is just a game of words. It does not matter. The Master is not a philosopher. He is not teaching a certain system of thought. He is not even asking you to agree or disagree. You can disagree with everything the Master says, but agree with the Master.

The question is really one of agreeing with his being, with his *being*. So, I don't think that if you agree with his being, you will bother to disagree with his words.

Please, let us take these words to our heart and examine ourselves, so that we'll be free from all feelings of guilt so that

we'll be benefited by establishing communion with the Divine Master.

This has to be repeated: We should agree with his being, knowing his words are simply the devices he uses in order to reach us.

Therefore to be worthy of Him, we need to be more prayerful, we need to be more humble, more respectful, more loving, and we need to have absolute faith in Him.

Sai Ram. We'll meet later.