

**QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION:  
Q. 292, GREED, LOGIC, REALITY**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Question and Answer session:

**Q. 292: GREED, LOGIC, REALITY**

Our very nature has a lot to say about our practice of religion. It reflects our attitudes and our way of life on our spiritual path.

Take, for example, greed. ***What about greed?***

Greed is a 'Do religion'. What do I mean by that? Out of fear, you don't do certain things. But when it comes to greed, you are required to do certain things. Therefore, a greed-oriented religion is a 'do' religion.

And just as the fear-oriented religion has the key word of 'hell', the religion of greed has the key word of 'heaven'. Everything is to be done in such a way that the other world is completely secured and your happiness beyond death is guaranteed. Being just the opposite of fear, we now have greed affecting our spiritual pursuits.

Whether it is a 'do' religion, a 'greed' religion, this type of religion is formal, ritualistic, ambitious and desire-oriented. It is full of desires. So, the Mohammedan concept of paradise or the Christian concept of heaven or the Hindu concept of paradise may vary to some degree. But the strange thing is that all these people say the same thing -- that one has to deny oneself in this life.

They say that in paradise everything is provided in great quantities. You have to be celibate here just to reach paradise. But there in heaven there are beautiful *apsaras* (celestial maidens) who are always young, remaining at the age of sixteen. Mohammedans also say, 'Don't take any alcoholic beverage here! No need to worry because in paradise, there are rivers of wine!'

This seems absurd! If something is wrong, it is wrong wherever it is! How can it be good or right in paradise when it is not okay on earth?

In this case, Omar Khayam, K H A Y A M, is right. He says, "If rivers of wine are available in paradise, then let us practice here because it will be difficult to live in paradise if we have not practised here. So, let this life be a little rehearsal, so that we have the taste and the capacity to enjoy alcohol in heaven. In this case, Omar Khayam seems to be more logical. In fact, he is joking, making fun of the Mohammedan concept of paradise. It is indeed foolish! The whole concept is foolish! But people become religious out of greed.

One thing is certain. Whatever you accumulate here will be taken away! Death will take it away! So, the greedy person wants to accumulate something which cannot be taken away by death.

The accumulating idea, the desire to accumulate remains in him and so, now he accumulates virtue. Virtue is the coin of the other world. He goes on accumulating virtue so he can live in the other world forever and forever, in lust.

This type of man is basically worldly. His heavenly world is nothing but a projection of this world. He will accumulate virtue because he has desires and he has ambition and he has powerful lust. But his efforts will not be from the heart. It will be a sort of manipulation. So, we cannot find a person who is absolutely, pure and free of ignorance or fear or greed.

We discussed fear and ignorance earlier. On analysis, you'll know that wherever greed is, there is fear. And wherever fear is, there is greed. So, wherever greed and fear exist, there is ignorance because they cannot exist without each other!

Therefore, these three factors of ignorance, fear and greed prompt you to be religious. They are the lowest types of motives or reasons for following religion. Those religions that encourage these three, which are based on ignorance, fear and greed, are therefore considered to be the lowest types of religions. In fact they cannot truly be called religions at all!

Then, ***what about logic, calculation and cleverness?*** Yes, what is their role in our spiritual path? Here we find the combination of both 'Do' plus 'Don't' religion. Fear is a religion of 'Don'ts'. Greed is a religion of 'Dos', while logic, cleverness and calculation promote the religion of both 'Do' plus 'Don't'.

This type of religion is worldly, materialistic, opportunistic, intellectual, theoretical, scriptural and traditional. This is the religion of the *pandits*, the learned scholars who try to prove God through logic, who think that the mysteries of life can be understood through the head. Well, such a type of religion creates theology. It's not a religion but it is just a very faint carbon copy of religion. However, all the churches are based on this.

When a Buddha or a Mohammed or a Krishna or a Christ exists in the world, then, *pandits* and scholars and learned people, intellectually clever and cunning people, gather together around them. They start working hard. They inquire, 'What does Jesus mean?' They start creating a theology, a creed, a dogma, a church. They are very successful people because they are very logical people. They cannot give you God. They cannot give you the truth. But they give you great organisations. They give you the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church. They give you great theologies! It is just cleverness, but without any real experience! It is just intellectual, head-oriented information!

Their whole edifice is as if one is making a house of cards. When a small breeze comes, the house is gone! Their whole edifice is only as stable as if one is trying to sail in a boat of paper. It looks like a real boat. The form is like a boat, but it is made out of paper. So it's already doomed! Logic is but a paper boat. Life cannot be understood through logic.

It seems there was a very wealthy American who was convinced that an atomic war was just around the corner. He was determined to survive it. He bought an acre of

land in the middle of the Arizona desert and employed a labour force to build him a home five miles underground.

It was to be encased in lead, fifty yards thick, and equipped with its own power plant, which would supply sufficient electricity to give him light, heat and purified air for at least ten years. Frozen food, water, cigarettes, alcohol, and refreshments for the same period of time had to be provided, together with every conceivable aid to luxurious living.

The job was completed in three years at a cost of five hundred million dollars. The proud owner went to the desert to inspect it and a Red Indian shot him in the back with an arrow! That's how life is! You make all the arrangements and just one arrow is enough to finish you!

Man is very fragile. ***How can man's logic understand reality?*** Man is so limited. His understanding is so short-sighted. Understand that there's no way to understand religion through logic. Philosophy is born through logic but not real religion.

Philosophy and logic entertain and promote arguments and counter arguments. Maybe in a way, they are responsible for the differences among religions and their sects.

In fact, a devotee, a very simple innocent devotee, will have greater experience than a man of logic and cleverness. A man of logic may be quoting scriptures. He may have all authentic knowledge, but he has no experiential knowledge. In contrast, an innocent devotee, who prays with all his heart and soul, will have splendid experiences.

Therefore, what I want to drive home is that logic will not be of any help. Cleverness may be of some help here on earth in order to manage and manipulate. But it will not give you any spiritual experience.

Therefore, let's be firmly established in the fact that logic and cleverness have no place in the field of religion.

Thank you.