

PODCAST 81: "OH MAN! WAKE UP!"

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prashanti Sandesh 81st episode welcomes you. Thank you very much for your time. The topic for this morning is "**Oh Man! Wake Up!**" I repeat, "Oh Man, Wake Up."

Let me share a few of my thoughts on this topic. Why should we say 'wake up'? Why? It is self-explanatory, meaning that we are fast asleep. We are not awake. Therefore, there is every need to wake up. This is taken [to be] from the spiritual dimension. As we all know, in the entire creation, man only is gifted with a sense of questioning. He can question anything. He should rather put a question to himself, 'Who am I? Who am I?'

And secondly, man has got the scope to improve from one step to another. Even to rise to the level of Godhead - meaning he can become God. He has got all the potential. Therefore, 'wake up' means wake up from sleep and slumber. Put a question to yourself, 'Who am I?' until you get the answer that you are God, nothing less than that.

Let me say what Baba said long back. When the child is born, the child cries. And as the child, over a period of time, grows and grows, he becomes a boy, a young man, a father and a grandfather. At that stage, while leaving the body, Baba says he should not cry. He is born with a cry, but he should take leave of the world with laughter. He should laugh and take leave of the world. That is the way how a man should be. A man who is awake would act like that. He laughs and says a goodbye to the world, with gratitude for all the opportunities given to him during his lifetime.

Therefore, the creation of a human being is something very special, and no man has ever known most commonly why he is a human being. Why? What is he supposed to do? What is the objective? These questions have not been answered. So, he is just born like that, and he has to achieve, attain that state of the Divine. That is the purpose. There lies the very definition of our life. Then we can only label ourselves as human beings. Given the freedom, we should be able to act independently in this particular direction to answer these questions that come to our mind. So, when it is all said and done, the final thing is that we have to define ourselves, and that one has to know himself, who truly he is.

Then another feature that comes to my mind is this. It can be put this way also. A neem plant grows into a neem tree, and it remains like that throughout its lifetime. Take for example the animal kingdom. A tiger leads the life of a tiger and remains as a tiger throughout its lifetime.

But man has much more in him. The body is limited. Lifespan is limited. But he is gifted with that infinity. There is much more in him infinitely. That is quite clear because man is open-minded. So, his life's pursuit should be to know the Infinite within him, in full awareness that the body is finite. So, the miracle is that in this finite body, there is infinite Divinity within.

And you also must have observed - I know, we all have similar observations: we cannot predict [about] any man - what he would do the next moment, what he is going to be; we [just] cannot. Take for example a jasmine flower - it remains as a jasmine, that's all. There is no question of prediction here. It is a jasmine flower throughout. Dahlia flower, dahlias, remain dahlias, that's all. There is no question of prediction here. You don't have to wait [to see] what it is going to be in future. No. But in the case of man, what he is going to be, you cannot predict. He may blossom into a saint or he may turn into a sinner, who knows? We cannot predict man; it is impossible because the life of a human being is ever-flowing, as he remains liquid throughout.

In other words, man is a process, that's all. So, he cannot be predicted, and he has got all the capacity to surpass himself. And he can be much more than what he is. Why all this is happening? Only one reason. In a dark room, for example if you keep there a most valuable gem, precious gem or a diamond, you will not be able to locate it. But once you put on the light, you will be able to immediately find it. It has been there in the room, but could not be noticed because of darkness around. We could locate it the moment the light is there.

In a similar way, there is the spirit or consciousness within us. There is nothing else other than consciousness. But we could not know it because of the darkness of ignorance. If it is to be known, we need the light of wisdom or *jnana*. It is only in that light the whole Self is illuminated and [then] you can certainly feel and experience it. That is the very purpose of life. That is the very aim of our life, for that matter.

So, since the Self is not illuminated [yet], it is lying in the darkness of ignorance. Man has been searching for that consciousness, and he has been waiting and waiting, doing all kinds of rituals to illuminate that spirit or consciousness within. Here lies the glory of man. The glory is that he has got within him that consciousness.

But at the same time, it is also a misery in another sense because he could not locate it and he could not experience it. So, ages have been running out and he is ageing but could not trace out the consciousness. He is spending his time searching and searching.

Bhagavan said at one time:

Tharuva tharuva buttu tharuvuna analambu

*When you rub or kick two branches together and go on rubbing them
against each other, there you get the fire.*

*When you churn the curd, you get the butter and the ghee thereafter.
Likewise, in this body, only through enquiry, repeated enquiry again and again,
Can we know the Divinity within.
This is what Baba said.*

Tharuva tharuva buttu tharuvuna analambu

*In the tree, the fire can be known.
It can be generated by rubbing against each other.*

Tharuva tharuva buttu dadhini ghruthamu

It is only out of butter, in the final stage, you can get the ghee.

Tharuva tharuva buttu thanuvuna thathwambu

By enquiry you can also know the reality.

Unnamaata thelupuchunnamata

This is the declared truth of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Therefore, it is only the enquiry that helps us to find out our true nature or reality. And I can also bring to your attention one thing. The purpose of life, the essence of life, has got to be realized by man in the later period after his birth. He is just born like that, and [some time] during his lifetime he has to know his true identity.

In other words, man starts with existence and has to find out his essence of life subsequently. Existence first: he exists as a child. He exists as a newborn child and as he grows further, he will understand the essence of life. But [man] is unlike the animal world and the plant world, where they are born with the essence first and the existence next. How?

Simple example: You sow a seed and the seed germinates and sprouts and grows into a gigantic tree. All that comes out in the later period has been latent in the seed itself. All that is contained within the seed and that grows into a gigantic tree later. So here, essence first and the existence next, as opposed to the life of a man. To say once again, man's life begins with existence, and then later finds out the essence on his own. Whereas in the animal world and plant world, they begin with essence first and then existence next, just as I gave the example of a seed that grows into a tree in the later period.

So, everything is there in the life. Many are the opportunities for us to know the essence of our life. And man has got to create his own identity. Whether he succeeds or not, whether he is capable or not, that's a different matter. He should create. He should work for it. Man has to work, yes. He has to make repeated attempts, search, investigate, explore, whatever you call it.

But any animal is successful in its life. Tiger is very successful as a tiger; lion is very successful. Say, parrot or a peacock, they are all very successful. So also trees, because they lived in the same pattern throughout. They could remain in the same state and they could live up to what is expected of them. But man is not what he could be, what he is already. Man is already divine within himself, but he has not realized it. So, man is not [yet] that which he can be, unlike animals and plants. In other words, man is not ready-made stuff, unlike the other creatures.

Therefore, it is very clear that if we don't work for our essence of our life, we simply remain as existence. We exist without knowing the essence of life. Well, the question may arise, what if we remain like that? What's going to happen? Well, we lose our soul. There will be no contentment and joy in our life. We will always live in agony, anguish, tension and misery because we have not worked out how to know the

essence of our life. And it's really very interesting. And all the spiritual rituals that we adopt, the religious rites that we follow, will not take you to this essence of life.

Just watch what Swami said:

Puttapymardinchina pamu maranamondune

If we go on scrubbing the snake against an anthill, is it going to die? No.

Thanuvuni thadanchinantha vishaya bhogamuluduguna

If we punish our body by starving or observing vigil or jagarana throughout night,

Akalidappulu maninantha

You don't take any drink and you don't partake any food,

Athmajnani yaguna

*Can you be a jnani or a man of wisdom
By punishing your body?*

Vishaya bhogamuluduguna

*All the pleasures of the world, the desires for these pleasures of the world,
we think that they would go, that they would all go. No.*

Thanevaro theliyakunna thathwa jnana meruguna

*If man does not really realize himself, `
can he ever know, if he doesn't make any self-enquiry?
Could he ever know his reality? Impossible! Impossible!*

That's what Bhagavan said in this context. Therefore, our life is for this purpose - to know the essence is the purpose of life.

For this, what is required? We should come out of this darkness, *Tamaso maa jyotir gamaya*. To lead a defined life and to have the experience of the illuminated Self, we should know that there is an inner flame of Divinity within every one of us. But unfortunately, we were never at home - that is, the Divinity within. We have been moving all over the world, but yet we have not gone in. We remain a stranger forever and ever to the reality.

Therefore, the existence has to become the essence. There lies the beauty of our life. Man has to create all that himself. And a man is privileged to participate in God's mission, whereas the other creatures cannot, because they are just designed like that. They are bound to be like that. There is no choice to go in any other direction. In others words, all the plants and animals lead just a normal, natural way of life. Simply transition happens, simply like that, without any effort. Plant flowers and that becomes a fruit containing the seed, effortlessly; it just happens mechanically.

But man can become anything he wants. He can become a painter, he can become an administrator, an engineer, a professional, a doctor or a beautiful melodious

singer or an excellent painter. No one knows what he can be up to, what he would be. In other words, everything is confusing until the truth is unravelled as time passes. Life is like a river, a continuous flow, and it goes on changing, and here lies the dignity of man. And he is the only one who can create. This creativity is there in man, but in no other beings. Otherwise, we are just leading the life of an animal, without any creativity.

But, presently we are in dilemma or in confusion. Why? We don't do any serious activity or spiritual enquiry because we doubt - we may not be successful. We have or there is a sense of fear about whether we would achieve it or not. And we also underestimate ourselves - that after all, we are nobody to do any kind of self-enquiry. And we also hesitate. Why? Because there is no guarantee of the result, and we doubt our own capacity, whether we could grow beyond ourselves, transcend ourselves or not. These are the things that have been bothering us all along.

So, the first thing that we are supposed to do is to forget the past. Let us sacrifice the past. The past is known, so that's all. So, sacrifice the past, which is known, for the unknown future. Sacrifice it. Forget about it all.

It is in this respect, a Master would be of immense help to us because he has grown beyond. He has arrived to the centre of his life, the very being. He has fully known the essence of life. And as a master, he guides us; he tells us and employs several devices, and teaches us different techniques. He has got his own ways and means to communicate and to teach and to elevate our lives. All the things that he grants us in life are only the ways and means and are the only methods such that we will know the true Self. The way, the power, the money, the influence - these are all devices of God to improve our lives.

Therefore, let us be aware of the role of a Master in our life, who helps us to know the essence of life. The essence of life will have to be realized at one time or other. And then man is thrown into this world only to learn, to discover, that's all, and to be true to his Self. That is the beauty here. And the realization of consciousness is a process; it is a continuous process and it is self-creation. He has to create for his own self. Nobody tells you, "Here lays your consciousness." No, nobody directs you to that.

So, it should be a continuous process of self-improvement, by rejecting all the past. And then great growth happens in our lives. Let us not make life simply a repetition. One should die so as not to die again. That's it. Just as a newspaper, when once read will not be read again repeatedly. No.

So life lived should not be led once again, by knowing our true Self. And this is what is contained, that man should be 'born again'. 'Born again' means what? A new being, a realized Self, that way.

Sometimes we are so frustrated to feel that the animals are better than us.

Manavulakante mrugamule manchivemo

The animals seem to be better than man.

Entha vignanamundiya emi phalamu?

With all the knowledge and wisdom, what is the use of it, after all?

Manavatwamu kolpoyi manishi niliche

*Man has lost his human qualities.
Human values have been gone,
and he is just leading the life like a thing or an object.*

Therefore, the topic of the day is, "Man, Please Wake Up!" Time to wake up. Better late than never.

Thank you for your time.