

# *Satsang with Om Baba*

(Rishikesh 2019)

## **Surrendering the ego**

Welcome everybody to the Satsang!

Many times we say that the greatest obstruction we have for Self-realization is our own ego. And how much we are attached to it; how much we don't want to let go of the greatest obstacle towards the Truth. That very thing we need to be free from, that very thing we don't want to be free from. We will protect it with our very life; we will sacrifice everything for its sake. We can sacrifice everything, our family, our friends, our good qualities... We can sacrifice our Guru; we can sacrifice Truth itself for the sake of our own precious ego!

So, for those who are blessed with a Master, who are blessed with a Guru, they have a rare opportunity to be free from that ego. Because Guru and ego cannot exist together.

Many times we speak of surrender, surrender to the Guru, surrendering our ego to the Guru...which sounds so romantic - like a beautiful love story! And is the most difficult thing that can possibly happen! When it comes to prove it in action it is anything but romantic! It's a very great inner challenge!

Just observe it in yourself, in your relationship with the Guru or in your relationship with any teachings of the Sages; when they ask something that you like to do, you say 'Very nice Guru!' And you do it, saying "I do it because my Guru said! I surrender!" When the Guru says something that is somehow outside your preferences, then it's "Sorry! I cannot do it. This is against my principle; this is beyond my capacity. I must listen to my inner voice!"

Isn't it like this?

Just observe it!

I will say to you a very beautiful story from a Master of our lineage, he was called Katcha Baba! Actually, I'm not sure it is a beautiful story, but surely a very educative one.

So, Katcha Baba was a very recognized sage, he was living in Varanasi. They knew him and they recognized him at this time as the greatest saint in Varanasi. So, you know in

Varanasi many times they go around with the boats; they have the big river, the Ganga, and they go around with the boats... Yes, here in Rishikesh you take the rickshaw; in Varanasi you take the boat.

One time, Katcha Baba was with some of his disciples in a boat and there they saw in the river a corpse floating. This is a common sight in Varanasi, you go to have a dip and there is something floating next to you; it's not a fish, it's not a shark... It's completely harmless, it's a dead body! But somehow it was not proper to be burnt so they just leave the body in the Ganga.

So, Katcha Baba said to his disciples to bring it over. The disciples brought the dead corpse on the boat. Katcha Baba took out a piece and gave to a disciple... *"Here, prasad!"* One piece to another disciple... He gave to all of them, maybe 7, 8, 10, no matter how many... *"Special prasad today, just for you!"* The disciples ate it, but one felt that is just disgusting! He was holding in his hand, he thought... *I cannot eat this thing!* So he hid it inside his turban.

Then they left, they came out. The afore-said disciple, he went to his house, he took out the turban... This piece of flesh was stuck to his head! He tried to take it out and he couldn't! It had become one with his head!

He went to the doctor, he asked *'What can I do?'*

The doctor said *"Science has no answer for this. We would need to make some special operation but better you just go to Katcha Baba and speak with him."*

Now, he was very much afraid to do it, but it started growing very painful so one day he gathered up his courage and went to his Guru. He fell at his feet, he said *"Babaji, this Prasad you gave to me, the dead body, I couldn't eat it. I put it in my head and now is stuck here and I have terrible pain."* Katcha Baba said to him *"I didn't give you any dead body... I gave you liberation. Liberation from your ego!"*

There is no other liberation than liberation from the ego.

Now, to do something like this, to receive from the Guru a piece of dead corpse and eat it...now, this is surrender!

Can you do it?

Remember this story, keep it in your mind and whenever you want to weight, or value your surrender, remember this question, would you do it?

If we had a very great sage, you choose any sage you prefer, let's say we have Maharajji coming here; Maharajji comes here and says "*I have a special prasad for all of you!*" And he brings a dead body. Would you take? Who would take?

Good! We have three people! Good, fantastic!

Three people who put liberation above their taste. Three people who put liberation above their beliefs.

Because if the Guru offers you something that you already like, what's the benefit of this? There is no form of surrendering in this. Even if a stranger offers you this thing you will take. If it is a fruit, something that tastes good, like an apple, you will take, you will say '*Thank you! I like apples.*' What's the benefit in this?

But if you receive with great eagerness something that your ego does not like, something that is given by the holy hand of the Master, then we are entering into the realm of surrender. Can you follow me?

It doesn't need to be a dead body. Unfortunately we are not so lucky! Because this was very, very direct what Kacha Baba did - very direct! So, we're doing the same thing but much more indirect. Maybe the Guru asks you to do something that you don't want to do but nevertheless is very beneficial for you. And it is an opportunity for you to check '*What is more important for me, it is my beliefs or it is liberation?*' Then you will know for yourself. You will know the answer for yourself.

Many people, when they are asked to do something that is against their fancy, they think inside them '*Will it work, will it not work?*' They calculate the possibility of the success, they weight the arguments and the anti-arguments. They analyze too much! They don't understand that the success is certain, because what you want to succeed in is to be free from your ego.

So, in two words this is what means surrendering the ego to the Master. And I know what we said sounds very romantic and very beautiful but can you put it in practice?

Now, somebody may ask "*Is it necessary to surrender my ego to the Guru? Can I just surrender my ego to Life itself?*"

Of course we can! But will you?

And this is so much more difficult! How will you say the difference between your ego and Life? When you have a tendency to do something, what is it that is speaking? Is it the Life that is speaking inside of you, is it God that is speaking or is it the ego? How will you tell

the difference? Good luck! You can just flip the coin... Yes, because you have no other chance!

Do you think the ego appears inside like the devil with a trident and tail? The ego appears like a saint inside; the ego takes the form of Jesus Christ and appears inside of you and say *'Do this my child...'*

How will you tell the difference?

One moment it is the tendency speaking, the instincts are speaking, or your DNA is speaking, the other moment your body is speaking, the other moment the voice of your mother speaks inside of you, the other moment the voice of your teacher in high school speaks inside of you, then some friend speaks inside, then some celebrity speaks inside...

How will you tell the difference?

And nothing of these is the voice of the Self! Not even one of these is the voice of the Self!

So blessed are they who have a Master, that they can go to the Master and the Master tells them *"Do this!"* Then there is no doubt *'What is this? Is the voice of Life, is the voice of my mother, is the voice of my ego...?'* It's very clear! Is simply something clear and straightforward, there's not a question of confusion or doubt. There's only the question *'Do you want to do it or not?'*

When Maharajji realized the Self, he was at this time something like 33, 34 years old. He had a family, he had a wife and he had three children, very small children. He went to Saccha Baba, to his Guru, and said to Him *'I cannot continue anymore with my family. I want to give up everything and dedicate myself to You!'*

When you realize the Self there's nothing like my wife, my husband, my mother, my father, my child... There is just the Self! So, he said *"I cannot play anymore this theatre! I want to serve You my Master!"* He spoke thus to Saccha Baba.

Saccha Baba said *"No, your children are too small, you go back to your family and you work and you take care of your children, then when they get older you come to me!"* Maharajji did this... It was not so easy perhaps or it was not what he would choose, but in his case it was preparation for the Higher State and fulfilment of the Dharma. In his case...

Some people would come to Maharajji and ask Him *'We want to realize ourselves!'* Maharajji was giving a very simple instruction! So simple! He was simply saying *"Come here in the Ashram and stay with me for six months. I will provide everything for you, I will provide food, I will provide a room, I will provide clothes, anything you need I will provide!"*

In the nine years I was with Maharajji I think only one or two people came. Only one or two people stayed out of hundreds of thousands so-called-devotees!

Think about this... Is it much to ask? Is it much to ask from the Master "*Just come and stay for six months?*"

That's why I say that this very romantic idea of surrendering to the Master it's a very great rarity, it's something very, very rare.

That is why most Masters today they offer something that the students like a little bit. In this way there is still some transmission of energy. The student takes the Truth in very small chunks. Very, very small, tiny chunks, like baby's spoon... It's better than nothing! So, there is progress...very slow, but there is some progress.

But the moment will come for everybody that you will be asked to do something that is against your fancies! The moment will come that instead of crawling down in the ground, the Master will tell you '*Now come, stand up and walk!*' Instead of giving you baby spoons He will say '*Ok, now it has been like ten years, you are old, take a normal spoon!*'

Be ready to accept it with very great excitement! Be ready to accept this instruction that is against your principles with very great excitement! Because that will help you to rise higher; that alone will help you to rise higher! That alone will help you to step out of your boundaries! Be ready to accept this instruction!

Remember the story of Katcha Baba, he said to the student "*I didn't give you any dead body, I gave to you Liberation! But you rejected it for the sake of your good taste; you rejected it for the sake of your ideas and beliefs.*"

So how much you value your Liberation?

How much you value transcending your boundaries?

How much you value your growing?

How much you value being free from your own ego?

How much you value the Grace of the Guru?

When Maharajji asked me to do something I never, ever thought about this. There was no time to think, I would just jump doing it! He had no time to finish his sentence I would already be off! And many times I was doing the wrong thing, many times! I don't think he minded very much... He minded more about my openness, my readiness, my non-judgement, my non-weighting the pros and cons, my trust, my surrender.

So, blessed, extremely blessed and fortunate are those who have a Guru, a human being, to receive direct instruction from Him.

Blessed are those who receive instructions against their own principles!

Blessed are those that follow these instructions!

They will experience the nectar of the egoless state!

They will experience a blissful glimpse of their ego-free state!

They will have a glimpse of Liberation!

And there is no other Liberation except the Liberation from the ego!

And there is no better medicine for the disease of the ego than the Guru!

*- Om Shanti Shanti Shanti! -*