

The true Prosperity

Welcome everybody to the Satsang!

Q: There's a lot of poverty around the World and in my heart I always feel like I want to help people but often it feels overwhelming. How can I help every person? I don't have the money to give to every person and sometimes it feels like the money is not going to the right places...

I will tell you a very practical solution, because I think you are referring also to India...

Even at home...

Even in the U.S.A., everywhere! Poverty is everywhere...

Where does this poverty come from?

Material poverty comes from spiritual poverty. As long there is spiritual poverty, there will inevitably be material poverty. As long as people don't know how to live in harmony with each other, with themselves, with the Universe, there will be poverty.

Even if somebody is a billionaire he will be a very poor person. What he has will not be enough! Even if somebody has much more than what he needs he will feel that "This is not enough." He will have the experience of a poor person.

Material poverty comes from spiritual poverty. The Spirit is perfectly abundant. When we come to know, when we even come to have a glimpse of our Spirit, we come to have a glimpse of true abundance for the first time!

If we don't have this glimpse, if we are somehow limited to the idea that we are a little human being, that we are this body and nothing else, this body that hungers, that thirsts, that gets tired, that gets sick, that gets old, that gets weak, of course we will be poor! No matter how much we offer to this bottomless well, it is never satisfied, it is never enough!

In the very beautiful Vedic epics, they say that when Sri Ram ruled in Ayodhya, there was perfect prosperity from all points of view, spiritual, material, mental... From all points of view there was just prosperity!

The pure Soul was blossoming perfectly in and around the human being.

But a human being without a blossoming Soul is like a plastic flower. It will be poor, it will have poverty!

Poverty is something that touches all of us - and it's not poverty itself, it's suffering actually.

Poverty means nothing! A person can have very little and can be a very happy person... But what touches us is the suffering that somehow is connected with poverty, not poverty itself. So the question actually is not how to stop poverty, the question is how to alleviate the suffering, how to relieve our brothers and sisters from suffering? This is the question itself.

And again we go to the same answer. As long as there is spiritual poverty, there will be suffering. As long as we don't know how to live in harmony with each other, in love with each other, to coexist beautifully, there will be suffering. Even if we have all that we need, even if we would manage to get all that we desire, we would still have suffering.

How to alleviate this suffering on a global level?

Many sages they offer us a solution.

First they discover inside themselves the freedom from suffering, just like Buddha, or any other Sage have done. First, they recognize their own true nature, they recognize this source of abundance, this source of inexhaustible prosperity. They find that inside themselves. They discover their true nature. Step number one is this.

Now, step number two. Many sages feel "Let us go around and share it!" Isn't it like this? "Let us go and preach, let us go and share, let us go and have some Satsangs - like we are doing - let us go and have some Kirtans, let us write some books, let us write a blog in the internet, let us share what we have, so that other people can also experience this prosperity we have inside of us. So that other people can become aware of the graceful nature of God, of the ever providing, so generous, nature of the Supreme Being that is constantly providing for us! Constantly takes care of all that we need."

So this is a kind of a solution, not the best, but it is one solution. To share the experience with other human beings through words.

Maharajji did this for almost fifty years. He was travelling all over India, giving Satsangs, making retreats, sharing the amazing knowledge that he discovered inside of him... And then at some moment he made an amazing realization, which is where I am going, he realized that this doesn't really work. Or it works so little, I am not sure it is worth the trouble. And he closed himself in his room and he stayed there. And he said "I am not

doing anymore individual service to people, I am not doing home delivery, but I will do Universal service.”

So, here is the practical solution that I spoke in the beginning. The sage, as he realizes more and more clearly how the Universe works, he recognizes that we are all perfectly connected to each other, it is One Life, only One Life, and all this life is included within him, all this universal life that manifests in infinite forms, is included in his very Heart.

Closing himself inside his room, making the light of his Heart brighter and brighter, immersing himself inside his own Being, immersing himself inside Love, and becoming like a spring of love, or like a generator of love, or like a channel of love. By making this channel clearer and clearer, the Self shines not only within him but within every being, within every conscious being.

The process of spiritual understanding becomes accelerated for all human beings, for all beings in the Universe actually, that’s why he calls it Universal service.

By working on this inner quality that we have, by enhancing it, by perfecting it, it becomes perfected everywhere, because whatever we perceive outside of us is only a manifestation of what we have inside. So even if you perceive poverty outside of you, in truth, if you analyze very well, it is something that you have inside of you that manifests externally.

So, the sage does not waste time externally, he puts all his energy and his effort inside of him, to stop poverty inside of him, to stop any dark spots inside of him, to completely eradicate egoism and any traces of egoism, to completely eradicate any source of poverty, to completely eradicate any source of suffering inside of him.

That is truly speaking what is called Universal Sadhana. This is what the greatest of sages are doing.

I have told you the other day of St. Francis of Assisi, I will say it again, some people were not present... As you know very well St. Francis was asking from his disciples to go around and preach, it was their duty - he was also going and preaching.

You know they were leaving in absolute simplicity, they had only one cloth, they had no shoes, they had no blanket, they were begging with their hands to ask for food, they didn’t have a bowl for food... They were living a life of perfect simplicity! A very divine way of life!

So, they were going all around, travelling all over Italy and outside of Italy, and preaching the joyful message.

And it so happened, that some of the disciples they were just going in the caves and staying there.

Now, the other disciples who were going all around, they went to St. Francis and complained, they said “Oh Maharajji, we are travelling all over, we have wounds on our feet, we are suffering so much and this lazy people they go and stay in the caves doing nothing!”

And St. Francis said to them “By what you are doing you are saving hundreds of souls, by what they are doing they are saving millions of souls!”

Do you want to eradicate poverty from the Universe?

You have to eradicate it inside of you first. When I say in you, I don't mean in your life, maybe you are a very rich person, but inside of you, you may have very big poverty.

Do you want to alleviate suffering from the world?

You have to alleviate it inside of you. And the sources of suffering, which is egoism, separation and all the by-products like antagonism, hatred, competition, etc, etc.

This is what the world truly needs! It needs spiritual lighthouses because it's in the dark. The world is in the dark and it needs light, true light, not some artificial light that blinks one moment and then turns down. It needs a true, shining light, it needs spiritual Suns! Even spiritual stars will not be enough, there are many spiritual stars, everybody here is a spiritual star... But this is not enough, we need to make spiritual Suns!

When you slowly establish this contact with the Spirit, with your true Self, the Dharma becomes perfected. When the Dharma becomes perfected, the Universal harmony becomes established. When there is Universal harmony, prosperity is just natural, it's impossible that there is no prosperity. Perfect prosperity becomes the standard when there is Universal harmony.

But as we said, the reason for the material poverty is spiritual poverty.

When a person suffers from something, there's always a reason for this - nobody can suffer out of nothing. And most of the times the reason is something which is self-generated, it's an act of ignorance - we did something that was wrong, that we didn't know it was wrong... We did something that was against harmony...maybe we hurt somebody, we didn't know about it or maybe we even knew about it and didn't care. We did something which is against harmony. When we act against harmony we step out of the state of prosperity - willingly. And stepping out of the prosperity some of us may

experience poverty, some of us may experience sickness, some of us may experience sadness, whatever...

So, to alleviate the poverty for one day, that will not help much... As long as the cause of poverty is there, the poverty will regenerate again and again and again. If we want to truly heal poverty, we must remove the cause of the poverty.

First inside of us and secondly in the others. And most of the times the cause of poverty and cause of all suffering is actually ignorance.

I don't believe there is any bad person, I don't believe something like this exists. There are just people who don't know how to utilize their human potential in the best way, who don't know how to live a beautiful life, who don't know that in fact we are perfectly connected with each other – the happiness of one person is my happiness. And this is the most important, they don't know that it is one soul within all bodies, they have not discovered it yet, so they struggle for their own wellbeing, they utilize their whole energy, their whole time, all their human energy goes towards the benefit of the one being.

Life itself is something very, very prosperous! Very prosperous! Inexhaustibly prosperous! How can there ever be poverty? Something must be very wrong!

St. Francis is considered to be the poorest man that ever lived, if I may say so, on an external level. Nobody can have as little as St. Francis had, it's impossible, you cannot get less than that - he had nothing, absolutely nothing!

Well...when the Sun was shining, like today, he would stand in front of the Sun and he would compose beautiful hymns in praise of the Sun. "Thank you brother Sun for your light that shines on my face, thank you for that amazing gift!"

And in the night, when the moon was shining, he would stand in front of the moon and would praise the moon for the beautiful silver light that was shining all over.

He would compose poems for the water that was running in the streams, for its very beauty, its beautiful sound, its musical sound, its benevolence towards all beings.

He would compose songs for the fire that shines so brightly, that is so beneficial, so friendly, that gives us warmth, gives us light.

He would compose poems for Mother Earth that provides so many herbs and trees and fruits and products in abundance - out of thankfulness.

So, could one ever say that St. Francis was suffering from poverty?

He was the most blissful person ever. Nobody had as little as him and nobody had as much as him at the same time.

You would not worry how to alleviate the poverty of St. Francis, you would wish you were like him!

Because spiritually speaking, he was an emperor!

This is one way to see it...

...or he has merged himself to the Great Emperor, he has merged himself to the Great Lord and he enjoyed the same prosperity as the Lord.

So, material poverty is not the problem, spiritual poverty is the problem.

There is a saying in the Yoga Sutras by Patanjali, a very amazing saying, I really wish you can understand this, it's very simple but extremely deep...

So, Patanjali speaks about the first principle of Yoga which is Ahimsa or non-violence, and he says something very profound, he says "He who perfects himself in Ahimsa, in non-violence, he will never experience violence anywhere."

If you can grasp what I am saying your life will never be the same. When I say "he will not experience violence anywhere", not only towards himself but even towards the others. Violence will not exist in his life. Violence will be something that exists only in action movies, if he likes he can see a little bit, if he chooses to...

The same with everything else!

You want to alleviate poverty, extinguish it inside of you!

Let the light shine all over inside of you, in all places, in all hidden places.

Let there be just light and even external poverty will disappear.

And practically speaking, you cannot do anything else! This is the only thing that is in your hands, and it is the best solution.

The other thing is to make chapatti for everybody - but is very impractical, although this also helps...

Speaking of this, it's very interesting, in India there are many poor people, you see many Babas in the streets... many people feel very great compassion and they feel sad to see them. But all the poor people that are in the streets can go in the Ashrams and take food

for free everyday - morning, evening, lunch, everything - they can take food for free, the same food that I was taking, same food... All the Babas, and there are a few Ashrams - there are two, three Ashrams - they offer food for free for all the Babas, for all the beggars.

Does this happen in the West?

So who is more poor, India or Europe or America? Think about this...

The phenomena are deceptive!

But this solution is also ok, for example Maharajji he was offering first of all the spiritual gift, spiritual prosperity, but he was also offering food for everyone for free.

To say that he was offering is not 100% correct because he was doing nothing, he was just in his room, inside his Samadhi, meditating and being immersed in love, he was doing nothing else. Everything else was happening automatically, somehow the money was coming, somehow the money was becoming food, somehow the beggars were eating, by itself...

I want us to consider one third thing. I spoke to you first about the essential thing that we should work inside of us to alleviate spiritual poverty, this is the first thing we can do. The second thing is we can give chapatti to people if they want, a little bit, you can give something material if you have, why not? You share what you have, it's beautiful! It's not going to save the person but it's going to alleviate a little bit the suffering, this is also good...

The third thing I want us to think about is that many times, many people who are in a condition of suffering, any sort of suffering, in truth they are choosing this condition.

So you tell me now "I want to alleviate their suffering" and I agree with you, this is what I want to do also, but we cannot go against the choice of another person.

There are many people that for one reason or the other they choose to suffer. They know what they should not do, they know perhaps all the rules, maybe they have studied Yoga, maybe they have studied the Scriptures, but they choose to suffer, they are addicted to it.

In this case we can do only one thing, just to give a beautiful positive example, that's all we can do. We cannot force anybody out of the suffering, we can just give a beautiful example. We can by example show to the other person "Listen, you can be happy! You can live beautifully! Joy is our very nature, you can be joyful, you can be free from suffering, freedom from suffering is the nature of the spirit! Suffering is something very unnatural to the spirit, very unnatural! So, as I do it, you can also do it!"

Not just by words, but by our own example!

Truly speaking, poor are those that don't have love inside of them!

Poor are those that they don't have joy!

Poor are those that they don't have peace!

Poor are those that they don't know their true Being! And they are also not interested about it...

If you are loved by somebody or not, that's not so important, that's secondary.

What is primary, what is first, is if you have love inside of you.

Rich are those who experience peace inside of them! These are truly prosperous!

Who feel love for their brother and sister, who feel irresistible and inexhaustible love!

Who don't pay attention to the mistakes of the others! Who don't pay attention to the defects or weaknesses of the others!

Rich and prosperous are those who always have something to give and who offer selflessly without expecting something in return.

Prosperous are those who offer joyfully!

Prosperous are those who are fearless!

Who are free from worries, free from fear.

Prosperous are those who are content within themselves, who find everything they need inside themselves.!

Prosperous are those who have found the inexhaustible spring inside of them! Their prosperity will never finish...

So, discover that inexhaustible spring, which is nothing else then your own Self!

This is the only way to alleviate poverty and suffering.

- Om Shanti Shanti Shanti! -