

Satsang with Om Baba

(Rishikesh 2018)

The choice of Christhood

26/12/18

Welcome everybody to the Satsang!

I don't usually read books or stories and have not done so for many years but the story of Jesus Christ is a story that I cannot get enough of. Many people will say that the story is not historically correct, or that it is not a true story - a complete work of fiction, or perhaps a fiction based on a true story. So many theories, so many opinions, so much evidence, so much proof that is contradictory.

My opinion is that it does not matter at all. It doesn't matter at all if it is a true story or a fiction. It is one of the most wonderful stories we have, one of the most elevating, inspiring and beneficial stories we have. Every time somebody reads it, it is like a divine hand lifts them higher. It lifts the consciousness higher, as though you remember something which is so familiar. And that which is so familiar is Christhood. It is a state of living in love, living in harmony, living without ego, living without thinking of our own private benefit, living a life of Truth. Being true humans.

This is also what our lineage teaches. Our lineage is called Sacha which means Truth - to be a true human. To be true to God, true to Life, to be a true Being. Jesus Christ was a true being. Every time we read this story, or remember it or hear of it, it triggers something very familiar, and that is our own highest potential to be True. To be the Light that we truly are. To be the Love that we truly are.

So, if you want to come close to the essence of the story you should not concern yourself with the historical details, because it simply does not matter. However, I would like, just for a few minutes, to do justice to one of the most beautiful characters in Jesus Christ's story. A character who has been very much criticised, misunderstood and misrepresented. That character is Mary Magdalene.

In today's traditional opinion Maria Magdalene was a sinful woman and Jesus Christ accepted her completely as she was, out of Grace. This has nothing to do with the reality. This is not what the secret texts and gospels tell us, the gospel of Thomas etc..., these tell us a very different point of view. They tell us in fact that Maria was the closest disciple of Jesus Christ. The gospel of Phillip mentions her as being his 'companion', meaning his Shakti, if you understand the Hindi meaning of this word. His female equal.

The gospel of Maria Magdalene, which was not written by her, but is about her says that she knew many things and many secrets about Jesus Christ that nobody else knew. The other disciples would come and ask her: "Please share with us the instructions that only you know,

share with us what the Lord has said to you when he was alone with you". Mary speaks in a very mystical way.

In the Orthodox church, Maria Magdalene was never viewed as a sinner. This idea was a complete misunderstanding, a false accusation. She was seen as a very virtuous woman from the very beginning, fully dedicated to Jesus Christ. The idea of her as a sinful woman arose because of a text in the gospels telling of a sinful woman, who washed the feet of Jesus Christ, but it does not mention her name. Then, a certain pope, about one thousand years later, claimed that this sinful woman was Maria Magdalene and that she was a prostitute. He was a misogynist, like many others in the church. After that the idea remained that Maria Magdalene was a prostitute. This idea came later and has nothing to do with the truth, there is no valid evidence for this.

We do have evidence that she was the closest and most beloved of Jesus Christ and she is worshipped as a very great saint in the Orthodox church. So, just a few words to clarify this, because I believe it is very important to understand that Jesus Christ didn't have a preference for male disciples, but that his house was open to all those who loved him. Today it is just the same.

We said the other day that the greatest obstacle in attaining to Christ is our lack of intention to do so. Apart from this there is nothing to block our way. What does this intention, this choice mean? What is the power of our choice? What is the power of our intention? What is the role of our intention on the spiritual path?

To go anywhere we must have a destination. If you want to go from here to the restaurant you must first have the intention to do it, otherwise you will never go there. Perhaps you will arrive somewhere randomly, but you cannot rely on this. First, we set the destination, then we look at how we can reach this destination. What path shall we take? What tools can we use? Which methods?

Let us focus a little bit more on intention because there are different kinds of intentions. One intention is a conscious intention, something we set ourselves consciously coming from a pure space, a place of clarity. There is another kind of intention which is more unconscious, it is more compulsory, coming out of our physical instincts or from the programming we are given by society.

Say for example our body wants food. It is not a conscious intention, the body wants food or sleep or wishes to procreate. These are not conscious intentions, they do not come from us, this comes from the DNA of the body. This is DNA programming. This is a subconscious drive that directs us, that drives us toward one destination or another. These are not conscious decisions.

One part of subconscious decision-making is our bodily desires. The other part is our programming that is given to us by society. Desires such as 'I must have a good job', 'I must have good insurance', 'I must have a nice car and a nice house', 'I must put my children into a good college', etc... Various drives that somehow take us in one direction or another, they do not come consciously, they do not come from us. They arise out of our social programming.

If you observe the life of the 'average' human being you will see that he goes in one direction or another based on these subconscious drives, driven by what society has taught him and his

DNA programming - and that's all! He is like a leaf blown hither and thither by the wind of his subconscious drives, he never arrives where he truly wants to be because he did not set the destination consciously. If he arrives where the body wants to arrive he will not be satisfied. And how can he be satisfied if he has only arrived where the society wants him to arrive? How can he be fulfilled by this? Neither he, nor the society will be fulfilled! Nobody is ever fulfilled by this!

To have any possibility of personal fulfilment the intention must be conscious!
You can say that it must come from the depths of the Heart.
It must come from the core, from Consciousness.

It must be a clear and conscious intention that is not polluted by the desires of the body and the DNA.

It is a desire from beyond these things and usually, if not always, when a desire comes from the spirit then usually this desire is spiritual. Usually when we do have a conscious intention and a conscious wish it will be spiritually orientated. It will be a desire for awakening, for realisation or for benefiting one way or the other - a loving desire, a beneficial desire, a selfless desire.

The body cannot be selfless, it's desires are always selfish. The spirit cannot be selfish. The spirit is naturally selfless, because it is One within all bodies. If an intention comes from that spirit, from the Atman you can be certain that it will be beneficial. Maybe it is just to go inside a cave and realise yourself, or to take care of the weak, the poor or the sick, in any way, it will be beneficial. This intention, this pure conscious intention, this truly is our choice and not some subconscious intention.

Somebody may ask, 'do we need to awaken ourselves spiritually in order to make a conscious choice?'

In truth, we are making this conscious choice all the time. The conscious choice for most people is simply to stay back in their 'safe' box and try to satisfy society and family and other people. That is their conscious choice. To not act against the others beliefs, or against their own desires - that is their choice.

Do we have the power to choose something else? Of course!

Any single moment we can choose otherwise!

Do we have the power to choose something revolutionary, groundbreaking, something radical?
Of course! At any moment it can be done.

Why don't we do it? It is because we are afraid of the 'consequences'. We are afraid of the opinions of the others.

This is why the example of Jesus Christ is so beautiful. He was not afraid of opinions. He went against all opinion. He inspired us to believe that we can all do the same. If we live in a society whose opinions bring us down, we do not have to go along with them.

Jiddu Krishnamurti, who was a great saint of our times, said once:

'It is not a measure of good health to follow and conform to a profoundly sick society.'

It is a very wise saying. Today people think that if a person doesn't follow the standards and norms of a society, he will be viewed as mentally unhealthy, as a whacko, as an outcast. He will be taken to the psychiatrist and then to the hospital. They will stuff him with medicines, because he didn't follow the standards of the society.

Then somebody comes and says: "No! Society is profoundly sick!" Only that person who understands this and judges by his own clear intellect can be healthy. He can have a clear, conscious, selfless intention. This person alone can be called healthy. Not somebody who is blown hither and thither by the desires of society. If Jesus had been following the wishes of society he would never have become Jesus. Not only Jesus but any saint you can think of, if they had been limited by the wishes of society, they would never have become a saint.

So, Jesus Christ together with all other saints were revolutionaries and they inspire us to also be revolutionary. Instead of being like robots, mindless beings, they inspire us to wake up and be intelligent, to go beyond our programming, to look beyond it and find what lies there.

What actually exists beyond this programming that I have?

Who am I truly?

Who was I before the programming began?

Who will I be after the program has been erased?

Who am I right this moment beyond the programming?

How will it be to be free from the social and the DNA programming?

If I become free of all my bodily and mental limitations, what and how will I be?

Who am I this very moment ?

What am I?

Beyond all your programming, either physical or mental, inside this very body, behind this very mind, if you look, you will find Christ. Christhood was not the privilege of one single human being - that is a ridiculous idea. Christhood is the potential of all conscious beings.

The first means of attaining this potential is your choice. You can say 'I want to attain this, I want to discover who I truly am, I want to find my pure Self. Your choice is the first step. After this come the methods, we have spoken a lot about these, but the number one technique, the number one condition is your own choice. Maybe some people who are weak of heart, they might wonder 'if I become Christ maybe they will take me and crucify me, maybe I should stay out of it'. They stay as 'Mr Bob', its much safer.

If you are Christ, even if they crucify you, you will still be blissful. If you are Mr Bob, bliss will be a far cry, a distant dream, or a random event that happens once per year. We are very lucky to live in these times - we don't have the danger of being crucified. The greatest danger is your own lack of willingness.

Who is the one who crucifies the Christ?

In my opinion the Christ is crucified by almost everybody who denies the Christ inside of himself. He who denies the potential to be Christ, he himself crucifies the Christ.

Jesus Christ said once: *"The one who loves his Father more than me is not my disciple, the one who loves his Mother more than me is not my disciple."*

This is very true. The one who loves society more than the Truth is not a devotee of the Truth, he will never enter the Truth. He will always have the fear of being rejected by society, of being criticised by society - "what will society think of me? What will my parents, my friends, my boss, my customers think of me if I become Christ? They might think that I am mad, they might lock me away."

This fear is what stops you.

Ultimately it is a choice. Even to be afraid is a choice.

Gurdjieff used to say: *"the fear of death is not the greatest fear - the greatest fear that people have is the opinion that others have about them."*

What will the others think of me? Will they approve? Will they condemn me? Will they praise me or will they accuse me? This is the greatest fear that a human being has.

Christhood lies beyond this fear. When you step out of the fear-filled-room, that is your mind, when you step out of this space, you step into Christhood.

Remember we were reading the Bhagavad Gita the other day? It said that the first of the Divine qualities was fearlessness - this is what it meant, to be fearless. If you are afraid you will never go outside of your room, outside of your box. If you are afraid you will never transcend. You must be dauntless, fearless, true, knowing that what you are, nothing can harm you, nothing can touch it.

Krishna said to Arjuna: *"What you are Arjuna the fire cannot burn, the water cannot wet, the wind cannot dry, the death cannot approach."*

He did not say this just for Arjuna - he said it for all of us. Knowing that, you become fearless, you can follow your hearts calling fearlessly.

If the calling is from your heart there is no doubt it will be a spiritual calling. It will never be a desire to run a business - this does not come from the heart. It will never be a desire to make children - this is coming from the DNA. If it is a clean and pure desire it will be a desire such as let me spread love, let me benefit others, let me awaken, let me know myself, let me know who

I truly am beyond this bondage of body and mind. Let me know my eternal nature, let me be a source of benevolence. If a voice comes from that space it will say only something like this.

So, when you make a choice observe it a little bit. Where does this choice come from? And if you struggle and strive for this choice and maybe succeed, will it bring you fulfillment? Has it fulfilled other people around you? Has this choice that you made fulfilled those others who made the same choice? Many times we make a choice that thousands of others have made, but were they fulfilled by this choice? Or are they just as unhappy as everybody else?

Make a choice that will fulfil you.

We say sometimes: *“Do not pray that your wishes will be fulfilled, pray that your wishes will fulfil you.”*

Pray for that which will fulfil you. You can experiment with this. You have the free choice to pray and wish for anything in the infinite universe. You can attain anything and I encourage you to experiment with this but if you want to save yourself some time and trouble and probably pain, wish first to know your Self. Make this your number one wish, put it on top of your wish list, make it your priority. After this you can wish for anything you like. Once you know your Self you can wish for anything you like, not vice-versa.

First know your Self. Awaken to what you are. Realise you Self. Then you can wish for anything you like.

There is no better way to benefit yourself or anybody else.

It is very clear from the story of Jesus Christ that he made that choice. Very clearly and very sincerely. He gave his life so as to inspire us to make the same choice. He made a very powerful point.

If you will make that choice to know the truth of who you are and you are sincere in this then you will succeed. There is not the slightest doubt. Christhood is within your grasp if you sincerely make this choice.

Don't let yourself be like a leaf in the wind - the wind of your lower drives. One moment pulled by one drive, the next moment pushed by another. One moment this direction, the next moment another. Pushed and pulled hither and thither, exhausted, never knowing peace. Always trying to satisfy that which can never fulfil us. Always trying to satisfy that which by its very nature is unsatiated. Like trying to fill up a bottomless well.

It is my prayer that you do not make that choice. You can be something so much greater than that. You can be free from that. Free from torment. You can grow higher than that. Make that choice to grow higher, to know who you are.

To know your True path.

To know true freedom.

To know your True nature.

Let us all make a choice to know our own Christhood.

To know Jesus Christ not as some extraordinary being from another planet, the Son of God,
but to know Jesus Christ as what we Truly are.

Let that be our choice.

- *Om Shanti Shanti Shanti* -