

The necessity for guidance

Today people take shelter and refuge in technology, and technological, scientific knowledge, knowledge that can be somehow proved in the laboratory... And unfortunately, the most essential knowledge we can have cannot be proved in the laboratory!

Where to find this knowledge? Where to find this essential knowledge?

The first thing that is needed is guidance, because the Universe we are surrounded is so vast and so full of endless possibilities, so many directions we can take, so many options to choose, infinite!

So, to choose the correct option out of the so many we need either to be very lucky or to have guidance - correct and specific guidance. That greatest of blessings which is called guidance, which is called the Guru, is something very rare indeed - very rare!

It says in the Vedic scriptures:

“Out of the thousand people, only one is blessed with the gift to seek for the Truth, only one is interested for the Truth, for some higher Spiritual knowledge. Out of the thousand, only one!

Again, out of the thousand people that seek, only one is blessed with correct and genuine guidance, with the guidance of a true Sage, of a true realized being. Out of the thousand seekers, only one is blessed with this! Just one!

Out of the thousand people who are so blessed with a Spiritual guidance, with a Guru, only one can stay next to the presence of the Master long enough so that he can truly have the benefit!”

To come to a Satsang, listen some nice stuff and go away, there is no much benefit in it.

Nobody, no Guru, no Master, no Teacher that has ever existed can convey his inner knowledge through just words. Nobody can do this! The words are just an excuse perhaps, just a little bit of sattvic food for the mind. But what the Master wants to convey, he can convey it only through his own example, through his own presence, through his own inner work!

One time, before a few years, I was very much blessed to meet a great Sage, his name is Thuli Baba, maybe some of you know Thuli Baba...

So, I met the Sage, I had a private meeting with him, it was a very great blessing, and it was a time that I was ready to go to Europe and start teaching, and I asked the Sage for blessings for my journey. And I said to him:

“Oh Thuli Babaji, I feel now teaching is an important part of my Sadhana.”

And Thuli Baba answered to me:

“Teaching is not Sadhana. Sadhana is teaching!”

Maybe you don't get it straight away - I also didn't get it, I was a little bit spaced out in his presence, so I didn't get it...

So, the Sage continued and he asked me, “Why did you come here today?”

I said, “I don't know.” - Really, I didn't!

He said, “Do you know my teachings? Have you studied my teachings?”

I said, “No.”

“Then what brought you here today?”

I said, “I was attracted somehow. I felt a very strong, genuine attraction!”

He asked me, “What did attract you? What attracted you here?”

I said, “I don't know.”

He said, “It is my Sadhana that attracted you here.”

So, this is what he meant, which is truly amazing! He told me, “Teaching is not Sadhana. Sadhana is teaching!”

The Teacher is the example to the whole world, even if nobody sees him, he still influences and uplifts the whole Universe!

And this is exactly what Maharajji was doing! He was not going out of his room, he was not giving Satsangs, or speeches. He was closed in his room the whole day, immersed in his own Samadhi.

So, the Master thought, “This is the best way I can do Sadhana. I can focus in the truth of my Being, stay here, be established here and radiate this to the whole Universe!”

And that is his teaching. And even though many of us never met Maharajji, his teaching came to us wherever we are and touched our heart. His love for God, his love for the Truth, it spread all over, his Self-realization spread all over, his Devotion spread all over... And somehow some other person on the other side of the world, suddenly he starts feeling Devotion... where did it come from?

Now you know where it came from!

Maybe it has happened to you also, you live an 'ordinary life', like everybody else and suddenly you want to give up everything and get devoted to Spirituality. Where did it come from?

Some Sage maybe is meditating somewhere in a cave or in his room, or wherever, you don't even know him and that Sage radiates the frequency of Devotion and Love towards all directions! And this touched you also because you were receptive.

Without this trigger, without this triggering from a divine source, this Devotion cannot grow, you will not change direction. You see, our parents took us, they trained us, they put us in a certain direction – and by momentum, we continue going that direction. We need a divine force to somehow 'turn the stirring wheel', so that we change direction.

Did anybody's parents said to him, "My child, you just give up all this nonsense of the world and dedicate yourself to Spirituality"?

Did anybody learn this in the school?

Has anybody's neighbour, or relatives, or friends, told something like this?

Even if they would say, you wouldn't listen to them! Because you need to make an inner choice and this inner choice is triggered by a divine source, by a certain Sage, maybe Maharajji, maybe Thuli Baba, maybe a great Sage that you might have never seen, but has somehow changed your life.

I can feel that all of us belong to this category, we are blessed with this life-changing push, this life-changing motivation. And now we are here, under the protective care of a Sage, we are so much blessed!

And we come to the third step that I mentioned before... How many of us can actually endure it?

How many of us can actually endure it for more than a few days or a few weeks and then feel the urge to run away?

How many of us can endure the shining presence of a Master, the sacred touch of Truth, the purifying touch of Truth?

Because this purifying touch, the first thing that is going to do, is going to take things away. And when things start to be taken away most people say "This is not for me." They run out!

What is the purifying touch taking away from you? Think about this...

What is the doctor taking away from you? The doctor in the form of the Guru...

He takes away all that causes you suffering!

Maybe you cannot see it, if you could see it maybe you would take it out yourself! But you don't, or perhaps you cannot do it sometimes, so you go to the doctor – to the Guru-doctor – for the surgery. And you know very well if you go for a surgery, he has to give you some tranquilizer, he has to put you asleep, otherwise you won't let him take anything away from you! Even if he takes away something that causes you pain, suffering, you will not let him, "No, no! Leave it right where it is! I like it..."

So, we don't know how we can do the same with spiritual disciples - how we can put an injection and take away all the bad stuff - it's difficult! One has simply to surrender.

When you go to the doctor, or to the surgeon, what are you doing at this moment? You fully surrender! You fully surrender your life to a person that you don't even know! Just one small wrong movement and you are finished or you are crippled! But no, you trust fully – you fully surrender. You say "Here I am, you can open me, you can do whatever you like, take away whatever you like!" I surrender.

But can we not surrender to the Guru that we have ourselves chosen? That he is like an archetype for us, he is an example, he is for us the best person we know! Can we not surrender to him to make the surgery?

And if you go to the surgeon and you ask, "Doctor-ji how much time it will take?"

He tells you, "It will take five hours."

Will you tell him, "Sorry Doctor, I have appointment in three hours! I cannot do it, sorry...?"

No! You stay there! It takes five hours, you close your mouth, you stay there, you wait!

So, if you go to the Guru, if he tells you, "You need to stay here six months!"

You tell him, "Sorry, I can stay only one month, two weeks, three weeks..."

Can't you see it is the same exactly thing?

A certain time is needed for the surgery to happen, for the healing to happen. A certain time is necessary. So, open up a little bit of space in your life and give a little bit trust to the Master!

Maharajji is for me the greatest sage, the most divine human being I ever met. Hundreds of thousands of Indian people were coming to him, and out of them – Maharajji was saying – every year, only one or two people were coming truly for spirituality.

Everybody else was coming asking blessings for his business, blessings for his son, for his daughter, the marriage of his daughter, so that she can finally go away, the college of his son, so he can earn some money, etc. The car, blessings for the car, blessings for the motorbike, blessings for the cow, blessings for whatever... Nobody was asking for spirituality! Hundreds of people were coming to his room, sometimes every day, nobody was asking for spirituality!

This is somehow the sad reality of India.

Not only of India, but especially in India!

So, out of the very, very few people that came with a spiritual wish, with a spiritual desire, Maharajji was saying the same almost to everybody. He was saying to them "Just stay in the Ashram for six months. Come here in the Ashram, stay here for six months. I will provide everything for you, I will give you room, I will give you food, I will give you clothes, I will give you medicine, whatever you need I will provide! You don't need to worry about anything - just come and stay here!"

In the nine years I was with Maharajji, I think only one or two people came. Can you believe it? Can you possibly believe this?

The greatest Sage of India, the people recognized him like this, hundreds of thousands of Indians, only one or two people... Why?!

This couldn't fit inside my mind! I couldn't understand this!

Now I can understand this better, because as we said, sometimes is very difficult to stay close to this radiating Sun that is the Guru. One is being scorched or something inside is being scorched that needs to be scorched...

You feel you start losing something, you start losing your precious ignorance, you start losing your ego, you start losing your idea of individuality, you start thinking “I don’t know who I am”, you start running away...

Isn’t it like this?

So now I can understand this practically, on a practical level, on a Spiritual level I cannot understand it, but on a practical level I can understand it and I don’t push anybody...

The Guru, they say, is like the Ocean. Some people can see the Ocean from a distance and be satisfied with this, never come close, they say “Such a beautiful view! But I don’t go near...”

Some other people can come and just put their toes inside, touch the Ocean with their toes, they say “Very nice, a toe bath! I had a very nice toe bath today! I am not going deeper...”

Some other people go up until the knee and they go out, “It’s too cold for me...”!

Some people they go up until the head which is a very good step, not complete, but it’s very good!

And very few, they fully dive inside!

Whatever of these things the student decides to do, that’s his choice. The Guru doesn’t mind... The Ocean doesn’t mind, if you just touch your toes on the Ocean, or if you go fully inside, the Ocean is the same.

Many times the things that we are afraid to lose in the presence of a spiritual Sangha, in the presence of a Guru, the things we are afraid to lose are exactly these things that we need to lose!

And what we need to lose the most is our own individuality - to be more clear, our own idea of individuality!

As long as this idea of individuality persists, that I am like this, “I am Mr. Om Baba, I am from Greece, I have this body, I have this story, I have this personality, these achievements...” As long as this exists the spiritual doors are closed, you are cutting off yourself from the great Ocean of Being.

Exactly what you are seeking for, you are cutting off yourself from that!

How can the Being, the Life that pervades everything, be something individual to you?

How can I say the Being is something individual inside me? Nobody else has it, only me...

And it is very obvious that the Being is inside everybody, not only inside, it is everywhere!
The Being is everywhere!

Now, what makes you think that the Being that is inside here and the Being that is inside there are two different beings? What makes you think like this?

Can't you see it is the same Being?

If you take people that are around you and you forget about their appearance, you forget about the personality and see the Light that shines behind these two, see the Light that shines behind their eyes, you will see it is exactly the same Light within everybody. Exactly the same, the same shining Being! Not a similar one, it's not similar...it's one and the same!

And then looking inside yourself, behind your personality and appearance, you will find the very same Being, the one Being that cannot possibly be individual since it pervades everything. The one Being, the one Life.

So, what is this individuality you are speaking about?

What is this individuality you are struggling to protect?

What is this?!

Can't you see it's just an illusion?

So, when we are close to somebody who has realized this, who lives in this, this powerful illusion starts to slowly vanish, it starts to fade out, and together with the illusion everything that is connected with the illusion starts to go away. Either we like it or not, it all starts to fade out - this is the nature of things.

Then what are you going to do at this moment?

You should answer this question to yourself.

“What am I going to do as my illusion starts to be dispelled, starts to fade out? As I start to lose all my beliefs, as I start to lose my precious individuality, what am I going to do? Should I run away and protect my precious individuality? Will this be the best for me? It is the reason why I came here in the first place... Or perhaps should I dive deep into the Ocean and then see what will happen? Should I first think then dive or should I first dive and then think?”

If you want to succeed do the second!

If you first think you will never dive...

First dive! Then think as much as you like.

Very, very blessed is the conscious being that has found a guidance, that has found a guide! Very, very blessed!

There is no greater blessing in my life, nothing that even comes close to it!

And I believe that everybody who is here, almost everybody, can recognize this!

So, my recommendation is; honour this blessing! Honour it in the best way you can! Because now you are fortunate enough to have it - it is not certain that you will have it in the next day, or the next life.

We said, out of thousand people only one seeks for the Truth. Out of the thousand people that seek for the Truth only one finds the correct guidance.

So, honour this guidance and honour the experiences you have during this guidance! And if you feel that you start losing yourself, losing your beliefs, losing your individuality... know that this is the starting point to the great Bliss! Don't run away from this! Go deeper into that! Rejoice, don't be afraid, rejoice! The work of the Master begins to bear fruits! Rejoice and go deeper in this! Let everything be taken away, let every obstacle be removed!

You hear many times the name of the Lord "Hari", you hear "Hari Om", "Hare Krishna"...

What means "Hare Krishna", do you know? Everybody has chanted "Hare Krishna! Hare Rama!"

Do you know what means "Hare Krishna"?

"Hari" means the one who takes everything away.

"Hare Krishna" means "Oh Krishna, take everything away!"

"Hare Rama", "Take everything away, Rama! Take it all away!"

Let him take everything away! What you truly seek for cannot be taken away! What you truly are, what you truly seek for, this cannot be taken away, this is what you are. Everything else, let it be removed, let it go its own blessed way.

So, when you are singing "Hare Krishna" - you know now what it means!

Sometimes to know the greatness of our Being we need to lose a few things. Only then we can recognize our greatness, because if we are surrounded by beautiful and convenient and shining things, and we feel good, we will not be interested in it.

When we start losing all these things we feel dependant upon and we still feel wonderful, then wow, that's a discovery!

When we are all by ourselves and still feeling wonderful inside, where does this strength come from? Where does this beauty come from? Where does this joy come from?

Then we start to recognize the greatness of what we are. And this is what the Master wants to do, he wants you to recognize the greatness of what you are! That you don't depend on any of these things, even if you will lose everything, you will be just as blissful, maybe even more blissful.

So why are you worrying that you might lose some things? Let them go! Be a little bit brave, be a little bit adventurous!

"If everything is removed from me, what will remain?"

You know well, in the state of deep sleep you are in your most blissful moment - and at that moment you have nothing!

All these things that give you joy and support in your everyday life, they don't exist there, you have nothing, yet you are in your highest bliss!

So, let the Guru and let Paramatman, do its work and start taking out some things from you and see what lies behind all these. See what you truly are, see your greatness and rejoice!

And so, although the saying is that only one out of the thousand people who are with the Guru, only one can endure the Guru... I know Sri Krishna have said it, but... I pray that He will change His mind so that more people can be free from suffering. More people might come to know Him, more people might know Oneness.

- Om Shanti Shanti Shanti! -