



RELATIONSHIPS

Attitude of a spiritual seeker towards relationships

Extract from 10/2/09 Satsang

Om Shri Paramatmane Namaha

The matter of relationships is important in almost everybody's life. In some way, it covers the whole of life. Many important things in life depend upon relationships. This applies in every society, in every country and in every religion. Certain points are to be understood about this important topic.

In the beginning, I would like to tell you a very fundamental difference in the approach of a person who has decided to be a spiritual seeker and a person who has not. This is an important point. The one, who has decided to be a spiritual seeker, has decided about the aim of his life. The aim of life of every spiritual seeker in every society is always only one – that is Self-realisation, divine love, permanent peace and happiness - complete fulfilment of life.

When this is the case, as it really is, the approach of a spiritual seeker regarding relationships will be different from the approach which others have. A spiritual seeker does not want to stop anywhere on the way before the Realisation of Truth. Worldly relationships happen on the way but they are not the aim – we must be clear about this! They are not useless and nobody can be without them, but the approach has to change. People, who have not decided to be spiritual seekers, wish to derive happiness from human relationships. They want to have security, happiness and a smooth life. However, one should always remember that, for the worldly person, though they all have such aims in their minds, these aims are always only dreams. These aims have never been fulfilled for anybody in the whole history of humanity. Even when a relationship is smooth and happy all one's life, one's partner has to die some day. Death will not leave anybody out, and does not care for relationships. I have mentioned the ultimate event, but even before that, many situations arise which create discontent and problems almost every day.

The problems of relationships pervade everything in your life. But the ideal partner exists only in the mind! The ideal partner is an idea which people want to have materialised. Sorry! It is like desiring flowers out of thin air: "I want to have beautiful flowers, let them come from the sky." Sorry, it is not going to happen!

Many times I have seen people's whole lives spent searching for the right partner. One, two, three, four – like that – and then becoming totally frustrated. One forms various concepts about different people, having collected so many illogical wrong impressions about mankind. One derives conclusions like: "Oh, mankind is bad" or "All men are very cruel and all women are treacherous". Many such strange things happen.

Then the question is: "What to do?"

Try to understand the difference in approach between one who is a spiritual seeker and one who is not. The aim of a spiritual seeker is Self-realisation and God, and nothing less than that. For this reason, such a person accepts whatever relationship comes to his or her share. I refer to relationships with parents – father and mother - friends, and between young men and women. It is not in your hands to have the relationships of your choice - they just come - they happen.

Nobody ever gave you the choice to choose your parents. You are born wherever you are born. In the same way, parents may have an unruly child. Nobody wants a naughty child. Everybody wants an ideal daughter or son, but it does not always happen that way. He or she just takes birth in the family and creates chaos.

But here is a difference between a seeker, whose aim is God, and other people. One should take everything from God gratefully. A child, who creates chaos in the family, is for your purification. It is your test for the development of tolerance in you. There are specific virtues which are required for Self-realisation. I will deal with them in detail later on. Some day I will tell you what the virtues are and what virtues should be there in life so that God-realisation can happen. It is a perfect science.

Thus the child, who creates chaos, is really being kind to you. The debris, in your subtle body have to come up to the surface for purification through that agency. For the seeker the child becomes a messenger of God. The same is true of a husband, wife or partner who, according to your interpretation, creates problems for you.

Nobody ever creates problems for anybody. Problems are always created by the individual himself or herself. They are mental problems, arising in the mind of the person himself or herself. They arise from ignorance, and nothing except that. People accuse others: “So and so did so many bad things! How could I tolerate it?” Well, the truth is that such and such was giving you a chance to develop toleration, but it was just that you could not see it!

God is there in the body of the husband, wife or partner, whom you are accusing. God wants to test you with fire so that you can improve. Do you think you will achieve Self-realisation just by sitting comfortably on the sofa? Is there no price to be paid for the greatest thing on Earth? Where have you got this idea from? Do you think that there is some beautiful castle in a forest where everything is very fine. There is plenty of fruit and delicious food, and there are other people for you to enjoy their company and a fine partner? And then all of a sudden light happens inside of you and you Realise God! It does not happen like that! You have to pass through the fires of your own karmas from the past. These concepts need deep understanding.

Every one of us, who is born on the planet of Earth, has brought with him or her a legacy - a history from the past lives. That history is there in the subtle body, in the mind, in what is known in the present day as the ‘subconscious’. But, unless some purification of the subconscious happens, God-realisation is not possible, and Self-realisation does not happen. All techniques in all paths of spirituality ultimately have this effect. Thus, no relationship is bad for the seeker, because it gives the seeker a chance to evolve.

You have decided that your aim is divinity and nothing less than that. Then you must pay the price for it. Why are you running away from it? Accept the challenge, and let yourself be tested. Divorces happen often because people have the habit of criticising the other partner. I do not agree with this attitude. You have not accepted that you did not have the strength to be tested by that person. Even for temporary

success in relationships, particularly the relationship between a man and a woman, certain differences in approach have to be there.

Those who desire happiness will not have it, as long as they want their happiness from another. Happiness is in you. Peace is in you, inside. They are mistaken who say that the reason for their divorce was that the other person did not love them as much as they loved them. Such people do not know what love is. Love is not business: “This much I am giving to you - now what are you giving to me?” This is not love. This happens in many cases: “I am doing so many things for you but what are you doing for me?” Such a relationship will not last.

If there is the attitude: “Oh, you have come to me as my partner, let me serve you. I have got the opportunity to serve you and I will do it to the best of my capacity.” If the approach of both sides is to give comfort to the other person - to serve the other person - to see good things in the other person and bad things in your own self - your own vices - your own weaknesses - and finding fragrance in the other and bad smell in yourself, then happiness will be found, I can tell you. It is there, and I can see it.

You see if this approach is there, the relationship and one's whole life will have a meaning. At a young age, physical attraction is generally considered to be love, but it goes away after one or two years, and sometimes after six months or even sooner. But this is not love. Love needs sacrifice - love needs service. True love is not even bilateral - it is unilateral: “I love you and whatever you do to me, I will love you and I will die loving you, because to love is my nature and my religion. I am born to love”. In the case of such a person, God comes very soon to knock on the door, very soon. Even if such a person does not remember God, God says: “Oh, look – here I am.”

You have not to seek God anywhere. At least I have not seen people finding God in temples, mosques or churches – I have not seen it. Why? God exists everywhere, and therefore people can find God anywhere. And this question of relationships is very important with regard to that finding of God.

So, change the perspective, and try to understand life. Do not think that such and such a person will give you happiness and peace, no. Only from God you will have true happiness and peace, so try to see God in that person.

Many times I have noticed that, even before marriage, there are conditions laid down. I have seen it: “This is the condition, do you agree? If you agree then I will marry you, if not then I have to say no.” Are you getting married or are you negotiating a business contract? “I belong to such and such a religion, but you belong to another. If you are ready to get converted to my religion then you can be my wife or my husband”. Sorry, things will be bad – there is no element of love. It is pure selfishness to make somebody a slave.

I have given you certain ideas. Think them over and then decide about your relationships. Forget about the past, because whatever has happened has happened. It has gone, and you should have no regrets about the past: “Oh this was a mistake!” It is finished. Forget the past and do not have wishful thinking for the future, because you do not know what is going to happen. Try to be in the present. Try to accept the present, and then try to do the best you can towards the person you are in contact with. Life will start changing. A new meaning will develop from inside you.

Those who come here and listen to me, by God's grace, and on account of His strength and power, not mine, are bound to change. They are changing, everyday. This is the experience of many. Either they will run away or they will change! Transformation is bound to happen because of God's grace, not because of something

which I have. I have nothing. I am just an instrument, like a flute. The song is from another source, although it flows through the flute. Something like that. So all the adoration and prayer – it is all a relationship with God. The aim is God. May God be kind to all of you in this respect.

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