



EGO

Is there anything good about ego?

Extract from 11/2/04 Satsang

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Om Shri Paramatmane Namaha

Q: Is there anything good about ego?

A: There is very much good about ego. Most activity in the world is motivated by ego. Those high buildings; those cars; those factories; name and fame; the writing of books; becoming a great scientist - ego is behind all of these things. Ego gives the motivation to become something unique in the world: "I am not an ordinary person. The world should take notice of me. The world should come to know that here is an extraordinary person". Most people try to be extraordinary. It is all a play of ego. It is possible to say much about ego. Ego makes people run in the Olympic Games: "This time I will win the gold medal."

Ego of the body: "I am more beautiful than anybody else. There are other beautiful men and women but something special has been given to me. It is a different charm."

The ego of intelligence: "Nobody is as intelligent as me. God has given something special to me."

Ego of the looks: "My hair, so fine and beautiful, my eyes are large and lovely, my cheeks cannot be compared with anyone else's, my lips are soft and red and my teeth are white and strong."

There is ego of the mind and the ego of having virtue.

Ego of the family: "I belong to a such and such a family, do you know? I do not come from an ordinary family. My family has a great tradition. In a distant way, I am related to royalty. If you find out my lineage you will discover this."

Ego of the religion: "The religion into which I am born is, in fact, the real religion."

Ego of the language: "There are so many languages but the beauty of the language which I speak is different."

Ego of nationality: "After all, I am Indian with the richest culture."

"I am British. Do you know the history of the British people? You should recognise this."

"But you do not know who the Czechs are. You are ignorant about the real quality of Czechs."

"Oh, everybody is inferior to the Germans! We are Germans!"

"You do not know about the valour of the Russians. Look what happened in the wars! What did we show to those who attacked us? We are Russians."

Ego! Of course, someone could say: "You are talking about nations, but you have not mentioned the real nation, America, where I come from. We are the most powerful country in the world!"

This is the ego of nations. Then some other country may claim to be more powerful and America will then not be the greatest. Ego and ego and ego!

But there is one problem also. There is so much in praise of ego, but there is also one defect and perhaps a very great defect. Where there is ego there is no peace, and when there is no peace all is useless. As long as ego is there, there is no peace and no happiness and without peace and happiness life is meaningless. Therefore, ego is ultimately worthless. In a way it is the greatest disease and, in some respects, the only disease. When one gets rid of it, one is healthy for all time. In fact, all that praise of ego just shows ignorance. The truth is that it is just this one insect of ego - this one serpent - this one snake of ego - that ultimately creates all the problems in human life. All of us have it, but sometimes some rare person gets rid of it.

All of us would like to be out of the ordinary. However, sometimes a person becomes ordinary. If someone were to ask what is the most extraordinary event, the answer would be to become ordinary, because it is only the ordinary that is happy, peaceful and full of love.

This single question of ego is such that one can talk about it for years. When this ego goes away completely, the problems of life are solved, but as long as it stays the problems never get solved. Ultimately all the problems of life are related to ego.

Ego is the greatest illusion. You can find your body - whatever may be the meaning of 'finding it' - and you can say: "This is my body." You can point out the organs of your senses - your eyes, your ears, etc. and you can see your thoughts. You can see them. You can feel your emotions. But it is not so easy to discover where the ego lives within you. Just go inside and try to find out where this ego lives. If you could find out, perhaps you could catch it and finish it. But you cannot find its location and how to destroy it! Sometimes by the grace of that ego-less existence called 'God' - the infinite, eternal consciousness which is ego-less - by His grace some human beings may become ego-less.

Sometimes on this Earth we find someone like Christ, without ego, going from place to place and giving his love to everybody who comes his way. Here is the messenger of God - ego-less. Christ went from place to place, embracing everybody who came in his path, without distinguishing between good and bad. Sometimes Krishna moves on Earth, playing his flute and dancing. Sometimes Ram or Nanak (founder of Sikh religion) is there. It is not necessary that a person who becomes ego-less should also become well-known. The person who desires to become well-known has a touch of ego. There are people who realise the Truth and lead a silent, unknown but peaceful and happy life. Ego goes away only by the grace God.
