
Centres

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17:03

ADI: Have you read of Baba?

ATTENDEE #1: Just finished "God Man" and "Avatar", "Listen, Humanity", "God Speaks" and "Discourses".

ADI: All your labour will be 1000 fold compensated if you 100% love Baba. There is no one greater, He is the Highest of the High. The only power that balances absolute God with eternal illusion. Even the Perfect Master, after he drops his body, he severs his connection with illusion. He has got nothing to do with illusion.

And God as God, whom the whole world worships with folded hands, that God in the abstract is not connected with illusion. But, another aspect of the same God who is the Avatar, who activates God, He is ever linked with illusion and it is He, who has to dispose of and answer the prayers offered by the whole humanity.

Same God, but another aspect. So, all our labours can be 1000 fold or even more compensated if you offer to Him directly than through other means. Anything done in the name of God, eventually He has to dispose of because He is ever linked with the illusion. The Avatar is ever linked with the illusion.

There is no other power, no other entity, no soul who is ever linked with illusion.

Avatar whether in body or out of body, He is ever linked with illusion. Even without body He is linked up with illusion. Even the Perfect Master, who enjoys the same state of consciousness as the Avatar does not maintain his link, his connection with illusion. When he drops the body, he becomes completely disconnected.

It is only the Avatar who comes down once between 700 and 1400 years that He maintains His connection with illusion. He was the first soul to become God-realised. And that is why He's called the Avatar.

And there are no two Avatars. There is only one Avatar. He was the same as Zoroaster, as Ram, Krishna, Buddha, Christ and Mohammad and Meher Baba.

Have you read the small booklet Baba has given, "Highest of the High"? You must read that. Somebody should give him that book.

ATTENDEE #2: It's in "Listen, Humanity," part of it.

ADI: You read that part where Baba, in His own words says who He is. No yogi, no mahatma, no rishi, no muni. Thank you sir. Thank you very much. Much blessed. no yogi, no mahatma, no rishi, no muni, no saint, no sant, no Perfect Master, is equal to Him.

Perfect Master enjoys the same experience as the Avatar enjoys but for the matter of work and authority, the Avatar is far too great. Perfect Master does the work during his lifetime and passes off. The Avatar goes on coming and coming because of His compassion for humanity.

And to be linked up with the Avatar is something like being linked up with a man who can fly you in a jet plane 1000 miles a hour. And to go on one's own or making some yogi a guru, or some rishi a guru or muni a guru, it is just like walking with him. Or probably going in a horse carriage or at the most going in an automobile, takes a long time.

In your case keeping silence is not bad but it should be linked up with Baba all the time, whole of it. Nothing on your own, dedicate everything to Him and then see the result. Have you read "God Speaks?" You must have read many other books. You want to continue this silence?

I have been asked to speak a few words about Baba's work and the meetings that take place here, similar to the meetings that take place everywhere, in all the centres all over the world where Baba has got centres. He's given it to you.

ATTENDEE #1: Also sometimes people think we are too ritualistic because we meet, you know, every Sunday. Because we want to do the prayers every time. We have so many think we are too ritualistic.

ADI: All of us who are assembled here today are Baba lovers. Or maybe a few of them may be only Baba admirers. Since we call ourselves Baba lovers or Baba

admirers, we have to express our love. The love should be expressed, the love should be brought down into our action. The best way one can express his love for Baba is to obey Him and to serve Him.

To serve Him means to serve humanity. To serve human beings. Now coming together, attending Baba meetings is really very essential. Why? Because when we come together, we of course, organise some things, some programs and we become helpful to others.

Helping somebody with money, helping somebody with material means or giving him material happiness is not the only help that a man gives. Of greater importance is the help that he gives by showing somebody the way to come to Baba, who is the Highest of the High.

He has declared Himself to the world as the Avatar of the Age. Now coming, one can individually also work. But one working individually is really very, very different than all coming together and doing the work. Doing work unitedly is much more effective, can be widespread than an individual doing work in his own way.

Now for the matter of conducting these meetings here, anything and everything can be taken up. Baba has not laid any restrictions as to the meetings being conducted in this way or that way. It may be a discourse of Baba explained.

Fundamentally there should be prayers. The prayers given by Baba have a great importance. During His lifetime Baba says anyone who offers these prayers stand to

receive His blessings. So this prayer is not a ritual.

Anything or even raising my hand like this our our coming here, talking to you today can also be looked upon as a ritual! What is a ritual? One has to understand what is a ritual. Ritual is not what we utter or what we say but ritual is a thing which is day after day repeated mechanically. Without a thought of any seriousness about it or any love about it. It's a mechanical repetition. Anything that is mechanically repeated becomes a ritual.

So under no circumstance should anybody look upon the prayers of Baba, the "Parvardigar Prayer" and the "Repentance Prayer" as being considered a ritual. Not at all. It is not a ritual. It's a prayer with Baba's love in it. It has a life in it. And Baba has given this during His lifetime has a great, very great importance.

A minute ago, I was just explaining to Mr. George, the silence he's observing by himself and the silence that was given by Baba to somebody. Actually, silence is not very important. More important is the fact given silence by anyone. The person who gives the silence, his instruction, obedience to his wishes is much more important than observing silence.

There are many yogis who also observe silence. Observing silence is not bad. But observing silence on one's own and observing silence because it has been instructed by Baba or desired by Baba has a greater significance.

Baba Himself observed silence for 43 years but His silence was a very different

thing. Everyone who observes silence, he observes for His own spiritual progress. Baba observed silence, it was not for his progress at all. He was already perfect. He was God. He was God come into human form.

So for Him, meditation or silence or privations or fast, although He underwent all this, it was, it had a different meaning altogether. It was done in a different context altogether. It can never be compared by the same thing done by you or me or anybody else.

However, these, observance of these has got its own effect, relative effect. But really, observance of these as instructed by the Perfect Master or the Avatar has got greater value.

So I was just explaining Mr. George, that all you do will be thousandfold compensated if you were to be resigned completely. Of all your actions to be resigned to the will and wish of Baba and love Him with all your heart.

So, again I say, coming together in meetings, attending the meetings, doing Baba work is really very essential and important. I love Baba! I love Baba, of course everybody loves Baba. Individually, he loves Baba, he keeps himself satisfied but our, the love that we have for Baba should be useful to others also.

It has a double purpose to be served, it has a greater purpose to be served and Baba says, "I am in all. I am in every human being and every soul."

So coming together in meetings, offering prayers about Baba, discourses about Baba, talking about Baba, you see, it really becomes very helpful and by enlarging the number of persons, you see, you become so much helpful. That is a way of an excellent service. And that is the reason during His lifetime also, Baba encouraged meetings to take place, He encouraged centres to come up.

Now in India we have in the state of Andhra every practically 15 days a new centre comes up. And we say, we just find in the beginning there are a handful number of persons and within a year of so we see that large gatherings take place.

And for the matter of Baba's birthday, when the birthday is 75th or 76th anniversary, consecutively for 76 days they hold programs at various other places. Not at one place. Maybe at the centre a few times but at all over the different places they go on holding the programs.

So really, this is not the ritual at all. Anything that is given by Baba, endorsed by Baba, wished by Baba, it has a new life in it, it has a spirit in it. It is not ritual.

Ritual is that which is repeated mechanically. You see it becomes so mechanical, the man waits for a certain time, is bound by certain impressions that he has got to perform and go through and finish up with it. And he does it mechanically, and forgets about it. That is really a ritual.

Otherwise we won't be able to do. Anything and everything that we do, the

discourses we comment upon, the prayers, you see everything is not ritual at all.

You see, you have to understand and interpret very correctly what ritual means and what Baba meant by rituals. Why did Baba allow the prayers to be sung, bhajans to be sung, songs to be sung in His presence and even at the centres? Why did He do that? He did not say this. All the performances of all this, really ritual at all. Otherwise anything and everything can be a ritual. Even raising my hand like this, will also be, you can dumb it down to be a ritual.

So ritual is not the act, the performance of the act itself. But it is the spirit behind it. If there is a spirit, if there is a life, if there is love in it and if it is not a mechanical repetition, then of course it's not a ritual at all.

And most important are the two prayers given by Baba. Baba, you see these, I would put it in this way, anybody who repeats these two prayers every day at home or in the meetings, I think he has the stamp, he gets a visa of a free passage, wherever Baba goes, to go there. [Attendees laughing and clapping]

It is quite true, it is absolutely true but many a times we have seen Baba giving indications about it. The prayer is most Universal Prayer, it has been given, dictated by Him in 1953 in a place called Dehradun in the North of India.

And this is, anybody who thinks this prayer is to be a ritual then he must stop speaking, go one observing silence alone

because anything and everything can be dubbed down as a ritual.

Anybody has to ask any question about this? Yes?

ATTENDEE #3: I think it was a couple of years ago, Baba said something about, it was not necessary to repeat it out loud daily or something like this. A person up in San Francisco mentioned this.

ADI: Pardon. That was for a specific occasion He has allowed. That has again a specific significance when Baba said for certain number of days the prayers should be recited. It was under special circumstances Baba has said. But in a general way Baba has said that anybody who offers these prayers has His blessings, he makes himself receptive to His blessings.

This is a different thing. What you are saying is for a specific period of time, Baba had said about repeating this, reciting these prayers audibly or inaudibly, whatever you say, whatever the instructions were. That was pertaining to a specific period of time, instructed by Baba. You see this is one thing, what you say is quite different.

Any other questions?

ATTENDEE #4: Talking about meditation in the meetings, a period of silence. I like to do this but a lot of people say well that's ritual. To be silent, to feel Baba's love.

ADI: No I will tell you, in India there are a few centres who to begin with, just begin

with a little silence. It may be of a minute or two minutes or at the most 5 minutes.

It should not be very long silence because anything that tires out a man, supposing you like silence, I like silence, so many others do not like. And if you force them to observe silence then of course they do it most unwillingly. And when they observe silence, let their silence be, their thoughts be all concentrated on Baba, even for a minute. They observe a silence for half an hour and his mind goes on wandering everywhere, you see.

So silence is very, it is very good. There are many centres, they just begin by observe, first of all either they offer prayers and then observe silence for two minutes, then begin the other program or to begin with they observe silence for two minutes, offer prayers, then continue the other program, maybe of a discourse or of any singing or of any lecture or of any, anything that the centre people sit together and decide upon.

Any other questions about this?

ATTENDEE #2: You say what's important is the manner in which it's done.

ADI: Hmmm?

ATTENDEE #2: You would say, the importance is in the manner in which it's done. If it's done with spirit, then it is good, if it's done as a dry ritual because it's supposed to be done, then it'll be a ritual. Right?

ADI: Yes. Yes.