



LOVE

Love after Self-realisation

Extract from 5/2/02 Satsang

Om Shri Paramatmane Namaha

Q: Who feels love after Self-realisation? All the dualities, concepts, are gone, are finished. There is no more 'I' or 'you.' Nothing. Then who feels?

A: This is a good question. Realised people say that, after Self-realisation, the ego is no longer there but it is finished. So who loves? The personality is destroyed, so who is it that loves? And who is it that is loved? This is the question.

My answer is that the Lover loves Love. There is Love, and this Love is not directed towards any particular individual. In the beginning there is some tinge of personality in love, but after Self-realisation there remains only Love. This concept will be very difficult to understand at this stage. In fact, at this point there is not even a Lover. But after Self-realisation, according to the play of the infinite energy, in different individuals different types of event happen. I mean that, when Truth is realised, it is one, non-dual Truth. For greater happiness the 'One' has already become 'many'. What is the meaning of 'greater' or 'lesser' – the words have become meaningless. This is in order that one can establish a relationship, knowing well that the relationship is fictitious: "I am the Lover; He is the Beloved. He is the Lover; I am the Beloved." Love remains because Existence remains. Existence and Love are one. Existence cannot be finished. Therefore, Love cannot be finished. In fact, the whole spiritual journey is directed towards finally experiencing that impersonal Love.

As we all know, at first love is experienced and interpreted according to our own concepts. True Love is never adulterated. Love is God and is never adulterated. But because the ego is still present and not yet destroyed, at the beginning we say that in the life of an individual, love is adulterated by passion, attachment, expectation, and suchlike. Through experiences one comes to realise the uselessness of these elements of adulteration and then they slowly evaporate.

In the beginning, this element of love seems to be the strongest between a man and a woman but there is a large element of possessiveness: "I love you and you love me. This is fine but do not look at another person. You are mine – mine exclusively." This is not love. Love is not treating human beings just like a motorcycle, which you can possess. My goodness, this is not love! But this is how the world normally conducts the love relationship. Lessons are to be learned. Then again, leaving one person and forming a relationship with another – this is also not love, but infatuation and attraction. Such is the way of life. One feels many agonies inside: "I was devoted to him but he deceived me! I was devoted to her but she deceived me!" You are both ignorant. You both deserve to be deceived and you have got what you deserved. Ignorant people deserve it. But you will grow through these experiences. Growth is like this. Growth happens like this. The spiritual path ultimately comes to one's life like this. Eventually one starts understanding a little more about true Love. What is true Love? It is to love without expecting love in return. It is not easy, but, when it starts happening, then

there is a real beginning – a small beginning. After that, one does not love only this or that person but one loves without expectation everybody with whom one comes into contact.

If you study the lives of saints and other Realised people, you will find that they love everybody without expectation. If somebody asked them why they love all people, their reply would be: “What else is there to do? What else can I do? I am physically alive and possess Love inside me. Therefore, I can distribute what I possess”. The person who has anger inside will pass his anger to others. The person who has passion or lust inside will pass only that on to others. The Realised person says: “What else is there to do? I can only give what I have. I have only Love.”

Who feels Love after Self-realisation? There is a permanent state of Love inside. The personality has gone away but Love has not. The individuality and the ego have evaporated. In fact, there are two egos. One ego is the personality and the other ego is the infinite Truth – ‘I’.

There are two ‘I’s’. One the lower ‘I’, the individual ‘I,’ which is to be destroyed some day, and then there is the ‘I’ that is the Existence, Truth, God – which can never cease to exist. In fact, what happens is that one does not become ego-less. It is impossible to convey these concepts even though we are attempting to here. What happens is that ego or the ‘I’ becomes pride-less. The ego or ‘I-ness’ is there, and ‘ego’ means ‘Existence’ (how could it be possible that one does not exist?), but there is no longer any pride in that Existence. It can be better explained by stating that there is no more pride in any attainment – pride in being very beautiful, very intelligent, very learned, very wealthy, and suchlike. No pride remains, and when pride has gone and only the ‘I’ remains there is no problem. It is pride which creates all the problems. But when pride has gone, what remains is Love. This is the unchanging state inside.

Again, one can ask the question: “Who is the one who feels?” This stage of feeling is also no longer present. When feeling has ceased, there is a constant, permanent state of peace, harmony and love inside, which remains always.

I have told you earlier the story of Lord Buddha. He used to sit with a huge gathering of disciples. One man was very jealous of him because he had so many followers. One day this person came to the meeting and abused, scolded, and spat on Buddha. The disciples, who were very sincere people, got very angry and tried to catch hold of him and punish him, but Buddha told them to wait. The man saw that he got no reaction from Buddha after scolding and spitting on him, so he went away. Even though his discourse had been disrupted, Buddha continued after the incident as before to a great surprise of his disciples.

The stranger came again the next day. This time he did not spit on Buddha but he was very angry, said something harsh, and again went away. Again, Buddha was silent. The stranger came again on the third day. This time he did not say anything. He stood for some time and then started weeping and sat down nodding. One of Buddha’s disciples, his cousin actually, a member of the same royal family, said: “Excuse me Master, I cannot help asking you a question. This event happened but how was it that you did not react?”

Then Buddha said: “Well, it is quite a simple thing; it is a very natural thing. On the first day the stranger came and gave me all that he had, which was only abuse and scolding. I took it. When he was finished he went away. The second day he came and, though he was not so angry, he again gave me all that he had and then went away. And on the third day he came again and this time he repented and indicated that I should take him as my disciple. His sitting down with the congregation and nodding was an indication of surrender to me as a disciple.”

Because Buddha was Divine, God was doing everything and things just happened for him. The person was cleansed and purified. Lord Buddha was always pure inside. These are the

marks of the divine Buddha, who was full of Love for every-body. You may have read many stories about Lord Christ also. I did not read much about him but I like some of the stories. Many people threw stones at him, and abused him in the worst possible ways. In the end they committed the most heinous crime against him. Those whom he loved took him to the cross, and what were his final words? “O Lord, they don’t know what they are doing. They are ignorant. Please forgive them.”

So, this is the change that happens inside. Who can say the words: “O Lord, forgive them for they do know not what they are doing.” It is only Love that can cause such words to be said. When only Love is present, then nothing else can be said.

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