

Will power and the passions

15 May 1993 Swamiji at Old Vicarage (Coach house)

Swamiji talked to Jai Narain, Mahalakshmi, Sri Lakshmi and Satchidananda. He had just come out of Pilgrim hospital in Boston

“Life depends on sacrifice. Anyone who has succeeded didn’t succeed out of the blue. A man has to start from himself, he has to be perfect. “Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect,” Jesus said. God is One, but not one leaf is similar, he has said, not one snowflake; see how multifarious are the blissful ways to fly to Him in perfection....

‘I don’t eat a lot of things just now, the body won’t take it, it all gets clogged. Death, health, medicine: it’s a three-dimensional way of living: righteous living, good eating, balance - the householder’s way, if you’re still on the cycle of karma. Until you come across a seed or a sidha and there’s interest – it’s a hidden, slow process of discovery buried within man. It’s a kingdom buried inside man – but does he know about it? And if he knows, does he care?

‘Discrimination is best, if a man can discriminate by saying, “Not this, not that.” And he can reach his destination quicker if he knows a short cut to get to the point. He may get bogged down in a traffic jam, and then it’s up to him, but if he knows there is a left and a right, a short cut – he has to venture, he has to have will. But man has a sluggish will, a slippery will. The free will/wheel spins and becomes bogged down when a man gets attacked by karmic condition, negligence, abandonment. This becomes worse, it thickens, and his congested condition is not easy to filtrate.

‘So you need good mind, good body, good health to start with, otherwise there is very little hope. And it’s only a temporary register, not a permanent guarantee for the chemical age. When you come out of the house there’s all kinds of rubbish being sprayed – pesticides, chemical things, hundreds of products, so we call it the chemical age – Kali, Chemi. With Vedic medicine it was all herbs - but now it’s all penicillin, due to penis being overworked. Abuse of temptation, abuse of the body. A temptation of nature and a weakness of man – the lot is doomed. That’s the lesson the hospital teaches.’

‘Devotee: What’s the answer?

Swamiji: ‘The answer is control. You control yourself by willpower, by super willpower.

Devotee: How do you get super willpower?

Swamiji: You get it by developing it in daily life. When you go shopping, buy the fruit that is given for your hunger, don’t look for the forbidden fruit. How have you become aware of X, Y and Z? Were you not commissioned to buy the passion fruit of My Passion? You were tempted and diverted by all these dilly-dallies. Dalliance and alliance, misunderstandings, vagaries, abuse. “*Youth you spent in women’s control, childhood crying, now in old age, full of phlegm and filth you wait for the funeral pyre...*”¹

‘Reason it out. Your life doesn’t pay it, so, be above pleasure, without allowance. I allow no allowance. Nip it in the bud with the sword of dispassion and discrimination. If a knife is given for surgery, you have to be anaesthetized. But if you use the same to cut the tree of passions, the sword will go blunt. So you have to have a huge axe that won’t go blunt at all but will cut the tree of passions. As soon as one rises up, nip it. But there must be super willpower. You ask me how to do that? It depends not on me. I am giving you the tip and the prescription, but you are to get better by swallowing the medicine. The chemist’s shop is full of medicine, but it’s not for the chemist, it’s for you, the one who is sick.

¹ GSR song

A devotee: So it's up to you how you get the willpower?

Swamiji: You have to develop it. Man has got it in a dormant, sleeping mind. The mind of an ordinary being dwells on the three lower planes until he dies. He may know about it, but doesn't dare to make an effort. But if he's *told* to make an effort he goes red in the face, his face becomes twisted and distorted. He becomes a Mme Tussaud [waxwork] in triplex, a triplex condition. He doesn't want anyone to interfere in his private life.

'In the time of the ancestors they were responsible for children and grandchildren. But now, with this new generation, if you tell off the children they get very upset. You do better to keep aloof and bury the pain, the reaction, inside yourself. And you respect free will. But this is karma, this is free will: not to offend you more if you've already been upset, but be on the other side, just be aloof. "He who is alone aloof..." [*Vivekachudamani*] is aloof then. It's hard, but as a family person you have to live, you have to be sincere.

'If the person knows what he is doing, and *you* know what you are doing, righteousness will conquer at the end. Truth will appear as untruth until it is attacked, but when untruth has been attacked it will fall, and will be cut. The tree that does not produce the fruit will be cut by the heavy axe of super willpower, and will be thrown on the fire and burnt. That's in the scripture of the Bible. I only quote it because it tallies with my idea of sickness and recovery from blissful hernia, blisterful hernia.

'So truth hurts, but truth is also the saviour. Truth is the way - two ways, It is like a sword that cuts two ways, it has two edges, cutting at the top and the bottom, above and below: he [Swamiji] makes a way for above, and while he's getting one way he makes two ways ready, there and here. So it's always beneficial to go by truth if you can. It's not an easy matter, though. A slight twist and diplomacy and philosophy, all this is just a casual matter, a bribery of cake with sugar and icing. But too much sugar and icing and cream is also forbidden; it's not helpful for a man who is recovering, who is weak in these systems of digestion, too much excess of fat. He cannot – it's too rich for his liver.

'The game, the in-and-out into our Self, may not be successful in one life. But a man can try his best. This is for the superhuman person who can "fence with two swords" [GSR], who can be king and worker and liberator at the same time – even fence with three swords, triple consciousness. A king is born, a ruler is born, a leader is born, a liberator is born, a saviour is born – not made. But these manmade saviours, I don't know how long their lives last with their followers. If the man is fully enlightened, then there is a chance also for the followers. Otherwise it depends entirely on the faith of the followers. So there is a philosophy, there is learning; and there is a hidden God of Love. The hidden God of Love is filled with all the colours of all the flowers in creation. "Solomon in all his glory..." [*Swamiji holds a daisy.*] See the colour.

'Truth is known and unknown. Too much truth is no good to speak because it can easily blow the mind of the weak. He who has faith, more is given. He who has not, it is not given because you can disturb. Certain people have to go through certain squares. A certain allowance is given, certain falls are given, so that a good man, if he falls, knows what that fall is. Through that fall he can strengthen his mind, his intelligence, his body. And he reinforces his advance, he anticipates his advanced future life for others as well. It's not only him, he includes them. If I have fallen, he says, then someone else can fall in the same way. If the fall is good for me, then it will be good for others. If I am doing it unselfishly for me, then many blessings will come to other mouths.

'So, do good, think good, be good. Give, don't think of anything, just that your nature is That Divine. Do unto others what you would like others to do to you. Don't wait for a reminder to come, and then you'll do it. If there was no reminder it would be minus. Man is like a *math*, Belur Math. An ordinary being is just a comma, an exclamation mark, a bracket, a dot, an apostrophe. But spiritual life is called *math*. In that you will find there's a plus: God plus, God minus. Plus, divide and subtract. This one is God plus sensuality, God minus sensuality – there's this small numeratic. It's called *math*, Belur

Math: God plus, God minus, God divide – that's completely away from everything, a renunciate. This one is minus, aloof completely, only God is one for him.

Devotee: And multiplication?

Swamiji: Multiplication is your love. You start from L. This is called bhakti yoga. God is Love. I don't have learning. I learn from pain, and from logic and from falling. I learn from Hell, from suffering, I learn from all your lust, which is *my* learning, you are teaching me, I didn't have to do it, you are doing it for me. If I had to do it I would be burning the candle at triple ends. I would tell you a secret – but secretly you are enjoying yourself. So I come to know, and I have to trust: "Jesus, I have to trust you alone." Chosen as an eternal companion. Such a companion! Such a friend! He said, "This is worthy for me to eternity"

'If we can't convert our passions, the Bull,² take the zebra way. You laugh? What I am saying is very serious: nature attacks. Nature is patient, she is our mother – Mother Nature they call her. She gives you so many lives for one mistake. You are happy? Then multiply the lives. Instead of minus-ing what you do, put the [multiplication] sign of x here – x is quicker than a cross [addition].

'So one has to strive very hard. Life is so limited. This is all a worldly thing – how much more will your Father give you if you put your trust, gamble your all, your life without reserve. You may even get life everlasting, no coming back. It depends on Him. And those he has made judges of the Twelve Tribes, these fishers of men who couldn't count, couldn't speak well, tax collectors, gamblers, orgy lives like Mathur. But their lives have been converted by grace, and willingness, and willpower. They had to suffer. It's not only the judging, but also the reformation, the transformation, the repentance. There is truth in it; it's not just bla-bla-ba lip service.

'But the lip service is a very enlightening thing for those who are ignorant and in darkness. These are the flowers you don't have to buy, real flowers that come to your place, forcing into your hearing: flowers fallen from the head of Shiva, the thought of Shiva. The yogi meditates on "I am the wisdom of the wise" – what is that wisdom? The flowers, the *padma* lotus, the clarity, the purity. In these flowers are the leaves of a new life; the letters - *a*, *ka*, *ksha* – all are mantras, word are written on them invisibly, only yogis can read them. *Rogi* is in too much pain, you can't do anything; *bhogi* is just enjoyment. Therefore you have to have the willpower to kill on the dot, to mentally eradicate passion. Crucify the passion, then you will find there is rebirth, whatever you kill will re-sprout. You kill one passion, there is temptation: "*Lead me not into temptation...*" Creation is a beautiful garden; you are tempted by the flowers. You go somewhere and find a beautiful garden, and you want to make your own place the same. Or you see somebody else you want to be like, and you follow. So it's a temptation, everything in nature is a temptation, it's maya. And maya is God's play.

'He who is to reform will reform. But however hard you try to crack the deformity in a man, he will revolt. Therefore you try to use anaesthetic, injection, hypnotism, a different form of the lusty thing, till you twist it and grab it. Therefore we say, though this Word is not manifesting, it is there, manifesting as a fibre, a fraction; but still it is full. Brahman is full. Wherever you cut a cake - a crumb, an icing, top or bottom – wherever you cut it, it's the cake itself, nothing else. The crumb is part of the cake, and in that little particle is a full manifestation of the divine power. Well, he may not manifest it, the only difference is minus: minus It and there's zero, you get nil, it's all according to time, place, circumstances, deserving, grace. Or you can get much more, it all depends on you, God, the intermediary. Have affair with the cobra, and in three croaks – that's it!³

'So there must be genuineness of body, mind, soul, willpower, and destruction of evil. Eradicate from the very root, don't just cut the top. Oh no! You have to have destruction of the senses if you want to develop, to be strong. You have to slowly develop these things in test and trial. There are a few falls,

² Swamiji used to say that Nandi, the bull carrier of Shiva, represented the senses.

³ Ramakrishna would say that a watersnake could hardly swallow a frog, but a cobra could swallow it before three croaks.

if you live in the world and fence with two swords. Otherwise, if you're too weak, better not, you are not allowed to look at even the picture of a woman Guru Dev says, even if she is in monk's garb, even if she's coming as a monk.

'So either original or nothing. Vivekananda discovered that, the bliss of discrimination. He was the disciple of the Master, but no servant is greater than his master. So, either original or nothing. The conclusion and gist of it, without bluff or puff, is either original or deceiving. All the rest is bribery. Original is that which Guru Dev has said. Either Guru Dev or nothing else. See the *Condensed Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* at the beginning, where Vivekananda wrote to M: "Either original or nothing." Guru Dev was genuine, he was pure, he was perfect.

'Therefore the grace of the Original you need, the grace of your self-effort you need, greater than the grace of your mind. With the mind you either know or you don't know. You have known all this, but what becomes of you? That's the greatest challenge. Before, you didn't know. You were always hearing the hundred rays of our saying. But this one is coming from the Omnipotent, from the Sun itself. The mistake lies in taking the ray for the Sun. In a twinkle of an eye it can convert this into that, and that into this. To disbelieve - that only "shows how weak you are to grasp great things" (Sathya Sai Baba).

'Unless you have a touch of the divine touchstone and be converted, you will not have recognition of the difference between the ray and the Sun. The ray cannot exist without the Sun; but if the Sun withdraws there is no such thing as the ray. I am the Sun of the world, I am the Light of the world. Let there be light. So without the Sun the ray is very feeble, not strong enough to destroy the amount of past-life conditioning in your weight. Karma weighs heavier than your 12 stones, whether you diet or not. There is *prarabda karma*, present or future, waiting. The Gentle Hindu [Swamiji] has discovered a few lives, past, present and future, which [he] is taking care of now. So Hindus are reformers as much as early Christians, as Jesus Christ.

'But [Hinduism] is very strict. You have to pass through the cattle, the field of cows, sheep, goats, hundreds of births. Cattle first, then you get entry into the kitchen, *la plonge* [the washing up], the scrubbing, the cowdung, the cowshed, the manure, the Manu, the laws of Manu, the disciple. Life is made too easy now, it's given freely. Holy things are not to be given to the dogs; but dogs are getting better than devotees. The dog's liberation is getting more secure than the devotee's, I tell you, that is a fact. A dog is faithful to its master, and some dogs are bachelors for ever. Once they have been twisted from their testicle condition they stay like that, they go in bliss. That thing is converted and the dog goes in blissful state, he goes in coma.⁴

'What is bitter now can be sweet. And what is always sweet for the world can be bitter. That's what the world can't understand; they want all sweetness. They refuse to have any bitterness contract, which is agreed: "Not this, not that, not that". It depends on willpower.

'Life depends on sacrifice. Anyone who has succeeded it didn't just fall into his lap. [Such people] have withdrawn themselves day and night, they have toiled. And then they have exposed it for a moment for you. It might have taken thirty years, and you are going to look at it for two seconds for your decision, whether it's worth the gauntlet or not. You don't go on how much toil they have done, how much sacrifice, how many changes it has undergone through the thirty years. It's a lot of work. You just come and make your decision, because you have inherited. But yogis evaluate the quality and how much sacrifice there has been. But mostly the spirit of it

'Here it's a new life. You don't understand the surgery of soul. It's all symbol. Obedience is our law. May I listen, *sarvana, manana, kirtana*. A man has to start from himself, he has to be perfect. "*Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect,*" Jesus said - another law, perhaps a third one... So there's quite a bit to realize, quite a bit to put into practice. These are very private meetings for devotees, private and selected. At the end you'll find out, all these 100 years of messing about in the

⁴ Kali the dog had just died, I think.

Garden of Eden here, this 100 years will go, and you'll be desperate for one drop of even our dry word. Even to hear it would be soothing, I tell you, remember what I am saying.

'While I am in the body and on earthplane, I do like to remind people, and a lot of times I remember when I talk to people what I have said before. When they come back and I say, "Do you remember what I said to you?" they've completely forgotten. Fancy that! When I am in our body here I go in different body transcending space and time. I attain two states in one and come back here – it's not an easy thing. It's not for me, it doesn't make me bigger, richer or poorer. It's only that I'm given something for someone – I'm a postman. I'm given something to deliver to you, the contents is yours, it's not my property, I've got so many happening, I can't count them.

'I can talk to you in a blissful surrounding of sunshine. That's why I look for sunshine. If the sun is clouded, the mind gets befogged... Life has changed heavily now, especially since the last thing, so we have no time – either we do or we don't do. There's not time to waste, people have to decide either they want to keep on with the ashram or stop, because you can't be a student longer than a certain time. You can always learn, but when you have learnt the rudimentals it's time you played a tune. And why should you be monotonous on that tune? The gamut [scale] is seven, the generation is seven, the Father is One and has become two and three; triune. So God is One, It's *inbarrable*, you can't bar it. From Pinchbeck Bars [Ramakrishna Loka] it's *inbarrable*. You don't come back or down, only those with a mission.

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