

A close-up photograph of several blue feathers, likely from a parrot, filling the entire background. The feathers are layered and show fine details of their structure and color variations from light to dark blue.

a bird on the **wing**

Zen Anecdotes for Everyday Life

OSHO

A Bird on the Wing

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A Bird on the Wing is also available as a print edition
ISBN-13:978-0-9836400-8-0

This book is a series of original talks by Osho, given to a live audience. All of Osho's talks have been published in full as books, and are also available as original audio recordings. Audio recordings and the complete text archive can be found via the online OSHO Library at

www.osho.com/library

Published by

OSHO MEDIA INTERNATIONAL

is an imprint of

OSHO INTERNATIONAL

New York – Zurich – Mumbai

www.osho.com/oshointernational

Library of Congress Catalog-In-Publication Data is available

ISBN-13: 978-0-88050-207-8

Preface

The awakening of the buddha is a very easy and relaxed phenomenon. Now that so many people have awakened, the path has become clear-cut; it is no longer hard and arduous. You can playfully enter inside and joyously experience the awakening of awareness. It is not as far away as it was for Gautam Buddha.

For Gautam Buddha it was an absolute unknown. He was searching for it like a blind man, knowing nothing about where he was going. But he was a man of tremendous courage, who for twelve years went on searching, exploring every method available in his time. All the teachers were talking about philosophy and Yoga – he went from one teacher to another, and every teacher finally said to him, “I can tell you only this much. More than this I don’t know myself.”

Finally, he remained alone, and he dropped all Yoga disciplines. He had his own five disciples who thought that he was a great ascetic. But when they saw that he had dropped all Yoga discipline, and he was no longer fasting, they dropped him. All five disciples left him: “He has fallen from his greatness; he is no longer a saint; he has become ordinary.”

But in that ordinariness, when he had dropped everything – just being tired and exhausted – that full-moon night when the

five disciples left him, he slept under the bodhi tree completely free from this world, and completely free from the very search for that world. For the first time he was utterly relaxed: no desire to find anything, no desire to become anything. And in that moment of non-desiring, he suddenly awakened and became a buddha. Buddhahood came to him in a relaxed state.

You don't have to work for twelve years, you can just start from the relaxed state. It was the last point in Gautam Buddha's journey. It can be the first point in your journey.

Osho

The Zen Manifesto: Freedom from Oneself

Chapter 01: Empty Your Cup

The Japanese master Nan-in gave audience to a professor of philosophy.

Serving tea, Nan-in filled his visitor's cup, and kept pouring.

The professor watched the overflow until he could restrain himself no longer:

“Stop!

The cup is overfull, no more will go in.”

Nan-in said,

“Like this cup,

you are full of your own opinions and speculations.

How can I show you Zen

unless you first empty your cup?”

You have come to an even more dangerous person than Nan-in, because an empty cup won't do; the cup has to be broken completely. Even empty, if you are there, then you are full. Even emptiness fills you. If you feel that you are empty, you are not empty at all: you are there. Only the name has changed. Now you call yourself emptiness. The cup won't do at all; it has to be broken completely. Only when you are not, can the tea be poured into you. Only when you are not, is there no need really to pour the tea into you. When you are not, the whole existence begins pouring, the whole existence becomes a shower from every dimension, from every direction. When you are not, the divine is.

The story is beautiful. It was bound to happen to a professor of philosophy. The story says a professor of philosophy came to Nan-in. He must have come for the wrong reasons because a professor of philosophy, as such, is always wrong. Philosophy means intellect, reasoning, thinking, argumentativeness. This is the way to be wrong, because you cannot be in love with existence if you are argumentative. Argument is the barrier. If you argue, you are closed; the whole existence closes to you. Then you are not open and existence is not open to you.

When you argue, you assert. Assertion is violence, aggression, and the truth cannot be known by an aggressive mind; the truth cannot be discovered by violence. You can come to know the truth only when you are in love. But love never argues. There is no argument in love because there is no aggression. And remember, not only that man was a professor of philosophy, you are also the same. Every man carries his own philosophy, and every man in his own way is a professor – because you profess your ideas, you believe in them. You have opinions, concepts, and because of opinions and concepts your eyes are dull, they cannot see; your mind is stupid, it cannot know.

Ideas create stupidity because the more the ideas there are, the more the mind is burdened. And how can a burdened mind know? The more ideas there are, the more it is just like dust which has gathered on a mirror. How can the mirror mirror? How can the mirror reflect? Your intelligence is covered by opinions – the dust – and everyone who is opinionated is bound to be stupid and dull. That's why professors of philosophy are almost always stupid. They know too much to know at all. They are too burdened. They cannot fly in the

sky, they can't have wings. They are so much in the mind that they can't have roots in the earth. They are not grounded in the earth and they are not free to fly into the sky.

And remember, you are all the same. There may be differences of quantity, but every mind is qualitatively the same, because the mind thinks, argues, collects and gathers knowledge, and becomes dull. Only children are intelligent. And if you can retain your childhood, if you continuously reclaim your childhood, you will remain innocent and intelligent. If you gather dust, childhood is lost, innocence is no more: the mind has become dull and stupid. Now you can have philosophies. The more philosophies you have, the more you are far away from the divine.

A religious mind is a nonphilosophical mind. A religious mind is an innocent, intelligent mind. The mirror is clear, the dust has not been gathered, and every day a continuous cleaning goes on. That's what I call meditation.

This professor of philosophy came to Nan-in. He must have come for wrong reasons: he must have come to receive some answers. Those people who are filled with questions are always in search of answers. And Nan-in cannot give an answer. It is foolish to be concerned with questions and answers. Nan-in can give you a new mind, Nan-in can give you a new being, Nan-in can give you a new existence in which no questions arise. But Nan-in is not interested in answering any particular questions. He is not interested in giving answers. Neither am I.

You must have come here with many questions. It is bound to be so, because the mind gives birth to questions. The mind is

a question-creating mechanism. Feed anything into it, out comes a question, and many questions follow. Give an answer to it; immediately it converts it into many questions. You are here, filled with many questions, your cup is already full. No need for Nan-in to pour any tea into it, you are already overflowing.

I can give you a new existence – that’s why I have invited you here. I will not give you any answers. All questions, all answers are useless, just a wastage of energy. But I can transform you, and that is the only answer and that one answer solves all questions.

Philosophy has many questions, many answers – millions. Religion has only one answer; whatsoever the question the answer remains the same. Buddha used to say that if you taste seawater from anywhere, the taste remains the same, the saltiness of it.

Whatsoever you ask is really irrelevant. I will answer the same because I have only one answer. But that one answer is like a master key: it opens all doors. It is not concerned with any particular lock – any lock and the key opens it. Religion has only one answer and that answer is meditation. Meditation means how to empty yourself.

The professor must have been tired, walking far, when he reached Nan-in’s cottage. And Nan-in said, “Wait a little.” He must have been in a hurry. The mind is always in a hurry, and the mind is always in search of instantaneous realizations. For the mind, to wait is very difficult, almost impossible. Nan-in said, “I will prepare tea for you. You look tired. Wait awhile, rest a little, and have a cup of tea. And then we can discuss.”

Nan-in boiled the water and started preparing the tea. But he must have been watching the professor. Not only was the water boiling, the professor was also boiling within. Not only was the tea kettle making sounds, the professor was making more sounds within, chattering, continuously talking. The professor must have been getting ready – what to ask, how to ask, from where to begin? He must have been in a deep monologue. Nan-in must have been smiling and watching: this man is too full, so much so that nothing can penetrate him. The answer cannot be given because there is no one to receive it. The guest cannot enter the house – there is no room. Nan-in must have wanted to become a guest in this professor.

Out of compassion, a buddha always wants to become a guest within you. He knocks from everywhere but there is no door. Even if he breaks a door, which is very difficult, there is no room. You are so full of yourself and with rubbish and all types of furniture that you have gathered in many, many lives, you cannot even enter into yourself; there is no room, no space. You live just outside of your own being, just on the steps. You cannot enter within yourself, everything is blocked.

Then Nan-in poured tea into the cup. The professor became uneasy because Nan-in was continuously pouring tea. It was overflowing; soon it would be spilling onto the floor. Then the professor said, “Stop! What are you doing? Now this cup cannot hold any more tea, not even a single drop. Are you mad? What are you doing?”

Nan-in said, “The same is the case with you. You are so alert to observe and become aware that the cup is full and cannot

hold any more; why are you not so aware about your own self? You are overflowing with opinions, philosophies, doctrines, scriptures. You know too much already; I cannot give you anything. You have traveled in vain. Before coming to me you should have emptied your cup, then I could pour something into it.”

But I tell you, you have come to a more dangerous person. No, I won't allow an empty cup, because if the cup is there you will fill it. You are so addicted and you have become so habituated that you cannot allow the cup to be empty even for a single moment. The moment you see emptiness anywhere you start filling it. You are so scared of emptiness, you are so afraid: emptiness appears like death. You will fill it with anything, but you will fill it. No, I have invited you to be here to break this cup completely, so that even if you want to you cannot fill it.

Emptiness means there is no cup left. All the walls have disappeared, the bottom has fallen down: you have become an abyss. Then I can pour myself into you. Much is possible, if you allow. But to allow is arduous, because to allow you will have to surrender. Emptiness means surrender.

Nan-in was saying to that professor, “Bow down, surrender, empty your head, I am ready to pour.” That professor had not even asked the question and Nan-in had given the answer, because really there is no need to ask the question. The question remains the same.

Whether you ask me or not, I know what the question is. So many of you are here but I know the question, because deep down the question is one: the anxiety, the anguish, the

meaninglessness, the futility of this whole life – not knowing who you are. But you are filled. Allow me to break this cup. This meditation camp is going to be a destruction, a death. If you are ready to be destroyed, something new will come out of it. Every destruction can become a creative birth. If you are ready to die, you can have a new life, you can be reborn.

I am here just to be a midwife. That's what Socrates used to say: a master is just a midwife. I can help, I can protect, I can guide – that's all. The actual phenomenon, the transformation, is going to happen to you. Suffering will be there because no birth is possible without suffering. Much anguish will come up because you have accumulated it and it has to be thrown. A deep cleansing and catharsis will be needed.

Birth is just like death, but the suffering is worth taking. Out of the darkness of suffering a new morning arises, a new sun arises. And when you feel the darkness too much, the dawn is not very far off. When suffering is unbearable, bliss is very near. So don't try to escape from suffering – that is the point where you can miss. Don't try to avoid it, pass through it. Don't try to find some way which goes roundabout – no, that won't do. Pass through it. Suffering will burn you, destroy you, but really you cannot be destroyed. All that can be destroyed is just the rubbish that you have gathered. All that can be destroyed is something that is not you. When it is all destroyed, then you will feel that you are indestructible, you are deathless. Passing through death, consciously passing through death, one becomes aware of life eternal.

In the few days that you will be here with me many things are possible, but the first step to remember is to pass through suffering. Many times I create suffering for you; many times I

create the situation in which all that is suppressed within you comes up. Don't push it down, don't repress it. Allow it, free it. If you can free your suffering, your suppressed suffering, you will become free of it. You can come to the state of bliss only when all suffering has been passed through, thrown, completely dropped.

And I can see through you: the flame of bliss is just near the corner. One glimpse and that flame becomes yours. I will push you in many ways to have a glimpse of it. If you miss you will be responsible, no one else. The river is flowing, but if you cannot bow down, if you cannot come down from your egoistic state of mind, you may go back thirsty. Don't blame the river. The river was there but you were paralyzed by your ego.

That's what Nan-in says: "Empty the cup." That means empty the mind. The ego is there, overflowing, and when the ego is overflowing nothing can be done. The whole existence is around you but nothing can be done. All around existence, surrounded, but nothing can be done. From nowhere can existence penetrate you, you have created such a citadel. Empty the cup. Rather, throw the cup completely. When I say throw the cup completely I mean be so empty that you don't have even the feeling, "I am empty."

Once it happened...

A disciple came to Bodhidharma and said, "Master, you told me to be empty. Now I have become empty. Now what else do you say?"

Bodhidharma hit him hard with his staff on the head, and he said, “Go and throw this emptiness out.”

If you say “I am empty,” the “I am” is there, and the “I” cannot be empty. So emptiness cannot be claimed. No one can say “I am empty,” just as no one can say “I am humble.” If you say “I am humble,” you are not. Who claims this humility? Humbleness cannot be claimed. If you are humble, you are humble, but you cannot say it. Not only can you not say it, you cannot feel that you are humble because the very feeling will give birth to the ego again. Be empty, but don’t think that you are empty, otherwise you have deceived yourself.

You have brought many philosophies with you. Drop them. They have not helped you at all; they have not done anything for you. It is time enough, the right time. Drop them wholesale, not in parts, not in fragments. For these few days that you will be here with me, just be, without any thinking. I know it is difficult but still I say it is possible. Once you know the knack of it you will laugh at the whole absurdity of the mind that you were carrying so long.

I have heard about a man, a villager, who was traveling in a train for the first time. He was carrying his luggage on his head, thinking, “Putting it down will be too much for the train to carry, and I have paid only for my own self. I have purchased the ticket but I have not paid for the luggage.” So he was carrying the luggage on his head. The train was carrying him and his luggage, and whether he carried it on his head or put it down made no difference to the train.

Your mind is unnecessary luggage. It makes no difference to this existence that is carrying you; you are unnecessarily burdened. I say: drop it. The trees exist without the mind, and exist more beautifully than any human being; the birds exist without the mind, and exist in a more ecstatic state than any human being. Look at children who are still not civilized, who are still wild. They exist without the mind, and even a Jesus or a Buddha will feel jealous of their innocence. There is no need for this mind. The whole world is going on and on without it. Why are you carrying it? Are you just thinking that it will be too much for God, too much for existence? Once you can put it down, even for a single minute, your whole existence will be transformed. You will enter into a new dimension, the dimension of weightlessness.

That's what I'm going to give you: wings into the sky, into the heaven – weightlessness gives you these wings – and roots into the earth, a groundedness, a centering. This earth and that heaven are two parts of the whole. In this life – your so-called ordinary life – you must be rooted, and in your inner space, in the spiritual life, you must be weightless and flying and flowing, floating.

Roots and wings I can give to you, if you allow – because I am only a midwife. I cannot force the child out of you. A forced child will be ugly, and a forced child may die. Just allow me. The child is there, you are already pregnant. Everybody is pregnant with godliness. The child is there and you have already carried it too long; long ago the period of nine months passed. That may be the root cause of your anguish – that you are carrying something in the womb which needs birth, which needs to come out, which needs to be born. Think of a woman, a mother, carrying a child after the ninth

month. Then it becomes more and more burdensome, and if the birth is not going to happen the mother will die, because it will be too much to bear. That may be the reason why you are in so much anxiety, anguish, tension. Something needs to be born out of you; something needs to be created out of your womb. I can help.

This *samadhi sadhana shivir*, this camp for inner ecstasy and enlightenment, is going to be a help for you so that which you have carried like a seed up to now can come out of your soil and become an alive thing, an alive plant. But the basic thing will be that if you want to be with me you cannot be with your mind. Both cannot happen simultaneously. Whenever you are with your mind, you are not with me; whenever the mind is not there, you are with me. I can work only if you are with me. Empty the cup. Throw the cup away completely; destroy it.

This camp is going to be different in many ways. Tonight I start a completely new phase of my work. You are fortunate to be here because you will be witnesses to a new type of inner work. I must explain it to you because tomorrow morning the journey starts.

You will be doing meditation three times. In the morning, Dynamic Meditation; in the afternoon, Kirtan; and in the night a new meditation will be introduced: Sufi dervish dancing. All these three meditations are fragments of one whole.

The first meditation, which you will do in the morning, is related to the rising sun. It is a morning meditation. When the sleep is broken the whole of nature becomes alive. The night

has gone, the darkness is no more, the sun is coming up, and everything becomes conscious and alert. So this first meditation is a meditation in which you have to be continuously alert, conscious, aware, whatsoever you do. The first step, breathing; the second step, catharsis; the third step, the mantra, the *mahamantra*, *Hoo*.

Remain a witness. Don't get lost. It is easy to get lost. While you are breathing you can forget: you can become one with the breathing so much that you can forget the witness. But then you miss the point. Breathe as fast, as deep as possible, bring your total energy to it, but still remain a witness. Observe what is happening as if you are just a spectator, as if the whole thing is happening to somebody else, as if the whole thing is happening in the body and the consciousness is just centered and looking. This witnessing has to be carried in all the three steps. And when everything stops, and in the fourth step you have become completely inactive, frozen, then this alertness will come to its peak.

In the afternoon meditation, Kirtan – dancing, singing – another inner work has to be done. In the morning you have to be fully conscious; in the afternoon meditation you have to be half conscious, half unconscious. It is a noontide meditation – when you are alert but you feel sleepy. It is just like a man who is under the influence of some intoxicant. He walks, but cannot walk rightly; he knows where he is going, but everything is dim. He is conscious and not conscious. He knows he has taken alcohol, he knows his feet are wavering, but he knows this half-asleep, half-awake. So in the afternoon meditation remember this: act as if you are intoxicated, drunk, ecstatic. Sometimes you will forget yourself completely like a drunkard; sometimes you will remember, but don't try to be

conscious like in the morning. No. Move with the day: half-half in the noon. Then you are in tune with nature.

In the night, just the opposite of the morning – be completely unconscious; don't bother at all. The night has come, the sun has set, now everything is moving into unconsciousness. Move into unconsciousness. This whirling, Sufi whirling, is one of the most ancient techniques, one of the most forceful. It is so deep that even a single experience can make you totally different. You have to whirl with open eyes, just like small children go on twirling, as if your inner being has become a center and your whole body has become like a wheel, moving – a potter's wheel, moving. You are in the center, but the whole body is moving.

Start slowly, clockwise. If somebody feels it is very difficult to move clockwise then move anti-clockwise, but the rule is to move clockwise. If a few people are left-handed then they may feel it difficult; they can move anti-clockwise. And almost ten percent of people are left-handed, so if you find that clockwise you feel uneasy, move anti-clockwise, but start with clockwise, then feel. With open eyes, start moving.

Music will be there, slow, just to help you. In the beginning move very slowly, don't go fast, very slowly, enjoying. And then, by and by, go faster. The first fifteen minutes go slowly, the second fifteen minutes fast, the third fifteen minutes faster, the fourth fifteen minutes, just completely mad. Then bring your total energy... Become a whirlpool, an energy whirlpool, lost completely in it: no witnessing, no effort to observe. Don't try to see; be the whirlpool, be the whirling. One hour.

In the beginning you may not be able to stand so long, but remember one thing: don't stop by yourself, don't stop the whirling. If you feel it is impossible, the body will fall down automatically, but don't you stop. If you fall down in the middle of the hour there is no problem; the process is complete. But don't play tricks with yourself, don't deceive. Don't think that now you are tired so it is better to stop. No, don't make it a decision on your part. If you are tired, how can you go on? You will fall automatically. So don't stop yourself; let the whirling itself come to a point where you fall down. When you fall down, fall down on your stomach, and it will be good if your stomach is in direct touch with the earth. Now close the eyes. Lie down on the earth as if lying down on the breast of your mother, a small child lying down on the breast of the mother. Become completely unconscious – and this whirling will help.

Whirling gives intoxication to the body. It is a chemical thing, it makes you intoxicated, to be exact. That's why sometimes you may feel giddy just like a drunkard. What is happening to the drunkard? Hidden behind your ears is a sixth sense, the sense of balance. When you take any drink, any alcoholic thing, any intoxicating drug, it goes directly to the seat of balance in the ear and disturbs it. That's why a drunkard cannot walk, feels dizzy.

The same happens in whirling. If you whirl, really, the effect will be the same: you will feel intoxicated, drunk. But enjoy – this drunkenness is worth something. This being in a drunken state is what Sufis have been calling ecstasy, *masti*. In the beginning you may feel giddy, in the beginning sometimes you may feel nausea, but within two, three days, these feelings will disappear, and by the fourth day you will feel a

new energy in you that you have never known before. Then giddiness will disappear, and just a smooth feeling of drunkenness will be there. So don't try to be alert about what is happening. Let it happen and become one with the happening.

In the morning, alert; in the afternoon, half alert, half unalert; in the night, completely unalert. The circle is complete.

Then fall down on the ground on your stomach. If anybody feels any sort of pain in the navel center lying down on the ground, then he can turn on the back, otherwise not. If you feel something, a very deep painful sensation in the stomach, then turn on your back, otherwise not. The navel in contact with the earth will give you such a blissful feeling – just the same as you once had, but now you have forgotten: when you were a child lying down on your mother's breast, completely unaware of any worry, any anxiety, so one with the mother, your heart beating with her heart, your breath in tune with her breath. The same will happen with the earth, because the earth is the mother. That's why Hindus call the earth the mother and the sky the father. Be rooted in it. Feel a merger as if you have dissolved. The body has become one with the earth; the form is no longer there. Only the earth exists; you are not there. This is what I mean when I say break the cup completely: forget that you are. The earth is, dissolve into it.

During the one hour of whirling the music will continue. Many will fall before the hour is finished, but everybody has to fall by the time the music stops. So if you feel that you are still not in the state of falling then go faster and faster. After forty-five minutes go completely mad, so by the time the hour is complete you will have fallen. And the feeling of falling is

beautiful, so don't manipulate it. Fall, and when you have fallen then turn on your stomach, be merged, close your eyes. This merger has to be there for one hour.

So the night meditation will be for two hours, from seven o'clock to nine o'clock. Don't eat anything before it. At nine o'clock the suggestion will be given to come out of this deep drunkenness, this ecstasy. Even out of it you may not be able to walk correctly, but don't be disturbed, enjoy it. Then eat your food and go to sleep.

Another new thing: I will not be there. Only my empty chair will be there. But don't miss me because in a sense I will be there, and in a sense there has always been an empty chair in front of you. Right now the chair is empty because there is no one sitting in it. I am talking to you but there is no one who is talking to you. It is difficult to understand, but when the ego disappears processes can continue. Talking can continue, sitting and walking and eating can continue, but the center has disappeared. Even now, the chair is empty. But I was always with you up till now in all the camps because you were not ready. Now I feel you are ready and you must be helped to get more ready to work in my absence, because feeling that I am there you may feel a certain enthusiasm that is false. Just feeling that I am present you may do things which you never wanted to do; just under my influence you may exert more. That is not of much help, because only that can be helpful which comes out of your being. My chair will be there, I will be watching you, but you feel completely free. And don't think that I am not there because that may depress you, and then that depression will disturb your meditation.

I will be there, and if you meditate rightly, whenever your meditation is exactly tuned, you will see me – so that will be the criterion of whether you are really meditating or not. Many of you will be able to see me more intensely than you can see me right now, and whenever you see me, you can be certain that things are happening in a right direction. So this will be the criterion. By the end of this camp I hope ninety percent of you will have seen me. Ten percent may miss because of their minds. So if you see me don't start thinking about what is happening, don't start thinking whether it is imagination or a projection or am I really there. Don't think, because if you think, immediately I will disappear; thinking will become a barrier. The dust will come on the mirror and there will be no reflection. Whenever the dust is not there, suddenly you will become aware of me more than you can be aware here, right now. To be aware of the physical body is not much awareness; to be aware of the nonphysical being is real awareness.

You must learn to work without me. You cannot be here always, you will have to go far away; you cannot hang around me forever, you have other work to do. You have come from different countries all over the world; you will have to go. For a few days you will be here with me, but if you become addicted to my physical presence, then rather than being a help it may become a disturbance, because then when you go away you will miss me. Your meditation here should be such that it can happen without my presence; then wherever you go the meditation will not be in any way affected.

And this too has to be remembered: I cannot always be in this physical body with you; one day or another the physical vehicle has to be dropped. My work is complete as far as I am

concerned. If I am carrying this physical vehicle, it is just for you; someday it has to be dropped. Before it happens you must be ready to work in my absence, or in my nonphysical presence, which means the same. And once you can feel me in my absence you are free of me, and then even if I am not here in this body the contact will not be lost.

It always happens when a buddha is there: his physical presence becomes so meaningful. Then, when he dies, everything is shattered. Even a disciple like Ananda, Gautam Buddha's most intimate disciple, started crying and weeping when Buddha said, "Now I have to leave this body." For forty years Ananda was with Buddha twenty-four hours a day, just like a shadow. He started crying and weeping like a child; suddenly he had become an orphan.

Buddha asked, "What are you doing?"

Ananda said, "It will be impossible now for me to grow. I couldn't grow when you were there so how can I grow now? It may now be millions of lives before I come across a buddha again, so I am lost."

Buddha said, "My understanding is different, Ananda. When I am not there you may become enlightened immediately, because this has been my feeling – you have become too much attached to me, and that attachment is working like a block. You have become too attached to me; that very attachment is working like a barrier."

And this happened as Buddha said. The day Buddha died, Ananda became enlightened. There was nothing to cling to

then. But why wait? When I die, then you will become enlightened? Why wait?

My chair can be empty; you can feel my absence. And remember, only when you can feel my absence can you feel my presence. If you cannot see me while my physical vehicle is not there, you have not seen me at all. This is my promise: I will be there in the empty chair, the empty chair will not really be empty. So behave – the chair will not be empty! But it is better that you learn to be in contact with my nonphysical being. That is a deeper, more intimate touch and contact.

That is why I say a new phase of my work starts with this camp, and I am calling it a *samadhi sadhana shivir*. It is not only meditation that I am going to teach you, it is absolute ecstasy. It is not only the first step, it is the last. Only no-mind on your part is needed and everything is ready. Just be alert not to think much. The remaining time between these three meditations, remain more and more silent, don't talk. If you want to do something, laugh, dance – do something intense and physical but not mental. Go for a long walk, go jogging in the grounds, jump under the sun, lie down on the earth, look at the sky, enjoy, but don't allow the mind to function much. Laugh, cry, weep, but don't think.

If you can be without thinking for these three meditations and the time between them, then after three, four days you will feel suddenly a burden has disappeared. The heart has become light, the body weightless and you are ready to take a jump into the unknown.

Anything more?

Osho,

The last part of what you said to us is very beautiful and blissful, but the first part is very frightening – breaking the cup, suffering, falling down on the ground, you not being there. Then our minds come in and we play tricks with our bodies. We say, “I have this pain. I have this blister...”

Can you give us some clue as to how we can get over the barriers we create for ourselves when we come up against fear?

Any conflict will create more barriers. If there is fear and you start doing something about it, then a new fear has entered: fear of the fear. It has become more complex. So the one thing to be done is: if fear is there, accept it. Don't do anything about it because doing will not help. Anything that you do out of fear will create more fear; anything that you do out of confusion will add more to confusion. The only thing that can be done – don't do anything.

If fear is there, note down that fear is there and accept it. What can you do? Nothing can be done; fear is there. See, if you can just note down the fact that fear is there, where is the fear then? You have accepted it; it has dissolved. Acceptance dissolves – only acceptance, nothing else. If you fight, you create another disturbance and this can go on ad infinitum. Then there is no end to it.

People come to me and they say, “We are very afraid, what should we do?” If I give them something to do, they will do it with the being which is full of fear, so action will come out of

their fear. The action that comes out of fear cannot be anything other than fear.

I have heard that Adolf Hitler was suffering from deep depression, melancholy, and psychologists were saying that it was due to some hidden inferiority complex. So all the Aryan psychologists were called. They tried but they couldn't help, nothing came out of their analysis. So they suggested that a Jewish psychoanalyst should be called. Hitler was not ready in the beginning to call a Jew, but seeing no way out of it he had to yield. A great Jewish psychoanalyst was called. He analyzed, penetrated deep into Hitler's mind, dreams, and then he suggested, "Nothing much is a problem. Simply repeat one thing continuously, 'I am important, I am significant, I am indispensable.' Let it be a mantra. Night, day, whenever you remember, repeat, 'I am important, I am significant, I am indispensable.'"

Hitler said, "Stop! You are giving me bad advice."

The psychoanalyst couldn't understand. He asked, "What do you mean? Why do you call this bad advice?"

Hitler said, "Because whatsoever I say, I am such a liar I cannot believe it. I am such a liar, whatsoever I say I cannot believe. If you tell me to repeat 'I am indispensable,' I know that it is a lie. I am saying it. I am a liar."

Out of lies, if you repeat something it will become a lie; out of fear, if you do something it will become a fear again. Out of hate, if you try to love, that love will just be a hidden hate; it cannot be anything else – you are full of hate. Go to the preachers and they will say, "Try to love." They are talking

nonsense because how can a person who is full of hate try to love? If he tries to love, this love will come out of hatred; it will be poisoned already, poisoned from the very source. And this is the misery of all preachers.

Gandhi said to people who were violent to try to be nonviolent. Then their nonviolence comes out of violence, so their nonviolence is just a facade, just a face to show. Deep down, they are boiling with violence. If your *brahmacharya*, your celibacy, comes out of too much sexuality, it will be perverted sex, nothing else.

So please don't create any conflict. If you have one problem, don't create another; remain with the one, don't fight and create another. It is easier to solve one problem than to solve another. The first is near the source, the second will be further removed. The further away, the more impossible it becomes to solve it.

If you have fear, you have fear – why make a problem out of it? Then you know that you have fear, just as you have two hands. Why create a problem out of it – as if you have only one nose, not two? Why create a problem out of it? Fear is there: accept it, note it. Accept it, don't bother about it. What will happen? Suddenly you will feel it has disappeared. This is the inner alchemy: a problem disappears if you accept it, and a problem grows more and more complex if you create any conflict with it. Yes, suffering is there, and suddenly fear comes – accept it. It is there and nothing can be done about it. When I say nothing can be done about it, don't think that I am talking to you about pessimism. When I say nothing can be done about it I am giving you the key to solve it.

Suffering *is* there. It is part of life and part of growth; nothing is bad in it. Suffering becomes evil only when it is simply destructive and not creative at all; suffering becomes bad only when you suffer and nothing is gained out of it. But I am telling you the divine can be gained through suffering; then it becomes creative. Darkness is beautiful if the dawn is coming out of it soon; darkness is dangerous if it is endless, leads to no dawn, simply continues and continues and you go on moving in a rut, in a vicious circle.

This is what is happening to you. Just to escape from one suffering you create another; then to escape from another, another. And this goes on and on, and all those sufferings which you have not lived are waiting for you. You have escaped – and you escape from one suffering to another, because a mind which was creating suffering will create more. So you can escape from this suffering to that, but suffering will be there because your mind is the creative force.

Accept the suffering and pass through it; don't escape. This is a totally different dimension to work in. Suffering is there: encounter it, go through it. Fear will be there, accept it. You will tremble, so tremble. Why create a facade that you don't tremble, that you are not afraid? If you are a coward, accept it.

Everyone is a coward. People you call brave are just facades. Deep down they are as cowardly as anyone else, rather, more cowardly. Just to hide that cowardliness they have created a sense of bravery around them, and sometimes they act in such a way that everyone knows they are not cowards. Their bravery is just a screen. How can man be brave? Death is there. How can man be brave? Man is just a leaf in the winds.

How can the leaf help trembling? When the wind blows the leaf *will* tremble. But you never say to the leaf, “You are a coward.” You only say that the leaf is alive. So when you tremble and fear takes grip of you, you are a leaf in the wind. Beautiful – why create a problem out of it? But society has created problems out of everything.

If a child is afraid of the dark, we say, “Don’t be afraid, be brave.” Why? The child is innocent – naturally he feels fear in the dark. You force him: “Be brave.” So he also forces, then he becomes tense. Then he endures the darkness but now he is tense; now his whole being is ready to tremble and he suppresses it. This suppressed trembling will follow him through his whole life. It was good to tremble in the darkness, nothing was wrong. It was good to cry and run, nothing was wrong. The child would have come out of darkness more experienced, more knowing. And he would have realized, if he passed through darkness trembling and crying and weeping, that there was nothing to fear. Suppressed, you never experience the thing in its totality, you never gain anything out of it. Wisdom comes through suffering and wisdom comes through acceptance. Whatsoever the case, be at ease with it.

Don’t look to society and its condemnation. Nobody is here to judge you and nobody can pretend to be a judge. Don’t judge others and don’t be perturbed and disturbed by others’ judgment. You are alone and you are unique. You never were before, you never will be again. You are beautiful. Accept it. And whatsoever happens, allow it to happen and pass through it. Soon, suffering will be a learning, and then it has become creative.

Fear will give you fearlessness. Out of anger will come compassion. Out of the understanding of hate, love will be born to you. But this happens not in a conflict, but in a passing-through with alert awareness. Accept, and pass through it. And if you make it a point to pass through every experience, then there will be death, the most intense experience. Life is nothing in comparison to it because life cannot be as intense as death.

Life is spread out over a long time – seventy years, one hundred years. Death is intense because it is not spread out – it is in a single moment. Life has to pass through one hundred years or seventy years, it cannot be so intense. Death comes in a single moment; it comes whole, not fragmentary. It will be so intense you cannot know anything more intense. But if you are afraid, if you have escaped before death comes and you have become unconscious because of the fear, you have missed one of the golden opportunities, the golden gate. If your whole life you have been accepting things, when death comes, patiently, passively you will accept and enter into it without any effort to escape. If you can enter death passively, silently, without any effort, death disappears. When Krishna, Christ, Buddha, Mahavira say you are deathless, they are not talking about a doctrine, they are talking about their own experience.

This can happen here in this camp also, because *samadhi* is death, *dhyana* is death, meditation is death. Many times there will be moments when you will suddenly feel you are dying. Don't escape, allow it to happen. If you allow it to happen, death has gone, death is there no more, and the inner flame, beginningless, endless, has come into being. It has always been there, now you can feel it.

So this should be the sutra. With fear, hate, jealousy, anything whatsoever, don't create a problem out of it. Accept it, allow it, pass through it, and you will defeat all suffering, all death. And you will become a *jinna* – a victorious one.

Anything more?

Osho,

When you talk about our having to suffer, you tell us to be joyful at the same time. Trying to compromise these two things seems difficult.

When I say suffer joyfully it looks paradoxical and your mind starts thinking how to compromise, because to you they are contradictory. They are not, they only appear contradictory. You *can* enjoy suffering.

What is the secret – how to enjoy suffering? The first thing is: if you don't escape, if you allow the suffering to be there, if you are ready to face it, if you are not trying somehow to forget it, then you are different. Suffering is there, but just around you. It is not in the center, it is on the periphery. It is impossible for suffering to be in the center; it is not in the nature of things. It is always on the periphery and you are the center.

So when you allow it to happen – you don't escape, you don't run, you are not in a panic – suddenly you become aware that suffering is there on the periphery as if happening to someone else, not to you, and you are looking at it. A subtle joy

spreads all over your being because you have realized one of the basic truths of life, that you are bliss and not suffering.

So when I say enjoy it, I don't mean become a masochist; I don't mean create suffering for yourself and enjoy it. I don't mean go and fall down from a cliff, have fractures and then enjoy it – no. There are people of that type and many of them have become ascetics, *tapasvis*. They are creating suffering for themselves. They are masochists, they are ill. They are very dangerous people. They wanted to make others suffer but they were not so courageous. They wanted to kill others, be violent with others, cripple others, but they were not so courageous, so their whole violence has turned within. Now they are crippling themselves, torturing themselves, and enjoying it.

I am not saying be a masochist. I am simply saying suffering is there, you need not seek it. Enough suffering is there already, you need not go in search. Suffering is already there; life by its very nature creates suffering. Illness is there, death is there, the body is there – by their very nature suffering is created. See it, look at it with a very dispassionate eye. Look at it – what it is, what is happening. Don't escape. Immediately the mind says, "Escape from here, don't look at it." But if you escape then you cannot be blissful.

Next time you fall ill and the doctor suggests remaining in bed, take it as a blessing. Close your eyes and rest on the bed and just look at the illness. Watch it, what it is. Don't try to analyze it, don't go into theories, just watch it, what it is. The whole body tired, feverish – watch it. Suddenly you will feel that you are surrounded by fever but there is a very cool point within you; the fever cannot touch it, cannot influence it. The

whole body may be burning but that cool point cannot be touched.

I have heard about one Zen nun. She died, but before she died she asked her disciples, “What do you suggest? How should I die?”

It is an old tradition in Zen that masters ask. They can die consciously, so they can ask. And they are so playful even about death, so humorous about it, joking, laughing, they enjoy devising methods how to die.

So disciples may suggest, “Master, this will be good: die standing on your head.” Or someone suggests, “Walking, because we have never seen anyone die walking.”

So this Zen nun asked, “What do you suggest?”

They said, “It will be good if we prepare a fire, and you sit in it and die meditating.”

She said, “This is beautiful and never heard of before.” So they prepared a funeral pyre, the nun made herself comfortable in it, sat in a buddha posture, and then they lit the fire.

One man from the crowd asked, “How does it feel there? It is so hot that I cannot even come nearer to ask you – that’s why I am shouting. How does it feel there?”

The nun laughed and said, “Only a fool can ask such a question: ‘How does it feel there?’ There it always feels cool, perfectly cool.”

She is talking of her inner being, the center. *There* it is always cool, and only a foolish person can ask. Why does she say that only a foolish person can ask? It is obvious. When a person is ready to sit in a fire meditating, and then the fire is burning and she is sitting silently, obviously it shows that this person must have achieved the innermost cool point which cannot be disturbed by any fire; otherwise it is not possible.

So when you are lying on your bed feverish, on fire, the whole body burning, just watch it. Watching, you will recede towards the source. Watching, you will gain balance, a rhythm. Watching, not doing anything. What can you do? The fever is there, you have to pass through it; it is no use unnecessarily fighting with it. You are resting, and if you fight with the fever you will become more feverish, that’s all. So watch it. Watching the fever, you become cool; watching more, you become cooler. Just watching, you reach to a peak, such a cool peak, even the Himalayas will feel jealous; even their peaks are not so cool. This is the Gourishankar, the Everest within. And when you feel that the fever has disappeared... It has never really been there; it has only been in the body, very, very far away.

Infinite space exists between you and your body – infinite space, I say. An unbridgeable gap exists between you and your body. All suffering exists on the periphery. Hindus say it is a dream because the distance is so vast, unbridgeable. It is

just like a dream happening somewhere else – not happening to you – in some other world, on some other planet.

When you watch suffering suddenly you are not the sufferer, and you start enjoying. Through suffering you become aware of the opposite pole, the blissful inner being. So when I say enjoy, I am saying: watch. Return to the source, get centered. Then, suddenly, there is no agony; only ecstasy exists. Those who are on the periphery exist in agony. For them, no ecstasy. For those who have come to their center, no agony exists. For them, only ecstasy.

When I say break the cup, it is breaking the periphery. And when I say be totally empty, it is coming back to the original source, because through emptiness we are born and into emptiness we return. *Emptiness* is the word, really, which is better to use than *God*, because with God we start feeling that there is some person. So Buddha never uses *God*, he always uses *shunyata* – emptiness, nothingness. In the center you are a non-being, nothingness, just a vast space, eternally cool, silent, blissful. So when I say enjoy I mean watch, and you will enjoy. When I say enjoy, I mean don't escape.

Enough for today.

Chapter 02: No Mind, No Truth

The student Doko came to the master and said,
“In what state of mind should I seek the truth?”

The master replied, “There is no mind, so you cannot put it in any state, and there is no truth, so you cannot seek it.”

Doko said, “If there is no mind and no truth, why do all these students gather before you every day to study?”

The master looked around and said, “I don’t see anyone.”

The inquirer asked, “Then who are you teaching?”

“I have no tongue, so how can I teach?” replied the master.

Then Doko said sadly, “I cannot follow you; I cannot understand.”

The master said, “I don’t understand myself.”

Life is such a mystery, no one can understand it, and one who claims that he understands it is simply ignorant. He is not aware of what he is saying, of what nonsense he is talking. If you are wise, this will be the first realization: life cannot be understood. Understanding is impossible. Only this much can be understood – that understanding is impossible. That is what this beautiful Zen anecdote says.

The master says, “I don’t understand it myself.” If you go and ask the enlightened ones this will be the answer. But if you go and ask the unenlightened ones they will give you many answers, they will propose many doctrines; they will try to solve the mystery which cannot be solved. It is not a riddle. A

riddle can be solved, a mystery is unsolvable by its very nature – there is no way to solve it.

Socrates said, “When I was young, I thought I knew much. When I became old, ripe in wisdom, I came to understand that I know nothing.”

It is reported of one of the Sufi masters, Junnaid, that he was working with a new young man. The young man was not aware of Junnaid’s inner wisdom, and Junnaid lived such an ordinary life that it needed very penetrating eyes to realize that you were near a buddha. He worked like an ordinary laborer, and only those who had eyes would recognize him. To recognize Buddha is very easy – he is sitting under a *bodhi* tree, luminous; to recognize Junnaid is very difficult – he was working like a laborer, not sitting under a *bodhi* tree. He was in every way absolutely ordinary.

One young man was working with him, and that young man was continually showing his knowledge, so whatsoever Junnaid would do he would say, “This is wrong. This can be done in this way, it will be better” – he knew about everything.

Finally Junnaid laughed and said, “Young man, I am not young enough to know so much.” This is really something. He said, “I am not young enough to know so much.” Only a young man can be so foolish, so inexperienced.

Socrates is right when he says, “When I was young I knew too much. When I became ripened, experienced, I came to realize only one thing – that I am absolutely ignorant.”

Life is a mystery; that means it cannot be solved. And when all efforts to solve it prove futile, the mystery dawns upon you. Then the doors are open; then you are invited. As a knower, nobody enters the divine; as a child, ignorant, not knowing at all, the mystery embraces you. With a knowing mind you are clever, not innocent. Innocence is the door.

This Zen master is right when he says, “I don’t understand it myself.” Very deep, really deep – the deepest answer possible. But this is the last part of the anecdote. Start from the very beginning.

The disciple comes to the Zen master and asks, “In what state of mind should I seek the truth?”

The master says, “There is no mind, so there cannot be any state of mind.”

The mind is the illusory – that which is not but appears to be, and appears so much that you think that you *are* the mind. The mind is maya; the mind is just a dream, the mind is just a projection, a soap bubble – nothing in it, but it appears like a soap bubble floating on a river. The sun is just rising, the rays penetrate the bubble; a rainbow is created but nothing is there in it. When you touch the bubble it is broken and everything disappears: the rainbow, the beauty – nothing is left. Only emptiness becomes one with the infinite emptiness. Just a wall was there, a bubble wall. Your mind is just a bubble wall: inside, your emptiness; outside, my emptiness. It is just a bubble. Prick it, and the mind disappears.

The master says, “There is no mind, so what type of state are you asking about?” It is difficult to understand.

People come to me and they say, “We would like to attain a silent state of mind.” They think that the mind can be silent. The mind can never be silent. The mind means the turmoil, the illness, the disease; the mind means the tense, the anguished state. The mind cannot be silent. When there is silence there is no mind. When silence comes, the mind disappears; when the mind is there, silence is no more. So there cannot be any silent mind, just as there cannot be any healthy disease. How can it be possible to have a healthy disease? When health is there, disease disappears. Silence is the inner health; the mind is the inner disease, inner disturbance.

So there cannot be any silent mind, and this disciple is asking, “What type, what sort, what state of mind should I achieve?”

Point blank, the master said, “There is no mind, so you cannot achieve any state.” So please drop this illusion; don’t try to achieve any state in the illusion.

It is as if you are thinking to travel on a rainbow and you ask me, “What steps should we take to travel on a rainbow?” I say, “There is no rainbow. The rainbow is just an appearance, so no steps can be taken.” A rainbow simply appears; it is not there. It is not a reality, it is a false interpretation of the reality.

The mind is not your reality; it is a false interpretation. You are not the mind. You have never been the mind, you can never be the mind. That is your problem – you have become identified with something which is not. You are like a beggar who believes that he has a kingdom. He is so worried about

the kingdom – how to manage it, how to govern it, how to prevent anarchy. There is no kingdom, but he is worried.

Chuang Tzu once dreamed that he had become a butterfly. In the morning he was very much depressed. His friends asked, “What has happened? We have never seen you so depressed.”

Chuang Tzu said, “I am puzzled, I am at a loss, I cannot understand. In the night, while asleep, I dreamed that I had become a butterfly.”

The friends laughed: “Nobody is ever disturbed by dreams. When you awake, the dream disappears, so why are you disturbed?”

Chuang Tzu said, “That is not the point. Now I am puzzled. If Chuang Tzu can become a butterfly in a dream, it is possible that now the butterfly has gone to sleep and is dreaming that she has become Chuang Tzu.”

If Chuang Tzu can become a butterfly in a dream, then why not the other way around? The butterfly can dream and become Chuang Tzu. So what is real? Whether Chuang Tzu dreamed that he has become a butterfly or the butterfly is dreaming that she has become Chuang Tzu? What is real? Rainbows are there. You can become a butterfly in the dream. And you have become a mind in this bigger dream you call life. When you awaken from this dream, you don't achieve an

awakened state of mind. You achieve a no-state of mind, you achieve no-mind.

What does no-mind mean? It is difficult to follow, but sometimes unknowingly you have achieved it, but you may not have recognized it. Sometimes, just sitting ordinarily, not doing anything, there is no thought in the mind. When there is no thought, where is the mind? When there is no thought there is no mind, because the mind is just the process of thinking. It is not a substance, it is just a procession. You are here, I can say a crowd is here, but is there really something like a crowd? Is a crowd substantial or are only individuals there? By and by individuals will go away. Then will there be a crowd left behind? When individuals have gone, there is no crowd.

The mind is just like a crowd; thoughts are the individuals. Because thoughts are there continuously, you think the process is substantial. Drop each individual thought and finally nothing is left. There is no mind as such, only thinking.

Thoughts are moving so fast that between two thoughts you cannot see the interval. But the interval is always there. That interval is you. In that interval there is neither Chuang Tzu nor the butterfly – because the butterfly is a sort of mind and Chuang Tzu is also a sort of mind. A butterfly is a combination of thoughts, Chuang Tzu is a different combination, but both are minds. When the mind is not there, who are you, Chuang Tzu or a butterfly? – neither. And what is the state? Are you in an enlightened state of mind? If you think that you are in an enlightened state of mind this is again a thought, and when thought is there you are not. If you feel

that you are a buddha, this is a thought. The mind has entered; now the process is there, again the sky is clouded, and the blueness lost. The infinite blueness can no longer be seen.

Between two thoughts try to be alert; look into the interval, the space in between. You will see no-mind, and that is your nature. Thoughts come and go – they are accidental; that inner space always remains. Clouds gather and go, disappear – they are accidental – but the sky remains. You are the sky.

Once it happened that a seeker came to Bayazid, a Sufi mystic, and said, “Master, I am a very angry person. Anger happens to me very easily; I become really mad and I do things. I cannot even believe later on that I could do such things; I am not in my senses. So, how to drop this anger, how to overcome it, how to control it?”

Bayazid took the head of the disciple in his hands and looked into his eyes. The disciple became a little uneasy, and Bayazid said, “Where is that anger? I would like to see into it.”

The disciple laughed uneasily and said, “Right now, I am not angry. Sometimes it happens.”

So Bayazid said, “That which happens sometimes cannot be your nature. It is an accident. It comes and goes. It is like clouds – and why be worried about the clouds? Think of the sky which is always there.”

This is the definition of atman: the sky which is always there. All that comes and goes is irrelevant; don't be bothered by it, it is just smoke. The sky that remains eternally there never changes, never becomes different. Between two thoughts, drop into it; between two thoughts it is always there. Look into it and suddenly you will realize that you are in no-mind.

The master is right when he says, "There is no mind, so there cannot be any state of mind. What nonsense are you saying?"

But the nonsense has its own logic. If you think that you have a mind, you will start thinking in terms of states: an ignorant state of mind, an enlightened state of mind, a disturbed state of the mind, a silent state of the mind. Once you accept mind, the illusory, then you are bound to go on dividing it. And once you accept that the mind is there, you will start seeking something or other.

The mind can exist only if you continuously seek something. Why? – it is because seeking is desire, seeking is moving into the future, seeking creates dreams. So somebody is seeking power, politics, somebody is seeking riches, kingdoms, and then somebody is seeking the truth. But seeking is there and seeking is the problem, not what you are seeking. The object is never the problem; any object will do. The mind can hang on to any object; any excuse is enough for it to exist.

The master said, "There is no state of mind because there is no mind. And there is no truth, so what are you talking about? There can be no seeking."

This is one of the greatest messages ever delivered. It is very difficult; the disciple cannot conceive that there is no truth.

What is the meaning of this master when he says that there is no truth? Does he mean that there is no truth? – no, he is saying that for you, who are a seeker, there can be no truth. Seeking always leads to the untrue. Only a non-seeking mind realizes that which is, because whenever you seek you have missed that which is. Seeking always moves into the future, seeking cannot be here and now. How can you seek here and now? You can only be. Seeking is desire: future enters, time comes in... And this moment, this here and now, is missed. Truth is here, now.

If you go to a buddha and ask, “Is there God?” he will deny it immediately: “There is no God.” If he says there is, he creates a seeker; if he says there is God, you will start seeking. How can you remain quiet when there is God to be sought? Where will you run? You have created another illusion.

So Buddha says there is no God. Nobody understood him, people thought he was an atheist. He was not denying God, he was simply denying the seeker. But if he had said that there is God, the seeker would have been there. And the seeker is the world; seeking is all that maya is. For millions of lives you have been a seeker, after this or after that, this object, that object, this world or that world, but a seeker. Now you are a seeker after truth. But the master says there is no truth. He cuts away the very ground of seeking. He pulls away the very ground where you are standing, where your mind is standing. He simply pushes you into the abyss.

The inquirer asks, “Then why are these many seekers all around you? If there is nothing to seek, and no truth, then why this crowd?” You must have been there, sitting around the master.

Somebody comes to me and I say, “There is no seeking. Nothing is to be sought, because there is nothing to seek.” He is bound to ask, “Then why are these people here, why are these sannyasins here? What are they doing here?”

But the inquirer goes on missing the point. The master looked around and said, “I don’t see anyone, there is no one here.” The inquirer goes on missing the point because the intellect always goes on missing. He could have looked. This was the fact: there was no one.

You can be in two ways, but just one if you are seeking. If you are not seeking you are not, because seeking gives you the ego. Right this moment, if you are not seeking anyone, anything, you are not here, there is no crowd. If I am not teaching anything – because there is nothing to be taught, no truth to be taught – if I am not teaching anything and if you are not learning anything, who is here? Emptiness exists and the bliss of pure emptiness. Individuals disappear and it becomes an oceanic consciousness.

Individuals are there because of individual minds. You have a different desire, that’s why you differ from your neighbor; desires create distinctions. I am seeking something, you are seeking something else; my path differs from yours, my goal differs from yours. That’s why I differ from you. If I am not seeking and you are not seeking, goals disappear, paths are no longer there, how can the minds exist? The cup is broken. My tea flows into you and your tea flows into me. It becomes an oceanic existence.

The master looked around and said, “I don’t see anyone, there is no one.”

The intellect goes on missing. The inquirer asked, “Then whom are you teaching? If there is no one, then whom are you teaching?”

And the master says, “I have got no tongue, so how can I teach?” He goes on giving hints to become alert, to look, but the inquirer is engulfed in his own mind. The master goes on hitting, hammering on his head; he is talking nonsense just to bring him out of his mind.

If you had been there you would have been convinced by the inquirer, not by the master. The inquirer would have appeared exactly right. This master seems to be mad, absurd. He is talking and he says, “There is no tongue, so how can I talk?” He is saying, “There is no body to me, how can I move, how can I talk?” He is saying, “Look at me, I am without form. Look at me, I am not embodied. The body appears to you but I am not that, so how can I talk?” The mind goes on missing. This is the misery of the mind. You push, again it gathers itself; you hit it, and for a moment there is a shaking and a trembling, and again it is established.

Have you seen a Japanese doll? They call it a Darumadoll. You throw it in whatsoever way – topsy-turvy, head upside-down – but whatsoever you do the doll sits in a buddha posture. The bottom part is so heavy you cannot do anything. Throw it in any way and the doll again sits in a buddha posture. The name Daruma comes from Bodhidharma; in Japan, Bodhidharma’s name is Daruma. Daruma used to say, this Bodhidharma used to say, that your mind is just like this doll. He used to have a doll; he would throw it, kick it, but whatsoever he did he could not disturb

the doll – the bottom part was so heavy. You throw it upside-down, it will be right-side-up.

This master goes on pushing. A little shaking and the doll sits again, misses the point. Finally, desperate, the inquirer says, “I don’t follow, I don’t understand.”

And the ultimate hit – the master says, “I don’t understand myself.”

I go on teaching you, knowing well there is nothing to be taught. That’s why I can go on infinitely. If there were something to be taught I would have finished already. Buddhas can go on and on because there is nothing to be taught. It is an endless story, it never concludes, so I can go on and on. I will never be finished; *you* may be finished before my story ends because there is no end to it.

Somebody asked me, “Why do you go on talking every day?”

I said, “Because there is nothing to be taught.”

Someday you will suddenly feel it – that I am not talking, that I am not teaching. You have realized. There is nothing to be taught because there is no truth.

What discipline am I giving to you? – none. A disciplined mind is again a mind, even more stubborn, more adamant; a disciplined mind is more stupid. Go and see the disciplined monks all over the world: Christian, Hindu, Jaina. Whenever you see a man who is absolutely disciplined you will find a stupid mind behind it. The flowing has stopped. He is so much concerned with finding something that he is ready to do

whatsoever you say. If you say, “Stand on your head for an hour,” he is ready to stand on his head. It is because of desire. If godliness can be achieved only through standing on his head for hours, the man is ready, but he must achieve.

I am not giving you any achieving, any desiring; there is nowhere to reach and nothing to achieve. If you realize this, you have achieved this very moment. This very moment you are perfect; nothing is to be done, nothing is to be changed. This very moment you are absolute *brahman*.

That’s why the master said, “I don’t understand it myself.” It is difficult to find a master who says, “I don’t understand it myself” because a master must claim that he knows, only then will you follow him. A master must not only claim that he knows, he must claim that only he knows, nobody else: “All other masters are wrong, I alone know.” Then you will follow. You must be absolutely certain, then you become a follower. The certainty gives you the feeling that here is the man, and if you follow you will reach.

I will tell you a story.

It happened once, a so-called master was traveling. In every village he would go, he would declare, “I have achieved, I have known the divine. If you want, come and follow me.”

People would say, “There are many responsibilities. Someday we hope we will be able to follow you.” They would touch his feet, give him respect, serve him, but nobody would follow because there were many other things to be done first

before one went to seek the divine. First things first. The divine is always the last, and the last thing never comes because the first things are so infinite that they are never finished.

But in one village, a madman – a madman he was, otherwise who would follow this master? – said, “Right. Have you found?”

The master hesitated a little, looking at the madman – because this man seemed dangerous, he might follow and create trouble – but in front of the whole village he couldn’t deny it, so he said, “Yes.”

The madman said, “Now, initiate me. I will follow you to the very end. I want to realize God myself.” The so-called master became perturbed, but what to do? The madman started following him, he became a shadow.

One year passed. The madman asked, “How far, how far is the temple?” He said, “I am not in a hurry but how much time will be needed?”

By this time the master had become very uneasy and uncomfortable with this man. This madman would sleep with him, he would move with him; he had become his shadow. And because of him his certainty was dissolving. Whenever he would say in a village, “Follow me,” he would become afraid, because this man would look at him and say, “I am following you, master, and still I have not reached.”

The second year passed, the third year passed, the sixth year passed, and the madman said, “We have not reached

anywhere. We are simply traveling in villages and you go on telling people, 'Follow me.' I am following you – whatsoever you say, I do it, so you cannot say I am not following the discipline.” The madman was really mad, so whatever was said he would do. So the master couldn't deceive him by saying that he was not doing well.

Finally, one night, the master said to him, “Because of you I have lost my own path. Before I met you I was certain; now I am no longer. Will you please leave me?”

Whenever there is someone certain and you are mad enough, you start following. Can you follow this type of man who says, “I myself don't know. I myself don't understand”? If you can follow this man, you will reach. You have already reached if you decide to follow this man, because the mind asks for certainty, the mind asks for knowledge, the mind asks for dogmatic assertions. So if you can be ready to follow a man who says, “I myself don't know,” seeking has stopped, because now you are not asking for knowledge.

One who is asking for knowledge cannot ask for being. Knowledge is rubbish; being is life. When you stop asking for knowledge you have stopped asking about the truth, because truth is the goal of knowledge. If you don't inquire what is, rather you become so silent, so mindless that that which is, is revealed to you...

I myself say to you I don't know; you cannot come across a more ignorant man than me. There is no truth and there is no way. I have not reached anywhere; I am simply here and now.

If you can follow this ignorant man, your mind will drop because the mind always follows knowledge, and when the mind drops there is no need to go anywhere. Everything is available, has always been available; you have never missed it. Just because of your seeking, you cannot look at it. Your mind, focused on the future, on the goal, cannot look. The truth surrounds you, you exist in it. Just like the fish exist in the ocean, you exist in the truth. Godliness is not a goal, godliness is what is here now. These trees, these winds blowing, these clouds moving, the sky, you, I – this is what godliness is. It is not a goal.

Drop the mind and be divine. Godliness is not an object, it is a merger. The mind resists a merger, the mind is against surrender; the mind is very cunning and calculating.

This story is beautiful. You are the inquirer. You have come to me to inquire about how to achieve truth, you have come to me to inquire about how to achieve a state of mind which is blissful. You have come to acquire knowledge, to solve a mystery, and I repeat to you: there is no state of mind because there is no mind; there is no truth, so no seeking is allowed. All seeking is futile; search as such is foolish. Seek and you will lose, don't seek and it is there, run and you will miss. Stop. It has always been there. Don't try to understand – be. Understanding is superficial. Under the *bodhi* tree, Buddha has not known more. You may know more.

Many scholars came to Buddha; they knew more than Buddha. Mahakashyapa came, he was a great pundit. Sariputta came, he was a great pundit. When Sariputta came, five hundred disciples came with him, disciples of Sariputta. He was known all over the country. When Sariputta said, "I

have come to you. Give me that which is more than knowledge, because I have got enough of knowledge.” Really, he may have known more than Buddha. He was a very deep, penetrating scholar; he knew all the scriptures, he was a great brahmin pundit, and all the Vedas were on his tongue. He could have recited them. But he asked Buddha, “Give me something that is more than knowledge. Of knowledge I have got enough, and I am fed up with it.”

And what did Buddha say to Sariputta? – he said, “Unlearn. Drop knowledge, and that which is more will happen to you.”

A real master teaches you unlearning; it is never learning. You have come to me: unlearn whatsoever you know, please drop it. Become ignorant, become like a child. Only the heart of a child can knock at the doors of the divine, and only the heart of a child is heard. Your prayers cannot be heard; they are cunning. Only a child, only a heart which doesn't know, can be.

This is the meaning of this anecdote, and it is good for you, because the same is the case with you.

Anything more?

Osho,

You just told us you have nothing to teach us, and last night it was a great shock when you said as far as you are concerned your work is done, that you're carrying your body for us. A young Jesus also said, “Wist ye not that I am about my

Father's business.”

What is or what was your business?

When I say my work is done, I mean I am finished with any seeking; I mean I have come to realize that there is nothing to be realized, nothing to be known, nowhere to go. This moment is enough, this moment is eternity. When I say my work is done, I mean now there is no desire.

Desire creates business. You have to do something, only then will you be happy. I am simply happy. It is not concerned with any doing, it is now uncaused. That is the difference between happiness and bliss. Happiness is caused – you have a friend and you are happy; your beloved has returned and you are happy; you have won the lottery and you are happy. Causes are there; they are beyond you, they are outside you – your happiness comes from the outside. It is caused, and that which is caused cannot be forever. The beloved may go back, the friend may turn enemy – friends turn enemy – and whatsoever you have achieved may be lost. That which is caused cannot always be there, cannot be eternal.

When I say my work is done, I mean now my happiness is uncaused. There is nothing that is helping me to be blissful, I am simply blissful. It cannot be taken away. You cannot uncause it if it is not caused. You cannot do anything to it; it is simply beyond, it cannot be destroyed. My business is finished. And when I say my business is finished, I am finished, because I can exist only with the business. Then why am I here? This is one of the oldest questions.

Buddha lived for forty years after he became enlightened. After his business was finished he lived for forty years more.

Many times it was asked, “Why are you still here?” When the business is finished he should disappear. It looks logical: why should Buddha exist within the body even for a moment? When there is no desire, how can the body continue?

There is something very deep to be understood. When desire disappears the energy that was moving in desire remains; it cannot disappear. Desire is just a form of energy. That’s why you can turn one desire into another. Anger can become sex, sex can become anger. Sex can become greed. Whenever you find a very greedy person he will be less sexual. If he is really perfectly greedy, he will not be sexual at all. He will be a *brahmachari*, a celibate, because the whole energy is moving into greed. And if you find a very sexual person you will always find he is not greedy, because nothing is left. If you see a person who has suppressed his sex he will be angry; anger will always be ready. You can see in his eyes, in his face, that he is just angry – the whole sex energy has become anger.

That’s why your so-called sadhus, your monks, are always angry. The way they walk they show their anger; the way they look at you they show their anger. Their silence is just skin deep – touch them and they will become angry. Sex becomes anger. These are forms; life is the energy. What happens when all desires disappear? Energy cannot disappear, energy is indestructible. Ask the physicists; even they say that energy cannot be destroyed.

A certain energy was existing in Gautam Buddha when he became enlightened. That certain energy was moving in sex, in anger, in greed... In millions of ways. All forms disappeared. What became of that energy? Energy cannot go

out of existence, and when desires are not there it becomes formless, but it exists. Now what is the function of it? That energy becomes compassion.

You cannot be in compassion because you have no energy. All your energy is divided, sometimes in sex, sometimes in anger, sometimes in greed. Compassion is not a form. Only when all your desires disappear does that formless energy become compassion, *karuna*. You cannot cultivate compassion. When you are desireless, compassion happens; your whole energy moves into compassion. But this movement is very different. Desire has a motivation in it, a goal; compassion is nonmotivated, there is no goal to it. It is simply overflowing energy.

So when I say I exist for you, I don't mean that I am doing something to exist for you. Now I am not doing anything. Forms of desire have disappeared. Now the energy is there, without me. The energy is moving and overflowing; you can partake, you can feed on it. That is what Jesus means when he says, "Eat me. Let me become your blood, let me become your food." This overflowing energy can become food to you, food of the eternal.

I am not doing anything when I say I exist for you. This is only language, because there is no other language. I am not doing anything; this is how it is happening. My forms have disappeared. Now a formless energy has remained, and it will go on overflowing. Those who are wise can partake: soon it will become bodiless also. First energy becomes formless, desireless, and then it becomes bodiless.

The body has its own momentum. When one is born, a buddha is born, he is born out of a communion of two bodies, the father and the mother; then particular chromosomes, particular cells, create his body. Those cells have a built-in momentum. That built-in momentum means that this body will exist for seventy or eighty years; this is a body blueprint. For eighty years this body can exist. The body doesn't know, cannot know, that the soul that has entered is going to become enlightened. This house cannot know that the person who has entered this house to live will become enlightened. And when this man becomes enlightened, even then this house will not know. The house will continue; it has its own life. The body has its own life, and the body is completely unaware that a person has become enlightened. It continues – it has its own momentum, its own fuel.

At the age of forty Buddha becomes enlightened. The body has become irrelevant, but the body continues. It will continue, it will complete its circle, it will be there for eighty years. It is good, because these forty years will be the overflowing years, and we will be able to know what enlightenment is. If Buddha disappears that very moment there would have been no religion. If the body drops, if Buddha has become enlightened and the body drops, he would not have been – even to tell what has happened. This is good; existence is very compassionate. Buddha lived for forty years and more, not with any motivation but just with the momentum of the body, it goes on overflowing. This body will also disappear; the momentum has to be completed.

I am not doing anything for you, because that too is sort of egoistic, anybody thinking that he is doing something for you. Nobody is doing anything. It is happening. The form of

desires disappears and energy becomes compassion. The body has to complete its momentum; it has to complete its blueprint. This gap will be an overflowing. It is a feast, not given by me to you; it is a feast given by the whole.

Language creates problems. Language is always dualistic; language is always of this world. Language belongs to ignorance, language belongs to desire. It carries all the connotations, so it is very difficult to say anything about that which is not of this world. Either you have to be silent – but then, even silence can be misunderstood – or you have to use language, and every word is loaded.

If I say I am here for you, you can interpret it in such a way that it looks like a business, looks like a work. It is not, it is none of it; it is simply an overflowing of love. I am not the doer, because if I am the doer there can be no love. Just a light is burning. You may find the path – the light is there. You may use it, it may become a flame for you, it may kindle a light within you, but that depends on you. I am simply here.

You are invited, not by me, but by the energy itself. Eat me as much as you can, let me become part of you. Celebrate this occasion.

Jesus' words again create problems – words always create problems. Had Jesus been here, had he been here in the country of the Upanishads, Buddha, and Mahavira, the language would have been totally different. Jesus was born a Jew; he had to use Jewish language, myth, phraseology. So he said, “The work, the business that was given from my father to me, is done.”

If Jesus were here he would never have talked about the father. The father is a Jewish concept; it is good, beautiful, but very anthropomorphic. God is not the father, God is not a person, and God is not in any sort of business. But Jews are businessmen, and their God is also a businessman, the super-businessman – controlling, managing, manipulating. And just as with a businessman you can seduce him, you can bribe him. He is a very real person. He will be angry if you don't surrender to him; he will throw you in hell. If you follow him, you will achieve paradise – heaven and heavenly pleasures.

This whole language belongs to the world of profit, business. But every language has its own problems. This language is concrete and gives a very family-type appearance to existence: the father, son, and the work. You can reach the father through the son... Jesus is simply using the language available.

In this country we have tried many linguistic patterns. Hindus use millions of types, because Hinduism is not a religion, it is many religions. All types of religions exist in Hinduism; it is a crowd, it is a phenomenon in itself. Every type that has ever existed in the world exists in Hinduism. This is a miracle. Even an atheist can be a Hindu – an atheist cannot be a Christian – and even an atheist can become enlightened. Buddha is an atheist, he doesn't believe in God. He says there is no God, and even more mysterious, he says there is no soul. He says nothing exists, and yet he became one of the incarnations of a Hindu God. It is really mysterious. This atheist, Gautam Buddha, becomes the tenth avatar. He says there is no God and the Hindus said that he is an incarnation of God – he is “Bhagwan.”

Hindus say even a denial is a way of assertion; Hindus say even to say no is to say yes. This is very mysterious. They say even to say there is no God is to say God in a negative way. If God can be asserted in positive language, why not in negative? *It* is a word, *nothing* is also a word, and both are equally relevant. Buddha said no; then no becomes absolute, nothingness becomes the nature. Shankara says yes; then yes becomes absolute, that “yesness,” *brahman*, becomes the source. But Hindus say both mean the same. Each language, each pattern of expressing it, has its own benefits and its own dangers and pitfalls.

I myself am inclined towards the negative, hence so much emphasis on Zen masters. I really love these anecdotes – no mind, no truth, no understanding.

Your desire is positive. If God is asserted in a positive way your desire would not die: your desire will turn towards God and you will start desiring God. Negativity is to say no to all your desires, to all your objects of desire. Then all desires disappear and all objects disappear, and only you are left in your purity. That purity, that innocence – and the benediction of it – is what I want you to enjoy with me. It is not a teaching; I am not a teacher. It is not a doctrine, it is just you enjoying with me. I am available here, and if you put your mind aside we can celebrate. I am in an inner dance; you can also become a partner in it. You may call this my business.

My work is done as far as I am concerned because I am done. Now the energy has become compassion and an overflowing, and all those who really want to taste it are invited without any condition. You are not to give anything, you are simply to take. No discipline, no bargain – nothing is expected on your

part. It is a gift. It has always been so, it will always be so; the ultimate bliss is always a gift. That's why we have been calling it grace, *prasad*... As if the divine gives to you out of its overflowing energy.

I will tell you a story Jesus used to tell. He repeated it many times – he must have loved this story. He said...

Once it happened, a very rich man needed some laborers to work in his garden, so he sent a man to the marketplace. All the laborers who were available were called and they started working in the garden. Then others heard and they came in the afternoon. Then others heard and they came just when the sun was setting. But he employed them all.

And when the sun went down, he gathered all of them and paid them equally. Obviously those who had come in the morning became disappointed and said, “What injustice! What type of injustice is this? What are you doing? We came in the morning and we worked the whole day and these fellows came in the afternoon. They worked just for two hours. And a few have just come; they have not worked at all. This is injustice!”

The rich man laughed and said, “Don't think of others. Whatever I have given to you, is it not enough?”

They said, “It is more than enough, but it is injustice. Why are these people getting when they have just come?”

The rich man said, “I give them because I have too much; out of my abundance I give them. You need not be worried about this. You have received more than you expected so don’t compare. I am not giving to them because of their work, I am giving to them because I have too much, out of my abundance.”

Jesus says some work very hard to achieve the divine, some come just in the afternoon and some when the sun is just setting, and they all get the same amount. Those who had come in the morning must object: “This is too much!”

Just see: you have been meditating so much and suddenly someone comes just at evening and becomes enlightened. And you have been such a great ascetic. Just look: if all the ascetics reach and see that sinners are sitting just by the side of the throne of God, what will happen? They will become so sad: “What is happening? These sinners never disciplined their lives, they never worked and they are here, and we were thinking they would be in hell!”

There is no hell; there cannot be. How can hell exist? Out of God’s abundance everything is heaven. It should be so, it must be so, and it has to be so. Out of his abundance is heaven, there can be no hell. Hell is created by these ascetics because they cannot conceive of sinners in heaven. They have to make compartments; they cannot think that you will be there.

It is reported that a Hasid, a rabbi, Baal Shem, was visited by a woman. She was about seventy, her husband was eighty, and now he, by and by, was becoming a virtuous man. His whole life he had been a sinner, so she had come to Baal Shem to give her thanks to him because he had finally converted her husband, which was impossible – he had been a sinner his whole life. But now he was turning so she was very thankful to Baal Shem. She had always been a pious lady, never wavered, never went wrong, always had been on the right track and always thinking that heaven was just waiting to welcome her, and always knowing well that this husband of hers was going to hell.

She said to Baal Shem, “There can be hope now – even my husband may reach heaven.”

Baal Shem laughed and said, “The greater the sinner, the greater the saint.”

The woman became sad and said, “Then why didn’t you tell me before? You should have told me forty years ago.”

“The greater the sinner, the greater the saint.” This woman will be in such hell if she finds her husband in heaven. These so-called virtuous people have created hell; otherwise, out of divine abundance hell cannot exist. Saints will receive because they come in the morning; sinners will receive and they may have come in the evening. Everyone is going to receive: it is a gift.

I am here, not as a business but as a gift. But you are so afraid and fearful. You can understand business, you know the terms. You cannot understand a gift, you don't know the terms. That's the problem. You can understand if you have to fulfill some condition. If nothing is required of you, you are simply at a loss.

All expectations belong to the mind, all disciplines belong to the mind. All so-called sin and so-called saintliness belong to the mind. When there is no mind, there is no sinner and no saint, and the gift simply showers on you.

Enough for today.

Chapter 03: The Gates of Heaven and Hell

A warrior came to the Zen master Hakuin and asked,
“Is there such a thing as heaven and hell?”

Hakuin said, “Who are you?”

The warrior replied, “I am chief samurai to the emperor.”

Hakuin said, “You, a samurai? With a face like that, you look more like a beggar.”

At this the warrior became so angry he drew his sword.

Standing calmly in front of him Hakuin said, “Here open the gates of hell.”

Perceiving the master’s composure,
the soldier sheathed his sword and bowed.

Hakuin then said, “And here open the gates of heaven.”

Heaven and hell are not geographical. If you go in search of them you will never find them anywhere, because they are within you, they are psychological. The mind is heaven, and the mind is hell, and the mind has the capacity to become either. But people go on thinking everything is somewhere outside. We always go on looking for everything outside because to be inwards is very difficult. We are outgoing. If somebody says there is a God, we look at the sky. Somewhere, sitting there, will be the divine person.

A psychologist working in a school in America asked small children about God, what they think about God. Children have a clearer perception: they are less cunning, truer. They

are more representative of the human mind, they are unperverted. So he asked the children and their answers were collected. The conclusion was very ridiculous. In conclusion almost all the children depicted God something like this: God is an old man, very tall, bearded, and very dangerous. He creates fear. If you don't follow him, he will throw you into hell; if you pray and follow him, he will give you paradise and all the pleasures. He is sitting on a throne in the sky and watching everybody. You cannot escape him; even in your bathroom he is looking.

The outgoing mind projects everything outside. This is your God. Don't laugh and don't think that this is a child's conception – no, this is you. This is how you think about God: a cosmic spy, always searching to condemn, to throw you into hell, to punish, and very ferocious, revengeful. That's why all religions are based on fear: if you do this you will be appreciated, rewarded; if you don't do this you will be punished. But the base seems to be fear, and God seems to be just a very powerful emperor sitting on a throne in heaven. The whole concept is foolish, but human – the human mind *is* foolish. The whole concept is anthropocentric.

In the Bible it is said: "God created man in his own image." The reality seems to be quite the contrary: man created God in his own image. We have projected God in our own image. It is a blow-up of the human mind – a bigger human mind, that's all. Remember, if you think God is somewhere outside you, then you have not even taken the first step towards being religious.

The same happens with all concepts: heaven is without, hell is without, as if there exists nothing like that within. What is

within you? The moment you think of the within it seems that everything goes empty. What is within you? The world is without, sex is without, sin is without, virtue is without. God, heaven, hell – everything is without. What is within you? Who are you? The moment you think of the within the mind goes blank: there is nothing.

In reality everything is within. The outer is just a projection. Fear is within you; then the fear is projected as a hell. Hell is just a projected image on the screen of the fear that is within you – the anger, the jealousy, and all that is poisonous in you, all that is evil in you. Heaven is again a projected image on the screen – of all that is good and beautiful, of all that is blissful within you. The Devil is the fallen human being; God is the risen human being. God is the ultimate possibility of your beautitude; the Devil is the ultimate fall of you. There is nobody like the Devil existing somewhere. You will never meet him unless you become him. And you will never encounter God unless you become God.

In the East, religions transcended this anthropocentric attitude very long ago. Eastern religions are non-anthropocentric. They say you cannot encounter God, but you can become God. They say when you reach the ultimate point of existence there will be no God to receive you and welcome you. Only you will be there in your godliness.

So this can be said, and I go on insisting: there exists no God, but existence is divine. There exists no one like a person, a super-person, no one. God is non-existential, but godliness is existential. The moment I say godliness, it becomes something inward; the moment you say God, you have projected it.

This story is beautiful. The Zen master Hakuin is one of the rare flowerings. A warrior came to him, a samurai, a great soldier, and he asked, “Is there any hell, is there any heaven? And if there is a hell and a heaven, where are the gates? Where do I enter from? How can I avoid hell and choose heaven? Where are the gates?” He was a simple warrior. Warriors are always simple.

It is difficult to find a businessman who is simple. He is always cunning, clever; otherwise he cannot be a businessman. A warrior is always simple; otherwise he cannot be a warrior. He knows only two things: life and death – nothing much – and his life is always at stake, he is always gambling. He is a simple man. That’s why businessmen could not create a single Mahavira, a single Buddha, a single Krishna, or Rama. Even brahmins could not create a Rama, a Buddha, a Mahavira, because brahmins are also cunning, cunning in a different way.

They are also businessmen – of a different world, of the other. They deal in business, not of this world but of the other world. Their priesthood is a business; their religion is mathematics, arithmetic. They are also clever, very clever, cleverer than businessmen – because the businessman is limited to this world, the priests’ cunningness goes beyond. They always think of the other world, the rewards they are going to get there, and their rituals. Their whole mind is concerned with how to achieve more pleasures in the other world. They are concerned with pleasure: they are businessmen. Even brahmins could not create a Buddha. This is strange. All the twenty-four Jaina *tirthankaras* are kshatriyas, warriors. Buddha is a warrior; Rama and Krishna are warriors, simple people, with no cunning in their minds,

with no arithmetic. They know only two things: life and death.

So this simple warrior came to Hakuin to ask where heaven and hell are. He had not come to learn any doctrine; he wanted to know where the gate is, so he could avoid hell and enter heaven. Hakuin replied in a way only a warrior can understand. If a brahmin had been there, scriptures would have been needed. He would have quoted the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Bible, the Koran – then a brahmin would have understood. All that exists for a brahmin is in the scriptures; scriptures are the world. A brahmin lives in the word, in the verbal. If a businessman had been there he would not have understood the answer that Hakuin has given, the response, the way he acted with this warrior. A businessman always asks, “What is the price of your heaven? What is the cost? How can I attain it? What should I do? How virtuous should I be? What are the coins? What should I do so heaven can be attained?” He always asks for the price.

I have heard a beautiful story...

It happened in the beginning when God created the world. God came to earth and asked different races, religions... He came with Ten Commandments, the ten rules of life. The Jews have given so much significance to those ten rules – and the Christians also, the Mohammedans also, because these religions are Jewish, the source is the Jew, and the Jew is the perfect businessman.

So God came to ask, he came to the Hindus first, and asked, “Would you like to have Ten Commandments?”

The Hindus said, “What is the first? We must have a sample. We don’t know what these Ten Commandments are.”

God said, “Thou shalt not kill.”

The Hindus said, “It will be difficult. Life is complex, killing is involved. It is a great cosmic play: there is birth, death, fighting, competition. If all the competition is taken away the whole thing will become flat, dull. We don’t like these commandments – they will destroy the whole game.”

So he went to the Mohammedans and said, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” He gave them one example because they had also asked for a sample.

The Mohammedans said, “This will be difficult. Life will lose all beauty. At least four wives are needed. You call it adultery, but this is all that life can give; this is all that a virtuous man should have. Who knows of the other world? This is the world. You have given it to us to enjoy and now you have come with these commandments? This is contradictory.”

God went around and around. Then he came to Moses, the leader of the Jews. Moses never asked for a sample. The moment God said, “I have Ten Commandments...” And God was afraid: if Moses said no, then nobody would be left. He had asked everybody and nobody was ready, so this was the last hope. When God asked, “Would you like to have these Ten Commandments?” what did Moses reply? – he asked,

“How much do they cost?” This is how a perfect businessman thinks: the first thing to know is the cost.

God said, “Nothing.”

And Moses said, “Then I will take ten. If they cost nothing, there is no problem.” That’s how the Ten Commandments were born.

But this samurai was not a Jew; he was not a businessman, he was a warrior. He had come with a simple question. He was not interested in scriptures, he was not interested in cost – he was not interested really in any verbal answer. He was interested in reality.

What did Hakuin do? He asked, “Who are you?”

And the warrior replied, “I am a samurai.”

It is a very proud thing to be a samurai in Japan. It means the perfect warrior, a man who can give his life in a single moment, he will not hesitate. For him, life and death are just a game.

He said, “I am a samurai, I am a leader of samurais, and even the emperor pays respect to me.”

Hakuin laughed and said, “You, a samurai? You look like a beggar!”

The samurai's pride was hurt, his ego hammered. The samurai forgot why he had come. He took out his sword – he was just going to kill this Hakuin. He forgot that he had come to this master to ask where the gates of heaven and hell are. Then Hakuin laughed and said, “This is the gate of hell. With this sword, this anger, this ego, here opens the gate.” This is what a warrior can understand. Immediately he understood: this is the gate. He put his sword back in its sheath. And Hakuin said, “Here opens the gate of heaven.”

Hell and heaven are within you, both gates are within you. When you are unconscious, behaving unconsciously, there is the gate of hell. When you become alert and conscious, there is the gate of heaven.

What happened to this samurai? When he was just going to kill Hakuin, was he conscious? Was he conscious of what he was about to do? Was he conscious of what he had come for? All consciousness had disappeared. When the ego takes over, you cannot be alert. The ego is the drug, the intoxicant that makes you completely unconscious. You act, but the act comes from the unconscious, not from your consciousness. And whenever any act comes from the unconscious, the door of hell is open. Whatsoever you do, if you do it in a way that you are not aware of what you are doing... Unawareness is the gate of hell. Immediately the samurai became alert. When Hakuin said, “This is the gate, you have already opened it,” suddenly the very situation must have created alertness.

Just imagine what would have happened to you if you had been the warrior, if you had been the samurai, sword in hand, just about to kill. A single moment more and Hakuin's head would have been cut off, separated from the body – a single

moment more. Sword in hand... And Hakuin says, “This is the gate of hell.” This is not a philosophical answer; no master answers in a philosophical way. Philosophy exists only for mediocre, unenlightened minds. A master responds. A response is not verbal, it is total. Hakuin is playing with danger. This man may have killed him. But that is not the point. “Even if you kill me and it makes you alert, it is worth it” – Hakuin played the game. A single moment lost and this man would have killed him. In the right moment Hakuin said, “This is the gate.”

You may not have heard about samurais. If you are going to kill a samurai, your sword is in your hand, it is just going to touch his neck – the samurai is standing in front of you without any weapon, he cannot protect himself... Samurais have a particular sound, a mantra. He will say just a single word so loudly that all your energy will go, and you will become as if dead, a statue. He may simply say, “Hey!” You will become static, your hand will not move. That sound will hammer the heart, which controls everything. Your hand will become static, and the mind will be shocked; all activity will disappear. You cannot kill a samurai even if he is without weapons. Even a sound will become a protection. If you have a gun, your hands will not move or your aim will miss. It is just a sound, but the sound has to be made in a particular way so that it goes deep in the heart and changes your activity completely, changes the pattern of your activity.

When Hakuin said, “This is the gate!” the samurai must have remained static. In that static state, when all activity ceases, you become alert. Activity, occupation in the mind, is unconsciousness. You are continuously occupied – you are not unoccupied even for a single moment. Occupation is your

drug; that's why when you are without any activity you feel uneasy. You may start reading the same newspaper again – you will start doing something or other – you may open the window and close it again. Some activity is needed; otherwise your unconscious will break and you will become conscious.

So Zen says if a person can sit for six hours without doing anything he will become enlightened. For just six hours. But six hours is really too long; I say six minutes is enough. Even six seconds will do. If you can be completely, absolutely without activity for six seconds, what will happen? When you are not occupied you cannot be unconscious; when you are unoccupied, the whole energy becomes consciousness – a tremendous release.

The energy is engaged in occupation. The mind is thinking, the body is working, you are occupied. Your whole energy is moving in activity, and is being dissipated in the world. If you think, you are dissipating energy – because each thought takes energy, needs energy. You are continuously thinking and dissipating energy for nothing – just dissipating. Activity needs energy, and your infinite source of energy is being continuously dissipated. You are leaking from everywhere. That's why you feel so weak, so frustrated, so impotent.

This impotence feels like helplessness; you are omnipotent and yet you feel impotent. You have all the sources of infinite energy within you, you are related to the cosmic source, but you feel impotent because you are continuously dissipating the energy. If thoughts stop even for a single moment and activity is no more, if you have become like a statue, unmoving within and without, no movement either of the body or of the mind, then tremendous energy is released.

Where will it go now? No activity, then it cannot go without. You become a pillar of energy, a flame of energy. Everything becomes conscious inside, everything is lighted; your whole being is filled with light.

This must have happened to this warrior – stopped, sword in hand with Hakuin just in front of him, a master, an enlightened master. The eyes of Hakuin laughing, the face smiling, and the gate of heaven opened. He understood: the sword went back into its sheath. While putting the sword back into the sheath he must have been totally silent, peaceful. The anger had disappeared, and the energy that was moving in anger had become silence.

If you suddenly awake in the middle of anger, you will feel a peace you have never felt before. Energy was moving and suddenly it stops. You will have silence, immediate silence. You will fall into your inner being, and the fall will be so sudden, you will become aware. It is not a slow fall; it is so sudden that you cannot remain unaware. You can remain unaware only with routine things, with gradual things; you move so slowly that you don't feel the movement. Sudden movement – from activity to no-activity, from thought to no-thought, from mind to no-mind... This warrior realized. As the sword was going back into its sheath, the warrior realized. And Hakuin said, "Here open the doors of heaven."

Silence is the door. Inner peace is the door. Nonviolence is the door. Love, compassion, is the door.

Heaven and hell are not geographical, they are psychological; they are your psychology. And this is not a question to be decided on the last day of judgment. The human mind is so

clever at avoiding, at escaping. Christians, Mohammedans, and Jews have created a concept of the last day when everybody will be judged – you will be taken out of your grave and judged. Those who have followed Jesus, who have been good, who have behaved, will go to heaven. Those who have misbehaved, who have not followed Jesus, those who have not been in the church, should be thrown into hell, and this hell is going to be eternal.

The Christian hell is one of the most ridiculous things. It is eternal – there is no end to it. This seems to be simply injustice, sheer injustice; whatsoever sin you may have committed, no punishment which is eternal can be just. Bertrand Russell somewhere has joked, “If I calculate all my sins, sins that I have committed and sins that I have not committed, only brooded over – if they are also included – then the hardest judge can’t send me to jail for more than four years. And Christianity sends you to hell forever.” Bertrand Russell has written a book called *Why I Am Not a Christian*. This is one of his arguments. It is a beautiful argument because the whole thing seems to be ridiculous. And Christians believe in only one life...

If, as Hindus say, you have committed millions of sins in millions of lives then it may look logical to send a person to hell for eternity. But Christians believe in only one life, a life of seventy years. How can you commit so much sin that you deserve eternal hell? Even if you commit sin continuously every moment for seventy years, eternal hell still doesn’t look just. The whole thing seems to be revengeful. So God is not throwing you into hell because of your sins, but just because you were disobedient, just because you were rebellious, just because you didn’t listen to him. This seems to be revenge.

But revenge can be unjust. Is it punishment? It seems ridiculous.

The human mind has created a last judgment day. Why? Why wait for the last judgment day? The mind always postpones, pushes things ahead: the problem is not right here and now, it is a question of the last judgment day. We will see. The problem is not urgent, we will see what happens. There are ways and means... In the last moment you can follow Jesus, in the last moment you can surrender and say to God, "I was a sinner." Confess and be forgiven. And God is infinite compassion, God is love; he is going to forgive you.

Christians have evolved a technique of confession. You commit a sin? Go to the priest and confess. Confessed, you are relieved. If you confess honestly you are ready to sin again; the past sin is forgiven. Once you know the trick, the key – that you can commit a sin and can be forgiven – who is going to prevent you from committing more? So the same people keep coming to the priest every Sunday and they go on confessing. Sometimes the ego is such that people have confessed sins that they have never committed. The ego is such that if you start confessing, you may become so involved in it that you may start confessing sins that you have not committed. Because to be a greater sinner is so ego-filling – and then the greater the sinner, the greater will be the forgiveness of the divine.

It is said... Leo Tolstoy wrote his autobiographical notes. Those who have studied Leo Tolstoy deeply, say that many of the sins he says he committed, he never committed. He was enjoying. Jean-Jacques Rousseau has written *The Confessions*, his autobiography; the sins he confesses he

never committed. The same is possible with Mahatma Gandhi; in his autobiography the things he depicts himself as committing may be exaggerations. This is how the ego works: whatever you say it goes to the extreme, and then there is a beautiful feeling, “I have confessed, and now I am relieved, now I am forgiven. I was a sinner in the past but now I am a saint.” And if you were a small sinner, how can you be a great saint? To be a great saint you must have been a great sinner.

The last judgment, confession, are tricks of the mind. Heaven and hell are not at the end, they are here and now. Every moment the door opens; every moment you go on wavering between hell and heaven. It is a moment-to-moment question, it is urgent. In a single moment you can move from hell to heaven and from heaven to hell.

This is the meaning of the story. In a single moment – not even a single moment has passed and Hakuin says, “This is the gate of hell. Now the gate of hell opens.” Not a single moment has passed and he says, “Look, this is the gate of heaven.”

Heaven and hell are not very distant, they are neighbors; only a small fence divides them. You can jump that fence even without a gate. You go on jumping from this to that. In the morning you may be in heaven; by evening you are in hell. This moment heaven, and that moment hell. It is just an attitude, just a state of your mind, just how you are feeling. Many times in a single life you may visit hell, and many times you may visit heaven. In a single day also...

There is a beautiful story of a disciple of Mahavira. He was a great king who renounced and became a disciple of Mahavira. He was very ascetic, austere, and did whatsoever Mahavira said, to the very extreme. His name spread all over the country – it was Prasannachandra. Even kings started coming to pay homage to him.

Another king, Bimbisar, who had been a friend of Prasannachandra when he was a king, came to the cave where Prasannachandra was standing naked under the sun, with closed eyes. Bimbisar bowed down in front of Prasannachandra and thought, “When will the time come when I will also become so peaceful, so silent, blissful? This man has achieved. Just a statue!”

Then he went to Mahavira, Prasannachandra’s master – he was also near, somewhere in the same forest. He asked Mahavira, “Bhagwan, just before coming to you I went to Prasannachandra. He was standing with closed eyes, so blissful, so heavenly. He has achieved. When will the moment come for me? I am not so fortunate – I feel jealous. And I have another question: if Prasannachandra had died that very moment when I was there paying my respects to him, where would he reach? Which heaven would he attain?” – because Jainas say there are seven heavens and seven hells.

Mahavira said, “He will fall to the seventh hell.”

Bimbisar couldn’t understand; he was puzzled and confused. He said, “What are you saying – the seventh hell? Prasannachandra was standing so silently, so peacefully, so meditatively; he was in such ecstasy! If he falls to the seventh

hell what will happen to me? Are there more hells beyond the seventh? No, you must be joking. Tell me the truth.”

Mahavira said, “This *is* the truth. Just before you, a few people had passed by. They also went to pay homage to Prasannachandra, and they started gossiping around him. He heard, and the doors of hell opened. Those people came from his capital, the old capital where he had been king. They said, ‘This fool has renounced all! The prime minister, to whom he has given the whole responsibility for running the kingdom, is a thief. He is looting, he is destroying. And when Prasannachandra’s son comes of age, when he comes to be king, there will be nothing left – and this fool is standing here with closed eyes.’ Prasannachandra heard this, and suddenly the door of hell opened... He forgot.”

He was also a samurai, a warrior, a kshatriya. He completely forgot that he had renounced, he forgot that there was no sword; he completely forgot that he was now a monk. This samurai who had gone to Hakuin had a sword. Prasannachandra had none, he was standing naked. But he pulled out his sword – the sword that was not there, it was just an illusion – and completely forgot that now he was a sannyasin. The whole thing became so burdensome, so much anxiety was created by the news, that he pulled his sword out of the sheath and said, “I am alive! What does that prime minister think? I will go and cut off his head. I am still here!” Just because of an old habit... Whenever he used to become angry in the old days he would always touch his crown, so he touched his crown. There was no crown, just a shaven head. Suddenly he remembered, “What am I doing? There is no sword; I am a sannyasin and have renounced all.”

Mahavira said, “The very moment he realized this, if he had died he would have achieved the seventh heaven. Prasannachandra realized what he had been imagining. Just through imagination the door of hell was opened; now it had closed. If he had died at this moment he would have achieved the seventh heaven.”

Hell and heaven are within you. The doors are very close: with the right hand you can open one, with the left hand you can open another. Just a change of your mind and your being is transformed – from heaven to hell and from hell to heaven. This goes on continuously. What is the secret? The secret is that whenever you are unconscious, whenever you act unconsciously, without awareness, you are in hell; whenever you are conscious, whenever you act with full awareness, you are in heaven. If this awareness becomes so integrated and consolidated that you never lose it, then there is no hell for you. If unconsciousness becomes so consolidated and crystallized that you never lose it, then there is no heaven.

But fortunately unconsciousness can never become so consolidated; a part always remains conscious. When your whole being seems to be unconscious, even then a witnessing part always remains conscious. Even while you are asleep, a part is witnessing. That’s why in the morning you sometimes say the sleep was beautiful. Sometimes you say the sleep was disturbed, nightmarish; sometimes you say, “I slept so deeply, so peacefully, it was such great happiness.” Who knows this? – because you were asleep, so who knows that you were so happy in sleep? A part has witnessed; a part was continuously alert, knowing. Who knows that the sleep has been

nightmarish, that you were disturbed, uneasy, uncomfortable? You were asleep, so who knows? A part has remained a witness. Even in sleep a part of you knows. You cannot become completely unconscious.

Consciousness, once achieved, cannot be lost. You can forget it but it cannot be lost. You cannot reverse the process. You cannot be eternally in hell – the Christian doctrine is absolutely false – but you can be eternally in heaven. This is the Hindu concept. Hell can be only temporary, it can be only for the time being, it is temporal. Heaven can be eternal. To make a distinction between the momentary heaven and the eternal heaven Hindus have a different word, *moksha*. Hindus have three words; Christians, Mohammedans and Jews have only two words. Heaven and hell are the two words for Mohammedans, Christians and Jews. Hindus say *naraka*, hell; *swarga*, heaven; and *moksha* – beyond both, a third word. Hindus say heaven is not worth achieving because it can be lost. When the state of heaven becomes permanent, when it cannot be lost, it is *moksha*, it is absolute freedom. Then bliss has become your nature; then heaven and hell have disappeared. Then wherever you are, it will make no difference. You will be in permanent bliss.

This third state is the aim. But you cannot reach the third if you go on flickering, if you go on wavering between heaven and hell; then nothing can be consolidated, integrated. Then you live in a flux. Then there is no crystallization, your being is liquid. Sometimes it moves to hell, sometimes to heaven. Nothing is achieved. Crystallization means you become more and more conscious, you become more and more centered, you become more and more grounded – less and less sleep,

more and more awareness. A moment comes when even while you are asleep, you are conscious.

Ananda used to sleep in Buddha's room with him. A buddha is worth watching even while he is asleep. So Ananda used to watch sometimes – it is such a beautiful phenomenon, a buddha asleep. He looks like a small child, innocent, with no burden of the day, no dreaming.

You dream only because you carry the burden, you dream only because the day is incomplete. You have left many things incomplete; they have to be completed in the dream. You looked at a woman, you desired her, but it was not possible. Society, the law, the state, morality, your own conscience... You diverted your attention. You escaped from the woman but she will follow you in the dream. The act has to be completed. You are going to make love to this woman, if not in reality then in a dream. Only then will you feel at ease. An incomplete act becomes a burden.

A buddha sleeps dreamlessly because nothing is incomplete. There is no desire, there is no passion, so nothing arises and nothing remains. Things pass as if they pass in front of a mirror. A woman passes: a buddha looks but no passion arises. The woman has passed, the mirror is vacant again. There is no trace, no mark of it. He is dreamless.

Even a child is not dreamless, even a child has desires. Maybe the desire is not for a woman – it may be for a new toy, it may be for something else, but even a child dreams. Even a cat, a dog, dreams. Look at a cat sleeping and you will feel that it is dreaming of rats: jumping, catching, frustrated, and sometimes very happy if the rat is caught. Look at a dog

sleeping: you can feel it is dreaming about flies or about bones, about fighting. Sometimes it is very tense, sometimes very relaxed, but the sleep is disturbed.

To look at a buddha while he is asleep is very beautiful, so Ananda used to watch. Buddha would go to sleep, and Ananda would sit and look at him. Buddha was such a silent pool of being. Nothing incomplete, everything, every moment, complete and perfect... No dream, no traces. The mind a clear mirror, the stream of consciousness never muddled; crystal clear.

Ananda became puzzled because Buddha would always sleep in the same posture. He would remain in the same posture the whole night; he would not change his posture. The posture he would lie down in, that same posture has become very famous: it is called the lying posture. You may have seen Buddha's pictures: there are many statues in Sri Lanka, China, Japan, and India. If you go to Ajanta there is a statue of Buddha lying down. That is the posture, and that posture, how Buddha lies, has been reported by Ananda. The same posture the whole night, not even changing sides.

So one day Ananda asked, "Bhagwan, everything is okay, but one thing puzzles me: you remain in the same posture the whole night. Are you asleep or not? – because if someone is asleep he will change his posture. Are you asleep or not? Even while you are asleep or appear to be asleep, it seems you are alert, it seems you are conscious. It seems that you know what the body is doing. You do not even change your posture unconsciously."

Buddha said, “Yes, when the mind is silent, non-dreaming, only the body sleeps. Consciousness remains alert.”

Krishna has said to Arjuna in the Gita, “While you sleep the yogi remains awake. Even in the night his sleep is not sleepy. His sleep is only in the body, a rest in the body, a relaxation in the body, but his consciousness is alert.” Really a yogi’s consciousness needs no relaxation because it is always relaxed, there is no tension. Relaxation is needed because of tension. You are so tense the whole day, the consciousness has to be relaxed. A yogi’s body relaxes because the body gets tired – the body is a mechanism – but his consciousness is always alert, continually alert. It is a continuum of alertness.

When your consciousness becomes a continuum, there are no gaps of unconsciousness. When there is no darkness within you, your whole inner temple has become enlightened. The light has reached to every corner and no part of your inner house is in darkness. You are a *mukta*, you are a free man. This is the meaning of a christ. You are Christ arisen, resurrected. Now there is no night for you, only the day exists; now the sun never sets.

Heaven means consciousness, hell means unconsciousness; there is the possibility to move to either. When the possibility disappears there is no hell, no heaven. Then a third, the ultimate, opens – the door. You become free, you become freedom. This is the goal.

Hakuin did well, but this could only have been done with a warrior. The warrior responded immediately – he became angry, and became totally angry. If he had been a

businessman, he would have smiled; anger would have been inside. He would not have been ready immediately to cut off Hakuin's head, and Hakuin's response would have been useless.

You do that also: when you are angry you smile. You are so inauthentic and false that even in anger you lie. Your love cannot be believed because even your anger is unbelievable. Your whole life is a continuous lie: whatsoever you do, you are not true. Angry, you are not true. You paint it, you smile, you hide it – you show something else. Then you cannot be made alert that this is the gate of hell.

This warrior was like a child – he became totally angry. He became so angry that he was going to kill this man. Yet he had come to be a disciple; he had come in search of a master and he was going to kill this man! He was total. This totalness helped. If you are total in your anger, you will be total when the anger disappears. If you are false in your anger, you cannot be real in your silence.

So when Hakuin said, “Look, you have opened the door of hell,” immediately the samurai realized. This can be realized only if you are total and true; otherwise it cannot be realized. You are such a deceiver you would have deceived Hakuin. You would have smiled. That means the door of hell would have been open, but painted with the signboard of heaven. It looks from the outside as if it is heaven but inside it is hell. You would have been divided and fragmented. No, it would not have been of much help. This warrior became so total in his anger, he lost all his consciousness. He became anger, he was not angry. There was no one who was angry – he simply became anger. The whole energy became anger, he was mad.

At such a peak things can be realized because then they become penetrative, and then somebody can be made alert.

Hakuin said, “Look!” and the warrior could look. He was a true man. When Hakuin said, “This is the gate of hell,” he could realize. When you are total you can realize. Suddenly the anger disappeared. And because it was total, it disappeared totally. If it had been fragmentary it could not have disappeared totally. It was total; it disappeared totally. A deep silence was left behind.

This is what I have been telling you continuously: be total, be authentic, be true. If you are a sinner, then be a true sinner; don't try to create a facade of being a saint. A true sinner is bound to become a saint sooner or later. Time is irrelevant. A true sinner is true – that is the point. Sin is not the point.

I have heard...

A peddler was caught and brought to court. He was peddling without a license. He was a new man in town but he knew that a license was needed. There were a few other persons standing before the magistrate – three women had also been caught. They were prostitutes without licenses. This is really a wonderful world – governments even issue licenses for prostitution. They were caught without licenses, so the magistrate asked the first woman, “What do you say? Who are you and what are you doing?”

The woman said, “I am a model.” She was lying. The magistrate sentenced her to thirty days of hard labor.

He asked the second woman. She said, “Somewhere something is wrong. I have been wrongly caught; I am an actress.” The magistrate sentenced her for sixty days.

He looked at the third woman. The third woman said, “My lord, I am a prostitute.”

The magistrate could not believe that a prostitute could be so true, that anybody could confess so truly. He said, “Authenticity has become so rare that you have shocked me. I have never encountered anyone who is true. I forgive you. I will not give you any punishment. You can go.”

Then came the number of the peddler. The magistrate asked, “What were *you* doing?”

He said, “To be frank, I am also a prostitute.”

This is what is going on – faces, false faces all over, deception. You are not even aware of how you deceive and whom you are deceiving. There is no one to be deceived; you are deceiving yourself by trying to escape, trying to hide.

This un-trueness was not there. That warrior was a true man, ready to kill or ready to die. He became so inflamed, he became afire. The door was open. Your door to hell is never completely open – you sneak through the holes. Your door to heaven is also never open – you enter from the back door.

To be total is a basic thing for any seeker, for anyone who is in search of silence and truth. When you are angry, be angry;

don't think of the consequences. Let the consequences be there, suffer them, but don't deceive yourself. When entering hell, enter totally. Don't leave half your mind outside; go into it, pass through it, suffer. Pain is going to be there, but pain gives maturity. Suffering is going to be there, but you can transcend it if you understand. And only a total mind can understand. When anger disappears, you will become so silent, so meditative.

If you love, then love totally; if you hate, then hate totally. Don't be fragmentary; suffer the consequences. Because of the consequences, you try to deceive: you are a peddler and you say you are a prostitute. Just because of the consequences you are never angry, never hateful – but then you miss heaven also. One who is not capable of completely opening the door of hell will not be capable of completely opening the door of heaven either. Go through hell. The path passes through there; heaven is achieved through hell. This is the meaning of this story.

Hakuin first created hell for the warrior because hell must be created first. Hell is easy to create – you are always ready, always knocking on the door. You are afraid, but always ready; not courageous, but always ready; not daring, but always ready. There is continuous turmoil inside. Hakuin could not have created heaven first. That is impossible because no one is ready. Heaven is very far away; hell is nearby, just around the corner. You move and you are in it.

I also cannot create heaven for you. That is why all my meditative techniques are designed to create hell first. People come to me and say, “Make us silent. Why do you insist on us going mad?”

I cannot do anything – you cannot become silent. Be totally mad first. I create hell for you and you have to pass through it. It is the nearest thing you can easily do. Heaven is very far away. One who has not yet traveled through hell cannot reach heaven. My insistence is a very considered one.

You can understand the story now. Hakuin said to the warrior, “You, a samurai? Your face looks like a beggar’s.”

A samurai cannot tolerate this, this is too much. A beggar? He will never beg even for his life. He can die but he cannot beg. Immediately he was touched to the very core. A beggar? Impossible! The sword came out.

I am touching you, hitting you, hammering you with all my meditation techniques just to bring your hell out. But you are such a coward that even if you bring out your hell, it is not total. You play with it, but you are not involved in it; you are fragmentary, you become only lukewarm. But lukewarmness won’t do. You have to be boiling, only then can you evaporate. The ego evaporates only at the one hundred degree boiling point, not before. You just become lukewarm. It is of no use, an unnecessary waste of heat. Again you will become cold; after the meditation you will become cold. Go to the extreme point. In your catharsis, open the door of hell and I promise you, if you can open the gate of hell, I will open the other gate immediately. It is always open; once you open the gate of hell, it is just near.

To say this much is enough: “Look, this is the gate of hell.” Then the gate closes, and the other gate opens.

Anything more?

Osho,

How does what you just said about heaven and hell tie in with what you've been saying about roots and wings? When you say roots into this earth and wings into that heaven, I've got a feeling of being infinitely stretched – that earth is close and heaven is far away. What is the significance of “this” and “that”?

Yes, this earth is close, not because it is close, but because of you. Heaven is far away, not because it is far away, but because of you.

“This” means this world, this means this body. This means these desires, these passions, the physical, the visible. This means all that has been condemned by religions. They are always against this and for that. “That” means *brahman*, that means *moksha*, that means the divine. This means this material world, this devilish world, this which is condemned. All the religions have condemned this world.

I don't condemn it. I want to give you roots into this world.

All the religions have said unless you are uprooted from this you will not get wings into that. They are against this: the world, the body, the material, the visible. All you feel as near, they are against. They are for something that is very far away, something abstract: God, *brahman*, *moksha*. Nobody knows, nobody has any contact with it, no communion, no touch with it. It looks like a dream, looks like poetry, it looks imaginary. All the religions have condemned this. They say, “Be uprooted.” That's why they call sannyas renouncing the

world; renouncing this is what they call sannyas. Not I. They create a dualism – not only dualism, but an antagonism between this and that, between time and eternity, between physical and spiritual.

To me, roots into this will help to give you wings into that. I don't create any antagonism; there is none. Antagonism comes from a mind that is in conflict, in duality. Out of conflict, theories are created which are dual, conflicting. I am nondual, I have no conflict, so I see that not as against this, but as a flowering of this. I see wings not against roots, but as a flowering of the roots. These trees have wings into the sky – their branches are their wings. They have roots into the earth and wings into the sky. I would like you to be a strong tree – with roots into this and wings into that.

My God is not against the world, my God is *in* the world. My God *is* the world. This earth is not against that heaven; they are two polarities of the same phenomenon.

This appears near to you because your mind is not yet in a state to see the invisible. Your mind is so disturbed, so coarse, that you can see only the visible, the rough; the subtle escapes you. If your mind becomes silent, thoughtless, the subtle will become visible. God is not invisible; he is visible everywhere. But your mind is not yet tuned to see the subtle, to see the invisible. It can be seen. *Invisible* means that which cannot be seen; but no, the invisible *can* be seen, only you need more subtle, more refined eyes. A blind man cannot see, he cannot see that which is visible to you; but his eyes can be cured and then he will see the sunlight, colors, rainbows. All that was invisible before has now become visible.

God is not invisible. You don't have the right eyes, that's all; you are not a tuned being for which the subtle opens its doors.

For me, this and that are not divided. This reaches into that; that comes into this. For you, that means the far away – not for me. For me, this is that; someday it will be the case for you also: this will be that. This world is God. This visible hides the invisible of that. That's why my sannyas is not a renunciation. My sannyas is not against anything; it is for the totality, for the whole.

Be rooted in the body so you can have wings in the soul. Be rooted in the earth so you can spread into the sky; be rooted in the visible so you can reach into the invisible. Don't create duality and don't create any antagonism. If I am against anything, I am against antagonism. I am against being against anything. I am for the whole, for the complete circle. The world and God are not divided anywhere. There is no boundary: the world goes on spreading into God and God goes on spreading into the world. Really, to use two words is not good. But language creates problems: we say the creator and the created. We divide because language is dualistic. Really, in existence there is no created and no creator, only creativity, only a process of infinite creativity. Nothing is divided, everything is one – undivided.

Language is just like political maps. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are divided on the political maps. If you move on the earth and ask the earth where India ends and Pakistan begins, the earth will laugh and think you mad. The earth is round, it is one; only on political maps... And maps are false. Politicians are madmen, madmen who have attained power.

Politicians are more dangerous than other madmen who live in madhouses – because madmen there have no power.

Language is like political maps: words divide, but existence is one. Where do you end and I begin? Where is the point that we can draw a line where I end and you begin? Where? There cannot be any demarcation. The air goes on flowing in you. You breathe: if even for a moment the air is not flowing in you, if the breath is not coming, you will be dead. The air that was in me just a moment before has left me and entered you. It was my life just a moment before, now it is your life. Your breath has reached me: it was your life, now it is my life. Where are we divided?

Life goes on flowing. Life is something in between me and you. Trees go on creating oxygen and you breathe it. If the trees disappear, you will disappear. The trees go on changing cosmic rays into food – that is what fruit and vegetables are. If they disappear, you will be no more. They are constantly creating food for you, that's how you exist. This greenery is in a constant process of creating food for you; you depend on it.

The clouds go on moving, bringing water for you. The whole is connected. The faraway sun sends its rays to you and those rays are life. If the sun simply disappears, all life will disappear. Even the sun gets its energy from some source. Scientists have not yet been able to find that source, but if that source disappears then everything will disappear. Everything is related, joined together. This world does not exist in fragments, it exists as a whole, as one whole.

To me, this plus that is godliness. That's why I say very contradictory things. I would like to give you two things: roots into this earth, into all that is earthly, and wings into that heaven, into all that is abstract for you now, into all that you cannot even comprehend, that cannot be conceptualized – roots into the finite and wings into the infinite. And you need not renounce this, because if you renounce this you are renouncing your roots. That has happened; that is why your monks, your sadhus, look so dead. They have renounced this; they are uprooted beings. Uproot a tree and you are exposing the part that was hidden in the earth. But soon the flowers will die, the branches will die, the leaves will start falling.

That's what is happening to your sannyasins, the so-called old sannyasins. They destroy their roots because they are against this earth and then their flowering stops. Have you ever seen an old sannyasin who is in a flowering state, who is blossoming every day, who is giving anew every day, who is flowering into the unknown every day? No, you will find a rigid, patterned, disciplined, dead being there.

Mahavira may have been alive, but the followers of Mahavira... Go and look at them, look at their faces. You cannot see any flowers there. Their eyes are dull and dead. They are uprooted trees. They have to be pitied; much compassion is needed, they need much help. They are ill – because without roots they are bound to be ill. They may have destroyed their sex but they don't know that they have destroyed their love also. Sex is this; love is that. When you destroy sex you destroy love.

I say go so deeply into sex that it becomes love, that your very roots start flowering, that your very roots become

blossoms. The beginning becomes the end, the seed becomes the tree. Go so deeply into it that the other is found hidden there. It is always there. You can control your anger but then there will be no compassion. Go so deeply into anger that anger becomes compassion. Then something, a miracle, has happened to you. Then you will be blessed, then there will be benediction; then only there will be ecstasy.

This earth symbolizes all that has been condemned, and that heaven symbolizes all that has been desired. But I don't divide. To me, both are one. And the day will soon come for you too when you will be able to see that this is pregnant with that. This world is just a womb for the divine; the earthly is just a cover, a protective cover, for the unearthly. The seed, the shell of the seed, is not against the tree – it is a protection. Matter is just a protection for the divine.

Look, and always try to find the unity. In unity is religion, in disunity religion is lost. And avoid being against, because if you are against you will become rigid, hard, and the harder you become, the more dead you will be.

I have heard that once a gang of robbers by mistake entered a monastery. They thought this house belonged to some rich man – the monastery had a look of richness – and they entered during the night. But the monks gave them such a hard fight that they were happy when they succeeded in escaping.

When they met again outside the town, one of the robbers philosophized, “Not bad, we have a hundred rupees among us.”

The leader said, “You fools! I have always told you to avoid monks. We had five hundred rupees when we entered the monastery!”

I also say to you: avoid monks. If you enter the monastery with five hundred flowers you will have only one hundred when you come out. They are enemies, enemies of this, and I say those who are enemies of this are bound to be enemies of that – whether they know it or not is not the point.

Love this, and love it so deeply that your love transcends this and reaches that. That’s what I mean: roots into this earth and wings into that heaven.

Enough for today.

Chapter 04: Have a Cup of Tea

Joshu, the Zen master, asked a new monk in the monastery, “Have I seen you before?”

The monk replied, “No sir.”

Joshu said, “Then have a cup of tea.”

Joshu then turned to another monk: “Have I seen you here before?”

The second monk said, “Yes sir, of course you have.”

Joshu said, “Then have a cup of tea.”

Later the managing monk of the monastery asked Joshu, “How is it you make the same offer of tea to any reply?”

At this Joshu shouted, “Manager, are you still here?”

The manager replied, “Of course, master.”

Joshu said, “Then have a cup of tea.”

The story is simple, but difficult to understand. It is always so. The simpler a thing, the more difficult it is to understand. To understand, something complex is needed; to understand, you have to divide and analyze. A simple thing cannot be divided and analyzed – there is nothing to divide and analyze, the thing is so simple. The simplest always escapes understanding; that is why God cannot be understood. God is the simplest thing, absolutely the simplest thing possible. The world can be understood; it is very complex. The more complex a thing is, the more the mind can work on it. When it is simple, there is nothing to grind, the mind cannot work.

Logicians say that simple qualities are indefinable. For example, if somebody asks you, “What is yellow?” – it is such a simple quality, the color yellow, how will you define it? You will say, “Yellow is yellow.” The man will say, “That I know, but what is the definition of yellow?” If you say yellow is yellow you are not defining, you are simply repeating the same thing again. It is tautology.

One of the most penetrating minds of this century, G. E. Moore, has written a book, *Principia Ethica*. The whole book consists of a very persistent effort to define what is good. Making efforts from all directions, in two or three hundred pages – and two, three hundred pages of G. E. Moore is worth three thousand pages of anybody else – he comes to the conclusion that good is indefinable. It cannot be defined, it is such a simple quality. When something is complex there are many things in it; you can define one thing by another that is present there. If you and I are in a room and you ask me, “Who are you?” I can at least say that I am not you. This will become the definition, the indication. But if I am alone in the room and I ask myself the question, “Who am I?” the question resounds, but there is no answer. How to define it?

That is why God has been missed. Intellect denies it, reason says no. God is the simplest denominator in existence – the most simple and the most basic. The mind stops. There is nothing other than God, so how to define it? God is alone in the room. That is why religions have been trying to divide; then definition is possible. They say, “This world is not that. God is not the world, God is not matter, God is not the body, God is not desire.” These are ways to define.

You have to put something against something else and then a boundary can be drawn. How do you draw a boundary if there is no neighbor? Where do you place the fence of your house if there is no neighborhood? If there is no one beside you, how can you fence in your house? Your house's boundary consists of the presence of your neighbor. God is alone; there is no neighbor. Where does it begin? Where does he end? Nowhere. How can you define God? Just to define God, the Devil was created. God is not the Devil – at least this much can be said. You may not be able to say what God is but you can say what it is not: God is not the world.

I was just reading a Christian theologian's book. He says God is everything except evil. But that too is enough to define. This much will draw a boundary: except evil. He is not aware: if God is everything, then from where does this evil come? It must be coming from everything. Otherwise there is some other source of existence besides God, and that other source of existence becomes equivalent to God. Then evil can never be destroyed. It has its own source of existence. The evil is not dependent on God so how can God destroy it? And God will not destroy it, because once evil is destroyed God cannot be defined. To define him he needs the Devil to be always there, just around him. Saints need sinners, otherwise they will not be there. How will you know who is a saint? Every saint needs sinners around him; those sinners make the boundary. A simple thing means alone.

The first thing to be understood is that complex things can be understood, simple things cannot. This Joshu story is very simple – so simple it escapes you. You try to grip it, you try to grasp it – it escapes. It is so simple that the mind cannot work on it. Try to feel the story. I will not say try to

understand because you cannot understand it – try to feel the story. Many things are hidden in it if you try to feel it. If you try to understand it nothing is there – the whole anecdote is absurd.

Joshu sees one monk and asks, “Have I seen you before?”

The man says, “No sir, there is no possibility. I have come for the first time, I am a stranger – you could not have seen me before.”

Joshu says, “Okay, then have a cup of tea.” Then he asks another monk, “Have I seen you before?”

The monk says, “Yes sir, you must have seen me. I have always been here; I am not a stranger.”

This monk must have been a disciple of Joshu’s, and Joshu says, “Okay, then have a cup of tea.”

The manager of the monastery was puzzled: with two different persons responding in different ways, two different answers were needed. But Joshu responds in the same way to the stranger and to the friend, to one who has come for the first time and to one who has been here always. To the unknown and to the known, Joshu responds in the same way. He makes no distinction, none at all. He doesn’t say, “You are a stranger. Welcome! Have a cup of tea.” He doesn’t say to the other, “You have always been here so there is no need for a cup of tea.” Nor does he say, “You have always been here so there is no need to respond.”

Familiarity creates boredom; you never receive the familiar. You never look at your wife. She has been with you for many, many years and you have completely forgotten that she exists. What is the face of your wife? Have you looked at her recently? You may have completely forgotten her face. If you close your eyes and meditate and remember, you may remember the face you looked at for the first time. But your wife has been a flux, a river, constantly changing. The face has changed; now she has become old. The river has been flowing and flowing, new bends have been reached; the body has changed. Have you looked at her recently? She is so familiar there is no need to look. We look at something which is unfamiliar. We look at something which strikes us as strange. They say familiarity breeds contempt; it breeds boredom.

I have heard an anecdote...

Two businessmen, very rich, were relaxing on Miami Beach. They were lying down, taking a sunbath. One said, "I can never understand what people see in Elizabeth Taylor, the actress. I don't understand what people see, why they become so mad. What is there? You take her eyes away, you take her hair away, you take her lips away, you take her figure away, and what is left, what have you got?"

The other man grunted, became sad and replied, "My wife – that's what's left."

That is what has become of your wife, of your husband – nothing is left. Because of familiarity, everything has disappeared. Your husband is a ghost; your wife is a ghost with no figure, with no lips, with no eyes – just an ugly phenomenon. This has not always been so. You fell in love with this woman once, but that woman is no longer there; now you don't look at her at all.

Really, husbands and wives avoid looking at each other. I have stayed with many families and watched: husbands and wives avoid looking at each other. They have created many games to avoid; they are always uneasy when they are left alone. A guest is always welcome because both can look at the guest and avoid each other.

This Joshu seems to be absolutely different, behaving in the same way with a stranger and a friend. The monk says, "I have always been here sir, you know me well."

And Joshu says, "Then have a cup of tea."

The manager couldn't understand. Managers are always stupid; to manage, a stupid mind is needed. And a manager can never be deeply meditative. It is difficult: he has to be mathematical, calculating. He has to see the world and arrange things accordingly. The manager became disturbed. What is this? What is happening? This looks illogical. It's okay to offer a cup of tea to a stranger but to this disciple who has always been here? So he asked, "Why do you respond in the same way to different persons, to different questions?"

Joshu called loudly, “Manager, are you here?”

The manager said, “Yes sir, of course I am here.”

And Joshu said, “Then have a cup of tea.”

This asking loudly, “Manager, are you here?” is calling his presence, his awareness. Awareness is always new, it is always a stranger, the unknown. The body becomes familiar, not the soul – ever. You may know the body of your wife; you will never know the unknown hidden person – never. That cannot be known. You can love: it is a mystery, you cannot explain it.

When Joshu called, “Manager, are you here?” suddenly the manager became aware. He forgot that he is a manager, he forgot that he is a body; he responded from his heart. He said, “Yes sir.” This asking loudly was so sudden; it was just like a shock. And it was futile, that’s why he said, “Of course I am here. You need not ask me, the question is irrelevant.” Suddenly the past, the old, the mind, drops. The manager is no longer there – simply a consciousness responding. Consciousness is always new, constantly new; it is always being born, it is never old.

Then Joshu says, “Then have a cup of tea.”

The first thing to be felt is that for Joshu, everything is new, strange, mysterious. Whether it is the known or the unknown, the familiar or the unfamiliar, makes no difference. If you come to this garden every day, by and by you will stop looking at the trees. You will think you have already looked at them, that you know them. By and by you will stop

listening to the birds; they will be singing, but you will not listen. You will have become familiar; your eyes are closed, your ears are closed. But if Joshu comes to this garden – and he may have been coming every day for many, many lives – he will hear the birds, he will look at the trees. Everything, every moment, is new.

This is what awareness means. For awareness everything is constantly new, nothing is old. Nothing can be old because everything is being created every moment. It is a continuous flow of creativity. Awareness never carries memory as a burden.

So the first thing: a meditative mind always lives in the new, in the fresh. The whole existence is just born – as fresh as a dewdrop, as fresh as a leaf coming out in the spring. It is just like the eyes of a newborn babe: everything is fresh, clear, with no dust on it. This is the first thing to be felt. If you look at the world and feel everything is old, that shows that you are not meditative. Really, when you feel everything is old, that shows that you have an old mind, a rotten mind. If your mind is fresh, the world is fresh. The world is not the question, the mirror is the question. If there is dust on the mirror, the world is old. If there is no dust on the mirror, how can the world be old? If things get old you will live in boredom. Everybody lives in boredom, everybody is bored to death.

Look at people's faces: they carry life as a burden – bored, with no meaning. It seems that everything is just a nightmare, a very cruel joke; somebody is playing a trick, torturing them. Life is not a celebration, it cannot be. With a mind burdened by memory, life cannot be a celebration. Even if you laugh, your laughter carries boredom. Look at people laughing: they

laugh with an effort. Their laugh may be just to be mannerly; their laughter may be just etiquette.

I have heard about one dignitary who went to Africa to visit a community, a very old, primitive community of aboriginals. He gave a long lecture. He told a very long anecdote – for almost half an hour the anecdote continued – then the interpreter stood up. He spoke only four words and the primitives laughed heartily. The dignitary was puzzled. He had been telling the anecdote for half an hour, how could it be translated in four words? It seems impossible. And people understood; they were laughing, a belly laugh. Puzzled, he said to the interpreter, “You have done a miracle. You have spoken only four words. I don’t know what you said but how can you translate my story, which was so long, into only four words?”

The interpreter said, “Story too long, so I say, ‘He says joke – laugh.’”

What type of laughter will come out? Just mannerly etiquette – and this man had been laboring for half an hour. Look at people’s laughter. It is a mental thing, they are making an effort. Their laughter is false, it is painted, it is just on the lips; it is an exercise of the face. It is not coming from their being, from the source, it is not coming from the belly: it is a created thing. It is obvious that we are bored, and whatsoever we do will come out of this boredom and will create more boredom. You cannot celebrate. Celebration is possible only

when existence is a continuous newness, and existence is always young. When nothing grows old, when nothing really dies – because everything is constantly reborn – then it becomes a dance. Then it is an inner music flowing. Whether you play an instrument or not is not the point, the music is flowing.

I have heard a story. It happened in Ajmer...

You must have heard about one Sufi mystic, Moinuddin Chishti, whose *dargah*, whose shrine, is in Ajmer. Chishti was a great mystic, one of the greatest ever born, and he was a musician. To be a musician is to be against Islam because music is prohibited. He played the sitar and other instruments. He was a great musician and he enjoyed it. Five times every day – when a Mohammedan is required to pray the five ritual prayers – he wouldn't pray, he would simply play on his instrument: that was his prayer.

This was absolutely anti-religious, but nobody could say anything to Chishti. Many times people would come to tell him and he would start singing, and the song would be so beautiful they would forget completely why they had come. He would start playing on his instrument, and it would be so prayerful that even scholars and pundits and *maulvis* who had come to object, couldn't object. They would forget; they would remember only when they were back at home why they had gone.

Chishti's fame spread over the world. From every part of the world, people started coming. One man, Jilani, himself a great

mystic, came from Baghdad just to see Chishti. When Chishti heard that Jilani had come he felt, “It will not be good now to play my instruments, just to pay respect to Jilani, because he is such an orthodox Mohammedan. It will not be a good welcome. He may feel hurt.” So only for that day, in his whole life, he decided he would not play, he would not sing. He waited from the morning and in the afternoon Jilani came. Chishti had hidden his instruments.

When Jilani came in, they both sat in silence. The instruments started to make music – the whole room was filled. Chishti became very puzzled about what to do. He had hidden them, and such music he had never known before. Jilani laughed and said, “Rules are not for you – you need not hide them. Rules are for ordinary people, rules are not for you – you should not hide them. How can you hide your soul? Your hands may not play, you may not sing from the throat, but your whole being is musical. And this whole room is filled with so much music, with so many vibrations, that now the whole room is playing by itself.”

When your mind is fresh the whole existence becomes a melody. When you are fresh, freshness is everywhere and the whole existence responds. When you are young, not burdened by memory, everything is young and new and strange.

This Joshu is wonderful. This has to be felt deeply, then you will be able to understand. But that understanding will be more like feeling than understanding – not mental but from the heart.

Many more dimensions are hidden in this story. Another dimension is that when you come to an enlightened person, whatsoever you say makes no difference; his response will be the same. Your questions, your answers, are not meaningful, not relevant. His response will be the same.

To all the three Joshu responded in the same way, because an enlightened person remains the same. No situation changes him; the situation is not relevant. You are changed by the situation, you are completely changed; you are manipulated by the situation. Meeting a person who is a stranger, you behave differently. You are more tense, trying to judge the situation, asking yourself, “What type of man is this? Is he dangerous, not dangerous? Will he prove friendly or not?” You look with fear. That’s why with strangers you feel an uneasiness.

If you are traveling in a train, the first thing you will see is passengers asking each other what they do, what their religion is, where they are going. What is the need of these questions? These questions are meaningful because then they can be at ease. If you are Hindu and they are also Hindu, they can relax – the man is not very strange. But if you say, “I am a Mohammedan,” the Hindu becomes tense. Then some danger is there, some stranger is there. He will make a little space between you and him – he cannot be at ease, he cannot relax – or he may even change his seat. But even a Mohammedan is religious. If you say, “I am an atheist; I am not religious at all, I don’t belong to any religion,” then you are even more of a stranger. An atheist? Then he will feel that just sitting by your side he will become impure. You are like a disease; he will avoid you. People do not start asking questions because they are very curious about you. No, they just want to judge the

situation – whether they can relax, whether they are in a familiar atmosphere or if something strange is there. They are on their guard and this is their inquiry for safety.

Your face changes continuously. If you see a stranger you have one face; if you see a friend, immediately the face changes; if your servant is there you have a different face; if your master is there you have a different face. You continuously change your masks because you depend on the situation. You don't have a soul, you are not integrated; things around you change you.

That is not the case with a Joshu. With a Joshu, the case is totally different. He changes his surroundings; he is not changed by his surroundings. Whatsoever happens around him is irrelevant, his face remains the same. There is no need to change the mask.

It is reported that once a governor came to see Joshu. Of course, he was a great politician, a powerful man – a governor. He wrote on a paper, "I have come to see you." He wrote his name, and governor of this-and-this state. He must have knowingly or unknowingly wanted to influence Joshu.

Joshu looked at the paper, threw it away and said to the man who had brought the message, "Tell this fellow I don't want to see him at all. Throw him out."

The man went and said, "Joshu has said, 'Throw him out.' He has thrown your paper away and said, 'I don't want to see this fellow.'"

The governor understood. He wrote again on a paper just his name and, “I would like to see you.”

The paper reached Joshu and he said, “So *this* is the fellow! Bring him in.”

The governor came in and he asked, “But why did you behave in such a strange way? You said, ‘Throw this man out.’”

Joshu said, “Faces are not allowed here. ‘Governor’ is a face, a mask. I recognize you very well, but I don’t recognize masks, and if you have come with a mask you are not allowed. Now it is okay. I know you very well but I don’t know any governor. The next time you come leave the governor behind. Leave it at your house, don’t bring it with you.”

We are almost continuously using faces; immediately we change. If we see changes in the situation we change immediately, as if we have no integrated soul, no crystallized soul.

For Joshu, everything is the same – this stranger, this friend, a disciple, this manager. His response is, “Have a cup of tea.” He remains the same inside. And why “Have a cup of tea”? This is a very symbolic thing for Zen masters. Tea was discovered by Zen masters and tea is not an ordinary thing for them. In every Zen monastery they have a tea room. It is special, just like a temple. You will not be able to follow this, because tea is a very religious thing for a Zen master or a Zen monastery. Tea is just like prayer. It was discovered by them.

In India, if you see a sannyasin drinking tea you will feel that he is not a good man. Gandhi would not allow anybody in his ashram to drink tea. Tea was prohibited, it was a sin; nobody was allowed to drink tea. If Gandhi had read this story he would have been hurt: an enlightened person, Joshu, asking people, inviting people to have tea? But Zen has a different attitude towards tea. The very name comes from a Chinese monastery, Ta. There, for the first time, they discovered tea, and they found that tea helps meditation because tea makes you more alert, it gives you a certain awareness. That's why if you drink tea it will be difficult to go to sleep immediately. They found tea helps awareness, alertness, so in a Zen monastery tea is part of meditation. What more can Joshu offer than awareness? So when he says, "Have a cup of tea," he is saying, "Have a cup of awareness." Tea is very symbolic for them. He says, "Have a cup of awareness."

That is all that enlightenment can do. If you come to me, what can I offer you? I have nothing other than a cup of tea.

To the familiar or unfamiliar, friend or stranger, or even to the manager who has always been there managing his monastery, "Have a cup of tea." That's all a buddha can offer to anybody, but there is nothing more valuable than that.

In Zen monasteries they have a tea room. It is like a temple, the most sacred place. You cannot enter with your shoes because it is a tea room. You cannot enter without taking a bath because it is a tea room, and tea means awareness. The ritual is just like prayer. Before people enter a tea room they take a bath, they leave their shoes outside, they put on fresh clothes, they become silent. When they enter the room no talking is allowed, they become silent. They sit on the floor in

a meditative posture and then the hostess or the host prepares tea. Everybody is silent. The tea starts boiling and everybody has to listen to it, to the sound, to the kettle creating music. Everybody has to listen to it. The drinking has started although the tea is not yet ready.

If you ask Zen people they will say tea is not something that you pour with unawareness and drink like any other drink. It is not a drink, it is meditation, it is prayer. So they listen to the kettle creating a melody, and in that listening they become more silent, more alert. Then cups are put in front of them and they touch them. Those cups are not ordinary; every monastery has its own unique cups, they prepare their own cups. Even if they purchase the cups from the market, first they break them, then glue them again so the cup becomes special, so you cannot find any replica of it anywhere else.

Then everybody touches the cup, feels the cup. The cup means the body. If tea means awareness, then the cup means the body. And if you have to be alert, you have to be alert from the very roots of the body. Touching, they are alert, meditating. Then the tea is poured. The aroma comes, the smell. This takes a long time – one hour, two hours – so it is not just within a minute that you have drunk the tea, thrown the cup away, and left. No, it is a long process, slow, so that you become aware of each step. Then they drink. The taste, the heat – everything has to be done in a very alert mindfulness.

That's why a master gives tea to the disciple. With a master pouring tea in your cup you will be more alert and aware; with a servant pouring tea in your cup you can simply forget him. When Joshu pours tea in your cup... If I come and pour

tea in your cup, your mind will stop, you will be silent. Something special is happening, something sacred. Tea becomes a meditation.

Joshu says, “Have a cup of tea,” to all three. Tea is just an excuse. Joshu will give them more awareness, and awareness comes through sensitivity. You have to be more sensitive whatsoever you do, so even a trivial thing like tea... Can you find anything more trivial than tea? Can you find anything more mean, more ordinary than tea? No, you cannot. Zen monks and masters have raised this most ordinary thing into the most extraordinary. They have bridged this and that, as if tea and existence have become one. Unless tea becomes divine you will not be divine, because the least has to be raised to the most, the ordinary has to be raised to the extraordinary, the earth has to be made heaven. They have to be bridged, no gap should be left.

If you go to a Zen monastery and you see a master drinking tea, with an Indian mind you will feel very disturbed: what type of man is this, drinking tea? Can you conceive of Buddha under the *bodhi* tree drinking tea? You cannot conceive of it; it is inconceivable. The Indian mind has been talking about non-duality but has created much duality. You have been listening to *advaita*, the unity, the one, but whatsoever you have done you have created two. And you have created such a gap between the two that they look unbridgeable. Because of this Shankara had to talk about *maya* and illusion. You have created such a gap between this world and that world, they cannot be bridged. So what to do?

Shankara said that this world is illusory, you need not bridge. This world is not. That is the only way to come to one: you

have to deny the other completely. But denial won't help. Even if you say this world is illusory, it is there. And why do you insist so much that it is illusory if it is not really there? What is the problem? Why is it that Shankara went his whole life teaching people that this world is illusory? Nobody bothers if it is illusory. If Shankara knew it is illusory, then why bother about it? It seems some problem is there. It cannot be bridged so the only way is to drop it completely from consciousness, to say it is not there so only one remains. We have only one way to come to the one – to deny the other.

Zen has another way to bridge, and I think it is more beautiful: there is no need to deny the other. And you cannot deny; even in denial you will assert. If you say this world doesn't exist, you have to indicate this world, which is nowhere, so what are you indicating? What are you pointing your finger at if there is nothing? Then you are foolish. This world exists, and if you say it is illusory, it is only an interpretation. If "this" world is illusory, "that" cannot be real because from this, that has to be achieved. If this world is illusory then your Brahma cannot be real. If the creation is illusory how can the creator be real? – because the creation comes from the creator. If the Ganges is illusory, how can Gangotri be real? If I am illusory, then my parents are bound to be illusory, because only out of dream is a dream born. If they are real then the child must be real.

Zen says both are real, but both are not two – bridge them. So tea becomes prayer; the most profane thing becomes the most sacred. It is a symbol. Zen says if your ordinary life becomes extraordinary only then are you spiritual. Otherwise you are not spiritual. In the ordinary, the extraordinary has to be found; in the familiar, the strange; in the known, the

unknown; in the near, the far; in this, that. So Joshu says, “Come and have a cup of tea.”

There is one more dimension to the story, and that dimension is of welcome. Everybody is welcome. Who you are is not relevant, you are welcome. At the gate of an enlightened master, at the gate of a Joshu or a buddha, everybody is welcome. The door is, in a sense, open – come in and have a cup of tea. What does this mean, “Come in and have a cup of tea”? Joshu is saying to come in and relax.

If you go to other so-called masters, so-called monks and sannyasins, you will become more tense; you cannot relax. Go to a sannyasin: you become more tense, you become more afraid. He creates guilt; he will look at you with condemnatory eyes, and the very way he will look at you will say you are a sinner. He will start condemning: this is wrong, that is wrong; leave this, leave that.

This is not the way of a really enlightened person; he will make you feel relaxed. There is a Chinese saying that if you reach a really great man you will feel relaxed with him; if you reach a false great man he will create tension within you. He will make, knowingly or unknowingly, every effort to show that you are low, a sinner, guilty; that he is high, above, transcendental. A buddha will help you to relax, because only in your deep relaxation will you also become a buddha. There is no other way.

“Have a cup of tea,” Joshu says. “Come and relax with me.” The tea is symbolic – relax. If you are drinking tea with Buddha, you will immediately feel that you are not alien, not a stranger. Buddha pouring tea in your cup... Buddha has

come down to you, Buddha has come to this; he has brought that to this. Christians, Jews cannot conceive of it; Mohammedans cannot conceive it. If you knock at the gate of heaven, can you conceive of God coming and telling you, “Come, have a cup of tea”? It looks so profane. God will be sitting on his throne looking at you with his thousand eyes, looking at every nook and corner of your being, at how many sins you have committed. Judgment will be there.

This Joshu is nonjudgmental. He does not judge you, he simply accepts. Whatsoever you say he accepts and says, “Come and relax with me.” Relaxation is the point. And if you can relax with an enlightened person, his enlightenment will start penetrating you because when you are relaxed you become porous. When you are tense you are closed; when you relax he will enter. When you are relaxed, comfortable, drinking tea, Joshu is doing something then. He cannot enter through your mind but he can enter through your heart. Asking you to have a cup of tea is making you relaxed, friendly, bringing you nearer, closer. And remember, whenever you are eating food and drinking something with someone, you become very intimate. Food and sex are the only two intimacies. In sex you are intimate, in food you are intimate. And food is more basic an intimacy than sex, because when a child is born the first thing he will receive from the mother will be food. Sex will come later on when he becomes mature sexually – fourteen, fifteen years afterwards. The first thing you received in this world was food, and that food was a drink. So the first intimacy known in this world is between a mother and a child.

Joshu is saying, “Come, have a cup of tea. Let me become your mother. Let me give you a drink.” A master is a mother.

I insist that a master is a mother – a master is not a father. Christians are wrong when they call their priests “Father” because a father is a very unnatural thing, a societal phenomenon. The father doesn’t exist anywhere in nature except in human society; it is a created thing, a cultured thing. The mother is natural. It exists without any culture, education, society; it is there in nature.

Even trees have mothers. You may not have heard that not only does your mother give you life, but even a tree has a mother. Scientists have been experimenting in England. There is a special lab where they have been experimenting with plants and they have come to discover a very mysterious phenomenon. If a seed is thrown in the soil, and if the mother from where the seed has been taken is near, it sprouts sooner. If the mother is not near it takes a longer time. If the mother has been destroyed, cut, then it takes a very long time for the seed to sprout. The presence of the mother, even for a seed, is helpful.

A master is a mother, he is not a father. With a father you are related only intellectually, with a mother your relation is total. You have been part of your mother, you belong to her totally. The same is the case with a master in the reverse order. You have come out of the mother, you will go into the master. It is a returning back to the source.

So Zen masters always invite you for a drink. They are saying in a symbolic way, “Come and become a child to me, let me become your mother; let me become your second womb. Enter me – I will give you a rebirth.”

Food is intimacy, and it is so deep-rooted in you that your whole life is affected by it. Men all over the world, in different societies, in different cultures, go on thinking of women's breasts. In paintings, sculpture, films, novels, whatsoever, the breast remains the central point. Why is there so much attraction for the breast? – it has been the first intimacy with the world; you came to know existence through it. The breast was the first touch of the world. For the first time you came near to existence, for the first time you knew the other – from the breast. That's why so much attraction for the breast. You cannot be attracted towards a woman who has no breasts, flat breasts. It is difficult because you cannot feel the mother there. So even an ugly woman becomes attractive if she has beautiful breasts – as if breasts are the point, the central thing in the being. What is the breast? The breast is food. Sex comes later, food comes first.

Joshu's calling all the three to come and have a cup of tea is calling them to an intimacy. Friends eat together; if you see a stranger coming near you when you are eating, you will feel uncomfortable. Strangers feel uncomfortable if they eat together. That's why in a hotel, in a restaurant, things have gone very wrong. Because you are eating with strangers the food becomes poisonous; you are so strained and tense. It is not a family, you are not relaxed.

Food prepared by someone who loves you has a different quality altogether; even the chemical quality changes. And psychologists say when your wife is angry don't allow her to prepare food; it becomes poisonous. It is difficult, because the wife is almost always angry. And psychologists say when you are eating, if your wife starts creating trouble – talking, arguing – stop eating. But then you will die because the wife

almost always creates trouble while you are eating. This is a very non-loving world. The wife knows, if she has a small understanding, that the worst time to create any conflict is while the husband is taking food, because when he is strained, tense, not relaxed, food becomes poisonous and it will take a longer time to digest it. Psychologists say twice the time will be needed to digest the food, and the whole body suffers.

Food is intimacy, it is love. And Zen masters always invite you for tea. They will take you in the tearoom and give you tea; they are giving you food, drink. They are telling you, "Become intimate. Don't stand so far away, come nearer. Feel at home."

These are the dimensions of the story, but they are dimensions of feeling. You cannot understand but you can feel, and feeling is a higher understanding; love is a higher knowing. The heart is the supreme-most center of knowledge, not the mind. The mind is just secondary, workable, utilitarian. You can know the surface through the mind; you can never know the center.

But you have forgotten the heart completely, as if it has become a nothingness. You don't know anything about it. If I talk about the heart, the heart center, you think about the lungs, not about the heart. The lungs are not the heart; the lungs are just the body of the heart center. The heart is hidden in the lungs, somewhere deep down. It is not a physical thing, so if you go to a physician he will say there is no heart center, only lungs. And he is right, as far as he knows, because if you dissect the body, no heart center is found, only the lungs. Just as your soul is hidden in the body, so the heart center is hidden in the lungs.

The heart has its own ways of knowing. Joshu can be understood only through the heart. If you try to understand through the intellect it is possible you may misunderstand, but understanding is not possible, that much is certain.

Anything more?

Osho,

I feel I want to be close to you, but at the same time I want to run as far away from you as I can. I don't understand this fear, since I am not aware of a feeling like this about anyone else.

It is natural, it is not something exceptional. Whenever you have a feeling to be closer to a man like me the fear will come, because to be close to me means to be dead. To be close to me means losing yourself. It is the same fear that grips a river when it comes to the ocean – the banks will be lost, the river will be lost. And every river tries to go back, but there is no way.

If you feel a deep urge to come closer to me, there is no way now to escape. You may try but you will be a failure; others have tried, others will go on trying. If you have a deep urge to come closer to me, you will have to come. You can only delay it; by escaping, struggling, you can delay it. You can postpone it, that's all, because the deep urge is coming from your very being. Fear is only in the mind. The urge to be closer is coming from the deepest core of your being. But fear comes in the mind because the closeness means death.

To be close to a master is death. Your ego will have to go. The ego thinks, starts thinking, "I must escape before something happens. Before I am lost, I must escape." The ego will continuously tell you to escape. The ego will find rationalizations; it will find faults in me just to help you escape. It will convince you in every way "This is the wrong man." Love is deathlike, and no love is as deathlike as loving a master.

If you love a woman you can dominate her. That's why lovers go on playing politics with each other, dominating, possessing. The fear is there that if you don't dominate you will be lost and the other will dominate, so they continuously fight. Husbands and wives, lovers, go on fighting; the fight is for existence, to survive. The fear is there: "I may be lost in the other."

But when you come to a master you cannot dominate him, you cannot fight with him. So the fear is deeper because of that, because you cannot create any politics. Either you have to escape or merge, there is no other alternative. If you escape, from your very deep source of being you hear, "You are doing wrong; if you escape you will have to come back." If you come closer the mind says, "Where are you going? If you go even closer you may be burned!" And it is right, the ego is right. The flame is there and if you come closer you will be burned. Conflict is created; inner tension, anguish is created. You can delay, that's all. Sooner or later you will have to merge; no river can escape the ocean. Once you have come closer you have come, and there is no way to go back.

No way exists for going back. You are here. You have traveled far; not only in physical space but also in the inner

space you have traveled far. Many, many lives you have been traveling towards this point. You have desired it, and now when the point has come nearer you become afraid. You feel a merging. The fear is natural. Understand it, don't let it overpower you. Take a jump, and that jump will not only be a death, it will be a rebirth. But you cannot know that. Only death – you see only death. The beyond that is hidden behind the death you cannot see. I can see it. I know you will be reborn. But nobody can be reborn unless one dies.

So death is not the goal and death is not the end, it is just a beginning. When you are ready to die, you are ready to be reborn. The old will disappear and the absolutely new will come in its place. That new is struggling from the very core of your being. The old is struggling from the mind because the mind has memory – the old, the past. The past and future are struggling within you. That is the problem. Now it depends on you. If you are being overpowered by the past then you will delay, postpone, and you can delay it for many lives. This is not the first time you have delayed; many times you have missed before. Many times you have come across a Buddha, a Mahavira, a Jesus, and you escaped. You tried to avoid, you closed your eyes. Again and again you have been playing that game. But I say to you the game is natural because you can see only death. The river can only see that she will dissolve, she cannot see that she will become the ocean. How can she see? That oceanic existence will be only when the river is no more, so the river cannot see. When your ego is no more, only then will you know who you are.

Don't allow the fear to overpower you, allow love to overpower you. Love comes from the center, fear always from the periphery. Don't allow this periphery to be so

dominant. And what have you got to lose? Even if there is no rebirth – there is rebirth, but I say even if there is no rebirth and you simply die – what have you got to lose? What will be lost? What does the river have that is worth preserving? The life through the hills has been just a struggle; the life through the plains has been just a dirty passage. What has the river got to lose in the ocean? Nothing.

So think about it. What have you got to lose if you come closer? Your suffering? Your madness? What have you got to lose? There is nothing to lose, but we never look within to see that we have got nothing to lose because that too gives fear. You like to think that you have got much to lose, that a treasure is there, and you will never look. There is no treasure. The house is empty; there has never been anything. But you are so afraid you never look – because you know that there is nothing. Even a beggar dreams that he is an emperor; in dreams he becomes an emperor, enjoys. And then he is afraid: what if the kingdom is lost? But there has never been any kingdom.

You have come to me because there has never been any kingdom. You have nothing to lose, and now you become afraid. See the tricks of the mind, the deceptions of the mind. Look into them.

A man entered a pet shop. He looked around, and he asked the shopkeeper, “How much will that big dog cost?” It was a very ferocious looking Alsatian.

The man said, “Five hundred rupees.”

That was too much for him, so logically he said, “And how much does this small fellow cost?” It was another dog of a smaller size.

The shopkeeper said, “One thousand rupees.”

The man tried still further. He asked, “How much is this tiny one?” It was a very small dog. The shopkeeper said, “Two thousand rupees.”

The man became very puzzled and disturbed and then he asked, “How much will it cost if I don’t purchase anything?” The rates were going higher and the dog was disappearing! “If I don’t purchase anything, how much will it cost?”

That is your fear. What will happen if you come closer to me? Nothing will happen because you have nothing to lose. And everything will happen, because once this nothing is lost everything becomes possible. Once this shelter which has become a bondage to you is lost, the sky opens infinitely. Once these banks which have been a prison to you are lost, you become boundless, you become infinite.

Let the river move, unafraid, into the unknown, the uncharted. Death will be there, but death is always followed by rebirth. Die and be reborn, lose yourself and find. Fear comes from your mind, love comes from your heart. Listen to the heart.

It happened once in a great palace of a king that there was a musical organ. He loved it very much, but something had gone wrong, and the organ was so unique that nobody knew how to fix it. Nobody had ever seen one like it. This king had heard the organ when he was a very small child, when his father was alive, and since then something had gone wrong. But he loved the organ so much that he used to keep it in his room. It was beautiful; even from the outside it was beautiful. Many experts were called in vain. They made many efforts and things went from bad to worse; the organ was more and more destroyed. The king lost hope: the organ could not be fixed.

Then suddenly one day a beggar appeared. To the doorkeeper he said, "I have heard that something has gone wrong with the organ. I can fix it." The doorkeeper had the feeling to laugh, because great experts from many capitals of the world had come, great musicians; they couldn't find what was wrong. They couldn't even recognize what type of organ this was and what type of music was created by it, it was so complex. The doorkeeper had the feeling to laugh, but he looked at the beggar, and the voice, the beggar's eyes, seemed to be authentic; he was absolutely confident. He was a beggar but his face looked majestic. The doorkeeper's mind was saying, "It will be a wastage again," but his heart said, "This man seems so confident, what is wrong if he tries?" So he took him to the king.

Looking at the beggar the king laughed, and he said, "Are you mad? Every type of expert has tried and failed. You must be mad. You think you can fix it?"

The beggar said, “Nothing more, no more harm can be done. The organ is already absolutely out of order. I cannot harm it any more, so what is the harm if you give me a chance?”

The king thought, “He is right, because nothing more harmful can be done.” So he said, “Okay, you try.”

For many days the beggar disappeared behind the organ. He was working and working and working, and suddenly, one midnight, he started playing on the organ. The whole palace was filled with an unknown melody, something so divine that everybody ran to see. The king came out of his bedroom and said, “You have done it! It must have been very difficult. It was almost impossible. You have done a miracle!”

The man said, “No, it was not difficult because in the first place I made it. In your father’s time I made this organ, so it was not difficult.”

If you are ready... For one thing, no more harm can be done to you; you are already harmed. I cannot harm you any more than you have been harmed, this much is certain. Look at my eyes and feel my voice; give me a chance. It is not difficult, I say to you: once one is dissolved into the infinite, he is at the source of things, from where you have come.

I am not there. If I were there, then it would be difficult. There is no expert in me; the expert died long ago. The ego is the expert; I don’t know anything.

I am not there, I have disappeared. The ocean exists, godliness exists, not I.

In the first place, you are closer to where you have come from. For God nothing is impossible, because in the first place, he created you. And I am not there; otherwise it would be a very difficult thing. If “I” am there I will harm you – the ego can only harm. Experts can only destroy, they cannot fix you. You have been with many experts and they have done every type of harm that was possible; now you are beyond repair. But the river can fall in the ocean, and suddenly the melody arises. Music will come out of you, a music that you have not heard. It is just hidden in you – the ego just has to be put out of the way.

I have heard...

A school teacher was asking his first-graders, “How do you help your family at home?”

One small boy said, “I make my bed myself.”

Another said, “I clean dishes” and so on and so forth.

But then the teacher saw that one small boy, Johnny, had not answered. So he asked, “Johnny, what do you do?”

Johnny hesitated a moment and then he said, “Mostly, I keep out of the way.”

Just keep yourself out of the way, that's all! Don't come in between me and you – just keep out of the way. Even if you keep yourself out of the way for a single moment the thing will have happened. The old dies, the new is born.

Enough for today.

Chapter 05: Speaking without Words

Hyakujo called his monks together as he wished to send one of them to open a new monastery.

Placing a filled water jar on the ground he said,

“Who can say what this is without using its name?”

The chief monk, who expected to get the position, said,

“No one can call it a wooden shoe.”

Another monk said, “It’s not a pond because it can be carried.”

The cooking monk, who was standing nearby, walked out, kicked the jar over, and then walked away.

Hyakujo smiled and said, “The cooking monk becomes the master of the new monastery.”

Reality cannot be known through thinking, but it can be known through action. Thinking is just a dream phenomenon. The moment you act you have become part of reality. Reality is activity, action. Thinking is just a fragment. When you act you are total; whatsoever the action your whole being is involved in it. Thinking goes on in a part of the mind; your whole being is not involved. Without you, thinking can continue as an automatic process.

This has to be understood deeply. This is one of the most basic things for those who are in search of truth and not in search of any theory. Religion and philosophy are distinct in this sense: religion is action, philosophy is thinking.

This story has many implications. The master wanted one monk, one disciple, to become the chief of the new monastery that was going to be opened. Who should be sent? Who should be made the guide there? – a man who has much philosophy in his mind, a man who can talk, discuss, argue, a man who is bookish, a man who is knowledgeable, or a man who can act spontaneously? He may not know much, he may be simple, may not be intellectual, but he is total.

The chief disciple must have started dreaming and thinking that he was going to be chosen. The mind is always ambitious. He must have planned how to behave, what to do, so that he would be chosen and become the chief of the new monastery. He must not have slept for many days; the mind must have been revolving and revolving, around and around.

The ego plans, and whatsoever you plan will miss reality because reality can only be encountered spontaneously. If you think about it beforehand you may be ready but you will miss. A ready person will miss; this is the contradiction. A person who is not ready, who has not planned anything, acts spontaneously, reaches the very heart of reality.

The chief disciple must have theorized; many alternatives must have come to his mind. The master is going to choose; there is going to be some sort of test. He must have consulted the scriptures, because in the old days too, masters had been choosing disciples to be sent to new monasteries. How have they chosen? What sort of examination has to be passed? How could he succeed?

There are many stories from the ancient days. Almost always this has been one of the basic tests Zen masters have

presented to their disciples: they ask them to express something without using language. They say, “Say something about this thing but don’t use any name – because the name is not the thing.”

The chair is here, I am sitting on it. A Zen master can say, “Say something about this chair but don’t use the name, because the word *chair* is not the chair. So don’t use any verbal expression, don’t use language, and say something.”

The mind feels puzzled because the mind knows only language, nothing else. If language is barred, the mind is barred. What else is the mind except verbal accumulation? – names, words, language. And a master says, “Don’t use the name.” He is saying, “Don’t use the mind, and *do* something so that that which the chair is, is expressed.”

The word *God* is not God, the word *man* is not man, the word *rose* is not a rose. When there is no language the rose exists; when there is no language, the tree goes on existing – what it is, is not dependent on language.

This chief monk must have brooded over and over, again and again. Then he must have chosen an alternative beforehand. He was dead. That very moment he failed.

Inside, if you decide what you are going to do, and you act out of that decision, you will miss reality because reality is an ever-flowing movement. Nobody knows where it is going, nobody knows what is going to happen. Nobody can predict it; it is unpredictable.

There is a Zen story...

Two monasteries existed side by side. Each master had a small boy to run errands for him. Both of the boys used to go to the market to fetch things for the masters – sometimes vegetables, sometimes other things. The two monasteries were antagonistic towards each other, but sometimes boys will be boys: they would forget the doctrines and meet on the way and talk, enjoy. It was really prohibited: they should not talk, because the other monastery is the enemy.

One day, the boy who belonged to the first monastery came and said, “I am puzzled. When I was going to the market, I saw the boy from the other monastery and asked him, ‘Where are you going?’ He said, ‘Wherever the wind blows,’ and I was at a loss about what to say. He created a puzzle.”

The master said, “This is not good. Nobody from our monastery has ever been defeated by the other monastery, not even a servant. You must fix that boy. Tomorrow, ask again, ‘Where are you going?’ He will say, ‘Wherever the wind blows,’ so you ask, ‘If there is no wind, then...?’”

The boy couldn’t sleep the whole night. He tried and tried to conceive of what would happen the next day; he rehearsed many times. He would ask and the other boy would say, and he would give his answer.

The next day he waited on the road. The boy from the monastery next door came and he asked, “Where are you going?”

The boy said, “Wherever my feet lead me.”

So he was at a loss as to what to do. The answer was fixed, and reality is unpredictable. He came back very sad and said to the master, “That boy is not trustworthy. He changed and I was at a loss as to what to do.”

So the master said, “Next day, when he says, ‘Wherever my feet lead,’ you ask him, ‘If you are crippled and your legs are cut off, then...?’”

Again he couldn’t sleep. He went early to wait on the road, and when the boy came he asked, “Where are you going?” And the boy said, “To fetch vegetables from the market.”

He came back very disturbed and he said to the master, “This boy is impossible: he goes on changing.”

Life is that boy. It goes on changing. Reality is not a fixed phenomenon. You have to be present – spontaneously – to it; only then will the response be real. If your answer is fixed beforehand you are already dead, you have missed already. Tomorrow will come, but you will not be there; you will be fixed in yesterday, that which is past.

All the minds which are too verbal are fixed like this, their answers are fixed. Go to a pundit, a scholar, and ask, “What is God?” Before you have asked he starts answering. Your question is not answered because even before you had the question this man has the answer. The answer is dead; it is there already. It just has to be brought from the memory, it is not a response.

This is the difference between a man of knowledge and a man of wisdom. A man of knowledge has ready-made answers: you ask and the answer is already there. You are irrelevant, your question is irrelevant. Before the question, the answer exists; your question simply triggers the memory. But if you go to a man of wisdom, he has no answers for you. He has nothing ready-made. He is open, he is silent. He will respond. First your question, and then the question goes and resounds in his being, not in his memory. Through his being a response comes. Nobody can predict that response. If you go the next day and ask the same question, the response will not be the same.

Once it happened, a man tried to judge Buddha. Every year he would go and ask the same question, because he was thinking, “If he really knows, then his answer must be always the same. Because how can you change the answer? If I come and ask, ‘Is there a God?’ – if he knows he will say yes or he will say no, and next year I will come again and ask.”

So for many years the man was coming and he became more and more puzzled. Sometimes Buddha would say yes, and sometimes Buddha would say no. Sometimes Buddha would remain silent, and sometimes he would simply smile and not answer anything.

The man became puzzled and said, “What is this? If you know, then you must be certain and your answer must be fixed. But you go on changing. Once you said yes, then you said no. Have you forgotten that I have asked this question before? Then, you remained silent... And now you are

smiling? That is why I am coming after the long gap of a year – just to see if you know or not.”

Buddha said, “When you came for the first time and asked, ‘Is there a God?’ I answered. But the answer was not only to the question, it was to you. You have changed; now the same answer cannot be given. And not only have you changed, I also have changed. The Ganges has flowed much; the same answer cannot be given. I am not a scripture that you open and read the same answer sitting there.”

A buddha is a living river. It goes on flowing. In the morning it is one thing – the sun rises, and all over the river the gold flows. At noon it is different, by the evening it is again different. And when the night comes and the stars start being reflected in it, it is different. In the summer it shrinks; in the rains comes a flood. A river is not a painting, it is an alive force.

In a painting of a river, whether it is raining outside or it is summer, the river remains the same. During the rains a painted river will not be flooded. It is dead; otherwise every moment there is change. Only one thing is permanent and that is change. There is only one thing that goes on continuously and that is revolution. Everything else is impermanent except revolution. It goes on and on and on.

This chief disciple must have decided; the conclusion was there, and he was just waiting for the master to ask. Then the master put a jug in front of them, a pot filled with water, and said, “Say something but don’t use the name. Say something

but don't use the mind. Say something but don't use language."

The very thing looks absurd. When you say, "Say something and don't use language," you are creating an impossible situation. How can something be said without using language? But if you cannot say something about an ordinary jug filled with water without using language, how will you be able to say anything about the godliness that fills the whole universe? If you cannot indicate this jug without language, how will you be able to indicate the great jug, the universe, godliness, the truth? And if you cannot indicate this, how will you be made chief of a monastery? People will be coming to you not to know words but to know reality. People will be coming to you not to be trained in philosophy, because that can be done by the universities... There are millions of universities; they teach words.

So what is the purpose of a monastery? A monastery has to teach reality, not words; it has to teach religion, not philosophy; it has to teach existence, not theories. So if you cannot say anything about an ordinary pot, what will you do when someone asks, "What is existence?" What will you do when someone asks, "Who am I?"

The chief disciple answered. Whenever the mind faces such a situation, the only way is to define negatively. If someone says, "Say something about God, without naming," what will you do? You can only say negatively; you can say, "God is not this world, God is not matter."

Look in the dictionaries, go to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and see how they define things. You will be surprised: if you

turn to the page where *mind* is defined you will find the definition, “The mind is that which is not matter.” Then turn to the page where *matter* is defined, and you will see written, “Matter is that which is not the mind.” What type of definition is this? When you ask about the mind they say no-matter; when you ask about matter they say no-mind. Nothing is defined, this is a vicious circle. If I ask about *A* you say not-*B*; if I ask about *B* you say not-*A*. You define one thing by another indefinable. How can something be defined by another indefinable? This is a tricky thing. Dictionaries are the trickiest things in the world; they don’t say anything and they appear to be saying so much. Everything is defined and everything is indefinable: nothing can be defined!

So the chief disciple said something negatively – but he said. When the mind feels at a loss as to what to do, it starts saying negative things. Maybe atheism is just an escape. God is there but how to define it? The mind feels at a loss, so the easiest escape is to say there is no God – the problem is finished.

Somebody said, “It is not a pond because it can be carried in the hand.”

But how can you define a jug filled with water just by saying that it is not a pond? Then what is a pond? Say something without naming it.

Then the cook of the monastery, who must have been more real of a man than these pundits, a cook – a man who has never been too interested in the scriptures, who has been working with reality, encountering it, not thinking about it – stopped, kicked the pot and went out.

What did he say? He said something in a more realistic way. Kicking is not thinking – it is action. He kicked the pot and he said to the master, “Nonsense! You are talking absurdities. You say to us to say something without words. Nothing can be said without words. Something can be done without words, but nothing can be said.” He caught the point. Something can be done without words but nothing can be said. So he did something – he kicked the pot.

The master said, “This cook has been chosen. He will go to the new monastery and become the master there. He knows how to act without the mind; he knows how to answer without using the mind. He has said that the problem is absurd.”

Remember one thing: if the problem is absurd you cannot answer it in a rational way. And if you try you will be foolish – that shows foolishness. If the problem is absurd you cannot answer in a rational way, because for an absurd question there can be no rational answer. If you try you simply prove that you are foolish. That chief disciple must have been a foolish man; the other scholar, who said, “This is not a pond,” must have been a foolish man. Scholars *are* foolish, otherwise they wouldn’t be scholars. They are wasting their lives in words, scriptures. Nobody can waste his life in words if he is not absolutely stupid.

This cook is wiser – he kicked. He is not kicking the pot, he is kicking the whole problem. He is not kicking the pot, he is kicking the whole situation, and he feels, “This is absurd!” He is not saying anything, not using a word. Just imagine that cook kicking the pot with his whole being. He is involved in it completely – mind, body, soul. The kick is alive, the kick is

spontaneous. He has not decided beforehand; he never knew what was going to be there. He may not even have thought that he would answer; he was just seeing what was going on. Suddenly, the kick happened.

The master must have looked into this state of being, when the cook was just action – no mind in it, just an emptiness. Out of that emptiness, out of that no-mind, the action arose. When the action comes from the actor it is dead; when the action comes from the ego it is premeditated. When the action comes without the ego – without the mind, without you being there, when the action bubbles up out of your nothingness – it is from the divine, it is total.

The cook didn't kick; it was as if the whole existence kicked. He kicked all scholarship, he kicked all scriptures, he kicked the whole intellect and its vicious circles – and he walked out. He didn't wait. See: he walked out. If he had waited to see what the master says now, he would have missed because that means the mind is there looking for the conclusion, the result.

The mind is always result-oriented, asking, “What is going to happen? If I do this, then what will happen? If the cause is there, what will be the effect?” The mind is always for the result, is result-oriented.

This cook simply walked out. He didn't wait for what was going to happen; he didn't think that he was going to be chosen. How can you think that just by kicking a pot you will be chosen the master of a monastery? No, he never bothered.

This is what Krishna says to Arjuna in the Gita, “Do! Act! But don't ask for the result. Kick and walk out.”

Arjuna goes on thinking about the result. He asks, “If I fight, if I go through this war, what will happen? What will be the result? Will the result be good or bad? Will I gain or lose? Will it be worth the effort, to kill so many people?”

Krishna says, “Don’t think of the result. Leave the result to me: you simply act.”

But the mind cannot do that. Before the mind acts it asks for the result; it acts because of the result. If the result will be there, only then...

People come to me and ask, “If we meditate, what will happen? What will be the result?” Remember, meditation cannot be result-oriented; you simply meditate, that’s all. Everything happens but it is not a result. If you are seeking a result, nothing will happen and meditation will be useless. When you seek a result, it is the mind; when you don’t seek a result, it is meditation. Kick the pot and walk out. Meditate and walk out; don’t ask for the result. Don’t ask, “What will happen?” because if you think about what will happen you cannot meditate. The mind goes on thinking about the result; it cannot be here and now, it is always in the future. If you are meditating and you are thinking, “When is the result going to happen? It has not happened yet,” is it meditation? If you love and go on thinking, “When will the happiness come? It has not come yet,” is it love?

When you forget the result completely, when there is not even a flicker in the mind for the result, not even a single vibration moving into the future – when you have become a silent pool, here and now – everything has happened. In meditation cause and effect are not two; cause is the effect. The act and the

result are not two; the act is the result. They are not divided. In meditation the seed and the tree are not two; the seed is the tree.

But for the mind everything is divided: the seed and the tree are two, the act and the result are two. The result is always in the future and the act is here; you act because of the future. For the mind, the present is always sacrificed for the future, and the future exists not. There is no future – there is always the present. It is an eternal now, and you are sacrificing this now for something which is nowhere and cannot be anywhere.

In meditation the whole process is reversed. The future is sacrificed for the present. That which is not is sacrificed for that which is. There is no result, no conclusion. Kick the pot and walk out. Don't ask for the result.

That was the beauty of it. The cook simply walked out saying, "The whole thing is absurd – your questions and these people's answers. This is a nonsense game. I don't belong here." He must have gone to his kitchen and started working. That is how a meditative mind will act. And the master said, "This man is chosen. He goes to the new monastery, he becomes the chief there. He knows how to be total, he knows how to act spontaneously. He knows how to act without motivation. He knows how to act without the mind. This man can also lead others into meditation, this man can become a guide. This man has achieved. There is no more to be achieved."

The story is beautiful, very rare; penetrate into it. But you can penetrate only if you start acting the way the cook acted. But

there is a pitfall – you can premeditate it. If I put a pot in front of you and you kick it, you will miss, because you already know the answer. You will think, “Okay, now this is the opportunity. Kick the pot and walk out.” That won’t do. You cannot deceive, because whenever the mind is there your total being gives a different vibration. You cannot deceive a master.

And remember, this incident has been repeated many times. Zen masters are really unique. They go on repeating the same problem again and again, and those who have read the scriptures behave in the old way. They think this is the answer: kick the pot, walk out, and become the chief.

But you cannot deceive a Zen master because he is not concerned with what you are doing, he is concerned with what you are in that moment of doing. That is a totally different thing. You have a perfume, a different perfume, when you act out of emptiness. When I say a different perfume I mean it literally, I am not using a metaphor. When you act out of emptiness there is a freshness all around you, as if suddenly there has come a morning in the middle of the day. A freshness all around you, vibrations which touch, a life so intense, which hits all around – your eyes, your very being, the way you sit, the way you stand, the way you kick the pot. Think: if *you* kick the pot there will be ego; the ego will be kicking the pot and you will be aggressive. When this cook kicked the pot it was not aggressive, it was simply a statement of fact; there was no violence.

I have heard that a man, a poor beggar – and I say *poor* beggar because there are wealthy beggars also – came to ask for food. The lady of the house felt much compassion for him and said, “I will give you food, and if you also want some work, some wood has to be chopped. You can do it and I will pay you for it.”

So the man worked on the wood, chopped the wood, and by the evening, when he was about to go, the lady of the house said, “There is a hole in your clothes. Give it to me and within minutes I will repair it.”

The man said, “No, because a hole in the clothes makes all the difference, and when it is repaired, it is different. When you have repaired the clothes it is premeditated poverty; when you have a hole in them it may have happened just now, through some accident. But when you have it patched, then it becomes ancient. It has not happened accidentally, just now. It has happened long before and now it’s been patched and repaired. It becomes a premeditated poverty. Let my poverty be spontaneous.”

But your whole mind is a patchwork, a premeditated poverty. You have all the answers and not a single response. You have already decided what to do, and in that decision you have murdered yourself, killed; it has been suicidal. The mind is suicide.

Start acting spontaneously. It will be difficult in the beginning, you will feel very uncomfortable. With a premeditated answer there is less discomfort because you are

more certain. Why are we not spontaneous? It is because of fear. The fear is there that the answer may be wrong, so it is better to decide beforehand. Then you are certain. But certainty always belongs to death. Remember, life is always uncertain. Everything dead is certain; life is always uncertain. Everything dead is solid, fixed: its nature cannot be changed. Everything alive is changing, moving: it is a flow, a liquid thing, flexible. It can move in any direction. The more you become certain, the more you will miss life. And those who know, know life is God. If you miss life, you miss God.

Act spontaneously. If there is discomfort in the beginning, allow it to be there; don't hide it and don't suppress it – and don't imitate. Be childlike but don't be childish. If you are childlike, you will become a saint; if you are childish, you can become a great, knowledgeable person.

A man returned to his house one day. He saw his children and the neighbor's children sitting on the steps, so he asked, "What are you doing?"

They said, "We are playing church."

He was puzzled, because they were just sitting, not doing anything. He inquired, "What type of church?"

They said, "We have sung, preached, prayed. Everything has been done, now we are smoking on the steps."

You can imitate – knowledgeability is imitation. A buddha says something, it is out of his wisdom, not out of knowledge, not out of memory. It is out of his experience. You can imitate it, you can play the church, you can cram it in the mind, you can repeat it. This is childish. Be childlike, but not childish. Childlikeness is spontaneity. A child is fresh, with no answers, with no experience accumulated. He has, really, no memory; he acts. Whatsoever comes through his being, he acts. He is not motivated, he is not thinking about the results, about the future. He has an innocence.

This cook was really innocent. And innocence is meditation. Start being meditative in your acts – small things. While eating, be spontaneous; while talking, be spontaneous; while walking, be spontaneous. Allow life a response, not an answer. If somebody says something, just watch whether you are simply repeating something you have always been doing, just a habit, or whether the answer is a response – whether the mind is repeating an old habit, whether the answer is coming from the memory, or from you.

That's why you bore people so much. Everybody bores everybody else because everything is dead, stale, borrowed, stinks of death; it is not fresh. Look at children playing and you feel a freshness. For a moment you may even forget that you have become old. Listen to the birds, look at the trees or the flowers, and for a moment you forget, because there is no mind. Flowers are flowering: just like the cook kicked, they are kicking. Birds are singing: they are kicking. Life itself is kicking – but no theories are there.

In the beginning it will be uncomfortable. But be patient, go through that discomfort. Soon you will have an upsurge of

energy. It is dangerous, that's why people avoid it. To be spontaneous is dangerous because when anger comes, it comes. The mind says, "Think – don't be angry, it may be costly." So you always think and you throw your anger on those who are weaker than you, not on those who are stronger than you. Love can happen, but love is not allowed. You can have a loving attitude only towards your wife.

Life does not know who is your wife and who is not. Life is absolutely amoral, it knows no morality. You can fall in love with somebody else's wife, because life knows no relations, no fixed institutions. All institutions are man-made; that is the danger. So the mind says, "Think before – she is not your wife, so don't look in such a loving way. This is immoral. Over here is your wife, so look in a loving way, smile." Whether you feel it or not is not the point, because this is duty. That is how we have killed everybody. Everybody lives in an institution, not in life.

Because of these dangers the mind thinks beforehand what to say. When you come back home you are thinking what the wife will say, and how you are going to answer. The wife is waiting and she knows whatever you will say is wrong. She has heard your excuses before, and the same old excuses you will say. You are late...

I have heard...

A man phoned his wife one day, one afternoon and said, "One of my friends has come and I'm bringing him for dinner tonight."

The wife screamed and said, “You fool, you know very well the cook has left, the baby is cutting his teeth, and I have had a fever for three days.”

The man said very calmly, “I know it well. That is why I want to bring him home – because the fool is thinking of getting married.”

The whole of life has become an institution, a madhouse in which duties are to be fulfilled, not love; in which you have to behave, not be spontaneous; in which a pattern has to be followed, not the overflow of life and energy. That’s why the mind thinks and decides everything – because danger is there.

I call a man a sannyasin who breaks out of these institutions and lives spontaneously. To be a sannyasin is the most courageous act possible. To be a sannyasin means to live without the mind, and the moment you live without the mind you live without society. The mind has created the society, and society has created the mind; they are interdependent. To be a sannyasin means to renounce all that is false. Not to renounce the world, but to renounce all that is false, to renounce all that is unauthentic, to renounce all the answers, and to be responsive, spontaneously responsive – not to think about the results but to be real.

Difficult... Because much investment is there in the falsity, in the masks, in the faces, in the games you go on playing. To be initiated as a sannyasin means that now you will try to be authentic. Whatsoever the consequences, you will accept the consequences and you will live in the present. You will

sacrifice the future for the present; you will never sacrifice the present for the future. This moment will be the totality of your being; you will never move beforehand.

This is what sannyas is. Kick the pot and walk out, and don't wait for the results. Results will take care by themselves, they will follow you.

This story doesn't say it but I know. The master must have run out to catch hold of this cook: "Wait, you have been chosen. Go to the new monastery and guide people in life and meditation."

Anything more?

Osho,

Every day when I sit here, I try sitting without a question in my mind, staying in the moment with what I am hearing, and trying not to rehearse. Then you say, "Anything more?"

And it's as if a shield comes down and I can't reach you. I am talking to myself, and the mind is always making things safe for me.

Teertha, it happens because we are always afraid, afraid something may go wrong. But don't be afraid in front of me; nothing can go wrong. If something goes wrong spontaneously then that is the right thing! – because spontaneity is right, not what happens. The mind manipulates because of fear. You may ask something and others may start laughing. They may think you are foolish so something has to be asked which nobody can laugh about; then everybody

thinks you have asked a serious question, a meaningful question. That's why the mind is afraid, and fear manipulates.

Near me there is no need for any fear. You can ask absurdities, you can ask foolish questions, because to me the mind is absurd. It cannot ask anything else so there is no problem. You can only appear as if something is serious – because the mind cannot ask anything which is not foolish. All questions are foolish. The whole mind has to be dropped, only then will you not be a fool.

But the fear... That's why we rehearse. The ego wants to feel important. Near me there is no need of any fear. I'm not asking you to ask something wise. Nothing wise can be asked. Nobody has ever asked a wise question – that is impossible because when you become wise, questions drop. When you are wise there is no question.

You can imitate wisdom also by not asking; that will not help. That will not help. So those who are not asking should not think that they are wise and Teertha is a fool. He is just your representative, so he is bound to feel more foolish than you! Because so much foolishness together represented in him – he is bound to be afraid, it is natural. But by and by, drop, because when you drop manipulations, you become natural near me, it will give you a glimpse. To be natural will give you the first glimpse, and then you can gather courage to be natural in life. And if you cannot be spontaneous near me how will it be possible to be spontaneous anywhere?

If you go to other so-called masters they create fear. You cannot laugh in front of them, it will be taken as an offense. You have to have a serious and sad face; you have to appear

very serious. Look at the churches, mosques, look at the so-called masters with long faces... Christians say Jesus never laughed – because how can a Jesus laugh? If he laughs he becomes profane, he becomes ordinary.

But I say to you, such a seriousness is a shield; it will protect all that is nonsensical in you. Allow it to come up. Don't force it within, don't repress it in any way. Near me be natural, and in this being natural you will learn that which cannot be learned in any other way. Just being near me, and spontaneous, you will drop the mind and you will be meditative.

I answer you not because I am concerned with your questions – that is irrelevant. I'm not satisfying your questions in any way; they cannot be satisfied. Then what am I doing? – just being here with you. The answer is just an excuse, the question is just an excuse to be near, just to be closer.

But why can't we sit silently? – we can sit silently. I can sit, but it will be difficult for you. We can sit silently – I not talking, you not asking – but inside you will go on talking; chattering will be there. Tremendous chattering will go on, more than ordinarily, because whenever you say to the mind, "Sit silently," the mind rebels. Then it creates more words, more questions, a monologue, and it goes mad. You cannot sit silently. That's why I ask you to ask, that's why I answer you. If I am talking, your mind will not talk. My talking is not destructive to me, but your talking is destructive. When I talk, you get absorbed in it; you may have a few glimpses of silence. This is how life is paradoxical: you will have certain glimpses of silence while I am talking because you get so absorbed, engaged, occupied. Your mind becomes so tense

listening, you are so alert that something may not be missed. In that alertness you become silent, the inner talk stops. That gap is my answer.

My answers are not the real thing, so my answers go on changing. People feel that I am inconsistent. I go on saying things – today something, tomorrow something else – and they are irrelevant. I am not concerned with consistency; my answering is like music playing on a guitar. You never ask for consistency. You never say, “Play the same thing again and again.” The musician goes on changing. If you get absorbed in the music you will have some gaps of silence. In those gaps, intervals, you will become for the first time aware who you are. That awareness, by and by, will become crystallized.

So don't bother about what you are asking. Whatsoever you ask is okay. Don't rehearse it, let it be more spontaneous. It will be difficult for you because spontaneity is difficult.

I have heard about one preacher...

He was going into the pulpit for the first time so he rehearsed for the whole night what to say. He had chosen a very beautiful theme about Jesus. This was going to be a crisis in the preacher's life – either he succeeds or fails, and the first failure or the first success means much. So the whole night he was rehearsing and rehearsing, standing in his room, lecturing, imagining the audience. And then in the morning he was so tired, really feeling so sleepy, that when he stood in the pulpit his mind went blank.

He had chosen a beautiful passage: “Behold I come!...” So he said, “Behold I come!” and his mind went blank. He couldn’t find anything so he thought, “If I repeat it again, maybe the flow will come.”

Again he leaned forward and said, “Behold I come!” but nothing came.

To appear nonchalant, he leaned forward more, as if it was not by accident that he was doing it, and again he said, “Behold I come!”

Under his pressure the pulpit gave way and he fell on an old woman, in her lap. He was very embarrassed and he said, “Sorry, I never meant it to happen.”

The woman said, “No need to say anything. I should have been alert. Three times you said, ‘Behold I come!’ It’s not your fault.”

There is no need to rehearse, no need to premeditate; let things happen. But this is the way things go in the world. Questions are dead, answers are dead. Questions have been thought over, answers have been thought over. Both are dead, and when two dead things meet there is no spark. I know it is difficult for you, but try. By and by it will happen – and it *has* to happen. Once it happens you will have a freedom from the mind. Then you become weightless, then you have wings into the sky.

Anything more?

Osho,

My mind is already working on the paradox I find between yesterday's talk and today's. Today you have been talking about spontaneity of response to new situations, seeing them as fresh. Yesterday, one of the messages from the story about Joshu was that situations are all the same, people the same. Hence Joshu offered three people a cup of tea. To me, this is a paradox.

Yesterday is no longer here; Joshu has died long ago. Only today is – and even that has passed. Only this moment is.

The mind looks at things and finds paradoxes because the mind thinks of the past, of the present, of the future. Only the present is. So the mind finds paradoxes because the mind is always moving from the past to the present, and then to the future. Once you were a tiny cell in the womb of your mother, so tiny that you could not be seen by the naked eye. Now you are totally different; now you are young. Sooner or later, you will be old, crippled. Now you are alive but the day will come when you will be dead.

The mind thinks of all these things together, and a child and an old man become a paradox. How can a child be old, a young man an old man? Then birth and death become a paradox because for the mind birth and death can both be thought of. For existence, when there is birth there is no death; when there is death there is no birth. For existence there is nothing paradoxical. But the mind can look at the past, the present, and the future, and paradoxes are there.

Yesterday you heard me – be finished with it. Yesterday is no longer there. But the mind carries... If you really heard me yesterday you will not carry it, because if you carry it how can you hear me today? The smoke of yesterday will be a disturbance, the dust will be there, and you will only hear me through that yesterday – and you will miss.

Yesterday should be dropped so you can be here and now. There is no paradox. If you compare yesterday and today, then the paradox comes. If you compare birth and death, then the paradox comes. Today and yesterday cannot exist together; they can exist together only in the memory. Existence is non-paradoxical; the mind is paradoxical.

Why think about yesterday? If you are thinking about it, how can you be here? It will be difficult. Look at the whole absurdity: you will not be able to hear me today because of yesterday! Did you hear me yesterday? – because there have been other yesterdays. Will you be able to hear me tomorrow? – because this today will have become yesterday. The film of all the yesterdays is there; through that film it is difficult to penetrate into the present.

So all that I can say is be here, Joshua is dead. The man who was talking here yesterday is no more: he is dead. There is no question of consistency or inconsistency. Tomorrow I will not be here, you will not be here; tomorrow is going to be absolutely fresh. And only when these two freshnesses meet is there a spark, and that spark dances, and that dance is always consistent.

A carried past creates problems. The problem is not what I said yesterday or what I am saying today. The problem is that

you carry yesterdays and then you miss today. Then whatsoever you think you have heard, I have not said. You *may* have heard it – because through so many yesterdays you will interpret whatever I say. You will think meanings into it which are not there. You may miss things which are there, and it will become something of your own. Then you will create many paradoxes and then the mind is puzzled and confused. Go on dropping.

I am not a philosopher, I am not a systematizer; I am absolutely anarchistic, as anarchistic as life itself. I don't believe in systems. If you go to a Hegel or a Kant and say that this is contradictory, immediately they will say no; they will immediately show you that it is not contradictory. And if you can prove that it is contradictory they will drop one part of it so that the system becomes consistent.

One gambler was saying to another gambler, "I must tell you about this guy I met yesterday. He is a wonderful man, a great mathematician and economist, and he has discovered a system through which a family can live without money."

The other gambler became interested, eager to know immediately what the system was. He asked, "Does it work?"

The first friend says, "The system is wonderful, but the only loophole in it is that it doesn't work. That's the only loophole. Otherwise the system is wonderful."

All systems are wonderful. Hegel, Kant, Marx... All the systems are wonderful. The only loophole is that they are dead.

I have no system. A system can only be dead, it cannot be alive. I am a non-systematic, anarchistic flow; I am not even a person, just a process. I don't know what I said to you yesterday, and the person who said it is not here to answer. He is gone. I am here, and I am answerable only for this moment. So don't wait for tomorrow because I will not be here. Who is going to make consistency, and who is going to find a thread that is not contradictory? There is nobody. And I would like you to be the same.

Just this moment exists, absolutely consistent, because there is no comparison. There is no past, no future; only this moment is. How can you compare? If you live in this moment there will come a consistency which is not of a system, which is of life, which is of the energy itself. That will be an inner consistency of your very being, not of the mind.

I am interested in the being not in the mind. So don't take my answers very seriously; they are just a play, a play with words. Enjoy them and forget them; enjoy me but don't try to systematize me. The whole effort is useless, and in that effort you miss much that is beautiful. You miss much that can become a deep ecstasy in you.

Look at me and don't be bothered with what I say. Be with me, and don't be bothered about theories and words. Act with me – this listening should be an act, not a mental effort. Listen to me but don't try to think about it. I am not trying to convince you, I am not trying to give you a belief; I am not

trying to create any religion or sect – no doctrine is implied. When talking to you, I am here. Talking is just an excuse. I may be asserting one thing today, another thing tomorrow. If you look at my assertions, you will say, “You are inconsistent. Yesterday you had that assertion and today this.”

I say: look at me, words are just dressings. I am consistent, my being is consistent. It cannot be otherwise – how can your being be inconsistent? There is no gap in the being, it is a continuum. But the mind starts thinking, comparing, and then problems arise.

Once it happened...

A disciple came to a Zen master and asked, “Why are a few people so intelligent and a few so stupid? Why are a few people so beautiful and a few so ugly? Why this inconsistency? If God is everywhere, and if he is the creator, then why does he create one ugly and another beautiful?” And the disciple said, “Don’t talk to me about karmas. I have heard all those nonsensical answers – that because of karmas, past lives, one is beautiful, another is ugly. I am not concerned with past lives. In the beginning, when there was no yesterday, how did the difference come? Why was one created beautiful and another ugly? And if everyone was created equal, equally beautiful and intelligent, how can they act differently, how can they have different karmas?”

The master said, “Wait! This is such a secret thing that I will tell you when everybody has left.” There were many people. So the man sat, eager, but people went on coming and going

and there was no chance. But by the evening everybody had left so the man said, “Now...”

The master said, “Come out with me.” The moon was coming up and the master took him to the garden and said, “Look, that tree there is so small, this tree here is so tall. I have been living with these trees for many years and they have never raised the question of why this tree is small and that tree is big. When there was a mind in me, I used to ask many times sitting under these trees, “Why is this tree small and that tree big?” Then my mind dropped, and the question dropped. Now I know. This tree is small and that tree is big; there is no problem. So look! There is no problem.”

The mind compares. How can you compare when the mind is not? How can you say this tree is small and that tree is big? The mind drops, comparison drops. When there is no comparison the beauty of existence erupts. It becomes a volcanic eruption, it explodes. Then you see the small is big and the big is also small; then all contradictions are lost and the inner consistency is seen.

Drop the mind and listen to me. Then you will not ask, “Why yesterday? Why this today and that yesterday?” Then there is no yesterday and no today. Then I am here and you are here, and in this here there is a meeting. And this now and here, when the mind is not there, becomes a communion.

I am not interested in communicating something to you, I am interested in communion. *Communication* means my mind talking to your mind. *Communion* means I am not a mind,

you are not a mind; just your heart meeting my heart – no words.

That's what the story is: say something about this pot without using any words. The cook kicked and went out. Whatsoever I say, kick and go in!

Enough for today.

Chapter 06: The Miracle of Ordinariness

Bankei was preaching quietly to his followers one day when his talking was interrupted by a priest from another sect.

This sect believed in the power of miracles, and thought that salvation came from repeating holy words. Bankei stopped talking, and asked the priest what he wanted to say.

The priest boasted that the founder of his religion could stand on one bank of the river with a brush in his hand and write a holy name on a piece of paper held by an assistant on the opposite bank of the river.

The priest asked, “What miracles can you do?”

Bankei replied, “Only one. When I am hungry I eat, and when I am thirsty I drink.”

The only miracle, the impossible miracle, is to be just ordinary. The longing of the mind is to be extraordinary. The ego thirsts and hungers for recognition. The ego feeds on the recognition that you are somebody. Somebody achieves that dream through wealth, somebody else achieves that dream through power, politics. Somebody else can achieve that dream through miracles, jugglery, but the dream remains the same: I cannot tolerate myself being nobody. And this is the miracle: when you accept your nobodyness, when you are just as ordinary as anybody else, when you don't ask for any recognition, when you can exist as if you are not existing. To be absent is the miracle.

This story is beautiful, one of the most beautiful Zen anecdotes, and Bankei is one of the superb masters. But Bankei was *really* an ordinary man.

Once it happened that Bankei was working in his garden. Somebody came, a seeker, a man in search of a master, and he asked Bankei, “Gardener, where is the master?”

Bankei laughed and said, “Wait. Come to that door – inside you will find the master.”

So the man went around and came inside. He saw Bankei sitting on a throne, the same man who was the gardener outside. The man said, “Are you kidding? Get down from this throne. This is sacrilegious; you don’t pay any respect to the master.”

Bankei got down, sat on the ground, and said, “Now then, it is difficult. Now you will not find the master here – because I am the master.”

It was difficult for that man to see that a great master can work in the garden, can be just ordinary. He left. He couldn’t believe that this man was the master; he missed.

We are all in search of the extraordinary. But why are you in search of the extraordinary? – it is because you also long to be extraordinary. With an ordinary master, how can you become extraordinary, exceptional?

Bankei was talking, lecturing, and one man stood and asked... He belonged to some other sect, a sect which worked through mantras, holy names. Remember that a mantra is a secret technique to achieve more power. A mantra is not spiritual, it is political, but the politics are of the inner space, not of the outer.

The mind can become powerful if you narrow it down; narrowing is the method. The more narrow the mind, the more powerful it becomes. It is just like the sun's rays falling to the ground. If you focus those rays through a lens, fire can be created. Those rays were falling all spread out but now they have been narrowed down through the lens. They have become one-pointed, concentrated; now fire is possible.

The mind is energy, in fact, the same energy that comes through the sun, the same subtle rays. Ask the physicists. They say the mind has the voltage of electricity, that it is electrical.

If you can focus the mind through a lens – and a mantra is a lens – and you go on repeating “Ram, Ram, Ram,” or “Om, om, om,” or anything, just one word; if you go repeating and repeating and repeating it, and the mind's whole energy is centered in that one word, it becomes a lens. Now all the rays are passing through that lens, narrowed to one point. It becomes powerful, you can do miracles. Just by thinking you can do miracles.

But remember, those miracles are not spiritual. Power is never spiritual. Powerlessness, helplessness, to be nothing, is spiritual; power is never spiritual. This is the difference

between magic and religion: magic is after power, religion is after nothingness.

A mantra is a part of magic, not of religion at all. But everything has become messed up, mixed up. People who are doing miracles are magicians, not spiritual in any way. They are even anti-spiritual, because they are spreading magic in the name of religion, which is very dangerous.

Through a mantra, the mind is narrowed. The more narrowed, the more powerful – and then anything can be done. There is only one thing you will miss: you will miss yourself. All miracles will be possible, but you will miss the ultimate miracle – you will miss yourself. Through narrowing down you can achieve an object. The more the mind is narrowed, the more it becomes fixed to an object; it becomes objective. You are hidden behind and the object is outside.

So if you are a man of mantras you can say to this tree, “Die,” and the tree will die; you can say to a man, “Be healthy,” and the disease will disappear, or, “Be unhealthy,” and the disease will enter. You can do many things. You can become somebody, and people will recognize you as a man of power, but never a man of godliness.

A man of godliness is born when the mind is not narrowed at all, when the mind is not flowing in one direction but is overflowing in all directions. There is no lens, no mantra, just the energy flowing in all dimensions everywhere. That flowing energy, overflowing energy everywhere, will make you alert about yourself because then there is no object. Only you, only subjectivity exists. And through you, you will become aware of godliness, not through any power.

This man asked Bankei, “What type of miracles can you do? My master, through mantra, through the holy name, can do miracles. He can stand on one bank of the river while his disciples stand on the other bank with a paper in their hands, a half-mile away, and he can write from there and the words will come on the paper on the other bank. This our master can do. What can you do?”

Bankei said, “There is only one miracle here, and that is when I feel hungry, I eat, and when I feel sleepy, I sleep. Only this much” – nothing miraculous.

Your mind will say, “What type of a miracle is this? It is nothing to be proud of.” But I say to you, Bankei has said the real thing. That’s what a Buddha can do, that’s what a Mahavira is doing, that’s what a Jesus is to do. Only then is he a Christ, otherwise not. What he is saying is such a simple thing. He says, “When I feel hungry I eat.” Is it so difficult that he calls it a miracle? I say it is difficult for you because for the mind not to interfere is the most difficult thing. When you feel hungry, the mind says, “No, this is a religious day and I am on a fast.” When you don’t feel hungry, the mind says, “Eat, because this is the time every day that you eat.” And when the stomach is overfilled the mind says, “Go on eating, the food is delicious.” Your mind interferes.

What is Bankei saying? He is saying, “My mind has stopped interfering. When I feel hungry, I eat, when I don’t feel hungry, I don’t eat.” Eating has become a spontaneous thing; the mind is not a continuous interference. “When I feel sleepy I go to sleep.” No, you are not doing this. You go to sleep as a ritual, not when you feel sleepy. You get up as a ritual because it is *brahmamuhurta*, and you are a Hindu and you

must get up before sunrise. Because you are a Hindu, you get up. Who is this Hindu? – it is the mind. You cannot be a Hindu, you cannot be a Mohammedan; there is no sect for you, but for the mind. The mind says, “You are a Hindu, you must get up,” so you get up. When the mind says, “Now it is time to go to sleep,” you go to sleep. You follow the mind, not nature.

Bankei is saying, “I flow with nature; whatsoever my whole being feels, I do it.” There is no fragmentary mind manipulating it; manipulation is the problem. You go on manipulating and this disturbance, interference – this manipulation by the mind – is the problem.

Even in dreams you go on manipulating. Ask the psychologists – they say that while awake you continue manipulating. The mind doesn’t allow you to see what is there: it projects. The mind doesn’t allow you to hear what is being said to you, it interprets. Even in dreams you are false, because the mind goes on playing tricks with you.

Freud discovered that our dreams are also false. You want to kill your father... In the dream you don’t kill your father, you kill somebody who looks like your father. You want to poison your wife, but you don’t poison your wife even in a dream, you poison some woman who somehow resembles your wife. The mind is interfering continuously.

I have heard...

A man was saying to another, to his friend, “Did I ever dream last night! What a dream! I went to Coney Island – such delicious ice cream, such a tasteful dinner... I have never eaten such a thing in my whole life.”

The other man said, “You’re kidding. You call that a wonderful dream? Last night I dreamt that on one side was Elizabeth Taylor, on the other side was Marilyn Monroe, both in the nude!”

The other became excited and said, “Then why didn’t you call me?” The man said, “I called you, but your wife said you had already left for Coney Island.”

Even in dreams the mind goes on creating the world – Coney Islands, Elizabeth Taylors – and you become jealous even about another’s dream: “Why didn’t you call me?”

Bankei is saying, “We know only one miracle. We allow nature to take its own course, we don’t interfere.” Through interference comes the ego: the more you interfere, the more you manipulate, the more you feel you are somebody.

Look at the ascetics – their egos are so refined and subtle, so shiny. Why? – because they have interfered the most; you have not interfered so much. They have killed their sex, they have destroyed their love, they have repressed their anger, they have completely destroyed their hunger and the feeling of the body. They have reason to be egoists: they are somebodies. Look in their eyes – there is nothing except ego.

Their bodies may be almost dead, but their egos are at the supreme-most peak. They have become Everests.

These monks and saints will not be able to understand what Bankei means. He says, “We know only one miracle – to allow nature to have its own course. We don’t interfere.” If you don’t interfere you will disappear. Fighting is the way to be there.

People come to me and ask how to drop the ego. I tell them, “Who will drop it? If you try to drop it you will be the ego, and someday you will claim, ‘I have dropped the ego.’ And who is this claimer? Who is claiming it? This is the ego, and the most subtle ego always tries to pretend egolessness.”

I also know only one miracle: to let nature have its course, to allow it, whatsoever is happening. Don’t interfere, don’t come in the way. Suddenly you will disappear. You cannot be there without resistance, fight, aggression, violence. The ego exists through resistance. This has to be understood very deeply. The more you fight, the more you will be there.

Why do soldiers feel so happy fighting? Fighting is not such a beautiful thing. War is just ugly, so why do soldiers feel so happy fighting? If you have once been to a war you will never be happy again in peace because the ego comes to such a peak while fighting. Why, in competition, do you feel so happy? – it is because competing, your ego arises; fighting, you become stronger.

But fighting with another is never so ego-fulfilling because you may be defeated – the possibility is there – but fighting with yourself you cannot be defeated, you are always going to

be the winner. There is nobody else except you. Fighting with another there is fear, the fear of being a failure. Fighting with yourself there is no fear, you are alone. You are going to win today or tomorrow, but finally you will win because there is nobody else.

The soldier is fighting with others; the businessman fighting with others; the monk fighting with himself; the ascetic is fighting with himself. The monk and the ascetic are more cunning; they have chosen a path where victory is inevitable. You are not so calculating. Your path is hazardous. You may be a success, you may be a failure, and your success can turn into a failure any moment because there are so many fighters around you, and you are such a small, tiny existence. You can be destroyed.

But fighting with yourself you are alone, there is no competition. So those who are very cunning escape from the world and start fighting with themselves. Those who are not so cunning are simpler, are in the world and go on fighting with others. But the basic essential thing remains the same – fight.

Bankei is saying, “I am not a fighter; I don’t fight at all. When I feel hungry I eat, when I feel sleepy I go to sleep. When I am alive I am alive, and when I die I will die. I don’t come in the way.” He says, “This is the only miracle we know.”

But why call it a miracle? Animals are doing it already, trees are doing it already, birds are doing it already; the whole existence is doing it already. Why call it a miracle? – man cannot do it. The whole existence is a miracle except man.

The Christian story that man has been thrown out from the Garden of Eden seems to be very meaningful; it seems to be very relevant, most significant. The whole existence is a continuous miracle, it is a continuum – miracles are happening every moment. Existence is miraculous, but man has been thrown out.

Why has man been thrown out? The story says because he ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge and God had prohibited it. God said, “Don’t eat the fruit of this tree, the tree of knowledge. All the trees are available to you except this one.”

But the Devil persuaded. Of course he persuaded Eve first; the Devil always enters through the woman. Why? – because woman is the weakest point of man, the weakest link from where the Devil can enter. To enter man directly is difficult because he will give a good fight, it will be difficult. But through woman the Devil can persuade man. So the Devil said to woman, to Eve, “This is the only fruit worth eating, and that’s why God has prohibited it. If you eat this fruit you will be like gods. And he is jealous, he is afraid of you. If you eat this fruit you will be like gods – you will be a god yourself.”

Eve couldn’t resist, the temptation was too much. She persuaded Adam. Adam tried to say, “It is not good because God has prohibited it.” But when it is a problem of choosing between your wife and God, you will choose your wife. Really, there is no real alternative because she will create such trouble, in twenty-four hours such trouble... God cannot create so much trouble.

So finally Adam had to eat. The moment he ate the fruit he became conscious of the ego, he became aware: "I am." Immediately he was thrown out of the Garden of Eden.

It is a beautiful story; the story is really a key to all the secrets.

This knowledge has cast you out of the miraculous world that you are in. Before this, Adam was like a child – naked, but not aware that he was naked. Naked, but not aware that there was some guilt in it. He loved Eve but the love was natural; he was never aware that something wrong was going on, or that there was some sin.

There was no sin; before knowledge there is no sin. A child cannot commit sin, only an old man can be a sinner. So all sinners are old. A child cannot be a sinner – how can he be a sinner? A child is innocent because a child is not aware of himself, that he is.

Adam was like a child, Eve was like a child; they enjoyed, but there was no one who was enjoying. They were part of this mystery, of the miracle. When they felt hungry they ate, when they felt sleepy they slept, when they felt like loving they loved. But everything was a natural phenomenon, the mind was not there as the manipulator. They were part of this universe – flowing like rivers, flowering like trees, singing like birds; they were not separate. Separation came with the knowledge: "I am."

The first thing Adam and Eve did was to try to hide their nakedness. The childhood was lost. Whenever a child begins

to feel that he is naked... This is the point where Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden of Eden.

It has always been my feeling that the answer to the Christian story exists in Mahavira – not in Jesus, but in Mahavira. If by eating the fruit of knowledge Adam became aware, and felt guilty that he was naked, then the answer exists in Mahavira. The moment Mahavira became silent the first thing he did was to become naked. I say Mahavira entered the Garden of Eden again, he became a child again. The Christian story is half, the Jaina story is the other half; they make the whole. The whole existence is a miracle; you have fallen out of it.

Bankei says, “We know only one miracle; we have entered in this great miracle again. We are no longer separate as egos, we are not individuals. Hunger is there but there is no one who is hungry. Sleep comes but there is no one who is sleepy. The ego is not there to resist or to decide. We flow, we drift.” Nothing is wrong and nothing is good. This is the beyondness, the transcendental attitude where no evil exists and no good. You have become innocent. Your saints cannot be innocent because their goodness is too forced; their goodness is already ugly. Their goodness is managed, controlled, cultivated. It is not innocent.

I have heard about an old woman. She served a Buddhist monk for thirty years, did everything for that monk; she was just like both a mother and a disciple. And the Buddhist monk meditated and meditated and meditated. The day the old woman was going to die she called a prostitute from the town and said, “Go to that monk’s hut. Enter the hut, go near him,

embrace the monk, and then come back and tell me how he reacts – because this night I am going to die, and I want to be certain whether I was serving a man who is innocent. I am not certain.”

The prostitute became afraid. She said, “He is such a good man, so saintly; we have never seen such a saintly man.”

Even the prostitute felt guilty to go there and test this man, but the old woman bribed her. The prostitute went, she opened the door. The monk was meditating. It was midnight; in that isolated part nobody was near. The monk opened his eyes, looked at the prostitute, jumped to his feet and said, “Why are you coming in? Get out!” His whole body trembled. The prostitute went nearer. The monk jumped out of the hut crying, “This woman is trying to seduce me!”

The prostitute returned, she told the whole thing, and the old woman sent her servants to burn the hut of the monk. She said, “This man is of no use; he has not become innocent yet. He may be a saint but his saintliness is ugly, it is manipulated. Why should he see a prostitute so suddenly? A woman was entering, not a prostitute. Why should he think she had come to seduce him? He should have been at least gentlemanly. He should have told her, ‘Come, sit. Why have you come?’ He should have at least shown a little compassion. And even if she had embraced him, why should he be afraid? He has been telling me for thirty years, ‘I am not the body.’ If he is not the body then why should he be so much afraid of the body? No, his saintliness is cultivated, it is a pose. It is not from the inner, it is from the outer. He has managed it all right, but inside he is not innocent. It is not childlike.”

Unless saintliness becomes childlike, it is not saintliness at all, it is just a sinner hiding, hiding through a facade.

Bankei said, “We know only one miracle.” What is that miracle? It is to be childlike. Whenever a child feels hungry he starts crying – he is hungry. Whenever he feels sleepy he goes to sleep. We try to manage even a child; we destroy him.

In the West now there are books, guides for mothers – and what type of world is this going to be when a guide is needed even for a mother? They say after three hours to give milk, never before, but give every three hours. The child is crying, but that is not the point, the child is hungry, but that’s not the point, because the guidebook says every three hours. The mother is waiting, and when the three hours are complete she will feed the child. Even motherhood is not enough, a guide is needed; a child’s authentic cry is not to be trusted, as if the child may be trying to deceive. But why should the child deceive? If he is hungry he cries.

But we are trying to destroy childhood. Sooner or later he will follow us; he will also look at the clock, and when the three hours are complete he will give a cry, “I am hungry!” This hunger will be false, and when hunger becomes false everything else becomes false.

We go on forcing children to go to sleep when we think it is time. But sleep is not to be manipulated by time, sleep is something inner. When the child feels sleepy he will go to sleep. But the mother and father go on forcing the child: “Go to sleep!” as if sleep can be ordered. Children must think you

are foolish; they think that something has gone wrong in your mind. How can a child force sleep? He can pretend, so when you are there he can close the eyes, and when you have gone he can open the eyes because sleep cannot be forced. Nobody, not even you, can force sleep. If you don't feel sleepy how can you go to sleep?

But this is how society destroys. That's how the Devil persuades, that's how we bring every child out of the Garden of Eden. Remember, not only were Adam and Eve born in that Garden: every child is born there because that is the birthplace, and then society brings the child out. So society is the Devil. The society persuades: do this, do that, and bring the child out. Make him an ego, make him a manipulator.

The only miracle that is possible is to enter this Garden of Eden again, to become childlike, to allow nature its flow. Don't block it, don't stand in the way, don't push it; just flow with it. You are nature, you are Tao. You are part of the continuous mystery that is happening.

Bankei is right. It is difficult for us because we have become so much addicted to the mind and its manipulation. Even if I say to you, "Be natural," you will try to be natural and then you will miss, because how can one try to be natural? If I say don't do anything, you try not to do anything. If I say be inactive then you make every effort to be inactive. But the effort is the activity. So this has to be understood: no effort is needed. Any effort on your part and you will miss the miracle.

Then what is to be done? Nothing is to be done. Just a simple feeling: allow nature. In the beginning it will be difficult

because you have always been jumping in the way, always interfering. In the beginning it will be difficult, but for just three weeks allow nature. When you feel hungry, eat, when you feel sleepy, go to sleep. When you don't feel hungry, don't eat. It is not a fast, remember, because a fast is from the mind: you are feeling hungry but you are on a fast. There is no harm if you don't feel sleepy; there is no harm because the body doesn't need it, so don't force it. Stay awake, enjoy, go for a walk, have a little dance in the room or sing or meditate, but don't force sleep. When you feel sleepy, when the eyes say, "Now go to sleep"... And don't force yourself in the morning to get out of bed. Allow your inner being, give it a chance. It will give you the indication; the eyes will open by themselves.

For a few days there will be difficulty, but within three weeks... And I say within three weeks if you don't interfere; if you interfere, then three lives are not enough! Don't interfere and just wait for things to happen, and allow them. Within three weeks you will fall into nature again, and suddenly you will see that you have been existing in the Garden of Eden and Adam has never been expelled – he only thinks he has. That's what the knowledge of the fruit means: you simply think that you have been expelled. Where can you be expelled to? The whole of nature is the Garden of Eden – where can you be expelled to? The whole house is God so where can you be expelled to?

Bankei says, "I have entered the garden again."

Bankei was going to die. The disciples were very worried and they asked, "What should we do? What should we do with your body? Should we preserve it? Should we burn it, as

Hindus do, as Buddhists do? Or should we bury it in the ground, as Mohammedans and Christians do? Because,” the disciples said, “we don’t know who you are: a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Mohammedan? You have confused us so much! We don’t know who you are, so what should we do?”

Bankei said, “Wait, let me die first. Why are you in such a hurry? The mind always jumps ahead. Why are you in such a hurry? You call yourselves my disciples? Let me die and do whatsoever you like, because Bankei will not be there. Whether you bury, whether you burn, or whether you preserve, makes no difference to Bankei; Bankei will not be there. But let me die first and then do whatsoever you like. It makes no difference. But don’t jump ahead. The mind has a tendency to jump ahead, always to jump ahead.”

A minister invited his congregation for a garden party. He forgot a little old lady. Just at the eleventh hour he remembered her, so he phoned because that lady was dangerous, very religious, and very religious people are always dangerous. He was afraid that she might create trouble or mischief. She was one of the oldest members of his congregation and contributed to the church and everything. She could create trouble. So he phoned and told the old lady, “Come. Just by mistake I forgot, but forgive me – you must come.”

The old lady said, “It is too late now, I have already prayed for rain.”

There was going to be a garden party and she was not invited! She had already prayed for rain so it was too late, it was no use. Now, nothing could be done.

The mind goes on jumping ahead. That is the way of the mind. Make fewer and fewer jumps, or if it is very difficult for you, then allow the mind to jog, but don't jump ahead. Jogging is meditation! It is a jogging; you are jumping on the same ground. The mind is accustomed to jump ahead. It may be difficult to stop it completely, so do half-half – don't jump ahead, jump on the ground, jog. Half is cut. Then, by and by, slow down; then stand, then sit down. When you are here and now, sitting totally, not jumping ahead, the miracle has happened. To be in the moment is the miracle.

But I know Bankei will not appeal to you. Sai Baba can appeal to you because with Sai Baba your mind has a logic, a tuning. With Bankei your mind cannot be tuned, it has to be dropped – only then can that tuning happen. With Sai Baba you can understand things; with logic it is the same. What your mind says is that a miracle is happening. This is not religion at all, this is simply magic. There is no difference between a Houdini and a Sai Baba. The only difference, if there is any, is that Houdini was more honest than Sai Baba because he simply said, "I am a magician. These are tricks." And all that Sai Baba can do, any magician can do – but you will not pay much respect to a magician because he is so sincere and honest that he says, "These are tricks." So you say, "Okay, so these are tricks, no miracle."

When somebody says, "These are not tricks, this is a miracle, divine power manifesting through me," then your mind starts jumping. Then you think, "If I can become a close disciple of

this man then I also can become somebody, I can also do something.”

If you have come to me in search of such a miracle you have come to the wrong person. I am Bankei reborn. I know only one miracle: to be here and now. When feeling hungry, eat; when feeling sleepy, sleep – just to be ordinary and just to be part of the cosmos.

If you are in search of such a miracle then much can happen near me, but if you are not in such a search then nothing will happen near me. And remember, you will be responsible for it because your whole search is wrong. Then there can be no tuning with me. So decide clearly in your mind, come to an understanding of what type of miracle you are searching for.

I can make you most ordinary, I can make you simple human beings, I can make you like trees and birds. There is no magic around here, only religion. But if you can see, this is the greatest miracle.

Anything more?

Osho,

You were just talking about food, and now in the West food is a big cult. It's one of the things coming in as a basis of spirituality. You said if we're natural, we'll know what to eat and when to eat, but now we are out of touch with our childlike nature. Also, many religions say that the food you eat does make a difference to one's spiritual path. Is there anything you can tell us about food as a guide for the West?

It is just the other way round. Food cannot make you spiritual, but if you are spiritual your food habits will change. Eating anything will not make much difference. You can be a vegetarian and cruel to the extreme, and violent; you can be a non-vegetarian and kind and loving. Food will not make much difference.

In India there are communities who have lived totally with vegetarian food. Jainas have lived totally with vegetarian food, many brahmins have lived totally with vegetarian food, but they are not nonviolent and they are not spiritual. Jainas are the most materialistic community in India, the most attracted by possessions, accumulation; that's why they have become the wealthiest. They are the Jews in India.

A non-vegetarian world in the West is not in any way different from these vegetarian communities in India – rather, on the contrary. A very important thing has to be remembered: if you are violent and your food is vegetarian, then your violence will have to find some other way of expression. It is natural, because eating non-vegetarian food gives release to your violence.

So if you know any hunters you may have come to realize that hunters are the most loving people. Their whole violence is released in hunting; they are most friendly, loving. But a businessman vegetarian has no way for his violence to be released, so all his violence becomes a search for wealth and power; it becomes narrowed down.

But it happens the other way round – it happened to Mahavira. Mahavira came from a warrior family, he was a kshatriya; violence must have been easy for him. And then a

deep meditative effort, a twelve-year-long silence, changed his inner essence. When the essence changed, the expression changed; when the innermost being changed, his character changed. But that character change was not basic, it was a consequence. So I say to you, if you become more meditative you will become more and more vegetarian automatically. You need not bother about it. And only if it happens that through meditation vegetarian food comes in too, not through mind manipulation, it is good. But manipulating by the mind – by argument, reason – that vegetarian food is good, that it will help you to spirituality, is not going to help anything. Your clothes, your food, your habits of life, your style, everything will change. But this change is not basic. The basic change is going to be in you and then everything else follows.

If you meditate long enough, deep enough, it is impossible for you to hurt anybody for food; it is impossible. It is not a question of argument, it is not a question of scriptures, it is not who says what, it is not a question of calculation, that if you take vegetarian food you will become spiritual. It is automatic. It is not a question of cunningness, you simply become spiritual. The whole thing seems so absurd. Just for food, killing animals, birds, seems so absurd; it falls down. Your clothes change automatically; by and by you like looser and looser clothes. The more relaxed you are inside – loose clothes. Automatically, I say; there will be no decision on your part. By and by, if you wear tight clothes you will feel uneasy, because tight clothes belong to a tense mind and loose clothes belong to a relaxed mind.

But the inner change is the first thing and everything else is just a consequence. If you reverse the order, you will miss; then you will become a food addict. There are people now...

One man came to me. He was just lean and thin and pale, and at any moment he could die, and he said, "I want to live only on water." Why? "Because," he said, "everything else is a hindrance to spirituality. Now I want to live on pure water."

This man is going to die. There have been a few people who have lived on pure water but that happened to them naturally; it cannot be practiced. They were freaks, accidents; their body mechanism and chemistry worked differently. It has happened: somebody can survive on water, but nobody can practice it. Somebody can survive only on air, but nobody can practice it. Someday science may be able to find the basic chemical change and then everybody can do it. Then science can change your body chemistry and you can survive just on air. It is possible but you cannot practice it. The whole effort is meaningless and the whole suffering unnecessary. But there are mad people who try things like that. It has never happened by effort.

There was one woman in Bengal – she lived forty years without food, but it simply happened. Her husband died and she couldn't eat for a few days – just out of misery, out of sorrow, she couldn't eat. But suddenly she realized that without eating she was feeling better than ever. Then she realized that in the past, whenever she was eating she was always ill, and suddenly she became healthy as she never was before. Then she lived for forty years without eating anything, just the air was her food. And this has happened in many cases.

There was one woman in Europe – for thirty years she lived without eating. She became a saint because Christians thought it a miracle. They examined her with every scientific instrument to see what was happening and they couldn't find anything; then it seemed a miracle. It is not a miracle.

Yoga says there is a possibility of a body change, of a body chemistry change. Right now you are doing the same indirectly. You cannot eat sunrays directly because your body chemistry is not in such a state; the mechanism is not such that it can absorb sunrays directly. So first the fruit of the tree absorbs the sunrays, it becomes vitamin C in the fruit; then you eat the fruit, and then the vitamin C goes into your body. The fruit is just a medium. The fruit is working just as your agent to absorb the sunrays and then give them to you. You can absorb them through the fruit, not directly. But if the fruit can absorb directly, why not you?

Someday there is going to be a scientific discovery that some bodily changes will help you to absorb directly. Then fruit will not be needed. In the future – and I think not very long, within fifty years – science is bound to discover it. It has to be discovered, otherwise humanity is going to die because food will not be possible. Birth control is not helping, nothing is helping; the population goes on growing. Some way has to be found so food can be dropped and direct absorption of cosmic rays becomes possible. It has happened in individual cases but it was by accident. If it can happen to one individual, it can happen to every individual – but not as an accident, it will happen as a scientific change.

But don't try such things, they are not spiritual. Even if you eat sunrays directly there is nothing spiritual. What is

spiritual? Just by dropping the medium of fruit you become spiritual? If you live only on water, nothing is spiritual in it.

What you eat makes no difference; what you are is a totally different phenomenon. When that changes, everything will change. But that change will not be from the mind, it will be from the innermost being. Then things will change automatically. Sex will disappear by and by. So I don't say be a *brahmachari*, be a celibate. That is foolish, because if you force yourself towards being a celibate you will become more and more sexual in the mind and your whole mind will become ugly and dirty. You will think only of sex and nothing else. That is not the way: you will go crazy and insane. Freud says that ninety percent of madmen are mad because of repressed sexuality.

I don't say change sex, I don't say change food. I say change your being and then things will start changing. Why is so much sex needed? – because you are tense, and sex becomes a release. Your tensions are released through it – you feel relaxed, you can go to sleep. If you repress it you remain tense. And if you repress sex – the only release, the only possibility of release – what will happen? You will go mad. Where will you release your tensions then?

You eat food; it is needed by the body, and the body rejects only things which are not needed. Whatsoever you are eating is somehow needed by the body. If you are eating animals as food, if you are eating non-vegetarian food, your mind, your body, your whole being is violent. And it is needed; don't change it. Otherwise, your violence will have to find another channel.

Change yourself and food will change, clothes will change, sex will change. But change should come from the innermost core; it should not be forced from the periphery. All turmoil is on the periphery; deep down there is no turmoil. You are just like the sea. Go and watch the sea. All the turmoil, all the waves clashing, is just on the surface. The deeper you go, there is more and more calm. At the deepest level of the sea there is no turmoil, not a single wave.

First go deeper into your inner sea so that you achieve a calm crystallization, so that you achieve the point where no disturbance ever reaches. Stand there. From there every change comes, every transformation comes. Once you are there you have become a master. Now whatsoever is unnecessary can be dropped, and can be dropped without any struggle and fight.

Whenever you drop something by fighting it is never dropped. You can drop smoking by fighting, and then you will start doing something else which will become a substitute. You may start chewing gum, it is the same; you may start chewing *pan*, it is the same. There is no difference. You needed something to do with your mouth: smoking, chewing, anything. When your mouth goes on working, you feel at ease because through the mouth tensions are released. So whenever a man feels tense he starts smoking. Why is it that through smoking, or chewing gum or tobacco, tensions are released?

Just look at a small child. Whenever he feels tense he will put his hand in his mouth, he will start chewing on his own hand. This is his substitute for smoking. Why does he feel good when his thumb is in his mouth? Why does the child feel

good and go to sleep? This is the strategy of almost all children. Whenever they feel that sleep is not coming they will put their thumb in their mouth, feel at ease, and fall asleep. Why? – because the thumb becomes a substitute for the mother’s breast. Food is relaxing. You cannot go to sleep on an empty stomach; it is difficult to sleep. When the stomach is full you feel sleepy, the body needs rest. So whenever the child takes the breast in his mouth, food is flowing, and warmth and love. He is relaxed; he need not worry, tensions are relaxed. The thumb is just a substitute for the breast. It is not giving milk, it is a false thing, but still it gives the feeling.

When this child grows, if he sucks his thumb in public, you will think he is foolish, so he takes a cigarette. A cigarette is not foolish, it is accepted. It is just the thumb, and more harmful than the thumb. It is better if you smoke your thumb! Go on smoking to your grave; it is not harmful, it is better. No harm is done. But then people think you are childish, juvenile; people think you are stupid. What are you doing? But there is a need so it has to be substituted.

In countries where breast-feeding has stopped, there will automatically be more smoking. That’s why the West smokes more than the East – because no mother is ready to give her breast to the child, because the shape is lost. So in the West smoking is increasing more and more; even small children are smoking.

I have heard...

A mother was saying to her child, “I don’t want neighbors to tell me that you have started smoking. Be truthful, and whenever you start smoking, tell me.”

The child said, “Don’t bother mom, I have already stopped. It is one year now since I have stopped smoking. It is one year now so don’t bother, don’t get worried about it.”

Small children smoking, and the mother is not aware that it is because the breast has been taken away. In all primitive communities a seven-year-old child, or even an eight- or nine-year-old child, will continue. Then there is a satisfaction and smoking will not be so necessary. That’s why in primitive communities men are not so much interested in women’s breasts. They have had enough – no need! Women go without covering their breasts; there is no problem that somebody will attack them. Nobody looks at the breasts.

If you had been given the breast for ten years continuously, you would get fed up and bored; you would say, “Stop now!” But every child has been taken away from the breast prematurely, and that remains a wound. So all civilized countries are obsessed with breasts. Even an old man, dying, is obsessed with breasts, goes on searching for breasts. This seems mad – and it is. But the basic cause is, children should be given the breast. Otherwise they will become addicted to it, and the whole life they will be in search of it. You cannot stop smoking directly because it has many related things, implications. You are tense, and if you stop smoking you will start something else and that other thing may be more harmful.

Don't go on escaping from problems – face them. The problem is that you are tense, so the goal should be how to be non-tense, not whether to smoke or not. Meditate. Relax your tensions without any object – into the sky. Allow catharsis to happen. When you are non-tense these things will become absurd, foolish, and they will drop. Food will change, your styles of living will change.

But my insistence is on you. Character is secondary, behavior is secondary. The essential you is the primary thing. Don't pay too much attention to what you do, but pay much attention to what you are. Being should become the focus, and doing should be left to itself. When being changes, doing follows.

Anything more?

Osho,

Whenever you speak of our failings, you usually mention anger, sex, and jealousy. Anger and sex seem fairly straightforward, but there's some confusion about exactly what jealousy is, and it's harder to get to the core. Would you tell us about jealousy?

Yes, I make more mention of anger, sex, and less of jealousy, because jealousy is not a primary thing, it is secondary. It is a secondary part of sex. Whenever you have a sexual urge in your mind, a sexual happening in your being, whenever you feel sexually attracted and related to somebody, jealousy enters because you are not in love. If you are in love, jealousy never enters.

Try to understand the whole thing. Whenever you are sexually related you are afraid because sex is really not a relationship, it is an exploitation. If you are attached to a woman or man sexually, you are always afraid that this woman may go to somebody else, this man may move to somebody else. There is no relationship really, it is just mutual exploitation. You are exploiting each other, but you don't love – and you know it so you are afraid. This fear becomes jealousy so you may not allow things, you will guard: you will make every security arrangement so that this man cannot look at another woman. Even looking will be a danger signal. This man should not talk to another woman because talking... You feel afraid he may leave. So you will close all the paths, all the ways of this man going to another woman, of this woman going to another man; you will close all the ways, all the doors.

But then a problem arises. When all the doors are closed, the man becomes dead, the woman dies, becomes a prisoner, a slave – and you cannot love a dead being. You cannot love one who is not free, because love is beautiful only when it is given freely, when it is not taken and demanded and forced.

First you make security arrangements, then the person dies, becomes like an object. A beloved may be a person; a wife becomes an object. A beloved may be a person; a husband becomes an object to be guarded, possessed, controlled. But the more you control, the more you are killing because the freedom is lost. And the other person may be there for other reasons, but not for love – because how can you love a person who possesses you? He looks like an enemy.

Sex creates jealousy, but it is a secondary thing. So it is not a question of how to drop jealousy; you cannot drop it because you cannot drop sex. The question is how to transform sex into love. Then jealousy disappears.

If you love a person, the very love is enough guarantee, the very love is enough security. If you love a person, you know he cannot go to anybody else. And if he goes, he goes; nothing can be done. What can you do? You can kill the person, but a dead person will not be of much use.

When you love a person you trust that he cannot go to anybody. If he goes, there is no love and nothing can be done. Love brings this understanding. There is no jealousy. So if jealousy is there, know well there is no love. You are playing a game, you are hiding sex behind love. *Love* is just a painted word, the reality is sex.

In India, because love is not allowed much, not allowed at all – marriage is arranged – tremendous jealousy exists. A husband is always afraid. He has never loved, so he knows; the wife is always afraid because she has never loved, so she knows. This has been an arrangement. The parents arranged, astrologers arranged, society arranged; the wife and husband were never asked. In many cases they never knew each other, they had never seen each other. So fear exists. The wife is afraid, the husband is afraid, and both are spying on each other. The very possibility is lost. How can love grow in fear? They can live together, but that living together is not living together. They only tolerate together, they somehow carry on together. It is just utilitarian, and out of utility you may manage but ecstasy is not possible. You cannot celebrate it, it cannot become festive; it will be a burdensome affair.

So a husband is dead before death, a wife is dead before death. Two dead persons are taking revenge on each other because each thinks that the other has killed them. Taking revenge, angry, jealous – the whole thing becomes so ugly.

But in the West a different type of phenomenon is happening which is the same on the other extreme. They have dropped arranged marriage – it is good, that institution is not worth keeping – but by dropping it, love has not arisen, only sex has become free. And when sex is free you are always afraid because it is always a temporary arrangement. You are with this girl tonight, tomorrow she will be with somebody else, and yesterday she was with somebody else. Yesterday the girl was with somebody else, tomorrow she will again be with somebody else; only tonight she is with you. How can this be very intimate and deep? It can only be a meeting of the surfaces. You cannot penetrate each other because penetration needs seasoning. It needs time, it needs depth, intimacy, living together, being together. A long time is needed, then depth opens – depths talking to each other... This is just acquaintance – it may not even be acquaintance.

In the West you can meet a woman on the train and make love, and at midnight you drop her at some station. She never bothers that she may never know you again; she may not even have asked your name. If sex becomes such a trivial thing, just a bodily affair where surfaces meet and separate, your depth remains untouched. You are again missing something – something great, something very mysterious – because you become aware of your own depth only when somebody else touches it. Only through the other do you become aware of your inner being. Only in deep relationship does somebody's

love resound in you and bring your depth into being. Only through somebody else do you discover yourself.

There are two ways of discovery. One is meditation: without the other you search for the depth. Another is love: with the other you search for the depth. He becomes a root to reach to yourself. The other creates a circle, and the two lovers help each other. The deeper love goes, the deeper they feel they are; their being someday is revealed. But then there is no jealousy.

Love cannot be jealous, it is impossible. It is always trusting, and if something happens that breaks your trust you have to accept it. Nothing can be done about it because whatsoever you do will destroy the other. Trust cannot be forced; jealousy tries to force it. Jealousy tries to make you make every effort so that trust can be maintained. But trust is not something to be maintained; it is there or it is not there. And I say again, nothing can be done about it. If it is there, you go through it. If it is not there, better to separate.

But don't fight for it because you are wasting time, life. If you love someone and your depth speaks to the other's depth – you have a meeting in being – it is okay, beautiful. If it is not happening, separate. But don't create any conflict, struggle or fight for it, because it cannot be achieved through fight, and the time is lost – and not only time, your capacity will be damaged. With another person you may start repeating the whole pattern again.

So if there is no trust, separate – the sooner the better, so you are not destroyed, so you are not damaged, so your capacity to love remains fresh and you can love somebody else. This is

not the place, this is not the man, this is not the woman for you. Move, but don't destroy each other. Life is very short and capacities are very delicate; they can be destroyed, and once damaged there is no possibility of repairing them.

I have heard that once Winston Churchill was invited to speak in a small club of friends. Everybody knew that Churchill was a drunkard and loved alcohol very much. The man who introduced him, the president of the club, said, "Sir Winston has drunk so much wine up to now, that if we pour all the wine into this hall the level will come up to my head." It was a big hall, and he was just joking.

Winston Churchill stood, looked at the imaginary line, then looked at the ceiling – the ceiling was high – then became very sad, and he said, "So much still to be done, and so little time left to do it!"

As far as love is concerned, so much is to be done for everyone and so little time is left to do it. Don't waste your energy in fighting, jealousy, conflict. Move, and move in a friendly way. Search somewhere else for the person who exists who will love you. Don't get fixed with someone who is wrong, not for you. Don't be angry, there is no point in it, and don't try to force trust. Nobody can force it, it never happens. You will miss the time, you will miss the energy, and you may only become aware when nothing can be done. Move. Either trust or move.

Love always trusts, or if it finds that the trust is not possible, it simply moves in a friendly way; there is no conflict, no fight. Sex creates jealousy. Find, discover love. Don't make sex the basic thing – it is not.

India missed with arranged marriage; the West is missing with free love. India missed love because parents were too calculating and cunning. They would not allow falling in love: that is dangerous; nobody knows where it will lead. They were too clever, and through cleverness India missed all possibility of love.

In the West they are too rebellious, too young – not clever, too young, too childish. They have made sex a free thing, available everywhere: “No need to go so deep to discover love; enjoy sex and be finished.” Through sex the West is missing; through marriage the East has missed. But if you are alert you need not be Eastern, you need not be Western. Love is neither Eastern nor Western.

Go on discovering love within you. And if you love, sooner or later the person will happen to you because a loving heart, sooner or later, comes to a loving heart. It always happens. You will find the right person. But if you are jealous, you will not find; if you are simply for sex, you will not find; if you live only for security, you will not find.

Love is a dangerous path and only those who have courage can travel it. And I say to you, it is just like meditation – only for those who are courageous. There are only two ways to reach the divine: either meditation or love. Find out which is your way, which can be your destiny.

Enough for today.

Chapter 07: The Right Moment

The Japanese master Ekido was a severe teacher and his pupils feared him.

One day, as one of his pupils was striking the time of day on the temple gong, he missed a beat because he was watching a beautiful girl who was passing the gates. Unknown to the pupil, Ekido was standing behind him. Ekido struck the pupil with his staff, and the shock stopped the heart of the pupil and he died.

Because the old custom of the pupil signing his life over to the master had sunk to a mere formality, Ekido was discredited by the general public. But after this incident, Ekido produced ten enlightened successors, an unusually high number.

This type of phenomenon is special to Zen and to Zen masters. Only a Zen master beats his disciples, and sometimes it happens that the disciple dies through beating. Ordinarily this looks very cruel, violent, mad. Religious people cannot conceive how a master can be so cruel as to kill a disciple, but those who know feel differently.

A man who is enlightened knows well that nobody is ever killed. The inner is eternal, it goes on and on. It may change bodies but the change is only of houses, the change is only of dresses, the change is only of vehicles. The traveler goes on and on, nothing dies.

The moment of death can become the moment of enlightenment also because they are so similar. When someone becomes enlightened it is a death deeper than ordinary death; when someone becomes enlightened he comes to know that he is not the body. The attachment, the identification, disappears. For the first time he can see an unbridgeable gap. He is here, the body is there – there is an abyss between. He has never been the body and the body has never been him. This death is deeper than ordinary death because ordinarily when you die, you are still identified with the body.

This death is even deeper because not only are you unidentified with the body, but your identification with the mind, with the ego, also disappears. You are left simply as an emptiness, as an inner space, boundless. You are neither the body nor the mind.

In ordinary death only the body dies, but the mind goes on following you like a shadow. The mind is the problem, not the body. Through the mind you have become one with the body, and unless the mind disappears you will go on getting into newer bodies, into newer vehicles, and the wheel of life will go on and on. When you become enlightened, suddenly you are not the body, you are not the mind. Only then do you come to know who you are. The body is a seed, the mind is also a seed; hidden beyond them is you.

Sometimes it happens that a Zen master can coincide the moment of your death with your enlightenment. In the right moment he can hit you: the body falls down – everybody can see that – but deep within, the ego also falls down. Only you and the master know. It is not cruelty, it is the highest form of

compassion, and only a very great master can do it. It is very subtle to feel the moment of your death, and to make it a point of inner transformation and transfiguration.

Look at this story and you may think – it is how the story appears – that the master killed his disciple. That is not the thing. The disciple was going to die anyhow; it was the moment for his death, the master knew it. He simply used the moment of death for the disciple's enlightenment. But this is an inner secret, something esoteric, and I could not defend Ekido in a court with this. The court would say he is a murderer, and there would be no way to prove that he knew that the disciple was going to die at that moment.

Why not use death? An ignorant person cannot use life; an enlightened person can even use death. That's how a master should be, using everything for enlightenment.

Ekido was standing just behind the disciple; the disciple was beating the gong of the temple and the master was watching. If this disciple could die in awareness, death would become the turning point of the wheel. If he could die in awareness, if he could fall but remain conscious – if the body could fall, but deep down he could remain centered, alert, aware – then this would be the last death, then he would not need to be reborn again. Remember, if you can die with full awareness, the wheel of life stops. You can enter a new body only if you are unaware, unconscious. When someone dies fully conscious, this world disappears because there is no birth again.

That's why we say an enlightened person never comes again. A buddha simply disappears; you will not be able to meet him again in the body. You can meet him in bodilessness – then

he is everywhere – but not in the body. You cannot meet Buddha somewhere because only a body exists somewhere. When the body disappears a buddha exists everywhere, or nowhere. You can meet him here, you can meet him there, you can meet him anywhere, but don't look for him in the body. The body exists somewhere; when the body disappears, the soul, the consciousness, exists everywhere. You can meet Buddha anywhere; wherever you go you can meet him.

The body is there because the mind seeks desires through the body; desires cannot be fulfilled without the body. You can be completely fulfilled without the body – really you can only be fulfilled without the body – but desires cannot be fulfilled without the body. Desire needs the body; the body is the vehicle of desire. That's why possession happens. You have heard, you must have heard, many stories about a ghost possessing somebody. Why is a ghost so interested in possessing somebody? It is because of desire. Desires cannot be fulfilled without a body, so he enters somebody's body to fulfill his desires.

The same is the case when you enter a womb, enter into a fresh body, and start the journey of desire. But if you die alert, in that alertness not only the body dies, all desires evaporate. Then there is no entering into a womb. Entering a womb is really such a painful process, it is so painful that consciously you cannot do it; only unconsciously can you do it.

The English word *anxiety* comes from a Latin root which means narrowing down, and in the beginning the word was used for the entry of a soul into a womb. So the first anxiety is felt when a soul enters a womb, because everything is

narrowed down; an infinite soul becomes a small body. This is the most painful process possible, as if the whole sky has been forced to enter into a seed. You don't know it because it is so painful that you become totally unconscious.

There are two painful processes. You may have heard Buddha's saying: "Birth is pain, death is pain." These are the greatest pains, the greatest anguishes possible. When the infinite becomes finite in the womb, it is painful, it is anxiety, and when the infinite is taken out of the body – in which it has become so attuned and identified – again there is anguish and pain.

So whenever someone dies consciously, he disappears. Then there is no more entering into the body. Then there is no more anxiety because anxiety is the consequence of desire; then you need not be narrowed down because there is no desire to be fulfilled. You can remain infinite; there is no need to enter a vehicle because now you are going nowhere.

This disciple who was beating the gong of the temple must have been near his death, close, and the master was standing behind him because of this fact. The disciple was going to die any moment. This is not said in the story, this cannot be said, but this is how the thing happened. Otherwise there was no need for the master to stand behind the disciple when he was beating the gong. There are many more important things for the master to do. Beating the gong is just an ordinary thing, an everyday ritual. Why was the master standing behind him?

This Ekido seems to be a strange fellow. Had he not anything more significant to do? At that moment there was nothing more significant, because this disciple was going to die

anyhow and his death had to be used. And only a master can use death – out of compassion. He was waiting to see whether he remained alert at the moment of death or not. He missed.

The story is beautiful and very significant. He saw a beautiful girl passing and his whole consciousness was lost. He became a desire. His whole being became a desire: he wanted to follow this girl, to possess this girl. And whenever there is desire, consciousness is lost because both cannot exist together. Desire exists with unconsciousness, it cannot exist with consciousness; when you move in desire, consciousness disappears. Hence so much insistence by all the buddhas and *jinas* for desirelessness. When you are desireless you will be aware; when you are aware you will be desireless. These are two aspects of the same coin – on one aspect, desirelessness; on another aspect, alertness, consciousness.

The story is significant. Seeing a beautiful girl pass, the disciple missed himself. He was no longer there; he became a desire. He started following the girl, he entered a dream, he became sleepy. He became unconscious.

Sex is the midpoint between death and birth; between birth and death is sex. Really, between birth and death there is nothing but sex, an extension of sex. You are conceived out of sex, and from the moment you are conceived you start on a journey of sexual pleasure. The moment you die this continues. And sex is so powerful that even if death is standing there you will forget death. If sex takes the grip then everything can be forgotten; you become completely mad. The form of the girl caught his mind; he was no longer there. He was alert just a moment before, now he is not alert.

You may have heard stories, Indian stories, of *rishis*, seekers, doing austerities, meditating in their forest abodes in the hills. Always it happens that whenever they reach a point of awareness, suddenly sex arises. *Apsaras*, nymphs from heaven, descend – as if they are just waiting for someone to come to a point of awareness, as if there is a subtle conspiracy against achieving awareness. Hidden deep in a forest someone achieves a little alertness, and suddenly nymphs are there, beautiful girls from heaven – not of this earth, perfect; you cannot conceive anything more perfect. The bodies are as if of gold, transparent. Suddenly awareness is lost and the *rishi* has become a man of desire. He falls.

From where do these *apsaras* come? Do they really come from heaven? Is there some conspiracy against awareness? No. They come out of the mind of the seeker. The mind, when it sees that everything is going to be lost, uses sex as the last weapon. When the mind sees that now awareness is reaching a crystallization, and that once crystallized the mind will not have any say, the mind will be dropped, this is the last struggle... Suddenly the mind creates sex and the desire for sex – the mind projects.

I say to you, there may have been no girl passing. It was just the moment of death, and this man was aware, so the mind played the last trick. That is the last: if you win that, you have won the mind. The mind will play other tricks and always preserve sex as the last resort. If sex cannot work then nothing can work. The mind depends basically on sex.

Look into your mind: you will find it is ninety percent sex, thinking about sex, dreaming about sex, projecting in the future, remembering the past. It is always about sex. And

sometimes, even if you feel it is not thinking about sex, ponder over it, meditate – you will find that it desires other things also because of sex. You may think about becoming wealthy – but what will you do with your wealth? Just ask the mind, and the mind says, “Then you can enjoy the body, then you can get the most beautiful woman possible.” The mind may think, “Become a Napoleon, a Hitler.” But ask the mind what you will do with power. Suddenly you will find, hidden somewhere, sex and desire.

This girl may not have been passing there. Or, even if the girl was passing, the girl may not have been as beautiful as she looked, as she appeared. In the first place, I think there was no girl – just the moment of death and this man’s awareness. He was beating the gong fully alert. This is part of meditation in a Zen monastery: whatsoever you do, do it with awareness. When you walk, walk fully alert; when you move your head, be fully alert. Whatsoever you do, follow it with alertness. Don’t miss it, don’t think of anything else. Be there in it as a light and everything is revealed. Every act, every nook and corner of it, is lighted: nothing is in darkness. When you eat, eat with awareness. This is all one has to do in a Zen monastery: twenty-four hours of alertness.

This disciple must have been beating the gong with full alertness. The gong is beaten to make everybody alert, and he must have been alert with the sound resounding in the monastery. Suddenly the girl appeared – from where? In the first place, I think there was no girl; the mind projected. In the second place – even if there was a girl – the girl was not as beautiful as the mind thought: it projected. The girl was just a screen. The dream came from the mind and was projected.

That's how it is happening to everybody. When you fall in love for the first time, the girl is not of this world; she comes from somewhere else – she is an *apsara*, a nymph from heaven. But by and by, the more you become acquainted, the girl becomes more and more earthly, ordinary, homely. Suddenly you find there is nothing, this is just an ordinary girl, and then you think you have been deceived, that this girl has deceived you.

Nobody has deceived you. Your mind projected; your mind projected so that desire could move. Beauty doesn't exist in things, it is a projection. Beauty is not objective, it is subjective. So one day somebody looks beautiful, another day the same person becomes ugly. It is you who projects, it is you who withdraws; the other works just as a screen.

Once you come to know that the mind projects beauty and ugliness, that the mind projects good and bad, you stop projecting. Then for the first time you come to know what objective reality is. It is neither good nor bad, it is neither beautiful nor ugly. It simply is. All your interpretations drop with the projections.

So this disciple at the moment of death was going to be alert and aware, and the mind did the last thing, its final resort – a beautiful girl appeared. The mind created beauty around her and awareness was lost. The mind became dim and desire arose; the soul was no longer there. The disciple became the body.

That's why all religions insist so much on transcending sex. Unless you transcend sex the mind will play the last trick, and it will be the winner, not you. But repression is not

transcendence, it is escape. Move into desire with full awareness; try to be in the sex act but alert. By and by you will see the emphasis changing: the energy will move more into alertness and less into the sex act. Now the thing has happened, the basic thing has happened. Sooner or later the whole sex energy becomes meditative energy; then you have transcended. Then, whether you stand in the market or sit in a forest, *apsaras* cannot come to you. They may be passing on the street but they will no more be there for you. If your mind is there, absent *apsaras* become present; if your mind is not there, present *apsaras* disappear.

At this moment when the disciple missed awareness, the master hit him hard on the head. I would like to do the same for you in your moment of death, but it cannot be tolerated here. In Japan it was one of the oldest traditions: whenever a disciple came to a master he said, “My life, my death – both are yours. If you want to kill me, you can.” This is what surrender is. And he signed, he wrote it down. He gave it in writing because the law, the state, won’t listen. The law will not listen if you say that you hit him because he was going to die. The law will say you hit him, and that’s why he has died.

The law moves from the visible and a master moves from the invisible. The master sees the invisible death reaching, and he hits just to make the disciple alert. And a very hard hit is needed. When the mind is moving in sex an ordinary hit won’t do; a real hit is needed, a real electric shock-like thing.

It is an old story. If in the future there are monasteries like old Zen monasteries, there will be no need to hit with a staff. An electric shock can be given – but something so shocking that

the whole being trembles, something so shocking that there is a break in the desire that is leading you out.

The master hit the disciple so hard that he died. This is the visible part of it – he fell down and died. What happened inside? What is the inside story? When the master hit the disciple, it was the moment of his death, but desire was arising. In the moment of death, if sex is there, only then can you enter into another womb; otherwise you cannot enter.

Men dying in bed, if they are conscious, always think of sex. It may be strange but an old man, even a man of a hundred years, dying in bed, almost always thinks of sex, because sex is the first and the last in the body's life. He may have been thinking of God before, he may have been chanting, "Ram, Ram, Ram," but suddenly at the moment of death everything drops and sex appears again. It is natural: the first must be the last. You were conceived out of sex and you must die with sex in your mind.

So dirty old men are not just a myth. The body is almost dead but the mind continues to think. And old men think more about sex than young men, because young men can do something about it. Old men cannot do, they can only think; the whole phenomenon becomes cerebral, mental.

At the moment of death you are preparing for a reentry, for entering the womb. Try to understand deeply: why is there so much attraction in entering the feminine body, the female body? What do you gain out of it? While making love, when your whole being wants to penetrate the feminine body, what do you gain out of it? Psychologists say – and spiritualists have always been alert about it – that it is again the same

symbolic act of entry. It is not only when you are conceived that your being enters into the womb of a woman, it persists your whole life. Again and again you want to penetrate the female body; you want to reach the womb again and again.

Sex means the urge to penetrate the feminine body, to enter again into the womb. They are both the same: whether you enter as a seed or you enter just in a sex act, the urge is to enter. At the moment of death, sex must come into the mind, and if it comes, you have missed. You have created a desire, and now this desire will lead you into another womb again. You will enter.

The master was waiting behind – the masters are always waiting behind the disciples, whether physically or nonphysically – and this is one of the greatest moments: when a person is going to die. The master hit him hard; his body fell down, but inside he became alert. The desire disappeared. The girl passing was no more, the street was no longer there. Everything dropped with the body, shattered; he became alert. In that alertness he died. And if you can join alertness and death you have become enlightened. That's why a miracle happened.

Ekido's tradition became one of the most significant traditions in Japan. Ten persons attained enlightenment. People started to wonder: "This cruel man who has killed, this aggressive and violent man who has killed, why are his disciples becoming enlightened?" It is a rare number – ten is rare. With one master, ten disciples becoming enlightened is very rare. Even to help one to become enlightened is too much. But there is nothing strange, it is plain arithmetic – only this type of master can help. Whenever I have read this

story I have always wondered why others missed. This man could have enlightened many. But those who were afraid, scared, filled with fear, must simply have escaped from this man. People would have stopped coming to his monastery because he was dangerous.

One thing is said about Ekido – that when this disciple died he never said anything about it. He never said, “The disciple is dead,” he continued as if nothing had happened. Whenever somebody would ask, “What about the disciple?” he would laugh. He never commented about it: he never said that the disciple was dead, he never said that something had gone wrong, he never said that it was just an accident. Whenever someone would ask he would laugh. Why was he laughing? – because of the inside story.

People can know only from the outside. If I hit you hard and you die, people can only know that you are dead from the outside; no one will be able to know what has happened on the inside.

This disciple achieved something, something which buddhas make efforts for many lives to attain – and Ekido did it in a single moment. He was a great artist, a great master. He used the moment of death so beautifully and the disciple attained. The disciple disappeared not only from the body, but the disciple disappeared from the mind also. The disciple was never born again; this was the total death with no rebirth.

But in Japan people had become accustomed to such things. You would go to a master, he would hit you. He might throw you out of the window; he would jump on you and start beating you. You were asking a philosophical question –

whether God exists or not – and he would start beating you. Ekido helped many persons to become enlightened. Only such a man with such deep compassion can help, but a very great surrender is needed.

It is said that the disciple's parents came when the disciple was dead; they came to see Ekido. They were very angry – obviously. They had only one child and he was dead. They were old and they were depending on him. They were waiting – sooner or later he would come back from the monastery and help them in their old age.

In Japan, monastery life is a periodical thing. You can go to a monastery, become a sannyasin, remain there for a time, study, meditate, attain a certain quantity of alertness, a certain quality of being, and then come back to live the life of an ordinary householder. Sometimes, if you feel that you are missing and the mind has become dim and confused, you go again. It is not a permanent style of life to become a sannyasin in Japan. Only a few people follow it their whole life – that is their decision. You can come back and it is not thought of with guilt.

In India there is guilt. If once you become a sannyasin and then come back, get married and become a householder, then everyone looks at you as if you have fallen. This is nonsense, this is foolish, because the whole country cannot become sannyasins. Only a few people can be sannyasins, not doing anything, and they will have to depend on others who are doing, who are active in life.

Sannyas should be available to everybody – the whole country must be able to become sannyasins. But that is

possible only if you can be a sannyasin in ordinary life – if you can go to the office, if you can work in a shop, if you can be a laborer or a teacher or a doctor or an engineer and still be a sannyasin.

So in Japan people move to the monastery – that is just a training period so that all the time is devoted to meditation – then they come back. They carry the quality with them and come back to ordinary life, become ordinary citizens again and work in life – as far as the outward life is concerned. Inside they go on trying deeply for the inner flame. Whenever they feel something is becoming dim, whenever they feel they are missing consciousness, they go again to the monastery, stay there for a period and come back again.

This old couple was waiting for the boy to come back – and he was dead. They must have been angry; they must have thought many things against this master Ekido. They came, they looked at Ekido, and they were waiting for him to say something kind to them. What did Ekido say? He said, “Why are you waiting? Follow the boy. You have wasted enough life, don’t waste any more!” And when they looked at Ekido’s eyes they forgot their anger. This man could not be cruel; the compassion was flowing. They had come to complain but they simply thanked Ekido and went back.

When you come to a master, be ready to die. Beating a gong, falling into desire, following a girl – the master can hit you any moment. If you are not surrendered, the hit will be useless; the master will not hit you because you will miss, it will not be of much use.

This disciple must have been one of the closest, most intimate, and so surrendered that he would die but would not complain. He fell down without a complaint, as if the body dropped like an old dress. And inside there was light, more light; he entered that light.

Be ready to die; only then can you be reborn into an altogether different dimension. That dimension is the dimension of the divine. Don't protect yourself – your protection is your undoing. Don't try to safeguard. Near a master be insecure because he is your security. Be unsafe, leave everything to him and wait for his hit; any moment it can descend on you. But it will not descend if you have not surrendered because no master is interested in hitting you, no master is interested in killing you. Masters are interested only in making you fully enlightened, and that can happen only when your death and your awareness meet – a very difficult, very rare combination.

A master can see when you are going to die. It is written... Because your body has a fixed span, it can be read. An astrologer may miss it; a palmist may not be able to read it – because you are such a liar that even your palm lies. You are so deceptive that even your forehead will not say the truth, and you are so afraid of death that unknowingly, unconsciously, you hide the knowledge of it in the innermost chamber. If you are a true person, authentic, you yourself will become aware of when you are going to die.

So Zen masters have been forecasting their deaths. They can always tell when they are going to die, but even then people don't believe them. How can we believe that you can know death? – we have hidden it so deep, and we never look at it.

Astrology may fail because it is an outer science reading something from the outer towards the inner. Palmistry may fail because it cannot be very certain. Your hands cannot be believed, you cannot be believed; your whole body lies. And the lines on your palm can be changed very easily. For fifteen days think of suicide and your life line will be broken. Continuously, for fifteen days, don't think of anything else, just think of suicide, of committing suicide, picturing, dreaming. Within fifteen days your life line will be broken. The mind can create or change. If you go to a palmist and he says that within three months you are going to die, he may have misinterpreted, but if this idea settles deep in you, you will die in three months. And within three months your life line will be finished. Your hand is not influencing your mind, but your mind is continuously influencing your hand.

I have heard about an Egyptian king...

He was very much afraid of death; he was very weak and ill and always on his death bed. He came to know about an astrologer who predicted the death of one of his ministers, and exactly on time the minister died.

The king thought, "This man is dangerous, this man has done something like black magic. He has killed, and to allow this man to be alive is dangerous – he can do the same to me."

He called the astrologer and asked him, "Tell me something about my death. When am I going to die?"

The astrologer looked at the king's face and felt something dangerous; the king was very ferocious. He suspected something, so he made the chart, studied it, and then said, "You will die within a week of my death."

So the king called all his doctors to look after this man. A palace was created for him with the best of food and of everything. The greatest doctors were called, just in his service, and told, "Preserve him, because he says if he dies, within seven days..." It is said that the king lived very long because that man was alive and he was a very healthy man. And the king died only when that man died; within a week the king was dead.

Your mind goes on changing, and if your mind is a liar, don't go to any palmist; the palmist will be deceived. But you cannot deceive a master because he never reads your palm, he never looks at your forehead. He is not worried about your stars; he looks deep in you. He knows the exact moment of your death. If you surrender, the death can be used.

This story is beautiful, meditate on it. The same can happen to you, but much readiness is needed, ripeness is needed, and surrender.

Anything more?

Osho,
The last line of this Zen story says ten were enlightened and

that this was a great number. Ten doesn't seem a great number to me. Can we buy your stick and use it on ourselves to help surrender happen?

Ten is really a big number because enlightenment is so arduous, so difficult to achieve, almost impossible. Ten is a big number, but even bigger numbers have happened. With Buddha hundreds became enlightened; with Mahavira hundreds became enlightened. The basic thing is not how to buy my stick – you cannot buy it – it is how to *allow* it. It is not a question of the master hitting you, it is a question of receiving the hit, welcoming it. If you resist, nothing can be done. And resistance is there – in ordinary things resistance is there, and death is very big, the ultimate. In ordinary things...

One man was here and he said, "I want to surrender."

I told him, "Think about it – what do you mean? It is difficult; it is not so easy that you can come and say, 'I surrender.'" I told the man, "Go and first shave your head."

The man said, "That's very difficult, that I cannot do; I love long hair."

The man had completely forgotten that he was going to surrender to me, but he could not cut his hair. And hair is dead already, hair is not a live part of you; that is why you can cut it and you are not harmed. Hair is dead, already dead, something which has died and been thrown out of the body as dead cells. This man said he could not cut his hair because he loved long hair – and he was ready to surrender? He didn't know what surrender means.

Someone comes to me and says, “I am ready to surrender.” If I say to him, “Change to ochre” and he says, “That will be awkward, it will be difficult,” he says that he cannot change his dress to ochre, yet he is ready to surrender... The word *surrender* has become meaningless, it carries no meaning for him. He is not aware of what he is saying; otherwise to utter the word *surrender* would make his whole being tremble and shake because it means death.

My stick is there; I can hit you but your readiness is not there. If I hit you before you are ready, you will simply escape from me. Many escape, many have escaped because I have hit them somehow or other. And don't think that the stick is really a visible thing; I use subtle sticks. Just a word can hit you to death: you are shattered. Your logic, your religion, your concepts are hit and you are shattered and you never come back again to me. I hit your emotions, then you become antagonistic to me. Your ripeness is needed: you have to welcome the hit, wait and pray for it.

In Zen it has been one of the oldest traditions: whenever a disciple is hit, the whole monastery becomes happy, and the disciple is received as something special. The master has hit him; the disciple has been chosen. People wait for years to be hit by the master. They pray, they ask the master, “When? When will we be capable?” or, “When will we be fortunate enough to be hit? When will your stick, your staff, descend upon us?”

A deep receptivity is needed. There is no need to buy my staff, it is always yours. Only have a welcoming heart, a deep receptivity, patience. It can descend on you at any moment. Sometimes it comes near to you and you become scared.

Sometimes I hit on many centers of your body – but then you are scared and then you want to escape from it. Be alert about the mind; the mind will always tell you to escape. Wherever there is danger, the mind will tell you, “Run away from here!”

The mind has two ways of encountering a situation: one is fight, the other is flight. Either your mind starts fighting with me... When I am talking, I can see in your eyes whether you are fighting or “fighting.” Your very look, the way you sit, the way you hear, shows that you are fighting, resisting, withdrawn – creating a space so I cannot enter in you. Or, you are in flight, and then you are sleepy and you are not listening at all. Or you are somewhere else, thinking something else, you are engaged within so you can escape.

When you are ready, neither flight nor fight exists, just a prayerful patience and waiting. There is not even an impatience about it because impatience creates tension. You are not even impatient, just patiently waiting, passively waiting in a prayerful mood.

The hit is yours; I am waiting for it. And many more than Ekido’s disciples can become enlightened. The possibility is there; the opportunity is there, the river is flowing. But whether you will bow down and take a drink, or remain egoistic, turn away from the river thinking either of flight or of fight, creating your own ideas around you – whether you will allow your mind to take you away from me, or whether you will put it aside and allow me to hit you – everything depends on it. The hit is always near, but you go on wavering.

This disciple was hit by Ekido; he was really surrendered. And after his death many more were ready. From somewhere

the chain has to be broken. When one light is kindled, many more follow. Who will be the first to die? – that's the question. Once this disciple was dead and inside enlightened, many followed – ten became enlightened.

This word *ten* is also worth thinking about. This ten is symbolic, because ten is the greatest number. It is not exactly ten, it is not arithmetical; ten is just the greatest number. Man started counting on his fingers, and there are ten fingers. Even now in the villages people count on their fingers. Ten is the highest number and all other numbers are repetitive. Eleven means one upon one, twelve means two upon one; there is repetition. Ten is the basic number in all the languages of the world because everywhere man has ten fingers. These are the ten digits, so ten is the highest number; it is symbolic.

One dropped into infinity – then many followed. Once the abyss is open and you see someone entering it, and you see the bliss, the benediction, you can also enter it very easily – you can take the jump. Many are getting ready, but even if you are ninety-nine percent ready, the hit cannot descend on you. The hit can descend on you only when you are one hundred percent ready because then it is a revolution. You can turn back even from ninety-nine percent, that's the problem. It is very unfortunate but it happens.

I have been working with many, many people, and sometimes they turn when the right moment was going to be; exactly before that moment they turn away. The mind is cunning enough – it can philosophize, it can say why you have turned away. Exactly at the moment when something was going to happen, you can turn away. There is more possibility for you to turn away from that moment than from any other moment.

It is unfortunate but it happens. You wait and wait and wait, and then the moment is nearing where the evaporating point can be reached, and suddenly you turn away. To resist that turning is very difficult. It is just like death reaching nearer, nearer, nearer, and seeing the abyss you turn away and run as fast as you can.

Remain alert. This misfortune happens to seekers; it can happen to you.

Buddha passed through a certain village many times in his forty years of traveling. One man used to come; he would listen for a few minutes, then get up and go away. This had become a habit; he never listened to Buddha for the whole time Buddha was speaking. He would come, that was certain, and whenever Buddha would come to the town he would wait for that man. He would come, that was certain. He would sit and for a few minutes he would listen; then, respectfully bowing down to Buddha, he would go away.

Ananda once asked that man, “Why do you do this?”

The man said, “Sometimes this is the peak hour for my business, but I must come just to pay my respects; that’s why I come. But my shop is open and customers are there, and they will not wait. Enlightenment can wait. Next time I will hear.” It happened again and again.

The day Buddha died he was near that village, and before his death he said to Ananda, “That man has not come. This is exceptional – he never missed. He always missed in a sense

but he never missed. He has always come but now he has not come.”

Then Buddha asked his disciples, “Do you have anything to ask? Soon I will enter into the final *samadhi*, the final ecstasy, and then I will not be able to come back and answer you.”

They started weeping and crying but there was no question. Ananda said, “We have asked everything, you have answered everything, and there is nothing. Our minds are blank just thinking that you are going to disappear.”

Buddha asked thrice – again and again. There was no question so he went behind the tree and closed his eyes just to dissolve into the infinite, to leave the body. Then suddenly that man came. He started fighting with the monks and said, “I must see him. This is the last time; I will not be able to see him again. For forty years I have been missing and I have a question to ask. I have never been able to ask it before because sometimes there was a marriage in my family, sometimes business was at a peak, sometimes I was ill or my wife was ill, and sometimes there were relatives staying. I always missed, but don’t prevent me now.”

The disciples said, “It is not possible; now he is dissolving.”

Buddha came out from his ecstasy, from his final *samadhi*. He came in front of the tree and he said, “Don’t prevent that man. He may have been foolish, he may have missed because of his ignorance, but I cannot be hard on him. I am still alive, so let him come. No one should say that Buddha was alive and a man who had come begging was sent away.” Buddha said, “What have you come to ask?”

The man had forgotten the question. He said, “When I came I knew, but now I can’t remember. Next time I see you I will bring the question.” And there was going to be no next time!

Buddha died that day, and that man must be wandering somewhere on this or some other earth, seeking a man who can answer his question. That man missed Buddha continuously for forty years.

You can miss me – always remember that possibility. But it will be because of you, not because of me. I am always ready. Whenever you are ready, I will hit you, but a deep surrender is needed. Before that nothing can be done. You have to die, die as you are, so that which you really are can be born out of you. You have to die as an appearance, so that the real can be born. You have to die on the periphery, so that the center evolves and comes out in its luminousness, in its full perfection.

All hits are to destroy the seed, so that the tree is born.

Anything more?

Osho,

There have been several questions concerning what you were saying about warriors and businessmen. Since most of us are businessmen and professionals, and not warriors, are we going to miss enlightenment?

To be a warrior doesn't mean to be a soldier, it is a quality of the mind. You can be a businessman and be a warrior; you can be a warrior and be a businessman. Businessman means a quality of the mind which is always bargaining, trying to give less and get more. That's what I mean when I say businessman: trying to give less and get more, always bargaining, always thinking about profit.

A warrior is again a quality of the mind – the quality of the gambler, not of the bargainer, the quality which can stake everything this way or that: a non-compromising mind.

If a businessman thinks of enlightenment, he thinks of it as a commodity among many other commodities. He has a list: he has to make a big palace, he has to purchase this and that, and in the end he has to purchase enlightenment also. But enlightenment is always the last – when everything is done, then; when nothing remains to be done, then. And that enlightenment is also to be purchased because he understands only money.

It happened that a great and rich man came to Mahavira. He was really very rich; he could purchase anything, even kingdoms. Even kings borrowed money from him. He came to Mahavira and he said, "I have been hearing so much about *dhyana*, meditation, and during the time you have been here you have created a craze in people; everybody is talking about *dhyana*. What is this *dhyana*? How much does it cost? I can purchase it."

Mahavira hesitated, so the man said, “Don’t think about the cost at all. Simply say and I will pay; there is no problem about it.”

How to talk to this man? – Mahavira was at a loss. What to say to this man? Finally Mahavira said, “Go. In your town there is a man, a very poor man; he may be willing to sell his *dhyān*. He has achieved, and he is so poor that he may be ready to sell it.”

The man thanked Mahavira, rushed to the poor man, knocked on his door and said, “How much do you want for your *dhyān*? I want to purchase your meditation.”

The man started laughing. He said, “You can purchase me, that’s okay, but how can I give you my *dhyān*? It is a quality of my being, it is not a commodity.”

But businessmen have always been thinking in this way. They donate to purchase, they create temples to purchase. They give, but their giving is never a giving. It is always to get something, it is an investment.

When I say to be a warrior, I mean to be a gambler, to put everything at stake. Then enlightenment becomes a question of life and death, it is not a commodity, and you are ready to throw away everything for it. You are not thinking about profit.

People come to me and they ask, “What will we gain out of meditation? What is the purpose of it? What will be the profit

out of it? If one hour is devoted to meditation what will we gain?" Their whole life is an economy.

A warrior is not after gain. A warrior is after a peak, after a peak of experiencing. What does a warrior gain when he fights in a war? Your soldiers are not warriors, they are just servants. Warriors are no longer on this earth because the whole thing is being done by technology. You drop a bomb on Hiroshima; the dropper is not a warrior. Any child can do that, any madman can do that – really, only a madman can do it. Dropping a bomb on Hiroshima is not being a fighter or a warrior. War is no longer the same as it was in the past. Now anybody can do it, and sooner or later only mechanical devices will do it. A plane without a pilot can do it – and the plane is not a warrior. The quality is lost. The warrior was facing, encountering the enemy face to face.

Just imagine two persons with drawn swords encountering each other. Can they think? If they think they will miss. Thinking stops. When swords are drawn, thinking stops. They cannot plan because if they plan, in that moment, the other will hit them. They move spontaneously, they become no-minds. The danger is so much – the possibility of death is so near – that the mind cannot be allowed. The mind needs time; in emergencies the mind cannot be allowed. When you are sitting in your chair you can think, but when you are facing an enemy you cannot think.

If you pass through a street, a dark street, and suddenly you see a snake, a dangerous snake sitting there, what will you do? Will you start thinking? – no, you will jump. This jump will not be out of your mind because the mind needs time and snakes don't have any time; they don't have any mind. The

snake may strike you – so the mind cannot be allowed. While facing a snake you jump, and that jump comes out of your being; it comes before thought. You jump first and then you think. This is what I mean by the quality of a warrior: action comes without thinking, action is without the mind – action is total.

You can become a warrior without going to war; there is no need to go to war. The whole of life is an emergency, and everywhere there are enemies and snakes and ferocious wild animals ready to attack you. The whole of life is a war. If you are alert you will see that the whole of life is a war and any moment you can die, so the emergency is permanent. Be alert; be like a warrior, as if moving amidst the enemy. Any moment, from anywhere, death can jump on you. Don't allow the mind. Be a gambler – only gamblers can take this jump. The jump is so much that those who think of profit cannot take it. It is a risk, the greatest risk – you may be lost and nothing may be gained. When you come to me you may lose everything and you may not gain anything.

I will repeat one of Jesus' sayings. He says: "Whosoever clings to life, whosoever tries to preserve it, will lose it, and whosoever is ready to lose it will preserve it." This is talking in the language of a gambler: lose it – this is the way to preserve it. Die – that is the way to reach eternal life, to immortal life.

When I say a businessman, I mean a calculating, cunning mind. Don't be cunning minds. No child is a businessman, and it is difficult to find an old man who is not a businessman. Every child is a warrior and every old man is a businessman. How every warrior becomes a businessman is a long story:

the whole society, education, culture, conditioning, makes you more and more fearful, afraid. You cannot take any risks – and everything that is beautiful is risky. Love is a risk, life is a risk, godliness is a risk –godliness is the greatest risk.

Through mathematics you will not reach – only through taking the ultimate risk, putting everything that you have at stake. And you don't know the unknown; you risk the known and the unknown you don't know. The business mind will say, "What are you doing – losing that which you have for that which no one knows whether it exists or not? Preserve that which is in hand and don't long for the unknown." The warrior mind says, "The known has been known already; now there is nothing in it. It has become a burden and to carry it is useless. The unknown must be known now, and I must risk the known for the unknown."

If you can risk, totally risk, not preserving anything, not playing tricks with yourself, not withholding anything, suddenly the unknown envelops you. And when it comes, you become aware that it is not only the unknown, it is the unknowable. It is not against the known, it is beyond the known. To move in that darkness – to move in that uncharted space without any maps and without any pathways, to move alone into that absolute – the quality of the warrior is needed.

Many of you still have a little of it left – because you were once children, you were all warriors, you were all dreamers of the unknown. That childhood is hidden, but it cannot be destroyed; it is there, it still has its own corner in your being. Allow it to function. Be childlike and you will be warriors again. That's what I mean.

And don't feel depressed because you run a shop and you are a businessman. Don't feel depressed; you can be a warrior anywhere. It is a quality of the mind, to take risks, the childlike quality – to trust and to move beyond that which is secure.

Enough for today.

Chapter 08: Zen without Writing

The Zen master Mu-nan had only one successor. His name was Shoju. After Shoju had completed his study of Zen, Mu-nan called him into his room and said, "I am getting old, and as far as I know you are the only one who will carry on this teaching. Here is a book. It has been passed down from master to master for seven generations, and I have also added many points according to my understanding. This book is very precious, and I am giving it to you to represent your successorship."

Shoju replied, "Please keep the book. I received your Zen without writing, and I was very happy with it, thank you."

Mu-nan replied, "I know that, but this great work has been carried from master to master for seven generations, and it will be a symbol of your learning. Here, take the book."

The two were talking in front of a fire, and the instant Shoju felt the book in his hand he thrust it into the flames.

Mu-nan, who had never in his life been angry before, shouted, "What are you doing?"

And Shoju shouted back, "And what are you saying?"

All books are dead, and that is how it should be; they cannot be alive. All scriptures are graveyards, they cannot be anything else. The moment a word is uttered it goes wrong. Unuttered, it is okay. Uttered, it is falsified by the very utterance. Truth cannot be said, cannot be written, cannot be indicated in any way. If it can be said, then you will attain to

truth just by hearing it. If it can be written, you will attain to truth just by reading it. If it can be indicated, you will attain to truth by mere indication. This is not possible, there is no way to transfer truth to you; there exists no bridge. It cannot be given, it cannot be communicated.

But people become addicted to scriptures, books, words, theories. For the mind it is easy to understand a theory, it is easy to read a book, it is easy to carry a tradition, because with anything dead the mind is always the master. With anything alive the mind becomes the slave.

So the mind is always afraid of life; it is the dead part in you. Just as I said that hair and nails are dead parts of your body, the parts that have died already and that the body is throwing out, so too the mind is the dead part of your consciousness. It is the part that has already died, and the consciousness wants to get rid of it.

What is the mind? It is the past, the memory, it is the accumulated experience. But the moment you have experienced a thing it is dead. Experiencing is in the present, experience is in the past.

Why are you listening to me? Just in the moment, just here and now, it is an experiencing, it is an alive process. But the moment you say, "I have heard," it has become dead, it has become an experience. While listening to me the mind is not there, you are there. The moment the mind comes in it says, "I have understood, I have heard, I know." What do you mean? The mind has taken possession. The word can be possessed by the mind – anything dead can be possessed by the mind, and only dead things can be possessed. If you try to

possess a live thing there are only two ways: either you will not be able to possess it, or you will have to kill it first and then you can possess it. So wherever there is possession, there is murder, killing.

If you love a person, love in itself is an experiencing, a moment-to-moment flow with no past being carried; the river remains fresh. But the mind says, "Possess this woman, possess this man, because who knows about the future? Possess! She may escape, she may go to somebody else, she may fall in love with someone else. Possess her and block all the ways of escape, close all the doors so she remains always yours." The mind has entered and now this woman will be killed, now this man will be murdered. There will be a husband, there will be a wife, but there will not be two live persons.

This is the mischief the mind goes on doing everywhere. The moment you say, "I love," it has become an experience, it is already dead. Loving is something else; it is a process. Why, when in love, can you not say, "I love"? That would be profane. How can you say, "I love"? In love you are not, the possessor is not, so how can you say, "I love"? In love there is no "I." Love is there, of course, but you are not.

While an experience is alive, experiencing, there is no ego. The process is there and you can say love is there, but you cannot say, "I love." In that love you have dissolved, you are merged, melted. Love is greater than you. Anything live, alive, is greater than you. Anything dead, the mind can jump, just like a cat jumps on a mouse and catch hold of it. Truth cannot be delivered, there is no way to deliver it. Once delivered it is dead, it has already become untrue.

Lao Tzu insisted on not saying anything about truth his whole life. Whenever someone would ask about truth he would say many things, but he would not say anything about truth; he would avoid it. In the end he was forced: disciples, lovers, forced him to write because, “You have known something which is rarely known, you have become something which is unique – there will be no Lao Tzu again.” So he wrote a small book, *Tao Te Ching*, but the first thing he said in it was, “Tao cannot be said, truth cannot be uttered. The moment you utter it, it is already false.” Then he said, “Now I can write at ease. I have declared the basic fact: uttered, truth becomes false. Written, it has already gone wrong. Now I can write at ease.”

Why is the word false? One thing: it always belongs to the past. Another thing: the word in itself cannot carry the experience to you. I say “I am silent,” you hear the words – the word *silent* is heard, but what do you understand? If you have never been silent, if you have never tasted it, if it has never stirred your heart, if it has never overwhelmed you, overpowered you, how can you understand? And if it has overpowered you, if there has been a gap when you disappeared and silence was there, there will be no need for me to talk about silence. The moment you see me, you will know; the moment you come near me, you will feel. The word will not be needed.

The word is needed because you don't know. This is the problem. Because you don't know, the word is needed, so how can the word express? That which you don't know, the word cannot say to you. The word may be heard, you may memorize it, you may understand the meaning that is written in the dictionary – what *silence* means is written in the

dictionary, and you know it already – but that is not the meaning.

When I say I am silent, the silence that I am here is not written in the dictionary, cannot be written there. If you are silent you will understand, but then there is no need to say it. If you are not silent, whatsoever you understand will be wrong – but then again there will be a need to say.

I have heard...

Once a villager entered a big bank. Many people were coming and going and much business was happening. Suddenly the villager cried, shouted at the top of his voice, “Did somebody drop a wad of notes with a rubber band around it?”

Many people cried, “Yes, I did,” and they ran towards him – not one, many! A crowd gathered and everybody was claiming the money.

The villager said, “Well, I have found only the rubber band.”

Whenever I say truth, whenever I say silence, you will find only the rubber band; the notes will be missing. The word will reach you but not with the weight of the notes. Those notes will be left behind – they are in my heart. The word will reach, but it is just a rubber band. It may have been around the notes, but still it is just a rubber band.

Truth is incommunicable, but then what have masters been doing? They seem to be involved in an absurd activity. Yes, that is right: they are trying to say something which cannot be said, and they are indicating something which cannot be indicated. They are trying to communicate something which has never been communicated and never will be communicated. Then what are they doing? Their whole effort is absurd, but still there is something in their effort – their compassion.

Knowing well that I cannot say that which I want to say, the easiest course is that I should remain silent, because if I know it cannot be said then why bother? You cannot understand my words, but will you be able to understand my silence? – it is a choice between two evils.

It is better I remain silent; that would be more consistent. It cannot be said, therefore I should remain silent. But will you be able to understand my silence? The word you may not be able to understand, but you can hear it, and some possibility is open. Hearing it continuously, you may become aware of something which has not been said in the word. Listening to me, by and by you may become aware of me, not of what I am saying. The word will help just as bait – you may be caught in the net. But if I am silent you will pass by my side. You will not even become aware that I am there and even that possibility will be lost.

So when masters speak, they don't speak to tell the truth that cannot be told. They have a choice: either they can remain silent or they can talk. With silence you will miss them completely. With words a possibility opens – not a certainty because everything depends on you, but a possibility opens.

Listening continuously to a buddha you may someday become silent, because just being near a buddha is being near a pool of silence, an energy, a tremendous energy which has become silent. This is what Indians call *satsang* – to be near the truth. It is not a question of communication. Just being near the truth, it can become infectious – just as you go near a river and the breeze becomes cooler. You may not see the river – it may still be far away – but the breeze carries the message and you feel a coolness coming.

When you go near a buddha the words are carrying just such a coolness; that buddha is somewhere near. You may start groping for him. You may be lost in his words; then you are lost in the forest and the river is missed. But if you are alert, intelligent, then by and by you will feel from where this wind is blowing, from where these words are coming. These words carry a silence around them. It may be just a rubber band, but that rubber band has been in deep contact with the notes. It carries something, something of the source from where this breeze is coming. If you can follow intelligently, sooner or later you will reach the source.

The words of a buddha may not be able to communicate the truth, but they can communicate the music, the music that exists in one who is enlightened. They carry the melody, something of the source – a tiny part, a very tiny part, but something of the source. It should be so because when a word comes out of a buddha it carries something of buddhahood. It has to be so. The word has been vibrating in his being, it has been in touch with the buddha's heartbeat, it has passed through the buddha's silence, it has been in the womb, the womb of the buddha. It carries the scent, the fragrance. It is a very far off cry, but still...

You may be lost in the words, then you miss the buddha. But if you are aware that the word cannot carry the truth, then you will always put aside the word and follow the perfume, put aside the word and follow the music, put aside the word and follow the presence. If I suddenly say, “Hey!” you look at me. The word is meaningless, but the look – suddenly you become aware of me. That awareness has to be followed. Then words can become a help. They may not tell the truth, but they can become a help, a step towards the truth.

This story is beautiful.

A master is on his deathbed. Soon he has to leave this earth and his vehicle, the body, and he would like to have a successor: one who can carry the flame that he has kindled, one who will be able to continue the work that he has started. He chooses a disciple, calls him near, and says to him, “You are the most capable of those who are around me and you are going to be my successor. You will have to continue this work. For seven generations a book has been passed from the master to the disciple who is going to be the successor. I received this book from my master and I give it to you. It is very precious, a unique treasury. Seven enlightened persons have noted down their experiences of truth in it, and I have also added a few of my own understandings. Preserve it, don’t lose it; don’t let it be lost.”

The disciple said, “But I have achieved the experience without any book, and I am happy and blissful. I am not even a little bit dissatisfied, so why add this burden to me, why give me an unnecessary responsibility? I have already

experienced the truth and the book was not needed. It is unnecessary.”

The master still insisted and said, “Much that is valuable is written in it. It is no ordinary book: it is *the* book, the Bible,” – the Bible means “the book” – “and seven generations of enlightened people... So don’t be sacrilegious, pay respect to this book, keep it and hand it over to your successor. By giving this book to you I certify you. This book is just a representation that you are my successor.”

The master gave the book to the disciple. It must have been a cold night because a fire was burning. In one hand the disciple received the book, and in the same instant he thrust it into the fire. The master, who had never been angry in his life, shouted: “*What are you doing?*”

And the disciple shouted even louder than the master: “*...what are you saying?*”

This is beautiful. The master must have died peacefully. This was the right man. The book had to be thrust into the fire or the disciple would have missed. If he had kept the book, he would have missed and then he would not have been the successor – because you keep the book only when the thing has not happened to you. Otherwise who is bothered about words when the truth is with you? Who is bothered about a book when the real thing has happened within? Who is bothered about explanations when the experience is there? Explanations are precious because the experience is lacking; theories are significant because there is no knowledge. When

you know you can throw theories away – they are rubber bands. When the notes are with you, you can throw away the rubber band. Preserving a rubber band shows foolishness.

This book was not precious – no book is precious – and the master was playing a game, the same game that his master must have played with him. Nobody knows what was written in the book, but I tell you nothing was written in it. It was empty. Had the disciple preserved it, when the master died he would have opened it and then he would have cried. Nothing was written in the book. It was just a game, an old game. Every master tries to test the experience of the disciple, whether he knows. If the disciple knows, he will not be addicted to the book. Why? – there is no point in it. That is why the disciple asked, “What are you saying? To preserve the book when I have achieved without it, when I have already achieved? What are you saying?”

The master provoked a situation, and in that situation the disciple proved his mettle. He proved that he knew. Even a slight inclination to preserve and he would have missed; he would not have been the successor. He didn't even look in the book to see what was there. He was not even curious, because only ignorance is curious. If you know, you know; what is the curiosity?

What would have happened to you? The first thing the mind would have said was, “At least look in it and see what is there.” But that gesture would have been enough to prove that you had not achieved. Curiosity means ignorance. Wisdom is not curious. Curiosity asks questions; wisdom has no questions to ask. What would you have done? The first thing that comes to the mind: at least see what is there. If the master

insists that this precious book has to be preserved, handed down from one generation to another with seven enlightened persons having written in it, and with your own master having added his own understanding to it, at least have a look before you throw it in the fire.

But I tell you, if he had looked he would have been thrown out of the monastery with the book: “Get out, and never come back again!” He acted out of a deep understanding. How can the master who *knows* insist that the book is precious? There must be some game. The master had never been angry, never in his life, and suddenly he was angry and shouted: “*What are you doing?*” He created the whole situation.

In this anger the disciple may have yielded, may have said, “I have done something wrong, forgive me.” This is how the mind functions. The mind might have come in and thought, “I have done something wrong. The master may not appoint me as successor now. If my master is so angry, it means I have done something wrong and I may miss being the successor. I was going to be the chief, I was going to be the master of the monastery and millions would have followed me, thousands would have been my disciples – and now I have done something wrong. A man who has never been angry is angry, shouting.”

If you had been there, you would have touched the feet of the master and said, “Forgive me, but appoint me.” But the disciple asked: “*And what are you saying?*” If the master can play at anger the disciple can also play, but this can happen only when both know. He answered in the right coin. He answered rightly and the master was satisfied: this is the man. The disciple became the successor, he was the successor.

But this has been done by every religion: they preserve books and do nothing else. Christians preserve their Bible, Mohammedans preserve their Koran, Hindus preserve their Gita – and they have missed. They are not the successors. Mohammedans do not belong to Mohammed; they cannot belong. The Koran would have been in the fire if they belonged. Christians don't know anything about Christ because they preserve the Bible, and Hindus have no understanding of Krishna because of the Gita – they go on carrying the burden. All the Vedas and all the Bibles and all the Korans are for those who don't understand. They carry the burden, and the burden becomes so much that they are crushed under it; they are not freed through it, they become slaves to it.

A religious person is always beyond the book; a religious consciousness is never addicted to words and the verbal. The whole thing is childish. A religious man is in search of authentic experience, not borrowed words, not experiences of others: “Because unless I know... Buddhas may have existed but they are useless. Unless I know, there is no truth because truth can only be my experience. Only then is it there. The whole world may say there is light and there is a rainbow in the sky and the sun is rising, but if my eyes are closed what does it mean to me? The rainbow, the colors, the sunrise, the whole thing is non-existential to me. My eyes are closed, I am blind. And if I listen to them too much, and if I start believing in them too much, and if I borrow their words and I also start talking about the rainbow that I have not seen, about colors which I cannot see, about the sunrise which is not my experience, I may be lost in the forest of words.”

It is better to say, “I am blind. I don’t know any color and I don’t know any light. Unless my eyes open there is no sun and there can be no sunrise.” Insist, so that you can work upon your eyes. Don’t carry the books; they talk about rainbows seen by others, they talk about sunrises experienced by others. Don’t carry the borrowed God when you can encounter him directly, immediately. Why create barriers of books between you and him? Burn the books! – that is the message – throw them in the fire.

That doesn’t mean go and throw your Gita in the fire – that will not be of much help because if a Gita cannot help towards truth, how can burning a Gita be helpful? No, that is not the point. You can throw away all the books and you can remain addicted to theories, doctrines. When I say burn the books, I mean: burn the mind, drop the mind. Don’t be verbal. Seek authentic experience. But your inquiry may have arisen out of the books and that is the problem. Your questions may have arisen out of books. If your questioning is itself bookish, your whole inquiry has started in a wrong direction.

People come to me and ask, “What is God?” I ask them, “Did this question come out of your own life or have you read some book which talks about God and so you have become curious? If your curiosity has arisen out of learning it is useless. It is not your question and if the question is not yours, no answer can be of any help. When the basic thing is borrowed, when even the question is borrowed, you will go on borrowing the answers. Seek your authentic question. What is *your* question?”

I have heard about a philosopher who entered a London car showroom. He looked around and became fascinated with a beautiful car, a streamlined sports car. The salesman became alert because the man looked so interested. The salesman came nearer and asked, “Are you interested in this car?”

The man said, “Yes, I am interested. Is it fast?”

The salesman said, “Fast? You cannot find a faster car than this. If you get in it right now, by tomorrow morning at three o’clock you will be in Aberdeen. Are you really interested in buying it?”

The philosopher said, “I will think about it.”

The next day he came and said, “No, I don’t want to purchase that car. The whole night I couldn’t sleep. I remained awake thinking and thinking and thinking, and I could not find any reason why I would like to be in Aberdeen at three o’clock in the morning.”

Whenever you read a book, ask, inquire, for what reason would you like to be in Aberdeen at three o’clock in the morning.

You read a book. You read something about God, you read something about *moksha*, you read something about the soul, you read something about bliss, and you become fascinated. The words of those who know are really fascinating, but you forget completely for what reason you would like to encounter God. Just by reading a book, just by reading a

man... For example, reading Jesus you will become fascinated because the man is drunk with God, his every word is alcoholic. If you hear him you will feel drunk. But close the Bible, escape from this Jesus, brood over whether this is your inquiry or whether this man has sold his inquiry to you. With another's inquiry your own search becomes false.

The first thing to remember is: your question must be yours. Then the second thing to remember is: the answer must be yours. Books supply both. That's why I say burn the books and be authentic. Come out of the jungle of words and feel what you want, what your desire is, and follow it wheresoever it leads. Sooner or later you will come to the divine. It may take a little longer, but then the search will be real.

This disciple says to the master, "I could achieve without the book, so why...? Why are you forcing this book on me?" He did well: he threw it in the fire.

If all of the religious books are burned, the world will be more religious. There are so many books and readymade answers that everybody knows the question, the answer. It has become a game; it is not your life. The world should be freed of books, should be freed of all ideals, should be freed of all borrowed inquiries. Every man should start feeling his own heartbeat, his own pulse – where it leads, what it desires, what his question is. If you can find your question, the answer is waiting just nearby. It may be that in finding the question you have already found the answer – because the answer lies in authenticity. If the question is authentic, fifty percent of the problem is already solved. You have become authentic in questioning. Just a little more effort, going a little deeper, and the question always hides the answer behind it.

The question is just one aspect of the coin. The other aspect is the answer. Just behind questioning, the answer is laying waiting for you. But if you have not come to your question, how can you come to your answer? Only the answer that is yours will free you, will make you free.

Jesus says truth liberates. Yes, truth liberates, but never borrowed truth. Jesus' truth will not liberate you. But Christians believe that Jesus' truth will liberate them. Not only that, they think that just by Jesus' crucifixion humanity is already liberated. This is being blind, absolutely blind. Nothing is liberated, nobody is liberated; salvation has not happened. Jesus was crucified, that's okay, but through Jesus' crucifixion Jesus was liberated, not you. The whole thing seems to be a trick. Jesus dies on the cross and humanity, particularly Christianity, is liberated. One who is a Christian is already liberated.

This is how the mind thinks: it goes on throwing responsibility onto somebody else. If you are a sinner you are a sinner because Adam sinned and was thrown out of heaven, and now you are liberated because Jesus has again entered the Kingdom of God. So Adam and Jesus are the authentic persons; you are just shadows. Adam sins, and you have become a sinner. So who are you? You are a shadow. Adam is thrown out of heaven, therefore you are thrown out. This can happen only to a shadow, not to a real person. If I am thrown out of this house, only my shadow will be thrown with me, nothing else. And if I enter the kingdom of God, only my shadow will enter with me; you cannot enter.

Jesus solved everything. He entered the Kingdom of God, and the whole of humanity entered with him. Nobody has entered,

nobody can enter in such an easy way. You have to pay the cost, you have to carry your own cross; you have to be crucified through suffering – your suffering, remember. Neither Jesus’ suffering nor anybody else’s will open the doors. They are closed, and you cannot enter just following Jesus. Nobody can enter that way. The doors open for the individual because the individual is the authentic reality.

The disciple asked, “I have already entered, master, so why are you giving this map to me? A map is needed for one who is lost – but I have reached the goal, so why this map?”

The master said, “The map is very precious. All the paths are indicated on it.”

If the disciple had hesitated for a single moment... The master’s penetrating eyes were searching his heart to see if he would hesitate, if he would say, “Okay, maybe the master is right and the map is precious.” But what does a man need a map for when he has reached the goal? So he threw the book in the fire, he threw away the map.

I have heard...

A man driving his car on a lonely road suspected that he had missed the turn, suspected that he was moving in a wrong direction. He saw a beggar walking, so he stopped the car and asked the beggar, “Does this road lead to Delhi?”

The beggar said, “I don’t know.”

So the man asked, “Does this road lead to Agra?”

The beggar said, “I don’t know.”

The driver, who was already irritated, became more irritated, and said to the beggar in anger, “So you don’t know much.”

The beggar laughed and said, “But I am not lost.”

So the question is not of knowledge, the question is whether you are lost or not. The beggar said, “But I am not lost. Whether I know or not is not the point.” When you are lost a map is needed, knowledge is needed, a book is needed. When you are not lost, what is the point of carrying a book, a map? An enlightened person is at the goal everywhere. Wherever he is, is the goal. Once you become aware that you are the goal you cannot be lost. The beggar is not lost. Why? – because he is not going to Delhi, he is not going to Agra, he is not going anywhere. Wherever he reaches, that is the goal. He is not lost because he is not moving in any direction; he is not lost because there is no desired goal.

This disciple threw away the map because there is no goal. He is the goal now. Wherever he is, he is at peace, at home. There is no desire and no motivation. The future has disappeared, this moment is enough.

Throw away all maps because you are the goal. Maps can help if the goal is somewhere else; maps cannot help if you are the goal. They may even distract you because when you look at a map you cannot look at yourself. Books cannot help

because you are the truth, and there is no book in which you are written. The book is you, no other book. Here you are, written in this book, which is you. You have to be deciphered. If you are wrong, all books that you carry will go wrong. All maps that you carry will be wrong and will indicate wrongly, because who will read those books and who will follow the instructions indicated in the map?

I have heard... A man was driving and his wife was looking at the map. Suddenly the wife cried out in panic and said, "We are lost – because this map is upside down. The map is upside down. We are lost!"

The map can be put right side up; no map is upside down by itself. But the wife must have been upside down. If you are upside down all the books you read will turn upside down. If you are disturbed it will be reflected in your Koran, in your Bible, in your Gita. If you are mad your interpretations of the Vedas will be mad. If you are afraid you will meet fear wherever you go. Whatsoever you do, your doing will come out of you, your interpretations will come out of you, and you are wrong.

So a master is not interested in giving you a right book; there are none. No right book exists, only right people and wrong people, right persons and wrong persons. A real master is interested in putting you right side up. A master is interested in changing you, the person; he is not interested in giving you a book.

That's why the disciple said, "What are you saying? Such a nonsensical thing you have never said before. You have gone mad saying, 'Keep, preserve the book, it is precious!'"

No book is precious, only the person is precious. But when you don't know your value you think the book is precious. When you don't know the precious value of your being, then every type of theory becomes valuable. Words are valuable because you have not known the value of the being.

Anything more?

Osho,

There will be a precious value to this book when it comes out because it can tell people that there is a buddha available now, and that he has methods suitable to the time and to us.

But one of the questions which has arisen here and will certainly arise in the West is: How do I know I need a master?

Yes, this book is going to be very precious. Keep, preserve it. Seven generations of masters have given it to me and I have given it to you! Now it depends on what you do. I have added my understanding to it, but as far as I'm concerned I am giving you this book just to throw in the fire. The day you can throw it in the fire will be the day you have understood it. If you go on preserving it you have missed.

But the book is needed because if it is not there what will you throw in the fire? It is needed. Try to preserve it – it is very precious – and when you understand you will throw it in the fire.

So I am not saying give only the Koran to the fire; give my books to the fire also, because they can be more dangerous than the Koran and Gita and Bible because those books have

become out-of-date in a sense. You are very, very far away from Mohammed, even further away from Krishna. Their voices have become very, very distant, dim things. My voice is nearer to you. It is immediate; it is direct. It may become a greater prison for you because it is more alive right now. It can capture you; it can become more of a burden. If a living master can free you, a living master can become more of a prison also. It depends.

There are directions in the book. It is a map, a map into the world of consciousness, a map of how to get roots into the earth, a map of how to get wings into the sky. But these trees don't need it. If I tell them how to get roots into the earth they will say, "Don't disturb us, we have already got roots into the earth." If I tell them how to get wings into the sky they will say, "Don't disturb the silence. We are already standing in the sky, swaying in the sky." And if I tell them to preserve this book they will laugh, and if they can find a fire they will throw the book in the fire.

So what am I saying? I am saying to you: get roots and throw away the maps. Get wings and throw away the maps. Don't be fixed on what I say, don't get obsessed with what I say. Put the words aside and look at me. And what I hope is that one day, if I say, "Preserve this book," you will be able to shout at me and ask, "What are you saying? Have you gone mad?" You can say that without reaching the point where it becomes meaningful, but you cannot deceive me. You can throw the book into the fire without throwing the attachment into the fire. Then you are imitating. Imitation won't help. Buddhas have existed on the earth, disciples have existed; everything has happened that can happen and everything is

written. You may decide that you can imitate, but imitation won't help.

It happened once that a man came to a Zen master. He had read all the scriptures, memorized them, and had become a great philosopher because he was very efficient at using words, logic. And this Zen master was just a villager, just like that beggar who said, "I am not lost" – with no maps and with no books. He had never read the Lotus Sutra, one of the greatest Buddhist scriptures, worth preserving, always keeping near. Just as there are bedside books, so the Lotus Sutra is a heartside book; it is concerned with the heart. The lotus is the symbol for the heart: fully bloomed, in full bloom, it is the heart. Buddhists think there is nothing comparable to the Lotus Sutra.

This man had memorized the whole Lotus Sutra. He could repeat it from anywhere. Ask any question and immediately he would answer. He was like a computer, very efficient. So he asked the Zen master, "Have you read the Lotus Sutra?"

The Zen master said, "Lotus Sutra? Never heard of it."

The man, the pundit, the scholar, said, "Never heard of it? And people think you are enlightened!"

The Zen master said, "People must be wrong. I am an ignorant man, how can I be enlightened?"

The scholar was at ease now, so he said, "Now I will repeat the Lotus Sutra. Can you read?"

The monk said, “I can’t read.”

So the man said, “Okay, then listen to me and I will explain anything you want to ask.”

He had come to seek a master but now he had become a master. The ego never wants to be a disciple – it is always in search of being a master. How the buddha must have laughed at the situation! The master became the disciple, and the disciple became the master and said, “Listen.”

The master started listening. The disciple said, “Okay.” He began to repeat the Lotus Sutra.

In the Lotus Sutra it is said that everything is emptiness – this world is empty, hell is empty, heaven is empty, God is empty, everything is emptiness. Emptiness is the nature of all things, nothingness, so be attuned to nothingness and you will achieve.

Suddenly the master jumped and hit this pundit on the head. The pundit became mad. He started shouting and said, “Not only are you not enlightened, not only are you ignorant, you seem to be neurotic also. What are you doing?”

The master sat again and asked, “If everything is nothingness, from where does this anger come? The world is emptiness, heaven is emptiness, hell is emptiness, the nature of things is nothingness – from where does this anger come?”

The pundit was puzzled. He said, “It is not written in the Lotus Sutra. You ask foolish questions. It is not written in the Lotus Sutra. I have memorized the whole Lotus Sutra, and

this is no way of asking a question. Hitting me is no way of asking a question.”

But this is the only way. Theories are not of much help. You can say that everything is nothingness, but just a little hit and anger arises out of nothingness. A woman passes and sex arises out of nothingness. You look at a beautiful house and the desire to possess arises out of nothingness. When Buddha said everything is nothingness, he was saying: “If you can understand this, nothing will arise, because how can anything arise out of nothingness?” Nothingness is a meditation, not a theory. It is a falling into the abyss. Then anger cannot arise and sex cannot arise – how can they?

There are two types of persons: one, those who are in search of theories – and please don’t be that type because that is the most stupid type. The other type is the wise type, those in search of experience, not of theories.

This book and whatsoever I say can become a theory for you; then you miss. It can become a thirst, a hunger, a deep urge to experience; then you have got the point. But don’t be addicted to the words. Don’t carry the container, remember the content. When the disciple threw the book into the fire he was throwing away the container; the content was preserved in his heart. And the master was happy that this man had understood: the container has to be thrown away and the content preserved.

Whatsoever I say, throw it in the fire. But whatsoever happens to you in my presence, that is the content. Preserve it,

it is precious. But there is no need to preserve it: if it happens, you will preserve it. If you know, it is preserved, and then there is no way to throw it in the fire. Only books can be thrown in the fire, truth cannot.

That's why the disciple shouted, "What are you saying? Can a precious thing be thrown into the fire? Can a precious thing be burned in the fire? And if the fire can burn your book, what type of preciousness is it? What type of truth is this? If the fire can burn the truth, it is not worth preserving."

That which cannot be burned, that which cannot be dead, even through fire becomes more alive, more pure – that is the truth. That's why I said throw the Bible into the fire: not that I am against the Bible – I am against the container. The content cannot be thrown away. The container is the Lotus Sutra. The content is in your lotus, and that is your heart.

Anything more?

Osho,

A lot of people say they can't really let themselves go in meditation because of the physical pain, because of bumping into each other and falling down. They feel this may be some sort of excuse for not really letting go.

Could you talk to us about this physical aspect?

A child can fall but he will not feel hurt. A drunkard, walking on the street, falls, but his body is preserved, his bones are not fractured. What is happening? The real thing is not the other bumping into you; the real thing is your resistance. You are

afraid the other may bump into you, so you are resisting the whole time. Somebody may not bump into you, but you are afraid. Fear closes you, you become stiff, and if somebody then bumps into you that stiffness is hurt, not you. But you feel that you are hurt, and then your mind says, “You were right to be afraid from the very beginning, and it was good to be alert so that nobody would bump into you.”

The mind is a vicious circle. It gives you an idea, and because of that idea certain things happen. Then that idea becomes more fixed, then you become more afraid, and then you are constantly in fear. How will you do the meditation?

In Japan they have a science of wrestling – they call it judo or jujitsu – and the whole science consists of a very meditative thing: the judo wrestler learns how not to resist. When somebody attacks you, you have to absorb his energy, not resist, as if he is giving energy to you. Absorb his energy; don’t resist. He is not the enemy, he is a friend coming to you. When he hits you with his hand or his fist much energy is released from his fist; soon he will be exhausted. Absorb the energy that is released from his fist. When he is exhausted, just by absorbing his energy you will feel stronger, stronger than ever. But you resist, you shrink, you become stiff so that you may not be hurt. Then his energy and your energy clash. In that clash, pain happens. It is you.

In the meditation, remember: if somebody bumps into you, absorb his energy. And here is a meditative person bumping into you – you are lucky. He is releasing beautiful energy. A meditative energy is coming out of him; absorb it. Feel happy, feel thankful, and start jumping again. Don’t be stiff, don’t resist. He was sharing his energy with you, unknowingly –

share it. Soon you will come to know a different quality: that of nonresistance. The whole body and mind then behave in a different way. You know a secret.

You fall on the ground suddenly: fall as if the ground, the earth, is your mother. Make it a rest, not a clash. Fall down, but don't be stiff. If you are stiff you may get a fracture; the fracture will happen because you were stiff and there was a fight between you and the earth. The earth is, of course, greater than you so you will be a loser. Fall down just like a drunkard. You see them falling every day on the street, but by the morning they are back, completely okay. Every night they fall down and their bones are never fractured. These drunkards know a certain secret that you don't know. What do they know? They fall without any consciousness on their part, without any ego. They just fall. There is nobody to fight with the earth. The earth absorbs them and they absorb the earth.

Be a drunkard: fall without the ego. Enjoy the fall and feel friendly, intimate with the earth. Soon you will be back on your feet with more energy than ever, and once you know the knack there will be no disturbance. You are hurt because you are in a fight, a continuous fight; you are hurt because you are always resisting. Consciously, unconsciously, you are always ready to resist. And when so many people are doing the meditation you become afraid that somebody may hit you – but if there is this fear, how will you meditate?

Rather than being in fear, be in love. With so many persons meditating, so much divine energy is released. This is a celebration, so why be in fear? Be in love. Enjoy this group consciousness, so many people dancing. Become part, lose

your ego, be one with this collective force and energy. It will be difficult in the beginning because many lives have been lived with a fixed attitude of resistance. But someday you will become aware; someday a gap will be created and you will see. One experience will do. If you someday fall on the earth and there is no hurt and you feel beautiful, you have come to know a secret, you have stumbled upon the key. Now this key can be used on many locks. It is a master key.

Whenever someone comes to fight with you, absorb him. When someone insults you, absorb him and see – his insult becomes a flower. He is releasing energy. When someone insults you, he is throwing energy. He is foolish, stupid. So absorb his energy, thank him, and go back and see what happens. When someone is ready to fight, simply allow him to hit you. Be as if you are not there and he is fighting an emptiness. Allow him, don't resist. Once you come to know, there is no other way.

Just my saying it will not do. It is an art, it is not a science. Science can be explained, art has to be experienced. It is just like swimming. If you tell a nonswimmer, "There is nothing to it, you just take a jump and start throwing your arms around," he will say, "What are you saying? This will be suicide." How can you explain to a nonswimmer that swimming is beautiful, the most beautiful experience of any that the body can give to you? It is such a flowing experience, such a oneness with the river. The whole body, every fiber of it, every cell, is alive. The water is life – because all life arises out of water. Water is vital. In your body you are eighty-five percent water, so the eighty-five percent water, liquid, is meeting with a big river, or the ocean. You have come to the original source of vitality.

But you cannot explain to anyone who is a nonswimmer. It is not a science. You have to take him, step-by-step: in the beginning, shallow water so he becomes confident, then by and by deeper and deeper water. In the beginning he will be awkward, he will be afraid, he will be fighting with the river, afraid that it may drown him. In the beginning he will feel the river is antagonistic, but soon he will realize that the river is not antagonistic. The river also enjoys him swimming there; the river feels happy that one of its parts has come back. It is a celebrating moment for the river. A river where no one swims is sad, but where many people dance and swim in the river and enjoy, the river is happy. Soon you will feel that the river is helping, that you were unnecessarily fighting, and by and by you will drop your movements and activity. When a swimmer becomes perfect he simply floats on the river. No activity is needed; the river does everything and the swimmer simply floats on the river.

In old Yoga traditions there is a particular meditation – just float on the river and feel one with it. But don't make any movement, don't move the body, let the river do the work. And if the river is doing the work and you are simply floating, non-doing, you will have the feeling of the whole existence. This is how existence is floating.

You are unnecessarily fighting. In meditation you are entering a river of consciousness. So many people around you create a tremendous force, a stream. Enter into it like a swimmer, not fighting, just floating, and see what happens. It is an art.

I cannot tell you, I can just indicate, and you have to experience. You have to wait until that experience happens to you, a single moment of experience that nobody is against

you, nobody is going to harm you, this whole existence is welcoming. Then there will be no hurt.

I say that even if a bone is broken there will be no pain, there will be no hurt. If you fall down and you die, even then there will be no pain. If you are just falling back to mother earth there will be no pain. You are simply absorbed.

And who knows? – in meditation just someone bumping into you may become your first glimpse of enlightenment because it is a shock. A sudden awareness comes to you. Who knows? – just falling on the ground and breaking a bone may become your first satori, your first enlightenment. Nobody knows – life is mysterious. Enlightenment has happened in such different ways. Nobody knows.

Do it in love. Feel at home and allow things. If somebody bumps into you, let him. And let him pass through you, don't be a wall; don't come in his way. Allow him to pass. Be porous.

Enough for today.

Chapter 09: Save the Cat!

Nansen found two groups of monks squabbling over the ownership of a cat. Nansen went to the kitchen and brought back a chopper. He picked up the cat and said to the monks, “If any of you can say a good word, you can save the cat.”

Not a word was said, so Nansen cut the cat in two and gave half to each group.

When Joshu returned that evening, Nansen told him what had happened. Joshu said nothing. He just put his sandals on his head and walked out.

Nansen said, “If you had been there, you could have saved the cat.”

Life cannot be saved by the mind, by thinking, by logic, and if you try to save it by logic you will lose it. Life can be saved only through an irrational jump, through something that is not intellectual but total. But the whole story seems to be too cruel. Nansen’s disciples were struggling over a cat. Nansen had a big monastery and there were two wings. This cat moved from one wing to the other and both wings claimed that the cat belonged to them – and the cat was a beautiful one.

The first thing to be understood is: a real sannyasin cannot claim any ownership. A sannyasin means one who has left all possessions – or all possessiveness, which is more basic and deeper. You can leave possessions – that is easier – but to leave possessiveness is difficult because it goes deeper in the

mind. You can leave the world, but the mind goes on clinging to it.

These monks, Nansen's disciples, had left the world behind – their homes, their wives, their children – but now they were fighting over the ownership of a cat. This is how mind works. You leave one thing and the mind claims another, but the basic thing remains the same, and it makes no difference if the object of ownership changes – it makes no difference. The difference, the revolution, the real change, comes only when the subjectivity changes, when the owner changes. This is the first thing to be understood. Monks claiming ownership of a cat looks foolish, but this is how monks have been acting all over the world. They leave their house but then they claim ownership of the temple, of the church. They leave everything but they can't leave the mind, and the mind creates new worlds for them continuously.

It is not a question of possessing a kingdom; even a cat will do. Wherever possession comes in, fighting, violence, and aggression are bound to be there. Whenever you possess you are fighting because that which you possess belongs to the whole. You cannot possess anything; you can use it, that's all. How can you possess the sky and how can you possess the earth? But you possess, and that possession creates all types of conflicts, struggle, wars, violence, and everything.

Man has been fighting and fighting continuously. Historians say that within the last three thousand years there have been wars almost continuously somewhere or other on the earth. In three thousand years we have fought at least fourteen thousand wars. Why so much fighting? It is because of

possession. If you possess, you have started a war with the whole.

Buddha, Mahavira, and Jesus all say that if you possess, you cannot enter the kingdom of God. “Even a camel can pass through the eye of a needle,” says Jesus, “but not a rich man, he cannot pass through the gate of heaven.” It is impossible because when you possess you are constantly fighting with God. When you claim ownership, from whom are you claiming ownership? The whole belongs to the whole; the part cannot claim the whole. The part cannot even claim the part. Every claim is aggression. So those who possess cannot be in deep contact with the divine.

Non-possessiveness doesn't mean that you should not live in a house. Live in a house, but be thankful to the whole, to the divine. Use it but don't possess it. If you can use things without any possessiveness you have become a sannyasin.

These followers of Nansen have left the world, but their minds have followed them like shadows. Now they are claiming ownership of a cat. The whole thing is foolish, but the mind *is* foolish. The mind always goes on searching for excuses to fight. If you have a mind, you have a potential fighter within you who is always in search of a fight with somebody. Why is the mind always in search of a fight? – because by fighting, the ego is gathered, becomes stronger. Through fighting you gain the ego; if you don't fight, the ego disappears.

Mahavira and Buddha both insisted on nonviolence. The basic reason is not to fight. Once you stop fighting the ego cannot exist. The ego exists through fighting; it is a

consequence of fighting. The more you fight, the more the ego exists. If you are left alone on the earth, nobody to fight with, will you have an ego? You will not. The other is needed to create it; the other is a must. The ego is a relationship, it is not in you. Remember, the ego is not in you, it is not located within you. It is always located between you and the other – somewhere in between, where the fight is.

There are two types of relationship: one is of fight, fear, hatred – this creates the ego; the other is of love, compassion, sympathy. These are the two types of relationship. Wherever love is, fight ceases, the ego drops. This is why you cannot love. It is difficult because to love means to drop the ego, to drop yourself. Love means not to be.

Look at the strange phenomenon: lovers go on fighting. How can lovers fight? If there is love, the fight should drop and the ego will disappear. Your whole being thirsts for love, your whole mind thirsts for the ego, so you make a compromise: you love *and* you fight. The lover becomes an intimate enemy, but the enmity remains. All lovers go on fighting and go on loving. They have made a compromise: in some moments they are loving, then they drop the ego. But the mind feels uneasy, and again the mind starts fighting. So in the morning they are fighting, in the evening they are making love, and the next morning they are fighting again. Then a rhythm of fight and love is created.

True love means the fight has disappeared, the two have become one. Their bodies exist separately but their being has mingled. The boundaries are lost, there is no division. There is no “I” and no “thou”; now one exists.

These monks of Nansen have left everything, but the mind is there. It wants to possess, it wants to create a fight, it wants to be egoistic. A cat becomes just an excuse.

Nansen called all the monks, all the disciples, caught hold of the cat, and he said, “Say something which can save this cat.”

What did he mean when he said, “Say something which can save this cat”? He meant: say something Zen-like, say something meditative, say something of the other world, say something of ecstasy, say something which doesn’t belong to the mind. This cat can be saved if you say something which comes from no-mind, which comes from your inner silence.

He demanded the impossible. If there had been inner silence, these monks would not have been claiming possession; if there had been inner silence, it would have been impossible for them to fight.

The monks were at a loss. They knew if they said something it would come from the mind and the cat would be killed, so they remained silent. But that silence was not real silence, otherwise the cat would have been saved. They remained silent not because they were silent; they remained silent because they couldn’t find anything to say which came from no-mind, which came from an inner source, from the very being, from the center. They remained silent as a strategy. It was tactics: “It is better to remain silent because the master may be deceived that this silence is our response” – this is what they were saying.

But you cannot deceive a master. And if you can deceive a master, then that master is not a master at all. Their silence

was false. Inside there was turmoil, inside there was continuous chattering. They were thinking and thinking, in search of one answer so that this cat might be saved. They were very troubled inside; the whole mind was functioning fast. The master must have looked at them. Their minds were not inactive, they were not inactive; there was no meditation, there was no silence. Their silence was just a false facade. You can sit silently without being silent and you can talk and be silent. You can walk and be inactive and you can sit statue-like and be active. The mind is complex. You can run, walk, move, and inside, deep at the center, nothing happens, you are inactive.

I am talking to you and I am silent. You are not talking to me and you are not silent; the mind continues. The inner chattering goes on and on and on. The mind is a monkey, it cannot sit silently. Darwin discovered that man comes from the monkeys, but in the East meditators have always been aware that whether man comes from monkeys or not, the mind definitely comes from monkeys. It is monkey-like: jumping, chattering, doing something or other, never silent.

What Nansen said to his disciples was, “If you don’t behave like monkeys, this cat can be saved.” But they couldn’t help it. You cannot help it: if the mind is there what can you do? If you try to keep it inactive it becomes more active; if you force it to be silent it talks more; if you suppress it, it rebels. You cannot suppress it, you cannot persuade it; you cannot do anything about it because the moment you do something, it is the mind that is doing. This is the problem.

They all wanted to save the cat, they all wanted to possess the cat; the cat was really beautiful. But how can a mind that is

possessive be silent? How can a mind that is possessive save anybody? It can only kill.

Remember, it was not Nansen who killed the cat, it was these monks who killed it. This is the secret key to this story. Nansen gave an opportunity. He said, “You can save this cat. Say something which comes from no-mind, from your very being. And if you don’t say anything I am going to cut this cat and divide it in two so both parties can possess it.”

It was not Nansen who killed the cat. It seemed as though he killed it, but in fact it was the monks who killed it. Whenever you possess a live thing, you have already killed it. Whenever you claim that you possess a live person you have murdered because life cannot be possessed. The cat was moving from this wing to that. The cat was alive, fully alive, more alive than these monks. She had no home, she didn’t belong to anybody. She was just like a breeze – sometimes passing through the left wing, sometimes passing through the right. The cat never claimed that these monks belonged to her, or those monks belonged to her. She never possessed.

Animals are non-possessive, trees are non-possessive; only man is possessive. And with possessiveness man has missed all that is alive. You can possess only a dead thing. The moment you possess anything you make it dead. You love a woman and then you try to possess her: you kill her. A wife is a thing, not a person; a husband is a thing, not a person.

This is the misery: you love a person and then you start possessing, and unknowingly you are poisoning. Sooner or later the day will come when you have poisoned the person completely. Now you possess. But how can you love a thing?

The love happened in the first place because the person was alive. Now the flow has stopped, now life doesn't move, now all the doors of freedom are closed. Now it has become a frozen thing. The river is frozen, now there is no movement. Certainly now this person cannot go to another. You possess him completely. But how can you love a dead person? This is the misery of love. You cannot love a dead person, yet whenever you love you start possessing. All possession creates death. Only things can be possessed.

These monks had already killed the cat. Nansen was not going to kill it – he was only going to make manifest what had already happened. This story has been used against Zen monks, Zen masters, to show that they are violent. Think of a Christian theologian reading this story: he will say, “What type of religious man is this Nansen? He killed the cat, a poor cat. Those monks who claimed it were better; at least they were not killing. What type of master is this, what manner of man?” If Jainas – not Mahavira – if Jainas read this story, they will throw Nansen into hell. He has killed a cat.

Nansen is violent only apparently, to those who cannot understand. To those who can understand, he is simply manifesting a thing which has already happened. The cat was dead the moment it was possessed, the moment people started claiming it. He gave them one more opportunity, but they couldn't use that opportunity. They remained silent. But if the silence had been real the cat would have been alive. The silence was false, the silence was only on the surface, on the faces, skin-deep. Inside, the mad mind was functioning fast. It was whirling, spinning. Many answers must have come to those monks, but not *the* answer. So Nansen had to kill. He chopped the cat in two, gave one part to the left-wing

claimers, another part to the right-wing claimers. Those monks must have been happy, happy in the sense that at least they possessed half the cat!

That is what is happening to you all. Whenever you fight, life dies and is divided. A father and mother fight over a son – there is continuous fighting over children. The father says that the son belongs to him, that he should follow him, and the mother thinks the son belongs to her, that he should follow her. Claiming, they are killing. Sooner or later the son will be divided in two halves, chopped. Half of the son will belong to the father, half to the mother. And his whole life is destroyed because now it will be very difficult for him to be whole. Half of his heart will always belong to the mother and half will always belong to the father. One half will be against the mother and one half will be against the father. Now he is divided. Now this division is going to follow him his whole life. He is chopped in two.

This is what Nansen is saying by chopping the cat in two: don't fight over a person, don't try to possess a person, because you will chop him in two. Visibly he may seem one, but deep down in his heart he has become two, and now there will be constant conflict.

The mother and father were fighting over the son. The mother may be dead now and the father may be dead, but they will go on fighting within the son. Sometimes the voice of the mother, sometimes the voice of the father... The son will always be at a loss whom to follow, and he cannot be whole.

You come to me in search of being whole, and I always say: to be whole is to be holy. There is no other way to be holy.

Just be whole. Divisions within you must fall, you must become a unity. But you are a conflict. Your father is fighting, your mother is fighting, your brothers are fighting, your teachers are fighting, your gurus are fighting – everybody is fighting to possess you. There are many claimants. They have fragmented you, they have chopped you into many parts. You have become many, you are not one; you are a crowd. Neurosis comes out of it, madness comes out of it, insanity comes out of it. Have you ever observed how many souls you have, how many selves you have? You are not one, that is certain.

In my university days I used to live with a boy. He would never get up in the morning at five, but every day he would set the alarm. So I asked him, “Why do you set it? Why do you bother? – because you never get up. You always turn the alarm off and go to sleep again. So why bother and why be disturbed every morning?”

He laughed, but his laugh was hollow. He himself knew that he would not get up. But in the evening another self said, “No, tomorrow morning I am going to get up.”

I said, “Okay, try.” At the time he was setting the alarm he was confident, absolutely confident that he would get up in the morning at five. There was no suspicion. But this was only one fragment who said, “Absolutely, you have to get up. You have slept enough. No more time is left; the exam is coming near.”

At five I was waiting for him. He looked at me when the alarm went off. He looked at me – I was aware, I was sitting on my bed – he smiled, put off the alarm, changed sides and went to sleep again.

Later in the morning, at eight o'clock when he used to get up, I asked him about it. He said, "I thought, 'Just for a few minutes...'" And what is wrong in just sleeping for a few minutes more? I was feeling so sleepy, and the night was so cold. But tomorrow you will see, I will get up."

These are two different fragments – and he was not aware that the one who said, "Get up at five," was a different part, completely unaware of the part who would say, "Go to sleep. The night is very cold."

You are doing the same: you decide a thing and the next moment you have simply forgotten what you decided. You say you are not going to be angry again, and the next moment you will. The next moment is very far away. If someone starts arguing with you, saying no, you will become angry. You may become angry because he is arguing – immediately anger can come to you, and you had decided not to be angry. You are a divided house. There are many rooms in your house not connected with each other; the connections are broken, the bridges have dropped. You exist as a polypsychic being, with many minds, so whatsoever you possess you will chop it. You are already chopped.

Those monks could not save the cat because they were divided. Nansen was saying, "Do something, say something,

in a whole way – in a holy way, undivided. Act as a unity and this cat can be saved.” Not a single one could act, and the cat was chopped in two.

A question arises: how could Nansen cut up the cat? Is it just a parable, a symbolic story, or did he really chop up the cat? There are people who would like to save Nansen; I am not one of them. He really did cut the cat in two. It is not a parable, it is not an anecdote, symbolic, metaphorical. No. Literally, it happened exactly the way it is said. He cut the cat in two. Can a saintly man do that? I say to you: only a saintly man can do that.

That’s what Krishna says to Arjuna in the Gita: “Then don’t bother! Chop these fellows. These who are standing against you, cut them down, kill them. Remember only one thing: that which is hidden in them cannot be destroyed. Only the body can be destroyed because the body is already dead. Only the dead can be destroyed. The alive remains alive; it is eternal, nothing can be done to it. Fire cannot burn it, weapons cannot cut it. *Nainam chhindanti shastrani* – no weapon can cut it, no fire can burn it. Only the form... But don’t bother about the form because form is unreal, it is part of illusion.”

This Nansen must have been in the same state of mind as Krishna, in the same state of consciousness as Krishna. He chopped the cat. He knows the soul of the cat cannot be destroyed; he knows that only the form can be changed.

One thing more – which is very difficult to understand because moralists have created so much confusion and smoke around it – when a cat is chopped by a Nansen, it is beneficial

to the cat, it is a blessing for the cat. This cat must have been rare – and now this cat will not be reborn as a cat, she will be reborn as a man. To be chopped by Nansen is a rare opportunity, and the cat must have been wandering around the monastery waiting for this moment.

Nansen changed the form. The cat will be reborn as a higher being just because Nansen has chopped her. In that moment the cat was more silent than the monks, the cat was more ecstatic than the monks. Being chopped by Nansen is not an act of aggression, it is an act of love. Nansen freed the cat from the form, from the form of cat. She will be reborn as a higher being. But this is difficult to follow, and I am not telling you to go and free people from their forms so they will be reborn as higher beings. Don't chop anybody – you would like to, you would enjoy it, but for Nansen it was an act of deep prayer. He must have been watching this cat. This cat was no ordinary cat. There are animals who are crying out to be freed from their forms.

It happened at a camp in Matheran... I was staying very far away from the camp. The first evening, when I was going to my bungalow, a dog followed me – a really rare dog. Then the dog remained continuously. Three times I went to conduct the camp, and three times I would return. It was half an hour's journey; three times the dog followed me to the camp and three times he followed me back. While I was asleep he would sit just on the veranda. For the whole camp this was his routine. Even when he went to eat something he never left me. He would follow me to the camp, and when others were meditating he would sit more silently, more deeply than those

who were attending the camp, and then he would go back with me.

The last day, when I left Matheran by train, he followed the train. He was running by the side of the train. Many people may be here who were a witness there. As he was running by the train, the guard had compassion for him and he took him in. He went up to Neral. This train was a slow train, a toy train, coming from Matheran to Neral, traveling just seven miles in two hours, and the dog could follow. But from Neral it was a fast train. When I took the train from Neral to Mumbai others were standing on the platform weeping and crying, and the dog was also standing there in tears.

I know that cat must have been extraordinary, otherwise Nansen would not have taken such trouble to chop it. He created an opportunity for his disciples, and he used that opportunity for the cat also. He hit two targets with one stone. This is possible. If you are ready, then your form can be destroyed and you will receive a higher form – because your higher form depends on the moment when you die. The cat died in the hands of Nansen – a very rare opportunity. Such a silent man as Nansen... The cat must have caught the silence; such an ecstatic being, the cat must have been filled with his ecstasy – and then he chopped it. The cat was not afraid, she must have enjoyed the game. It was a surgical act. The cat must have been born in the next life as a very much higher soul. But that is an inner story and cannot be understood by ordinary morality. Persons like Nansen don't follow ordinary morality; they follow the inner rules, the inner laws. Ordinary morality is for ordinary men.

Then by the evening another monk came in from outside, another disciple who had not been in the monastery. Nansen told the story to him: “This has happened, and I had to cut the cat. I had to divide it in two because there was no way... These foolish fellows couldn’t save the cat. They couldn’t utter a single word, they couldn’t act in a Zen-like way, they couldn’t prove their Zen. Only Zen could have saved the cat, nothing else.”

The disciple listened to the story, put his shoes on his head and walked out. Nansen called him and said, “If you had been here, the cat would have been saved.”

This was the right man. What did he do? What kind of behavior...? He took his shoes off, put them on his head and walked out. He said many things without speaking. The first thing: he listened to the story and didn’t comment on it. The monkey was silent; the mind was not chattering. He didn’t try to think of an answer, he simply acted. That action was not from the mind, the action was from his total being. What did he do? He put his shoes on his head. Absurd! But he said that the mind, the head, is no more valuable than the shoes. Shoes, the meanest thing – he put them on his head. By this act he said, “The mind is nothing but shoes. The mind is valueless, thinking cannot help. The mind has to be thrown to the shoes. Even shoes are more worthy, worth more respect than the mind.” That’s what he said, and then he simply walked out.

And Nansen said, “Had you been here this morning, you could have saved the cat. The cat would have been saved.”

Here was a man who didn’t believe in the mind, who didn’t believe in answers. Here was a man who could act

spontaneously. Life can be saved only if you can act spontaneously – not only the cat’s life, your life also. Throw the mind to the shoes; it is not in any way more worthy. And shoes have not troubled you so much. Sometimes they may pinch, but only sometimes, and if they are the right size they are always okay. But the mind has been pinching you for many, many lives, and it is never the right size, it is always the wrong size. The mind is never the right size. Shoes can be the right size, but the mind is always the wrong size; it goes on pinching. The mind is the wrong size. You cannot make a good mind, there is no possibility. You cannot make a beautiful ugliness, you cannot make a healthy disease – that is impossible. The mind is always wrong. It goes on pinching. Whether you think or whether you pray, if the mind is there everything goes wrong. The mind is the factor which creates wrongness in life. This is the source of error, perversion, neurosis. Life can be saved only when you drop the mind.

What did this disciple do? It was difficult to drop the head, it was easier to put the shoes on the head. But it is symbolic. He is saying, “I have dropped the head. Don’t ask me foolish questions” – and he acted, that’s the thing.

Meditation is not contemplation, it is action – action of the whole, of the total being. In the West particularly, Christianity has created a false impression: that meditation looks like contemplation. It is not. Because of Christianity the West has missed many things, and one of them is meditation, the rarest flowering of a human being, because they have made it equivalent to contemplation. Contemplation is thinking, meditation is no-thinking.

For *dhyān*, *Zen*, there exists no equivalent in the English language, because meditation itself means thinking: to meditate upon. Some object is there. Remember, *dhyān* is the original word. *Dhyān* traveled to China with Bodhidharma and in the Chinese language it became *ch'an*. Then from China it traveled to Japan and in Japanese it became first *zan*, and then *Zen*; but the original root is *dhyān* – *ch'an*, *zan*, *Zen*. In English there is no word equivalent to it. *Meditation* also means thinking, a consistent thinking. *Contemplation* means thinking also. It may be thinking about God, but it is thinking, and *dhyān*, or *Zen*, is a no-thinking state. It is action without thought. Thought needs time.

In the morning the monks were sitting, thinking what to do. They thought and thought and couldn't find. Thought will never find the right answer. The cat had to be chopped. Life became death because thought is poisonous; thinking leads to death, not to more life. The cat had to be chopped. Nansen couldn't help – those monks killed the cat.

This man, this disciple who came in the evening, listened to the story without commenting, without saying anything. He simply took off his shoes, put them on his head and walked out. He acted – he said something through his action, not through his mind. He didn't use words, he used himself. He didn't wait, he didn't contemplate, he didn't try to find the answer to how the cat should have been saved.

If you had been there in the evening and you were told the story, you would surely have started to think, "How?" When the "how" comes, the mind has come. This disciple acted without the how; he simply acted, and the act was

spontaneous, very symbolic. Putting the shoes on his head he said something – he said the head is valueless.

This Nansen, the master, used to ask people, “What is the most valueless thing in the world?” He used to give it as a meditation to his disciples: think, what is the most valueless thing in the world? His master had also given this koan to him. He meditated, meditated, then one day he went and answered his master, “The head.” The master asked, “Why?” Nansen said, “Cut off a head and go to the market and try to sell it. Nobody will purchase it.”

This is what Nansen’s disciple did. By putting shoes on his head he said, “Worthless head!” And you go on insisting, asking questions to the head. There is no answer. How can the shoes answer? He walked out, and Nansen said, “You could have saved the cat. Where were you this morning? The cat could have been alive and kicking.” Some absurd act was needed – absurd, spontaneous. Rational? – no, something irrational was needed, because “irreason” is deeper than reason. That’s why if you are too head-fixated you cannot fall in love – because love is irrational, absurd. The head goes on saying, “This is useless. What will you gain out of it? There is no profit, or you may even get into trouble. Think about it.”

It is said of Immanuel Kant, one of the greatest systematizers, that a girl proposed to him. In the first place it is bad that the girl should propose: it is always the boy who proposes. But the girl must have waited and waited and Kant wouldn’t propose; the idea never occurred to him. He was so much in his philosophy, how could he be in love? He was so much rooted in his head, the heart was completely denied. So the

girl, feeling that too much time had been lost, proposed. Kant said, “I will think it over.”

How can you think about love? Either it is there or not. It is not a question to be solved, it is a situation to respond to. Either your heart says yes or your heart says no. It is finished. What will you think? It is not a business proposal. But it was a business proposal to Kant. Too much head-orientation makes everything businesslike. So he thought, and he not only thought, he went to the library and consulted books about love, marriage. Then he noted down in his notebook all that was in favor of marriage and all that was against. He thought and thought and thought, and it is said that after weighing the pros and cons, he decided in favor of marriage because a few points were more in favor than against, so it was a logical decision.

Then he went and knocked on the girl’s door, and her father said, “She is already married and the mother of three children. So much time passed... You came a little late.”

Time is needed for the mind. The mind is always late because time will be needed and the situation will be lost. And when you knock on the door, the girl has moved – she is already the mother of three children. This is happening every moment, remember. A situation is there, so act, don’t think, because if you think, the situation will not wait for you. The girl will have moved. When you are ready to respond there will be nothing to respond to. Kant was ready, but the mind takes time and situations are moving. Life is a flow, a flux. It is not static; otherwise the mind would have found the answer. If the girl had remained... But the girl was getting old, she was

missing life. She could not wait, she had to move, make a decision.

Life is not static. If life was static then there would be no need for meditation, the mind would do. Then you could think, and whenever you knocked on the door – after many lives – the girl would be waiting for you. But life is a flux, a movement. Every moment it is changing and becoming new. If you miss a moment, you have missed.

This disciple didn't miss a single moment. He heard the story, took off his shoes, put them on his head and walked out. If he had waited a single moment to think, Nansen would have beaten him. I tell you, he would have been beaten. Because the cat was no longer there, Nansen might have chopped this disciple – but he acted.

Action without the mind is the most beautiful thing possible. But you are afraid because you think if you act without the mind you may do something wrong. The mind exploits this fear – think first, then act. But you go on missing the train. Leave this fear; otherwise you will never be meditative. Act! In the beginning there will be a deep shaking and trembling because you have always been acting out of thinking.

It is just like a man who has been living in a prison, in a dark cell, for many years. His eyes have become attuned to darkness. If he is brought out of the cell, he will not be able to open his eyes immediately. The sun will be too much, the light will be too much. His whole being will tremble and he will say, "Let me go back to my cell."

This is what has happened to you, to everybody. We have lived in the mind for many, many lives, and we have become attuned to its darkness, its ugliness, futility. When you act without the mind, your whole being trembles. You are moving on a dangerous path. The mind says, “Be alert! Think first, then act.” But if you think first and then do something, your doing will always be dead, stale. It will be out of thought; it will not be real and authentic. Then you cannot love, then you cannot meditate, then you cannot really live and you cannot die. You become a phantom, a phony existence. Love knocks at your heart and you say, “Wait! I will think about it.” Life goes on knocking at your gates and you say, “Wait! I will think about it.”

This disciple must have been deep in meditation. He acted, he simply acted. He could have saved the cat. This means he has already saved it – he has already saved all that is alive. Don’t think about the story, otherwise I will have to chop the cat. You can save it; otherwise the cat will have to be chopped again, and *you* will be responsible. Act!

But the story won’t help you. Don’t try to put your shoes on your head, that won’t help. That helped that disciple but this won’t help you. The cat will have to be chopped if you put the shoes on your head and walk out because that will be false again, that will be from the mind. You know the story: the mind cannot give you the real. Whatsoever you do, don’t imitate.

I have heard...

In a Chinese town there was one big restaurant, very rich, the most beautiful, richest restaurant in the town. Just near that restaurant lived a poor Chinese. He ran a small laundry. He couldn't go in the restaurant, it was too costly. But the smell of the food, the aroma... He used to sniff it, and when he ate his lunch or dinner he would take a chair from his house and go as near to the restaurant as he dared, and he would sit there and sniff the aroma, the smell that was coming from the restaurant, and eat his food. He enjoyed it.

But one day he was surprised. There came a man, the owner of the restaurant, with a bill for the smell of the food. The poor man ran into his house, brought his tiny money box, rattled it in the ears of the owner and said, "Hereby I pay for the smell of your food by the sound of my money."

The mind is just a smell and a sound, nothing real. Whatsoever you do, the mind is smell and sound, nothing authentic. It is the source of all falsity.

So you have heard the story – now don't try to imitate it. You can do it easily now, now the secret is known. You can put your shoes on your head and walk out, but the cat will still be chopped. That will not save it, it will not help it. Act spontaneously. Put aside the mind and do something. Doing it you will come to know that the cat has never been chopped, because the cat cannot die. Putting aside the mind you will come to know your own eternity, and that very moment you know the eternity of the cat also. The mind is mortal, not you; you are immortal. The mind has a death waiting for it, not you; you are deathless. Putting aside the mind you will laugh

and you will say that Nansen played a trick: the cat cannot be killed.

That's what Krishna goes on saying to Arjuna: "Don't be worried. Chop these fellows because nobody can be killed."

The Gita is very dangerous. Nowhere on the earth does such a dangerous book exist, so nobody has followed it. People recite it but nobody follows it. It is dangerous and even people who love it very much and respect it very much never listen to what it says. Even a man like Mahatma Gandhi, who called the Gita his mother, wouldn't listen to it. How could Mahatma Gandhi listen to it? He believed in nonviolence and Krishna says: "Chop these fellows! Nothing exists; it is like a dream. I tell you, nobody is killed, so don't bother about it."

How could Gandhi believe? So he had to play a trick – this is how the mind plays tricks. He said, "This is a parable, this is metaphorical. Don't take it literally. The fight is not real. The Kauravas and the Pandavas, these two groups of warriors, are just a story. The Kauravas represent evil and the Pandavas represent good. It is the fight between good and evil, between God and the Devil, it is not a real fight." But this was Gandhi's mind playing tricks.

There have been Buddhist interpreters of Nansen also. They said, "This is just a parable. There was no real cat, and this never happened." But I tell you this happened. The cat was real, as real as Nansen, and the cat was chopped. Nansen could do it. Nansen is a Krishna; he knows that nothing is destroyed.

This word, the English word *destruction*, is very beautiful, meaningful. The word *destruction* means de-structuring: nothing is destroyed, only the structure changes, a new structure arises. The old structure goes out of existence and a new structure arises. *Destruction* means de-structuring. Only the form changes. The cat may be sitting here – it is more possible than anywhere else! When you go back home, look in the mirror. You may be the cat, and you have come here again! Do something, otherwise I will chop you again! And remember, now nobody can save you. That time the monks could have saved you. This time you are a monk, so nobody can save you except yourself.

Action out of immediacy, spontaneous action, saves life. That is the only savior, there exists no other savior.

Anything more?

Osho,

In place of the Ten Commandments, with which I was brought up, I have given myself a new set of rules: be alert, be patient, be spontaneous, accept myself.

All questions are mind questions – no question comes out of no-mind – and all answers are no-mind answers. So questions and answers never meet. You ask a question and I give you an answer. They never meet, they cannot meet, because your question runs on the track of the mind and my answer runs on the track of no-mind. They may run parallel but they never meet. Either I should drop my no-mind – then there can be a meeting – or you should drop the mind: then too there can be

a meeting. And remember, I am not going to drop my no-mind. It cannot be dropped because how can you drop a no-thing? You can drop a thing, but you cannot drop a no-thing. So you have to drop the mind. Then the answer will be heard, understood. Then it will penetrate you.

The mind is a deep source of new questions, new puzzles, new riddles. So you can change the Ten Commandments – you can create another ten. That will not do because if they are created by the mind nothing changes. Now the Ten Commandments have become very old, out-of-date. They speak in the language of the past. At that time that language was relevant, but now they don't look relevant. You can change, you can make new commandments, but those new commandments – if they are put together by the mind – will not be of any use. Your mind can think and put them together and they may look beautiful, but they will be false. You can make let-go a commandment, total acceptance a commandment, but if they are created by the mind they are meaningless. Why? – because the mind cannot allow itself to be in a total let-go. It can pretend, but it cannot really allow itself to let go. The mind cannot accept because the mind exists through rejection; that is why mind always likes to say no rather than yes.

Whenever you say no you feel the ego; whenever you say yes you don't feel the ego. That's why people go on saying no more than yes. They say yes only when it becomes absolutely necessary; otherwise they say no. Whenever something is asked, the first thing that arises in your mind is no – because when you reject, you are; when you accept, you are not. Yes-saying will create a no-mind. A theist is a yes-sayer, and an atheist is a no-sayer – he says no. When you say there is no

God, then you feel a tremendous energy in the ego: then you are.

Nietzsche has said, “If God is, then I won’t want to be. And if I am, then I won’t allow God to be because both cannot exist.” He is right. How can both exist, you and God together? If you are there, then you are God; God cannot exist. If he exists, then how can you exist? The ultimate no comes to the mind: no God. The mind rejects, cannot accept.

So you can change, you can think about it, you can change the old Ten Commandments and create a new ten, but if they come out of the mind they are useless. And if they do not come out of the mind, what is the need? If the no-mind has happened and you feel it, what is the need of commandments? Commandments are for the mind. They are from the mind, and for the mind. Rules exist for the mind, because the mind cannot exist without rules. This is one of the most basic things. Rules exist for the false, not for the real. The real can exist without rules, but the false cannot exist; it has to be propped, helped, supported by the rules.

You play a game, you play cards – can you play cards without rules? There can be no possibility. If you say, “I will follow my rules and you follow your rules and we will play the game,” there will be no game. We have to follow the rules – and we both know that rules are just rules, nothing is real in them. We have agreed on the rules: that’s why they exist.

A game cannot continue if rules are not followed, but life will continue without rules. What rules are these trees following? What rules does the sun follow? What rules does the sky follow? The human mind is such that it thinks they are also

following rules, moving according to rules. The sun moves, it follows a rule, so there is a ruler – the God who controls everything. He is like a great super-manager: he goes on spying on everybody – who is following, who is not following. This is a mind creation. Life exists without rules; games cannot exist without rules. So, real religion is always without rules. Only false religion has rules because false religion is a game.

I have heard...

A young woman went to a barber's shop with her young boy. The boy was dressed like a soldier, looked very dangerous, and he had a toy six-shooter. Immediately he jumped on the chair and said, "Bang! Bang!" He just made noise.

The lady said to the barber, "I am going to leave my son here for half an hour. I have some shopping to do."

The barber became uneasy and he asked, "If this young man becomes too restless, what am I supposed to do?" – and that young boy was standing with his six-shooter on the chair looking very dangerous, soldier-like.

The young lady said, "If he gets too restless, you will simply have to drop dead a few times, that's all. If he says, 'Bang!' drop dead. Follow the rule – that's the rule – then he will not be restless. So you have to drop dead a few times, and then he will be happy and there will be no trouble."

All the commandments are, “Bang! Drop dead!” For real life there is no commandment. Flow in it without any rules, be in it without any rules. Simply be. Why follow rules? Everything will happen out of your being. These things you say will happen if you are simply there without any rules. Then acceptance will come, let-go will come; then the mind will drop. So these rules cannot be made rules; they are consequences of being spontaneous and total. If somebody follows them, and he has made a commandment that he has to accept everything and then accepts, it is false because in accepting he has already rejected. If you have to accept something because of the commandment, you have already rejected. Your mind says, “Accept!” Why accept? Before it has said, “Reject.” Then rejection has come before the acceptance. But if there is no rejection, how will you be aware of acceptance? You will simply accept and flow.

Become river-like. Become a white cloud floating in the sky, and let the winds take you wheresoever they take. Don't, *don't* follow any rules. This is what I mean when I say: be a sannyasin. Just be. Your ochre robes, your *mala* – these are rules. This is a game. This is not what I mean by real sannyas. But you are so accustomed to games that before I lead you to a rule-less life, in the transitory period, you will need rules. Moving from this world of rules, of games, to that world without rules and games, a bridge has to be passed. Your orange clothes, your *mala*, are just for that transitory period. You cannot drop rules immediately, so I give you new rules.

But be fully alert that your robes are not your sannyas, your *mala* is not your sannyas, your new name is not your sannyas. Sannyas will be there when there is no name; you become

nameless. Then there will be no rules. When you will be so ordinary, you will not be recognized. Only then...

But don't think that now it is okay, so no need to take sannyas and no need to wear an orange robe. That is again a trick. You have to pass through this, you have to go through this – you cannot bypass it. If you try to bypass, you will never reach the other shore.

Rules of the world, then rules of sannyas, and then comes a no-rule state. No commandments are needed. Don't change the old commandments – they are okay as they are. Be, simply be, and follow and flow into the being.

Enough for today.

Chapter 10: The Master of Silence

Buddha was to give a special talk one day and thousands of followers had come from miles around.

When Buddha appeared he was holding a flower.

Time passed, but Buddha said nothing.

He just looked at the flower.

The crowd grew restless, but Mahakashyapa, who could restrain himself no longer, laughed.

Buddha beckoned him over, handed him the flower, and said to the crowd, “I have the eye of the true teaching. All that can be given with words I have given to you; but with this flower, I give to Mahakashyapa the key to this teaching.”

The key to all teachings, not only of Buddha but of all masters – Jesus, Mahavira, Lao Tzu – cannot be given through verbal communication, the key cannot be delivered through the mind. Nothing can be said about it. The more you say, the more difficult it becomes to deliver, because a buddha and you live in such different dimensions – not only different but diametrically opposite – that whatsoever a buddha says will be misunderstood.

I have heard...

One evening three slightly deaf women met on the road. The day was very windy, so one woman said, “Windy, isn’t it?”

The other said, “Wednesday? No, it’s Thursday.”

And the third said, “Thirsty? I am also, so let’s go to the restaurant and have a cup of tea.”

This is what happens when a buddha says something to you. He says, “Windy?” You say, “Wednesday? No, it is Thursday.” The physical ear is okay, but the spiritual ear is missing. A buddha can talk only to another buddha, this is the problem – and with another buddha there is no need to talk. Buddha has to talk to those who are not enlightened. With them exists the need to talk and communicate, but then communication is impossible.

It is reported of one Mohammedan saint, Farid, that he was passing near Varanasi where Kabir lived. Followers of Farid said, “It would be just wonderful if you and Kabir met – for us it would be a blessing.”

The same thing happened to Kabir and his followers. They heard that Farid was passing, so they said to Kabir that it would be good if he would request Farid to stay for a few days in the ashram.

Farid’s disciples said to him, “You two talking would be a great opportunity for us; we would like to hear what two enlightened persons say to each other.”

Farid laughed when the disciples said this and he replied, “There will be a meeting, but I don’t think there is going to be any talking. But let us see.”

Kabir said, “Ask Farid. Let him come and stay – but whosoever speaks first will prove that he is not enlightened.”

Farid came; Kabir received him. They laughed and embraced each other, and then they sat in silence. Farid was there two days, and for many hours they sat together. The disciples were restless, waiting for them to say something, utter something. But not a single word was communicated.

The third day Farid left and Kabir came to see him off. They again laughed, embraced each other, and parted.

The moment they parted, Farid’s disciples gathered around him and said, “What nonsense! What wastage of time. We were hoping that something was going to happen. Nothing happened. Why did you suddenly become so dumb? You talk so much to us.”

Farid replied, “All that I know, he knows also. Nothing is to be said. I looked into his eyes, and he is there, where I am. Whatsoever he has seen I have seen; whatsoever he has realized I have realized. There is nothing to be said.”

Two ignorant persons can talk. They talk much; they do nothing except talk. Two enlightened persons cannot talk – it would be absurd. Two ignorant persons talking is meaningless because there is nothing to convey. They don’t

know anything that can be said, that should be said, but they go on talking. Their chattering is just a mad catharsis. They cannot help it – it is a release.

Two enlightened persons cannot talk because they know the same. Nothing is to be said. Only one enlightened person and one unenlightened person can have a meaningful communication, because one knows and the other is yet in ignorance. A meaningful communication, I say. I don't say that the truth can be conveyed, but some hints, some indications, some gestures can, so that the other becomes ready to take the jump. The truth cannot be conveyed, but the thirst can be given. No teaching worth the name can give the key through words.

Buddha talked – it is difficult to find another person who talked so much. Scholars have been studying all the scriptures in existence that are in the name of Buddha, and they say that it seems impossible, because after his enlightenment he lived for only forty years, walking from one village to another. He walked all over Bihar, and the name Bihar comes because Buddha walked there. *Bihar* means the walking paths of Buddha. The whole province is called Bihar because this is the boundary where Buddha walked – his *bihar*, his wanderings.

He continually walked; only during the rainy season did he rest. So much time was wasted in walking, and then also he had to sleep. Scholars have been calculating. They say, "This seems impossible. Sleeping, walking, doing other daily, routine things – there are so many scriptures, how could he have talked so much? If he was continuously talking for forty years, without one gap of a single moment, only then could

this much have been spoken.” He must have talked so much – continuously – yet still he says that the key cannot be conveyed through words.

This story is one of the most significant ones, because from this story starts the tradition of Zen. Mahakashyapa is the first master of Zen. Buddha is the source, and Mahakashyapa is the first, the original master of Zen. This story is the source from where the whole tradition – one of the most beautiful and alive that exists on earth, the tradition of Zen – started.

Try to understand this story. Buddha came one morning, and as usual a crowd had gathered, many people were waiting to listen to him. But one thing was unusual: he was carrying a flower in his hand. Never before had he carried anything in his hand. People thought that somebody may have presented it to him. Buddha came, he sat under the tree. The crowd waited and waited and waited and he would not speak. He wouldn't even look at them, he just went on looking at the flower. Minutes passed, then hours, and the people became very restless.

It is said that Mahakashyapa couldn't contain himself; he laughed loudly. Buddha called him, gave him the flower and said to the gathered crowd, “Whatsoever can be said through words I have said to you, and that which cannot be said through words I give to Mahakashyapa. The key cannot be communicated verbally. I hand over the key to Mahakashyapa.”

This is what Zen masters call transference of the key without scripture: beyond scripture, beyond words, beyond the mind. He gave the flower to Mahakashyapa. Nobody could

understand what had happened. Neither Mahakashyapa nor Buddha ever commented upon it again. The whole chapter was closed. Since then, in China, in Tibet, in Thailand, in Myanmar, in Japan, in Sri Lanka – everywhere Buddhists have been asking during these twenty-five centuries, “What was given to Mahakashyapa? What was the key?”

The whole story seems to be very esoteric. Buddha is not secretive; this is the only incident... Buddha is a very rational being. He talks rationally, he is not a mad ecstatic. He argues rationally, and his argument, his logic, is perfect – you cannot find a loophole in it. This is the only incident where he behaved illogically, where he did something which is mysterious. He is not a mysterious man at all. You cannot find another master who is less mysterious.

Jesus is very mysterious, Lao Tzu is absolutely mysterious. Buddha is plain, transparent; no mystery around him, no smoke is allowed. His flame burns clear and bright, clear and absolutely transparent, smokeless. This is the only thing that seems mysterious; hence many Buddhist scriptures never relate this anecdote, they have simply dropped it. It seems as if someone has invented it. It doesn't make any sense with Buddha's life and attitude.

But this is the origin of Zen. Mahakashyapa became the first holder of the key. Then six holders in succession existed in India, up to Bodhidharma. Bodhidharma was the sixth holder of the key, and he searched and searched all over India but he couldn't find a man of the capability of Mahakashyapa – a man who could understand silence. He had to leave India just in search of a man to whom the key could be given; otherwise the key would be lost.

Buddhism entered China with Bodhidharma in search of a man to whom the key could be given, a man who could understand silence, who could talk heart to heart, who was not obsessed in the mind, who had no head. A man with no head was difficult to find in India because India is a country of pundits, scholars, and they have the biggest heads possible. A pundit by and by forgets everything about the heart and he becomes the head. His whole personality becomes lopsided as if only the head exists, and the whole body shrinks and disappears.

This communication beyond words is possible only from heart to heart. So for nine years Bodhidharma searched in China, and then he could find only one man. For nine years Bodhidharma was sitting in China, not facing people; he would always sit facing the wall. If you had gone to hear him he would have been sitting and facing the wall, his back towards you. People used to ask him, "Why do you sit in such a peculiar way? We have come to listen to you." Bodhidharma would reply, "I am waiting for the man who can listen to me. I will not look at you, I will not waste my time; I will look only at the person who can listen to me."

Then came a man; he stood behind Bodhidharma, cut off his right hand, threw it at Bodhidharma and said, "Turn towards this side, otherwise I am going to cut off my head."

Bodhidharma immediately turned and said, "Right! So you have come! Take this key and relieve me of the work." The key that was given from Buddha to Mahakashyapa, Bodhidharma delivered to this man. A Chinese became the seventh master, and up to now it has been traveling. The key

is still there, somebody is still holding it; the river has not died.

To me, if all the scriptures of Buddha disappear, nothing is lost. Only this anecdote should not disappear. This is the most precious, and scholars have dropped it from Buddha's biography. They say, "This is irrelevant, it doesn't fit with Buddha." But I say to you: all that Buddha did was just ordinary – anybody can do that. But this is extraordinary, this is exceptional – only a buddha can do this.

What happened that morning? Let us try to penetrate into it. Buddha came, sat, and started looking at the flower. He would not look at the people; the flower became the wall. That's what Bodhidharma did. He would look at the wall, he would not look at the people – he would not waste his look. The flower became the wall and the crowd disappeared. Buddha looked and looked at the flower. What was he doing? When Buddha looks at anything, the quality of his consciousness is transferred. And a flower is one of the most receptive things in the world. Hence Hindus and Buddhists go with flowers to put at their master's feet or in the temple, because a flower can carry something of your consciousness.

A flower is a very receptive thing, and if you are aware of the new research in the West, you will understand it. Now they say plants are more sensitive than you, than man. A flower is the heart of the plant; the whole being comes into it. Much research is going on in the Soviet Union, in the USA, in England, about the sensitivity of plants, and something unbelievable has been discovered.

One man, a scientist, was working on plants – how they feel, whether they feel anything or not, whether they have emotions or not. He was sitting with a plant with electrodes fixed to it to detect any movement in its inner being, any sensation, any emotions. He just thought, “If I cut this plant, if I tear down a branch or cut it from the earth, what will happen?” Suddenly, the needle making the graph jumped. He had not done anything, he had just thought, “If I cut this plant...” The plant became afraid of death and the needle jumped, recording that the plant was trembling. Even the scientist became scared because he had not done anything – just a thought and the plant received it. Plants are telepathic.

Then he worked much – he worked at long distances. The plant was removed one thousand miles; his plant, the plant he had helped to grow, had watered, loved, was removed one thousand miles away. Here he thought against the plant and there, one thousand miles away, the plant became disturbed. So now, it could be scientifically recorded that the plant’s emotions were disturbed. Not only this, but if you think of cutting one plant, all the other plants surrounding the area become emotionally disturbed. And not only that: if someone has cut a plant and he comes into the garden, all the plants become disturbed, because this man is not good and they carry the memory. Whenever this man enters the garden the whole garden feels that an evil person has come in.

Now a few scientists think that plants can be used for telepathic communication, because they are more sensitive than the human mind. A few scientists think that plants can be used to receive communications from other planets, because our other instruments are not so refined.

In the East it has always been known that a flower is the most receptive thing. When Buddha looked at the flower and continued to look at the flower, something of him was transferred to that flower. Buddha entered the flower. The quality of his being, the alertness, the awareness, the peace, the ecstasy, the inner dance, touched the flower. With Buddha looking at the flower, so at ease, at home, without any desire, the flower must have danced in its inner being. He looked to transfer something to the flower – one thing to be understood. Only the flower and he existed for a long period of time. The whole world dropped. Only Buddha and the flower were there. The flower entered Buddha's being, and Buddha entered the flower's being.

It is not just a flower now, it carries buddhahood. It carries the inner quality of Buddha's being. Then the flower was given to Mahakashyapa. Why to Mahakashyapa? There were other great scholars, ten great disciples; Mahakashyapa was only one, and he was included in the ten only because of this story, otherwise he would never have been included.

Nothing much is known about Mahakashyapa. There were great scholars: Sariputta was there – you could not find a more keen intellect – and Maudgalyan was also there, a very great scholar. He knew all the Vedas; they were in his mind, his memory. Nothing that had ever been written was unknown to him. A great logician in his own right, he had thousands of disciples. And there were others: Ananda was there, Buddha's cousin-brother, who for forty years was continuously moving with Buddha. But no, someone who was unknown before, Mahakashyapa, suddenly became most important. The whole gestalt changed. Whenever Buddha was speaking, Sariputta was the significant man because he could understand words

more than anybody else, and when Buddha was arguing, Maudgalyan was the significant man. Nobody thought about Mahakashyapa very much. He remained in the crowd, he was just part of the crowd.

But when Buddha became silent, the whole gestalt changed. Now Maudgalyan and Sariputta were not significant; they simply dropped out of existence, as if they were not there. They became just a part of the crowd. A new man, Mahakashyapa, became the most important. A new dimension opened. Everybody was restless, thinking, “Why is Buddha not speaking? Why is he keeping silent? What is going to happen? When will it end?” They became uncomfortable, restless.

But Mahakashyapa was not uncomfortable, he was not restless. Really, for the first time he was at ease with Buddha; for the first time he was at home with Buddha. When Buddha was talking he may have been restless. He may have thought, “Why this nonsense? Why go on talking? Nothing is conveyed, nothing is understood; why go on knocking your head against the wall? People are deaf. They cannot understand.” He must have been restless when Buddha was talking, and now for the first time he was at home. He could understand what silence is.

Thousands were there and everybody was restless. Mahakashyapa couldn't contain himself, looking at the foolishness of the crowd. They were at ease when Buddha was talking and now they are restless when he is silent. When something could be delivered they were not open; when nothing could be delivered they were waiting. Now through silence Buddha can give something which is immortal, but

they cannot understand. So he couldn't contain himself and laughed loudly – he laughed at the whole situation, the whole absurdity.

We require even a buddha to talk because that's all we can understand. This is foolish. You should learn to be silent with a buddha because only then can he enter you. Through words he can knock at your door but can never enter; through silence he can enter you, and unless he enters, nothing will happen to you. His entry will bring a new element to your world; his entry into the heart will give you a new beat and a new pulse, a new release of life – but only his entry.

Mahakashyapa laughed at the foolishness of man. They are restless and thinking, “When will Buddha stand up and drop this whole silence so that we can go home?” He laughed.

Laughter started with Mahakashyapa and it has been going on and on in the Zen tradition. There is no other tradition which can laugh, because laughter looks so irreligious, profane. You cannot think of Jesus laughing, you cannot think of Mahavira laughing. It looks difficult even to conceive of Mahavira having a belly laugh, or of Jesus laughing uproariously. No, laughter has been denied. Sadness, somehow, has become religious.

One of the famous German thinkers, Count Keyserling, has written that health is irreligious. Illness has a religiousness about it because an ill person is sad, desireless – not that he has become desireless but because he is weak. A healthy person will laugh, will enjoy, will be merry – he cannot be sad. So religious persons have tried in many ways to make you ill: go on a fast, suppress your body, torture yourself. You

will become sad, suicidal, crucified on your own. How can you laugh? Laughter comes out of health. It is overflowing energy. That's why children can laugh and their laughter is total. Their whole body is involved in it – when they laugh you can see that even their toes are laughing. The whole body – every cell, every fiber of the body – is laughing and vibrating. Children are so full of health, so vital; everything is flowing.

A sad child means an ill child, and a laughing old man means he is still young. Even death cannot make him old; nothing can make him old. His energy is still flowing and overflowing, he is always flooded. Laughter is a flooding of energy.

In Zen monasteries they have been laughing and laughing and laughing. Laughter became prayer only in Zen, because Mahakashyapa started it. Twenty-five centuries ago, on a morning just like this, Mahakashyapa started a new trend, absolutely new, unknown to the religious mind before – he laughed. He laughed at the whole foolishness, the whole stupidity, and Buddha didn't condemn. Rather, on the contrary, he called him near, gave him the flower and spoke to the crowd... When the crowd heard the laughter they must have thought, "This man has gone mad," or "This man is disrespectful to Buddha – because how can you laugh in front of a buddha? When a buddha is sitting silently, how can you laugh? This man is not paying respect." The mind will say that this is disrespect.

The mind has its own rules, but the heart does not know them; the heart has its own rules, but the mind has never heard about them. The heart can laugh and be respectful; the mind

cannot laugh, it can only be sad and then be respectful. But what kind of respect is this which cannot laugh? A very new trend entered with Mahakashyapa's laughter, and down the centuries the laughter has continued. Only Zen masters, Zen disciples, laugh.

All over the world, all religions have become ill because sadness has become so prominent. Temples and churches look like graveyards; they don't look festive, they don't give a sense of celebration. If you enter a church what do you see there? Not life, but death – Jesus crucified on the cross completes the whole sadness there. Can you laugh in a church, dance in a church, sing in a church? Yes, singing is there, but that is sad, and people sit with long faces. No wonder nobody wants to go to church – it is just a social duty to be fulfilled; no wonder nobody is attracted to the church – it is a formality. Religion has become a Sunday thing. For one hour you can tolerate being sad.

Mahakashyapa laughed in front of Buddha, and since then Zen monks, sannyasins, masters, have been doing such things which religious minds – so-called religious minds – cannot even conceive of. If you have seen any Zen book you may have seen Zen masters depicted, pictured, painted. No painting is true. If you look at Bodhidharma's painting or Mahakashyapa's painting, they are not true to their faces, but just looking at them you will have a feeling of laughter. They are hilarious, they are ridiculous.

Look at Bodhidharma's painting. He must have been one of the most beautiful men; that he was otherwise is not possible, because whenever a man becomes enlightened a beauty descends, a beauty which comes from the beyond. A blessing

comes to his whole being. But look at Bodhidharma's painting: he looks ferocious and dangerous. He looks so dangerous that you will become scared if he comes to visit you at night – never again in your life will you be able to sleep. He looks so dangerous, as if he is going to kill you. It was just disciples laughing at the master, creating a ridiculous portrait. It looks like a cartoon.

All Zen masters are depicted in a ridiculous way. Disciples enjoy it. But those portraits carry a quality. Bodhidharma is dangerous; if you go to him he will kill you. Then you cannot escape him; he will follow you and haunt you. Wherever you go he will be there. Unless he kills you he cannot leave you. That is the thing depicted with all Zen masters, even Buddha.

If you look at Japanese and Chinese paintings of Buddha, they don't look like the Indian Buddha. They have changed him totally. If you look at Indian paintings of Buddha, his body is proportionate, as it should be. He was a prince, then a buddha – a beautiful man, perfect, proportionate. But look at a Japanese painting of Buddha: they have distorted the whole thing. A big belly? – Buddha never had a big belly. He never had a big belly, but in Japanese paintings, scriptures, he is painted with a big belly because a man who laughs must have a big belly. Belly laughter... How can you do it with a small belly? – you cannot do it. They are joking with Buddha, and they have said such things about Buddha... Only very deep love can do that, otherwise it looks insulting.

Bankei always insisted on having a painting of Buddha just behind him, and talking to his disciples Bankei would say, "Look at this fellow. Wherever you meet him kill him immediately, don't give him a chance. While meditating, he

will come to disturb you. Whenever you see his face during meditation, just kill him then and there; otherwise he will follow you.” Bankei used to say, “Look at this fellow! If you repeat his name” – because Buddhists go on repeating, *Namo Buddhaya, Namō Buddhaya* – “if you repeat his name, then go and wash your mouth.” It looks insulting. It is Buddha’s name and this man says, “If you repeat it then the first thing to do is to wash your mouth. Your mouth has become dirty.”

He is right – because words are words; whether it is the name of Buddha or not makes no difference. Whenever a word crosses your mind, your mind has become dirty. Wash it, even Buddha’s name. And Bankei, keeping the portrait of Buddha always behind him, would bow down to it every morning. So his disciples asked, “What are you doing? You go on telling us, ‘Kill this man, don’t allow him to stand in the way,’ and you say, ‘Don’t say his name, don’t repeat it; if it comes, wash your mouth,’ and yet we see you bowing down.”

Bankei said, “All this has been taught to me by this man, this fellow, so I have to pay respect.”

Mahakashyapa laughed. This laughter carries many dimensions in it. One, at the foolishness of the whole situation: a buddha silent and nobody understanding him, and everybody expecting him to speak. His whole life Buddha had been saying that the truth cannot be spoken, and still everybody expected him to speak.

The second dimension: Mahakashyapa laughed at Buddha also, at the whole dramatic situation he had created, sitting there with a flower in his hand, looking at the flower, and

creating so much uneasiness and restlessness in everybody. At this dramatic gesture of Buddha he laughed.

The third dimension: he laughed at his own self – “Why couldn’t I understand up to now? The whole thing is easy and simple.” The day you understand, you will laugh because there is nothing to be understood, there is no riddle to be solved. Everything has always been simple and clear. How could you miss it?

Buddha sitting silent – birds singing in the trees, the breeze passing through the trees, everybody restless – and Mahakashyapa understood. What did he understand? He understood that there is nothing to be understood, there is nothing to be said, there is nothing to be explained. The whole situation is simple and transparent, nothing is hidden in it. There is no need to search because all that is, is here and now, within you. He laughed at his own self also, at the whole absurd effort of many lives: just to understand this silence, so much thinking?

Buddha called him, gave him the flower and said, “Hereby I give you the key.” What is the key? Silence and laughter is the key – silence within, laughter without. And when laughter comes out of silence it is not of this world, it is divine.

When laughter comes out of thinking it is ugly; it belongs to this ordinary, mundane world, it is not cosmic. Then you are laughing at somebody else, at somebody else’s cost, and it is ugly and violent. When laughter comes out of silence you are not laughing at anybody’s cost, you are simply laughing at the whole cosmic joke – it is really a joke! That’s why I go on telling jokes to you because jokes carry more than any

scriptures. It is a joke because inside you, you have everything, and you are searching everywhere. What else should a joke be? You are the king and acting like a beggar on the streets; not only acting, not only deceiving others, but you have deceived yourself that you are a beggar. You have the source of all knowledge and are asking questions. You have the knowing self and think that you are ignorant. You have the deathless within you and are afraid and fearful of death and disease. This is really a joke, and if Mahakashyapa laughed, he did well.

But except for Buddha, nobody understood. He accepted the laughter and immediately realized that Mahakashyapa had attained. The quality of that laughter was cosmic. He understood the whole joke of the situation. There was nothing else to it. The whole thing is as if the divine is playing hide-and-seek with you. Others thought that Mahakashyapa was a fool, laughing in front of Buddha, but Buddha thought that this man had become wise. Fools always have a subtle wisdom in them, and the wise always act like fools.

In the old days, all great emperors always had a fool in their court. They had many wise men, counselors, ministers and prime ministers, but always a fool. All the intelligent, wise emperors all over the world, in the East and the West, had a court joker, a fool. Why? – because there are things so-called wise men will not be able to understand, that only a foolish man can understand – because your so-called wise are so foolish that their cunningness and cleverness closes their minds.

A fool is simple, and a fool was needed because many times the so-called wise would not say something because they

were afraid of the emperor. A fool is not afraid of anybody else; he will speak, whatsoever the consequences. A fool is a man who will not think of the consequences.

That's what Krishna is saying to Arjuna: "Be a fool. Don't think of the consequences, the result. Act!" This is how fools act: they simply act without thinking what is going to happen, what the result will be. A clever man always thinks first of the result, then he acts. Thought comes first, then action. A foolish man acts; thought never comes first.

Whenever someone realizes the ultimate, he is not like your wise men; he cannot be. He may be like your fools, but he cannot be like your wise men. When Saint Francis became enlightened he used to call himself God's fool. The pope was a wise man, and when Saint Francis came to see him even the pope thought this man had gone mad. The pope was intelligent, calculating, clever; otherwise how could he become a pope?

To become a pope, one has to pass through much politics. To become a pope, saintliness is not needed; cunningness is needed, cleverness is needed, diplomacy is needed, a competitive aggression is needed to put others aside, to force your way, to use others as ladders and then throw them away. It is politics – because a pope is a political head. Religion is secondary or not at all. He may be a theologian, but he is not religious, because how can a religious man compete? How can a religious man fight and be aggressive for a post? – only politicians.

Saint Francis came to see the pope, and the pope thought that this man was a fool. But trees and birds and fishes thought in

a different way. When Saint Francis went to the river the fishes would jump in celebration that Francis had come. Thousands witnessed this phenomenon. Millions of fishes would jump simultaneously; the whole river would be lost in jumping fishes. Saint Francis was there and the fishes were happy. Wherever he would go birds would follow; they would come and sit on his head, on his body, in his lap. They understood this fool better than the pope did. Even trees which had become dry and were going to die would become green and blossom again if Saint Francis came near. These trees understood well that this fool was no ordinary fool – he is God’s fool.

When Mahakashyapa laughed he was a God’s fool, and Buddha understood him because Buddha was not a Pope. Later on Buddhist priests didn’t understand him, so they dropped the whole anecdote.

I was talking in a Buddhist community once, the neo-Buddhists, so I told them this anecdote. The priest came to me later on and said, “From where did you get this? – because this is not written in the scriptures, it is false. A man like you should not say things which are not written in the scriptures, because people believe you.”

So I told him, “Bring your scripture; I will add this anecdote to it and I will sign it on my own account.” I said, “This happened – I was a witness there.”

The priest looked at me. He must have thought, “This man is mad! There is no use talking.”

I told that priest, “I have no power but I have authority...” Power belongs to the politician; authority to the religious man. Power depends on others – they give it to you – but authority comes from within. So I told him, “I was a witness. I can give it to you in writing with my signature that I was a witness. This happened. You have somehow missed it in the scriptures, but I am not at fault for that. I am not responsible if you have missed this in your scriptures.”

The man, the priest, used to come to me before; now he stopped coming, he never came again. A dead scripture is more important to a priest than a live person. Even if I say I am a witness, I cannot be believed. This anecdote has been dropped from Buddhist scriptures because it is sacrilegious to laugh in front of Buddha, and to make it the original source of a great tradition is not good. This is not a good precedent that a man laughed in front of Buddha, and also it is not a good thing that Buddha gave the key to this man, not to Sariputta, Ananda, Maudgalyan, and others who were important, significant. And finally it was they – Sariputta, Ananda, and Maudgalyan – who recorded the scriptures. Mahakashyapa was never asked. Even if they had asked he would not have answered. Mahakashyapa was never consulted if he had something to say, to be recorded.

When Buddha died all the monks gathered and started recording what had happened and what not. Nobody asked Mahakashyapa. This man must have been discarded by the *sangha*, by the community. The whole community must have felt jealous. The key had been given to this man who was not known at all, who was not a great scholar or pundit. Nobody knew him before, and suddenly that morning he became the

most significant man because of the laughter, because of the silence.

And in a way this is right, because how can you record silence? You can record words, you can record what happened in the visible. How can you record what has not happened in the visible? They knew the flower had been given to Mahakashyapa, nothing else.

But the flower was just a container. It had something in it – buddhahood, the touch of Buddha's inner being, the fragrance that cannot be seen, that cannot be recorded. The whole thing seems as if it never happened, or as if it happened in a dream.

Those who were the recorders were the men of words, proficient in verbal communication, in talking, discussing, arguing, but Mahakashyapa is never heard of again. This is the only thing known about Mahakashyapa – such a small thing that the scriptures must have missed it. Then Mahakashyapa has remained silent, and silently the inner river has been flowing. To others the key has been given, and the key is still alive, still opens the door.

These are the two parts of it: inside, at the center, silence, and on the periphery, celebration and laughter. An inner silence – a deep silence, so that there is no vibration in your being. You are, but there are no waves. You are just a pool without waves, not a single wave arises; the whole being is silent, still. And only silence can laugh because only silence can understand the cosmic joke.

So your life becomes a vital celebration, your relationship becomes a festive thing. Whatsoever you do, every moment is

a festival. You eat, and eating becomes a celebration; you take a bath, and bathing becomes a celebration; you talk, and talking becomes a celebration; relationship becomes a celebration. Your outer life becomes festive, there is no sadness in it. How can sadness exist with silence? But ordinarily you think otherwise: you think if you are silent you will be sad. Ordinarily you think how can you avoid sadness if you are silent? I tell you, the silence that exists with sadness cannot be true. Something has gone wrong. You have missed the path, you are off the track. Only celebration can give proof that the real silence has happened.

What is the difference between a real silence and a false silence? – a false silence is always forced; it is achieved through effort. It is not spontaneous, it has not happened to you. You have made it happen. You are sitting silently; much inner turmoil is there. You suppress it. Then you cannot laugh, you will become sad because laughter will be dangerous. If you laugh you will lose silence because in laughter you cannot suppress. Laughter is against suppression. If you want to suppress you should not laugh; if you laugh everything will come out. The real will come out in laughter, and the unreal will be lost.

So whenever you see a saint sad, know well the silence is false. He cannot laugh, he cannot enjoy, because he is afraid. If he laughs then everything will be broken, the suppression will come out – then he will not be able to suppress it. Look at small children. Guests come to your home and you tell the children, “Don’t laugh!” What do they do? – they close their mouths and suppress their breath, because if they don’t suppress their breath then laughter will come out, and it will be difficult. They don’t look anywhere because if they look at

something they forget. So they close their eyes, or almost close their eyes, and they suppress their breath.

If you suppress, your breath cannot be deep. Laughter needs a deep breath; if you laugh, a deep breath will be released. That's why nobody is breathing deeply, just shallow breathing, because much has been suppressed in your childhood and after it, so you cannot breathe deeply. If you go deeper you become afraid. Sex has been suppressed through breath, laughter has been suppressed through breath, anger has been suppressed through breath. Breath is a mechanism to suppress or release; hence my insistence on chaotic breathing, because if you breathe chaotically, then laughter, screaming, everything will come up and all of your suppressions will be thrown out. They cannot be thrown out in another way, because breathing, breath, is the way you have suppressed them.

Try to suppress anything: what will you do? – you will not breathe deeply. You will breathe shallowly, you will breathe just from the upper part of the lungs. You will not go deeper because deeper it is suppressed. In the belly, everything is suppressed. When you really laugh the belly vibrates; hence Buddha's big-bellied portraits. The belly is relaxed and then the stomach is not a suppressed reservoir. If you see a saint sad, sadness is there but the saint is not there. He has stilled himself somehow and is every moment afraid. Anything can disturb him.

Nothing can disturb if real silence has happened. Then everything helps it to grow. If you are really silent you can sit in a market, and even the market cannot disturb it. Rather, you feed on the noise of the market and that noise becomes

more silence in you. Really, to feel silence a market is needed – because if you have real silence, then the market becomes the background and the silence becomes perfect in contrast. You can feel the inner silence bubbling against the market.

There is no need to go to the Himalayas. And if you go, what will you see? Against the silence of the Himalayas your mind will be chattering. Then you will feel more chattering because the background is in silence. The background is the silence, and you will feel more chattering.

If the real happens to you, you are unafraid; it cannot be taken away. Nothing can disturb it. And when I say nothing, I mean nothing – nothing can disturb it. If something does disturb, that shows that the silence is forced, cultivated; somehow you have managed it. But a managed silence is not silence; it is just like managed love.

The world is so mad – the parents, the teachers, the moralists are so mad and insane that they teach children to love. Mothers say to their children, “I am your mother, love me” – as if the child can do something to love. What can the child do? The husband goes on saying to the wife, “I am your husband, love me” – as if love is a duty, as if love is something which can be done. Nothing can be done. Only one thing can be done: you can pretend. Once you learn how to pretend love, you have missed. Your whole life will go wrong. Then you will go on pretending that you love. Then you will smile and pretend; then you will laugh and pretend. Then everything is false. Then you will sit silently and pretend; then you will meditate and pretend. Pretension becomes the style of your life.

Don't pretend. Let the real come out. If you can wait and be patient enough, when pretensions have dropped, the real is waiting there to explode. Catharsis is to drop the pretenses. Don't look at what the other is saying because that is how you have pretended, how you have been pretending.

You cannot love – either it is there or not. But the mother says, “Because I am your mother...” and the father says, “I am your father...” and the teacher says, “I am your teacher, therefore love me” – as if love is a logical thing. “I am your mother, therefore love me.” What will the child do? You are creating such problems for the child that he cannot conceive of what to do. He can pretend. He can say, “Yes, I love you.” And once the child loves his mother as a duty he will become incapable of loving any woman. Then the wife will come and it will be a duty; then the children will come and it will be a duty. Then the whole life will become a duty. It cannot be a celebration – you cannot laugh, you cannot enjoy. It is a burden to be carried. This is what has happened to you. It is a misfortune, but if you understand it you can drop it.

This is the key: the inner part of the key is silence, and the outer part of the key is celebration, laughter. Be festive and silent. Create more and more possibility around you. Don't force the inner to be silent, just create more and more possibility around you so that the inner silence can flower in it. That's all we can do. We can put the seed in the soil but we cannot force the plant to come out. We can create the situation, we can protect, we can give fertilizer to the soil, we can water, we can see whether the sunrays reach or not, or how much sunrays are needed, whether more or less. We can avoid dangers, and wait in a prayerful mood. We cannot do anything else. Only the situation can be created.

That's what I mean when I tell you to meditate. Meditation is just a situation; silence is not going to be the consequence of it – no. Meditation is just creating the soil, the surrounding, preparing the ground. The seed is there, it is always there; you need not put in the seed, the seed has always been with you. That seed is *brahman*, that seed is atman – that seed is you. Just create the situation and the seed will become alive. It will sprout and a plant will be born, and you will start growing.

Meditation doesn't lead you to silence; meditation only creates the situation in which the silence happens. And this should be the criterion – that whenever silence happens, laughter will come into your life. A vital celebration will happen all around. You will not become sad, you will not become depressed, you will not escape from the world. You will be here in this world, but taking the whole thing as a game, enjoying the whole thing as a beautiful game, a big drama, no longer serious about it. Seriousness is a disease.

Buddha must have known Mahakashyapa, he must have known. When Buddha was looking at the flower silently and everybody was restless, he must have known only one being was there, Mahakashyapa, who was not restless. Buddha must have felt the silence coming from Mahakashyapa, but he would not call him. When Mahakashyapa laughed, then Buddha called him and gave him the flower. Why? – silence is only half of it. Mahakashyapa would have missed if he had remained simply silent and didn't laugh. Then the key would not have been given to him. He was only half grown, he was not yet a fully grown tree, he was not blossoming. The tree was there, but flowers had not yet come. Buddha waited.

Now I will tell you why Buddha had to wait for so many minutes, for one or two or three hours. He waited. Mahakashyapa was silent but he was trying to contain laughter, he was trying to control laughter. He was trying not to laugh because it would be so unmannerly: what would Buddha think? What would the others think? But then, the story says, he couldn't contain himself any more. The silence became too much; it had to come out as laughter. The flood became too much; he couldn't contain it any more. When silence is too much it becomes laughter. It is so overflowing that it starts overflowing in all directions. He laughed – it must have been a mad laughter. In that laughter there was no Mahakashyapa – silence was laughing, silence had come to a blossoming.

Then immediately Buddha called him: “Mahakashyapa, take this flower. This is a key. I have given to all the others what can be given in words, but to you I give that which cannot be given in words. The message beyond words, the most essential, I give to you.” Buddha waited for those hours so that Mahakashyapa's silence became overflowing, it became laughter.

Your enlightenment is perfect only when silence has come to be a celebration. Hence my insistence that after you meditate you must celebrate. After you have been silent you must enjoy it, you must have a thanksgiving. A deep gratitude must be shown towards the whole just for the opportunity that you are, that you can meditate, that you can be silent, that you can laugh.

Anything more?

Osho,

Buddha had many enlightened people around him, yet he felt something special for this one enlightened person. Is there something different in enlightenments?

Yes. Buddha had many enlightened persons around, but the key can be given only to such a person who can become a master in his own right, because the key is to be delivered on and on. It has to be kept alive. It was not going to become a treasure for Mahakashyapa; it was a great responsibility, it had to be given to somebody else.

There were other enlightened persons but the key couldn't be given to them; the key would be lost with them. Really, Buddha chose the right person because the key is still alive. Mahakashyapa did well. He could find another person who would transmit it to somebody else. The question is to find the right person. Just enlightened is not enough because not all enlightened persons are masters – a distinction has to be made.

Jainas have a beautiful distinction; they have two types of enlightened persons. One enlightened person is known as *kaivali*, one who has attained to absolute aloneness. He has become perfect but he cannot be a teacher, he cannot give this perfection to somebody else. He is not a master, he cannot guide; he himself has become an ultimate peak, but whatsoever he knows he cannot transmit in any way. The other type of enlightened person is called *tirthankara*, one who becomes a vehicle for others. He is enlightened, but he is also a master of a certain art of communicating through words

and communicating through silence. He can deliver the message. Others can become enlightened through him.

Buddha said, “Whatsoever can be said by words I have told you. That which cannot be said by words I give to Mahakashyapa.”

Mahakashyapa was the master of silence. Through his silence he could teach. Others were masters of words; through their words they could teach and carry on the work. It is not so essential, it is on the periphery, but that too was needed because Buddha’s words had to be recorded. What Buddha did had to be recorded and transferred from generation to generation. This too is essential, but it exists on the periphery. His scholars – Maudgalyan, Sariputta, Ananda – would record everything. That is a treasure because buddhas rarely happen. All should be recorded. Not a single word should be left out because – who knows? – that single word may become enlightenment to someone. But the silence also has to be carried. So, two traditions exist: the tradition of the scripture and the tradition of silence. Many people become enlightened, but the moment they become enlightened they become so silent, they become so content that not even the desire to help others arises in them.

Jainas say that the *tirthankara* is a person who has gathered some karma – this is strange – and has to fulfill those karmas by conveying the message to others. It is not a very good thing; karma is not a very good thing. In his past life he has gathered karma to be a master. It is not a good thing because something has to be done, something has to be completed, and he must do it; then his karmas are fulfilled, then he is relieved completely. The desire to help others is still a desire;

compassion towards others is still energy moving towards others. All desires have disappeared but one desire is still there: to help others. That too is a desire, and unless this desire also disappears, this man will have to come back.

So a master is one who has become enlightened, but one desire is left. That desire to help others helps to become enlightened is not a trouble for becoming enlightened, but you will still be attached to the body. Only one stream... All sources cut, but one bridge is there.

There were other enlightened persons, but the key could not be given to them; it had to be given to Mahakashyapa because Mahakashyapa had an inner desire to help – his past karmas. He could become a *tirthankara*, he could become a perfect master. And he did well. Buddha's choice was perfectly right – because there was another of Buddha's disciples who could have been given the key. His name was Subhuti. He was as silent as Mahakashyapa, even more. It will be difficult for you – how can silence be more, how can perfection be more? It is possible, but it is beyond ordinary arithmetic. You can be perfect, and you can still be even more perfect because perfection has growth, it goes on growing infinitely.

Subhuti was the most silent man around Buddha, even more than Mahakashyapa. But the key could not be given to him because he was so silent. In the first place, Subhuti will not laugh... It will be difficult now; you are entering a very complex phenomenon. The key could not be given to him because he would not laugh. He was not there. He was so silent, he was not there to laugh; he was not there to contain or not to contain. Even if Buddha had called, "Subhuti,

come!” he would not have come. Buddha would have had to go to him.

It is related of Subhuti that one day he was sitting under a tree and suddenly, out of season, flowers started falling on him. So he opened his eyes: what is the matter? The tree was not in blossom, the season was not there – then from where suddenly, and millions of flowers? He looked and he saw many deities all around, above the tree, in the sky, dropping flowers. He would not even ask the deities what was the matter. He closed his eyes again.

Then those deities said, “Subhuti, we are thanking you for the sermon you have given on emptiness.”

Then Subhuti said, “But I have not said a single word, and you say, ‘We are thanking you for the sermon that you have given on emptiness!’ I have not spoken a single word.”

The deities said, “You have not spoken and we have not heard – that is the perfect sermon on emptiness.” He was so empty that the whole cosmos felt it, and gods had to come to shower flowers on him.

This Subhuti was there, but he was so silent that he was not there. He was not even bothered about why Buddha was sitting with the flower. Mahakashyapa was – not like the others, but still in a way. He looked at Buddha, he felt the silence, he felt the absurdity, but there was one who was feeling.

Subhuti must have been there somewhere, sitting. There arose no idea, “Why is Buddha sitting silently today, why is he

looking at the flower?” Then there was no effort to contain it, then there was no explosion. Subhuti was there as if absolutely absent. He would not laugh, and if Buddha had called him, he would not have come; Buddha would have had to go to him. And no one knows – if the key had been given to Subhuti, he might have thrown it away. He was not a man meant to be a *tirthankara*, he was not a man meant to be a teacher or a master. He had no past karmas. He was perfect, so perfect, and whenever something is so perfect it becomes useless. Remember, a person so perfect is useless, because you cannot use him for any purpose.

Mahakashyapa was not so perfect, something was lacking. He could be used, so in that gap the key could be put. The key was delivered to Mahakashyapa because he could be relied upon to deliver it to somebody else. Subhuti was not reliable. Perfection, when absolute, just disappears. It is not there in the world. You can shower flowers on it but you cannot use it. That’s why many enlightened persons were there, but only one in particular, Mahakashyapa, was chosen. He was a man who could be used for this great responsibility.

This is strange. That’s why I say ordinary arithmetic won’t help – because you will think that the key should be given to the most perfect. But the most perfect will forget where he had put the key. The key should be given to one who is almost perfect, just on the brink of where one disappears, and before he disappears he will hand over the key to somebody else. To the ignorant the key cannot be given, to the most perfect the key cannot be given. Someone has to be found who is just on the boundary, who is passing from this world of ignorance to that world of knowing, but just on the boundary. Before he crosses the boundary, this time can be

used and the key can be delivered. To find a successor is very difficult because the most perfect is useless.

I will tell you one event that happened just recently. Ramakrishna was working on many disciples. Many attained, but nobody knows about them. People know about Vivekananda, who never attained; the key was given to Vivekananda who was not the most perfect, and not only was he not the most perfect but Ramakrishna wouldn't allow him to be perfect. When Ramakrishna felt that Vivekananda was going to enter into the perfect *samadhi*, he called him and said, "Stop! Now I will keep the key with me for this final entry, and only before your death, three days before, the key will be returned to you." Only three days before Vivekananda died did he have a first taste of ecstasy, never before.

Vivekananda started crying and weeping and asked, "Why are you so cruel to me?"

Ramakrishna replied, "Something has to be done through you. You have to go to the West, around the world. You have to give my message to people, otherwise it will be lost."

There were others, but they were already in; he could not call them out. They would not be interested in going to the West or around the world. They would say that it was nonsense – they were just like Ramakrishna. Why should he not go himself? He was already in, and somebody had to be used who was out. Those who are far out cannot be used. Those who are almost in, just near the door, can be used, and before they enter they should deliver the key to somebody else.

Mahakashyapa was just near the door, fresh, entering into silence, silence becoming celebration, and he had a desire to help. That desire has been used. But Subhuti was impossible. He was the most buddhalike, the most perfect, but when somebody is buddhalike he is useless. He can give himself the secret key; there is no need to give it to him. He never made anybody a disciple. Subhuti lived in perfect emptiness, and the gods had to shower on him many times. He never made a disciple; he never said anything to anybody. Everything was so perfect, why bother? Why say anything?

A master is fulfilling his past karmas. He has to fulfill them. When I have to find a successor, many will be there who will be like Subhuti: they cannot be given the key. Many will be there who are like Sariputtas: only words can be given to them. Somebody has to be found who is entering silence, celebrating, and has been caught just near the door. That is why.

Enough for today.

Chapter 11: Sober Up!

The monk Zuigan used to start every day by saying out loud to himself, “Master, are you there?” And he would answer, “Yes sir, I am.”

Then he would say, “Better sober up.”

And he would reply, “Yes sir, I’ll do that.”

Then he would say, “Look out now, don’t let them fool you.”

And he would answer, “Oh no sir, I won’t, I won’t.”

Meditation cannot be a fragmented thing – it should be a continuous effort. Every moment one has to be alert, aware and meditative. But the mind has played a trick: you meditate in the morning and then you put it aside, or you pray in the temple and then forget it. Then you come back to this world completely unmeditative, unconscious, as if walking in a hypnotic sleep. This fragmentary effort won’t do much. How can you be meditative for one hour if you have been nonmeditative for twenty-three hours of the day? – it is impossible. Suddenly becoming meditative for one hour is not possible. You can simply deceive...

Consciousness is a continuum; it is just like a river, flowing constantly. If you are meditative you have to be meditative the whole day, every moment of it – and *only* when you are meditative the whole day will the flowering come to you, not before.

This Zen anecdote looks absurd but it is very meaningful. The master, the monk, used to call to himself – this is what

meditation means, calling to yourself – he used to call his own name. He would ask, “Are you there?” And he himself would reply, “Yes sir, I am here.” This is an effort, a deep effort, to be alert. You can use this, it will be very helpful. Suddenly, walking on the street, ask yourself, “Am I here?” Suddenly thinking stops and you have to answer, “Yes sir, I am here.” When thinking stops, it brings you to a focus and you are meditative, alert.

This calling to oneself is a technique. Going to sleep, putting off the light in the night, suddenly you ask, “Am I here?” In that darkness alertness comes. You become a flame and inside you answer, “Yes, I am here.”

Then the monk used to say, “Sober up!” Be sincere, be authentic; don’t play the game. He used to call to himself, “Sober up!” and he would answer, “Yes, I will make every effort that I can.”

Our whole life is a fooling around. You can do it because you are not aware of how you waste time, how you waste energy – you are not aware how life is finally wasted. It is going down the drain. Everything is going down the drain. Only when death comes to you, you may become aware, alert, and ask, “What have I been doing? What have I done with life? A great opportunity has been lost. What was I doing fooling around?” You were not sober. You never reflected upon what you were doing.

Life is not just to pass, it is to reach somewhere deep within you. Life is not on the surface, it is not the circumference – it is the center, and you have not reached to the center yet. Sober up! Enough time is already wasted. Be alert and see

what you are doing. And what *are* you doing? Searching for money? It is finally, ultimately useless. It is again a game, the money game. You have more than others, you feel good; others have more than you, you feel bad. It is a game. But what is the meaning of it? What do you gain from it? Even if you have all the wealth that this world contains, at the moment of death you will die as a beggar. So the whole wealth of the world cannot make you rich. Games cannot make you rich. Sober up!

Somebody is after power, prestige; somebody is after sex, and somebody after something else – but all is a game. Unless you touch the center of your being all is a game. On the surface only games exist, and on the surface is not the real; on the surface are only waves, and in those waves you will only suffer and drift. You will not be anchored into your self. This is why he used to call, “Sober up!” He was saying, “Don’t play games. Enough! You have played enough. Don’t be foolish any more. Use life for anchoring, use life to gain roots, use life as an opportunity to reach the divine. You are just sitting outside the temple, just sitting on the steps, playing games, and the ultimate is waiting just behind you. Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.” But you have no time left from the games.

“Sober up” means remember what you are doing and why you are doing it. Even if you succeed, where will you reach? This is the paradox: whenever a man succeeds in these foolish games, he becomes aware for the first time that the whole thing has been nonsense. Only those who never succeed go on playing the game; those who succeed suddenly become aware that nothing has been reached. Ask an Alexander or ask a Napoleon what they have gained.

It is reported of Alexander that, when he was going to die, he told his court, “When you carry my dead body in the streets let both of my hands hang out. Don’t cover them.” This is rare, because nobody is carried that way.

The court couldn’t understand, so they asked, “What do you mean? This is not the usual way. The whole body is hidden... Why do you want both of your hands hanging out?”

Alexander replied, “I want it to be known that I am dying with empty hands. Everybody must see it, and nobody should try to be an Alexander again. I gained much and still gained nothing; my kingdom is great but I am still poor.”

You die a beggar even if you are an emperor; then the whole thing seems like a dream. Just as in the morning the dream is broken and all emperoredoms disappear, all kingdoms disappear, so death is an awakening. That which remains in death is real, and that which disappears was a dream. This is the criterion. When this monk used to call, “Sober up!” he means this: remember death and don’t fool around.

You go on in such a way as if you are never going to die. Your mind says, “Death always happens to others, never to me; it is always a phenomenon happening to others, never to me.” Even if you see a man dying you never think, “I am dying in him. His death is symbolic: the same is going to happen to me.” If you can see that you are going to die, will you be able to play these games so seriously, putting your whole life at stake for nothing? The monk was right to call in the morning, “Sober up!” Whenever you start playing a game again – with your wife, in the shop, in the market, in politics – close your eyes, call yourself and say, “Sober up!” And the

monk used to reply, “Yes sir, I will make every effort that I can.”

Another thing is that he used to remember in the morning. Why in the morning? – because the morning sets the pattern. The first thought in the morning becomes the door, hence all religions insist on at least two prayers. If you can be prayerful, that is the right thing; if not, then at least two prayers – one in the morning, one in the night. In the morning, when you are fresh and sleep has left you and consciousness is arising again, the first thought, the prayer, the meditation, the remembrance, will set the pattern for the whole day. That will become the door because things move in a chain. If you are angry in the morning, the whole day you will be more and more angry. The first anger creates the chain, then the second anger follows easily, then the third becomes automatic – and then you are in it. Then whatsoever happens around you creates anger. To be prayerful in the morning, or to be alert, to call yourself, to be mindful, sets the pattern.

In the night also, when you go to sleep, the last thought becomes the pattern for the whole sleep. If the last thought is meditative the whole sleep will become meditation. If the last thought is of sex then the whole sleep will be disturbed by sexual dreams. If the last thought is of money then the whole night you will be in the market purchasing and selling – because a thought is not an accident; it creates a chain, and then things follow and similar things follow.

So pray at least twice a day. Mohammedans pray at least five times. It is beautiful because if a man has to pray five times a day, then it is almost a continuous thing. He has to remember,

“Now the morning has come, now the afternoon prayer, now the evening prayer, now the night has come.” There are gaps, but two prayers are so near that they become joined together. Look at Mohammedans praying: they are the most beautiful people in prayer. Hindus don’t look so prayerful – they will do it in the morning. But a Mohammedan has to pray five times; only then is he a Mohammedan. It is a simple rule, and five times continuously remembering sets the pattern. It becomes an inner flow; you have to come again and again to it. Between two prayers it will be difficult to be angry; between two prayers it will be difficult to be greedy; between two prayers it will be difficult to be aggressive and violent. But the fundamental thing is that if what one does is continuous, there is no need for five prayers – because still there will be gaps, and you are so cunning that you can fill the gaps with something that is wrong and then your prayer will be affected. Then it will not be real prayer. You will be praying, but inside deep down the wrong current will go on and on and on.

In the morning this monk used to call himself – because Buddhists don’t believe in prayer, they believe in meditation, and the distinction has to be understood. I myself don’t believe in prayer; my emphasis is also on meditation. There are only two types of religious people: one, the praying type, and the other, the meditating type. Buddhists say there is no need to pray, but just to be alert, aware, because alertness will give you a prayerful mood. There is also no need to pray to a God because how can you pray to a God you don’t know? Your prayer is groping in the dark; you don’t know the divine. If you knew him there would be no need to pray. So your prayer is just groping in the dark. You are addressing someone you don’t know, so how can you address him? How

can your address be authentic and real, how can it come from the heart? It is just a belief and deep down there is doubt. Deep down you are not certain whether God exists or not; deep down you are not certain whether this prayer is a monologue or a dialogue, whether there is someone who is listening and will answer, or whether you are alone, talking to yourself. This uncertainty will destroy the whole thing.

Buddha emphasized meditation. He said, “There is no need for the other; know well that you are alone.” At least that much is certain: that you are. Base your life on something which is absolutely certain. How can you base your life on something which is uncertain, doubtful, which exists only as a belief, not as a knowing? What is certain in life? Only one thing is certain, and that is you. Everything else can be doubted.

I am here talking to you; you may not be there, it may be just a dream. You are here listening to me; I may not be here, it may be just a dream – because many times in dreams you have listened to me, and when the dream is happening it looks real. How can you make the distinction whether it is a dream or not? How can you make the distinction between the real and the dream? There is no way. About the other you can never be certain; there is no way to be certain about the other. Only about yourself can you be certain; the only certainty that is there is you. Why? – because even to doubt yourself, you have to be there.

The father of modern philosophy, Descartes, started with doubt. He doubted everything because he was in search of something which cannot be doubted. Only that can become the base of real life, authentic life – that which can be

doubted. That which has to be believed cannot become the real foundation. The foundation is sinking, and you are building a house on the sands. So he doubted everything. God can be doubted easily, the world can be doubted, it may be just a dream. He doubted everything. Then suddenly he became aware that he could not doubt himself because that is contradictory. If you say “I doubt myself,” it means that at least you have to believe that you are there in order to doubt. You can say that you may be deceived about yourself, but there is somebody who has to be there to be deceived. The self cannot be doubted.

Hence Mahavira doesn't believe in God; he believes only in the self because that is the only certainty. You can grow out of certainty; you cannot grow out of uncertainty. When there is certainty there is trust; when there is uncertainty there may be belief, but the belief is always hiding the doubt.

So many people come to me who are theists. They believe in God, but their belief is just skin-deep. Poke them a little, push them a little, shake them a little – they become doubtful and they become afraid. What type of religion is possible if you are in so much doubt? Something indubitable is needed.

Mahavira and Buddha both emphasize meditation. They cancel prayer. They say, “How can you pray? You don't know the divine, so you cannot really believe. You can force a belief, but a forced belief is a false belief. You can argue and convince yourself, but that won't help because your arguments, your convictions, are always yours, and the mind goes on wavering.” So Buddha and Mahavira both emphasize meditation.

Meditation is a totally different technique. There is no need to believe, no need to move to the other. You are there, alone, and you have to wake yourself – that is what that monk is doing. He is not calling the name of Ram, he is not calling the name of Allah, he is calling the name of himself – and only himself because nothing else is certain. He calls his own name, “Are you there?” And he doesn’t wait for any God to reply. He himself replies, “Yes sir, I am here.”

This is the Buddhist attitude, that you are here alone. If you are asleep you have to call yourself, you have to answer. It is a monologue. Don’t wait for any God to answer you; there is no one to answer you, your questions will be lost in the empty sky. Your prayers will not be heard – there is nobody else to hear them. So this monk seems foolish, but really, all those who are in prayer may be more foolish than this monk. This monk is doing the most certain thing: calling himself and answering himself.

You can make yourself alert. I tell you, your name is the mantra. Don’t call Ram, don’t call Allah, call your own name. Many times a day, whenever you feel sleepy, whenever you feel that the game is taking over and you are losing yourself in it, call yourself, “Am I here?” – and answer yourself. Don’t wait for anybody’s answer; there is no one to answer you. Answer, “Yes sir, I am here.” Don’t answer verbally, *feel* the answer: “I am here.” And *be* there, alert. In that alertness thoughts stop, in that alertness the mind disappears, even for a moment. When there is no mind there is meditation; when the mind has stopped, meditation has come into being.

Remember, meditation is not something that is done by the mind – it is the absence of the mind. When the mind ceases,

meditation happens. It is not something out of the mind, it is something beyond the mind. Whenever you are alert, the mind is not. So we can conclude that your sleepiness is your mind, your unawareness is your mind, your somnambulism is your mind. You move as if drunk, not knowing who you are, not knowing where you are going, not knowing why you are going.

The third thing the monk says is to remember not to be fooled by others. Others are fooling you continuously. Not only are you fooling yourself, others are also fooling you. How are the others fooling you? The whole society, culture, civilization, is a collective conspiracy. That's why no society allows rebellious people; every society requires obedience, conformity. No society allows rebellious thoughts. Why? – because rebellious thoughts make people aware that the whole thing is just a game, and when people become aware that the whole thing is just a game they become dangerous, they start going beyond the society.

Society exists as a hypnotic state, and the crowd is a hypnotizing factor. You are born, and when you are born you are neither a Hindu nor a Mohammedan nor a Parsi; you cannot be, because consciousness cannot belong to any sect. Consciousness belongs to the whole, it cannot be sectarian. A child simply is, innocent of all nonsense of Hindus, Buddhists, Jainas. A child is a pure mirror. But immediately society starts working on the child – a mold has to be given. A child is born as a freedom, but immediately society starts killing his freedom. A mold has to be given, a pattern.

If you are born into a Hindu family your parents will start teaching you that you are a Hindu. Now they are creating a

hypnotic state. Nobody is a Hindu – and this child is innocent, he can be fooled. This child is simple. He will believe the parents that he is a Hindu – not only a Hindu, but a brahmin, not only a brahmin, but a *deshastha* brahmin. Sects within sects, just like Chinese boxes – boxes within boxes. And the more he is narrowed, the more he becomes a prisoner because the box goes on getting smaller and smaller. He was just like the sky when he was born. Then he became a Hindu, a small part of the sky; then he became a brahmin – a smaller box; then he became a *deshastha* – an even smaller box. This goes on and on. Society goes on forcing him into smaller boxes, and then he will have to live as a *deshastha* brahmin. His whole life he will live with this box, he will carry this box around him. This box is a grave. He must come out of these boxes – only then will he know what real consciousness is.

Then society gives concepts; then society gives prejudices; then society gives theories and philosophies and systems and religions. Then he will never be able to look directly. Society will be always there to interpret. You are not aware when you say something is good – are you there, looking? Is it your feeling that something is good, or just an interpretation of the society? Something is bad – have you looked into it and come to the conclusion that something is bad, or has society simply taught you that it is bad?

Look! A Hindu looking at cow dung thinks that this is the purest thing possible in the world. Nobody in the world will think of cow dung as the purest thing in the world – cow dung is dung, excreta – but a Hindu thinks of cow dung as the purest thing in the world. He can happily eat it. He eats it! Nobody in the world can believe how eight hundred million Hindus can be fooled in this, but they are fooled. When the

Hindu child is initiated, *panchamrita* – a particular combination of five things– is given to him. In these five things cow dung is one and the urine of the cow is another. It is difficult – nobody can believe that this is right, but they have their own prejudices. Put down your prejudices and look directly.

But no society allows you to look directly. It always comes in and then it interprets, and you are fooled by it. This monk in the morning used to call, “Don’t be fooled by others.” He would reply, “Yes sir – yes sir, I will not be fooled by others.”

This has to be constantly remembered, because the others are all around and they are fooling you in such subtle manners. Now the others have more power than ever. Through advertisement, through radio, through newspapers, through television, the others are manipulating you.

In America, the whole market depends on how you can befool the customer, how you can create an idea in the minds of others. Now, a two-car garage is a must if you want to be happy; in America, a two-car garage is a must. There must be only fifty percent happiness with one car, so you can be one hundred percent happy only with two cars. But nobody asks, “If you are not happy with one car, how can you be happy with two cars?” With one car you are unhappy; with two cars you will be doubly unhappy, that’s all. The mathematics is simple. But advertisement, propaganda... The whole society exists by manipulating others. Happiness is something like a commodity in the market: you go and purchase it, it has to be purchased. How can happiness be purchased? Happiness is not a commodity, it is not a thing. It is a quality of living, it is

a consequence of an alert life. You cannot purchase it – there is no way.

But look at American newspapers and you will see that you are missing: just through money happiness can be purchased. They create a feeling that you are missing something; then you start working for it, then you earn money, then you purchase it. And then you feel that you have been deceived. But that feeling is not very deep, because before you feel that you have been deceived some new deceptions have entered the mind, and now they are pulling you ahead. You must have a hill-station house, or you must have a summer resort, or you must have a yacht – something is always there to be achieved. Only then will you be happy. They will go on pulling you up to your death. Until you die, those advertisements, that propaganda, will go on pulling you.

Right, this monk is right. This must be part of your alertness – that you should not be fooled by others. The whole society exists on exploitation, exploiting the other. Everybody is exploiting you. And this exploitation is not only in the market – it is in the temple, in the church, in the synagogue. It is everywhere – because the priest is also a businessman and the pope is a super-businessman. Because you need peace, you ask for peace, there are people who say, “Yes, come to us, we will give you peace.” You ask for bliss, and there are people who are ready to sell bliss to you. If people like Maharishi Mahesh Yogi succeed in the West, they don’t succeed in the East. Nobody listens to them in India; nobody is bothered.

But America listens to every kind of nonsense. Once you get onto the right channel of propaganda, once you get all the right advertisement people, then there is no problem.

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi talks as if inner silence can be purchased immediately, as if within a week you can find meditation; just by sitting for fifteen minutes and repeating a mantra you will be happy forever and ever. And the American mind, which has been poisoned by advertisements, is immediately attracted and a crowd gathers. The crowd goes on changing but there is always a crowd, and it appears as if things are happening. Even temples and churches become shops.

Meditation cannot be purchased and no one can give it to you. You have to achieve it. It is not something outer; it is something inner, a growth, and that growth comes through awareness. Call your own name, in the morning, in the night, in the afternoon, whenever you feel sleepy, call your own name – and not only call it, answer it and say it loudly. Don't be afraid of others. You have been afraid of others enough; they have already murdered you through fear. Don't be afraid. Even in the marketplace, remember. Call your own name: "Teertha, am I here?" And answer, "Yes sir. I am here."

Let people laugh. Don't be fooled by them. The only thing to be achieved is alertness – not respect, not respectability from people, because that is one of their tricks: they make you obedient through respectability. They say, "We will respect you. Bow down and be obedient. Don't be there at all. Just follow the society and the society will pay you much respect." This is a mutual arrangement. The more dead you are, the more society will pay you respect; the more alive you are, the more society will create trouble for you.

Why does a Jesus have to be crucified? – because he was an alive man. He must have called in his childhood, "Jesus, don't

be fooled by others.” And he was not fooled, so others had to crucify him because he was not part of the game. Socrates has to be poisoned and killed, Mansoor has to be murdered. These are people who have escaped from the prison, and whatsoever you say you cannot persuade them to come back. They will not come into the prison; they have known the freedom of the open sky.

Remember: be mindful and be alert. If you are alert, if your actions become more and more aware, whatsoever you do will not be done sleepily. The whole effort of society is to make you automatic, is to make you like an automaton, is to make you a perfect, efficient mechanism.

When you start learning to drive you are alert but not efficient, because alertness takes energy and you have to be alert about many things: the gears, the wheel, the brake, accelerator, clutch. There are so many things that you have to be aware of, so you cannot be efficient, you cannot go fast. By and by, when you become efficient, you need not be aware. You can go on humming a song or thinking inside or solving a puzzle and the car goes by itself. The body takes it automatically. The more automatic you become, the more efficient.

Society needs efficiency, so it makes you more and more automatic. In everything you do, be automatic. Society doesn't bother about your awareness; your awareness is a problem for society. You are asked to be efficient, more productive. Machines are more productive than you. The society doesn't want you to be as men, it needs you as mechanical devices, so it makes you more efficient and less

aware. This is automatization. This is how the society fools you. You become efficient but your soul is lost.

If you can understand me, then the whole effort of meditative techniques is to deautomatize you, to make you again alert, to make you again a man, not a machine. In the beginning you will become less efficient, so don't be bothered by it. In the beginning everything will become a mess. Because everything has settled as an automaton, in the beginning everything will become a mess, you will not be able to do anything efficiently. You will feel a difficulty because you have become fixed with unconscious efficiency. To be consciously efficient, long effort will be needed, but by and by you will be aware and efficient.

If there exists in the future any possibility of a really human society, the first thing, the basic thing that will have to be done is this: don't make children automatic. Even if it takes a little longer to make them efficient, make them efficient with awareness; don't make them machines. It will take longer because two things have to be learned: efficiency and awareness. A really human society will give you awareness, and even with less efficiency it is worth it, but efficiency will come by and by. Then when you are alert you will be able to be efficient with alertness.

Meditation is de-automatization in the beginning. Then you will start working with a new awareness – efficiency remains in the body, and consciousness remains alert. You don't become a machine, you remain a man. If you become a machine you have lost all humanity.

This monk is doing this deautomatization. From the very morning he calls himself, says, “Be alert!” says, “Don’t fool yourself!” says, “Don’t be fooled by others!” These three layers of mindfulness have to be achieved.

I have heard...

Once it happened that a young man belonging to a very rich and aristocratic family came to a Zen master. He had known everything, indulged in every desire; he had enough money, so there was no problem. Then he got fed up – fed up with sex, fed up with women, fed up with wine. He came to the Zen master and said, “Now I am fed up with the world. Is there some way that I can be transformed? Is there some way that I can know myself, who I am?”

“But before you say anything, let me tell you something about myself. I am indecisive and cannot continue anything for long, so if you give me some technique or if you tell me to meditate, I may do it for a few days and then I will escape, knowing well that there is nothing in the world, knowing well that only misery awaits there, death. But this is my type of mind. I cannot continue, I cannot persist in anything, so before you choose something, remember this.”

The master said, “It will be very difficult if you cannot persist because long effort will be needed to undo all that you have done in the past. You have to travel back; it has to be a regression. You have to reach back to the moment when you were born, when you were fresh, young. That freshness has to be achieved again. It is not ahead, but back that you will have

to go – to become a child again. But if you say you cannot persist and within days you will escape, it will be difficult. But let me ask you one question.” The master asked the young man, “Have you ever been interested in something so deeply that you were absorbed completely?”

The young man thought and he said, “Yes, only in chess. I have been very interested in the game of chess. I love it, and that’s the only thing that is saving me. Everything else has fallen away; only chess is still with me, and with it I can somehow pass my time.”

The master said, “Then something can be done – wait.” He called the attendant and told him to bring a monk who had been meditating for twelve years in the monastery, and to tell the monk to bring a chessboard.

The chessboard was brought; the monk came. He was acquainted a little with chess, but for twelve years he had been meditating in a cell. He had forgotten about the world and chess and everything.

The master said to him, “Listen, monk! This is going to be a dangerous game. If you are defeated by this young man, the sword is here and I will cut off your head, because I wouldn’t like it that a meditative monk – who has been meditating for twelve years – is defeated by an ordinary young man. But I promise you, if you die by my hand then you will reach the highest heaven. So don’t be disturbed.”

The young man became also a little uneasy, and then the master turned to him and said, “Look, you say that you get absorbed in chess, so now get totally absorbed – because this

is a question of life and death. If you are defeated I will cut off your head, and remember, I cannot promise heaven for you. This man is okay, he will go anyhow, but I cannot promise any heaven for you. If you die, hell is the place – immediately you will go to the seventh hell.”

For a moment the young man thought to escape. This was going to be a dangerous game, and he had not come here for this. But then it looked dishonorable. He was a samurai, a son of a warrior, and just because of death, imminent death, to escape was not in his blood. So he said, “Okay.”

The game started. The young man started trembling like a leaf in a strong wind, the whole body trembling. He started perspiring, a cold perspiration came to his body; he started sweating from his head to the soles of his feet. It was a question of life and death and thinking stopped – because whenever there is such an emergency you cannot afford thought. Thought is for leisure. When there is no problem you can think; when there is really a problem thinking stops because the mind needs time, and when there is an emergency there is no time. You have to do something immediately.

Every moment, death was coming nearer. The monk started, and he looked so serene and calm that the young man thought, “Death is certain!” But when the thoughts disappeared, he became totally absorbed in the moment. When the thoughts disappeared, he also forgot that death is waiting – because death too is a thought. He forgot about death, he forgot about life, he became just a part of the game, absorbed, totally immersed in it.

By and by, as the mind disappeared completely, he started playing beautifully. He had never played that way. In the beginning the monk was winning, but within minutes the young man got absorbed, started beautiful moves, and the monk started losing. Only the moment existed, only the present. There was no problem then; the body became okay, the trembling stopped, the perspiration evaporated. He was light like a feather, weightless. The perspiration even helped – he became weightless, his whole body felt as if it could fly. His mind was no longer there. Perception became clear, absolutely clear, and he could see ahead, five moves ahead. He had never played so beautifully. The other's game started crumbling; within minutes the other would be defeated, and his victory was certain.

Then suddenly, when his eyes were clear, mirrorlike, when perception was profound, deep, he looked at the monk. He was so innocent. Twelve years of meditation – he had become like a flower; twelve years of austerity – he had become absolutely pure. No desire, no thought, no goal, no purpose existed for him. He was as innocent as possible, not even a child is so innocent. His beautiful face, his clear, sky-blue eyes... This young man started feeling compassion for him – sooner or later his head would be cut off. The moment he felt this compassion, unknown doors opened, and something absolutely unknown started filling his heart. He felt so blissful. All over his inner being flowers started falling. He felt so blissful... He had never known this bliss, this beauty, this benediction.

Then he started making wrong moves knowingly because the thought came to his mind, "If I am killed nothing is destroyed; I have nothing of worth. But if this monk is killed

something beautiful will be destroyed. For me, just a useless existence...” He started making wrong moves consciously, to make the monk win. At that moment the master upturned the chessboard, started laughing and said, “Nobody is going to be defeated here. You both have won.”

This monk was already in heaven, he had reached; no need to cut off his head. He was not troubled at all when the master said, “Your head is to be cut off.” Not a single thought arose in his mind. There was no question of choice – the master says it is going to be so, it is okay. He said yes with his whole heart. That was why there was no perspiration, no trembling. He was playing chess; death was not a problem.

The master said, “You have won, and your victory has been greater than this monk’s. Now I will initiate you. You can be here, and soon you will become enlightened” – because both basic things had happened: meditation and compassion. Buddha has called these two the basic: *pragya* and *karuna*, meditation and compassion.

The young man said, “Explain it to me. Something has happened I don’t know about. I am already transformed. I am not the same young man who came to you a few hours ago. That man is already dead. Something has happened – you have done a miracle.”

The master said, “Because death was so imminent, you couldn’t think, thoughts stopped. Death was so close by, thinking was not possible. Death was so near, there was no gap between you and death, and thoughts need space to move. There was no space, so thinking stopped. Meditation happened spontaneously. But that was not enough because the

type of meditation which happens because of an emergency will be lost; when the emergency is gone that meditation will be lost. So I couldn't throw the chessboard at that moment, I had to wait."

If meditation really happens, whatsoever the cause, compassion has to follow. Compassion is the flowering of meditation. If compassion is not coming, your meditation is, somewhere, wrong.

"Then I looked at your face. You were filled with bliss and your eyes became buddhalike. You looked at the monk, and you felt and you thought, 'It is better to sacrifice myself than this monk. This monk is more valuable than me.'"

This is compassion: when the other becomes more valuable than you. This is love: when you can sacrifice yourself for the other. When you become the means and the other becomes the end, this is love. When you are the end and the other is used as a means, this is lust. Lust is always cruel and love is always compassionate.

"Then I saw in your eyes the compassion arising, and then you started to make wrong moves just to be defeated, so that you would be killed and this monk saved. At that moment I had to throw the chessboard. You had won. Now you can be here. I have taught you both meditation and compassion. Now follow this track, and let them become spontaneous in you – not situational, not dependent on any emergency, but just a quality of your being."

Carry this story within you, in your heart; let it become the beat of your heart. Rooted in meditation you will have wings of compassion. That's why I say to you that I would like to give you two things: roots into this earth and wings into that heaven. Meditation is this earth, it is here and now; this very moment you can spread your roots. Do it! Once roots are there your wings will reach to the highest sky possible. Compassion is the sky, meditation is the earth, and when meditation and compassion meet, a buddha is born.

Go deeper and deeper into meditation so that you can go higher and higher in compassion. The deeper the roots of a tree reach, the higher the peak. You can see the tree; you cannot see the roots, but they are always in proportion. If the tree is reaching to the sky the roots must be reaching to the very end of the earth. The proportion is the same. As deep as your meditation is, the same depth will be achieved in compassion. So compassion is the criterion. If you think you are meditative and there is no compassion, then you are deceiving yourself. Compassion must happen because it is the flowering of the tree. Meditation is just a means towards compassion; compassion is the goal.

Make yourself more and more alert. Call your own name and answer, just to create more awareness. When you really become aware, you will feel a new upsurge of energy. Compassion will happen to you.

And with compassion, bliss. With compassion, beauty. With compassion, conviction.

Anything more?

Osho,

At the start of the camp you said you were moving into a new phase of your work. We've felt it in meditation, but most important, you've changed the way you speak to us. At one time, for example, you never admitted to being an enlightened master, and now you do.

Could you tell us more about this new phase of your work?

I can only say things which you have become capable of hearing. It depends on you. If you have become a disciple then I can easily say that I am a master, but if you are not a disciple it will be just meaningless saying to you that I am a master. If somebody comes who is just curious about me, I will not say this to him; it would be pointless. He will not understand; rather, he will misunderstand. When you are ready to receive, only then can I give. Now that you are ready I can say many things which cannot be said to casual visitors. They are curious. Their curiosity is shallow; they have not come to receive something. Their minds function in a childish way. They just want to know everything, and they are not going to penetrate deeper into it.

Now I can say many things to you because I know that you will not misunderstand. Even if you don't understand, it is certain that you will not misunderstand. This will be a new phase. It has already started – because I will be working only with those who are sober, not fooling around. I will be working only with those who have really come to a point where they need transformation – who are really sincere, authentic seekers and are ready to do whatsoever I say. To them I can say, “I am enlightened.” To them I can say, “I am

a master.” To them I can say, “Come to me and drink out of me, and you will never be thirsty.”

But this cannot be said to everybody; this cannot be said to somebody who is passing by, who you just meet on the street. The more you get ready the more I can pour myself into you. Before, your pots were there but upside down. Even if I had poured, it would have been a wastage. Now many of you are in a situation where your pots are not upside down, now they are right side up. Now I can pour, now I can trust that you will take it as a treasure, that you will hide it, that you will share it only with those who are sincere, who are in search. Many more secrets will be following, but they will only follow as you get more ready.

But the phase, a new phase, *has* started. I will not be working with the masses now, and I will be dropping all those who are just hanging around for other reasons, and not for their spiritual growth. There are many types of people, and even they are not aware why they are hanging around – but I know. I will be dropping them; fewer and fewer will be accepted now. If I drop you, you will not be able to know that I have dropped you because you will go on thinking that you dropped me. That’s how the ignorant mind always consoles itself. But now I will be working only with a few, a chosen few, and as you get ready many more secrets can be given to you, and I will be able to talk easily. Then I can be true, I need not tell a lie to you then. I will not say what you want to hear; no, I will say what is really to be said to you. And don’t wait for the future because no one knows about the future. This very moment, open yourself as much as you can so you can receive me.

I will tell you an anecdote. It happened to the head of one of the most famous European banking families, the Rothschilds. Baron Rothschild was standing in his garden one day, and a man looking like a beggar, a peddler, came to him and told him to purchase a lottery ticket. He said, “Come on, take a chance.”

The Baron wanted to get rid of him. He said, “What will I do with a lottery ticket? I don’t need anything, I have got enough.”

The beggar said, “No one has got enough. Take a chance. Who knows? You may win it!” So just to get rid of the nuisance he purchased the ticket.

The next morning the man knocked again and said, “Look, you have won one million dollars.”

The Baron was very pleased and said, “I suppose I must reward you.” Then the Baron thought and said, “What will you choose? I can give you twenty-five thousand dollars right this moment, or ten thousand dollars a year for your whole life.”

The man was not more than thirty or thirty-five. He was in perfect health; he was going to live at least another thirty, forty years, even more. Forty years at ten thousand dollars a year comes to four hundred thousand dollars – or right now, twenty-five thousand dollars. The beggar thought for a single moment and said, “Please give me twenty-five thousand dollars right now.”

Even the Baron was puzzled. He said, “Think it over. What are you doing? Your whole life I say – ten thousand dollars per year!”

The man said, “I will choose twenty-five thousand right now because looking at the luck you Rothschilds have, if I choose the other alternative I will not be alive six months. Looking at the luck you Rothschilds have, I will not live for six months more. Give it to me right now; the next moment is uncertain. Don’t waste time!”

That’s what I say to you. Right this moment I am here, available. Don’t wait for the future, because nobody knows... Open your heart, become more receptive, get attuned. Everything is possible. At this very moment I can give you the key.

A new phase has started. Now get ready for it because it is not a question concerning me, it is a question concerning you. You will get as much as you can get; your capacity will be the limit. If you are totally open there is no limit. The whole ocean is ready to fall into the drop, but the drop is afraid. It is trying to protect itself.

Kabir, one of the greatest mystics ever born, has said two things. He has said, “In the beginning, when I was in search of God, I was thinking my drop of water would drop into the ocean of the divine. But when it really happened it happened quite otherwise: the ocean dropped into my small drop.”

It always happens otherwise. You are not going to meet God, God is going to meet you. How can you seek him? You don't know his whereabouts, you don't know his address. He is in search of you constantly, and whenever you are ready the ocean drops into you.

Meditation will make you ready, compassion will make you perfect. So carry these two mantras: *pragya*, meditation, *karuna*, compassion – let these two be the goals. Let your whole life revolve around them, and very soon you will be attuned. Then I can pour myself into you.

Anything more?

Osho,

You've said meditation is a flowering. And for us, the perfume of the flower is gratitude. Is there anything we can do for you?

Yes. Meditation, compassion, and gratitude. Whenever you are meditative you feel blissful, whenever you are in compassion you feel ecstatic. And then gratitude arises – not towards anyone in particular, gratitude just arises. It is not towards me or towards Jesus, or Zarathustra or Buddha; it is simply gratitude. You feel so grateful just for being here, just for being alive, just for being able to be meditative, just for being able to be in compassion. You feel simply grateful. That gratefulness is not towards anybody, it is towards the whole.

If you feel grateful towards me it is a gratitude of the mind. If you meditate, and if you flower in compassion, you will feel simply grateful, not grateful towards me. Then there is no “towards” – you feel simply grateful towards all. And when you feel grateful towards all, that is really gratefulness towards me, never before. Then it is a choice. You choose me. Then your master becomes a point, not the whole.

That’s what is happening everywhere. Disciples get fixed with the master, and masters help them to be fixed. That’s not good, it is ugly. When you really flower, then your perfume is not addressed to anybody; when you really flower, the perfume goes in all directions. It simply moves in all directions, and whosoever passes near you is filled with your fragrance, he carries your fragrance. And if nobody passes you then on that silent, lonely path your fragrance goes on spreading – but it is not addressed.

Remember, the mind is always addressed; being is never addressed. The mind is always moving towards something; being is simply moving towards all. It is a movement without goal. A goal exists because of motive: you move towards something because there is desire. How can you move towards anything or anybody when there is no desire? Then you move; movement is there but no motivation. Then you move in all directions, then you overflow. Then your master is everywhere; then I am everywhere. Only when this point comes are you free of the master also. Then you are free of all relationship, you are free of all prisons, of all bondages. And if a master cannot free you from himself he is not a master at all.

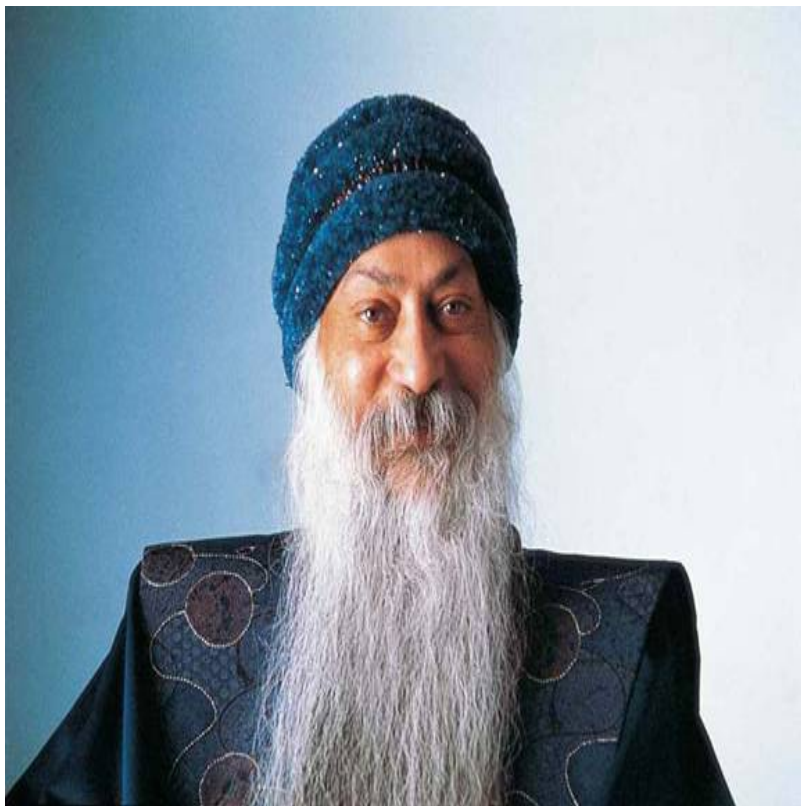
So you need not do anything for me; do something for you. Meditation, compassion – that is doing for me. When the fragrance will come, and not thought by the mind... Right now you think and you feel, “What should we do?” Then it is the mind. “How to pay the master? He has done so much for us, what should we do?” This is the mind thinking in terms of giving and taking. No, this mind won’t help. One thing you can do for me: drop this mind, allow your being to flower. Then you will be fragrant. Then in all dimensions and in all directions the whole will be happy. You will be a bliss... And your gratitude will not be narrow. It will not be towards a point, it will be moving all over, everywhere. Only then do you achieve prayer. This gratitude is prayer.

When you go in a temple and say a prayer, it is not prayer, but when after compassion gratitude arises, the whole existence becomes a temple. Whatsoever you touch becomes a prayer; whatsoever you do becomes prayerful. You cannot be otherwise. Deeply rooted, anchored in meditation, deeply flowing into compassion, you cannot be otherwise. You become prayer, you become gratitude.

But remember, the mind is always addressed. It has a goal, a desire to achieve. Being is unaddressed. It has no goal, it has nothing to achieve. The kingdom of being is already achieved; the emperor is already there on the throne. You move because movement is life, but you don’t move towards any goal. And when there is no goal, there is no tension. Then movement is beautiful, graceful.

Enough for today.

About Osho



Osho defies categorization. His thousands of talks cover everything from the individual quest for meaning to the most

urgent social and political issues facing society today. Osho's books are not written but are transcribed from audio and video recordings of his extemporaneous talks to international audiences. As he puts it, "So remember: whatever I am saying is not just for you... I am talking also for the future generations."

Osho has been described by *The Sunday Times* in London as one of the "1000 Makers of the 20th Century" and by American author [Tom Robbins](#) as "the most dangerous man since Jesus Christ." *Sunday Mid-Day* (India) has selected Osho as one of ten people – along with Gandhi, Nehru and Buddha – who have changed the destiny of India.

About his own work Osho has said that he is helping to create the conditions for the birth of a new kind of human being. He often characterizes this new human being as "Zorba the Buddha" – capable both of enjoying the earthy pleasures of a Zorba the Greek and the silent serenity of a Gautama the Buddha.

Running like a thread through all aspects of [Osho's talks](#) and meditations is a vision that encompasses both the timeless wisdom of all ages past and the highest potential of today's (and tomorrow's) science and technology.

Osho is known for his revolutionary contribution to the science of inner transformation, with an approach to meditation that acknowledges the accelerated pace of

contemporary life. His unique [OSHO Active Meditations](#) are designed to first release the accumulated stresses of body and mind, so that it is then easier to take an experience of stillness and thought-free relaxation into daily life.

Two autobiographical works by Osho are available:

Autobiography of a Spiritually Incorrect Mystic, St. Martin's Press, New York (book and eBook)

Glimpses of a Golden Childhood, OSHO Media International, Pune, India

OSHO International Meditation Resort

www.osho.com/meditationresort



Each year the OSHO International Meditation Resort welcomes thousands of people from more than 100 countries. The unique campus provides an opportunity for a direct personal experience of a new way of living – with more awareness, relaxation, celebration and creativity. A great variety of around-the-clock and around-the-year program options are available. Doing nothing and just relaxing is one of them!

All programs are based on Osho’s vision of “Zorba the Buddha” – a qualitatively new kind of human being who is able *both* to participate creatively in everyday life *and* to relax into silence and meditation.

Location

Located 100 miles southeast of Mumbai in the thriving modern city of Pune, India, the OSHO International Meditation Resort is a holiday destination with a difference. The Meditation Resort is spread over 28 acres of spectacular gardens in a beautiful tree-lined residential area.

OSHO Meditations

A full daily schedule of meditations for every type of person includes both traditional and revolutionary methods, and particularly the [OSHO Active Meditations](#). The meditations take place in what may be the world’s largest meditation hall, the [OSHO Auditorium](#).

OSHO Multiversity

Individual sessions, courses and workshops cover everything from creative arts to holistic health, personal transformation, relationship and life transition, transforming meditation into a lifestyle for life and work, esoteric sciences, and the "Zen" approach to sports and recreation. The secret of the [OSHO Multiversity's](#) success lies in the fact that all its programs are combined with meditation, supporting the understanding that as human beings we are far more than the sum of our parts.

OSHO Basho Spa

The luxurious Basho Spa provides for leisurely open-air swimming surrounded by trees and tropical green. The uniquely styled, spacious Jacuzzi, the saunas, gym, tennis courts...all these are enhanced by their stunningly beautiful setting.

Cuisine

A variety of different eating areas serve delicious Western, Asian and Indian vegetarian food – most of it organically grown especially for the Meditation Resort. Breads and cakes are baked in the resort's own bakery.

Night life

There are many evening events to choose from – dancing being at the top of the list! Other activities include full-moon meditations beneath the stars, variety shows, music performances and meditations for daily life.

Or you can just enjoy meeting people at the Plaza Café, or walking in the nighttime serenity of the gardens of this fairytale environment.

Facilities

You can buy all your basic necessities and toiletries in the Galleria. The OSHO Multimedia Gallery sells a large range of OSHO media products. There is also a bank, a travel agency and a Cyber Café on-campus. For those who enjoy shopping, Pune provides all the options, ranging from traditional and ethnic Indian products to all of the global brand-name stores.

Accommodation

You can choose to stay in the elegant rooms of the [OSHO Guesthouse](#), or for longer stays on campus you can select one of the [OSHO Living-In](#) program packages. Additionally there is a plentiful variety of nearby hotels and serviced apartments.

For More Information

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