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Extracts from
Sri Babuji's Satsangs

Concretizing Fulfilment

DEVOTEE: Guruji, what exactly is it that causes this longing, this desire inside us for liberation and enlightenment, for seeking Baba? Where does this longing come from?

GURUJI: I think I explained this many times. It happens because you feel you need something, that you are lacking something, but you don't know what it is. And when you see Baba, he personifies, he epitomizes, he gives you a concrete picture of what you are aspiring to. You can't explain it, you can't describe it, but something tells you instinctively, intuitively, mysteriously, "He is the one!" He is the concretization of your abstract sense of fulfillment. Baba triggers that abstract sense in you, and because it represents your own sense of fulfillment, you love him. Just as you love your own fulfillment, you love Baba. "Your love for Baba" is another way of saying "your love of your own abstract idea of fulfillment". Otherwise, there is no reason for you to love Baba: why should you love Baba? Only because in your heart Baba stands for that!



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DEVOTEE: Guruji, so many people come and prostrate to you and seek your blessings. How do you feel when they touch your feet?

GURUJI: [smiling broadly] I don't feel anything! I don't even think that it is to me they are doing *namaskar*. Everyone has their own abstract sense of fulfillment which they are constantly seeking to make concrete. It is to that sense of fulfillment that everyone always surrenders. Since it is so abstract and diffuse, you do not experience it clearly, so everyone is struggling to realize and concretize it.

For some, their sense of fulfillment is triggered by a Sadguru like Sai Baba, who stands as

a concrete symbol of their abstract ideal. To them a Sadguru is the means to their fulfilment, so as part of their efforts they seek a Sadguru and surrender to him. Outwardly they seem to have surrendered to the Sadguru, but in reality they have surrendered to their own sense of fulfilment. If you understand this process and its mechanism, you will realize that all these people who are prostrating to me are not really touching my feet. Actually, they are trying to touch their own state of fulfilment.

You asked what I feel when people do *namaskar*. Yes, if at all I feel anything, I feel that those *namaskars* are being offered not to me but to Sai Baba, because Sai Baba is the concrete image of my own sense of fulfilment and perfection. Also, most people need a guru to trigger and help concretize their sense of fulfilment, so it is their need for a guru that makes some people see me as one and treat me as such. For myself, I feel no need for devotees or disciples, so I do not see them in that light.



DEVOTEE: Guruji, would you explain what you mean by “concretization of the abstract”?

GURUJI: Suppose you know that someone has deposited one lakh rupees in your bank account, but you don't have a cheque book and you can't withdraw it – do you think you are rich or poor? You are rich, but you need a cheque book in order to concretize it, to actually get hold of the rupees. The fact that there's one lakh rupees on deposit is abstract; getting them in hand by withdrawal – that is concretization.



GURUJI: I will say it again: you do not surrender to a guru or to a Sadguru or a Buddha. You always surrender only to your own sense of fulfilment. Everybody surrenders, is already surrendered. Many people do not know to what they have surrendered, because their idea of what fulfils them is still so abstract, so unclear, so confusing. But it is the surrender to your own sense of fulfilment which is expressed, is enacted, when you touch the feet of a Buddha, because he stands as a concrete symbol of this for you. Just as when I look at Sai Baba, he is the concrete expression of my sense of fulfilment. And because you can see your abstract ideal in something concrete, the process of clarifying it becomes possible; it becomes more earthly, more real. Once we realize this is actually our own process, then all our other doubts cease. You only surrender or “give up” at the feet of your own life, not somebody else's. So I am not asking you to “give up” your life – no! Take it! Make your whole life the path leading to that final fulfilment! Then everything, every breath you take, is breathing your longing for fulfilment.



GURUJI: Everybody – every living creature – is seeking something, some kind of fulfilment. Everybody. There is nothing like spiritual seekers and non-spiritual seekers: everyone is seeking something. Some seek money, some seek fame, some family, some children, some seek comfort – there are so many ways to seek. Why do people seek these things? Because they think that is where their fulfilment lies. They do not know whether getting it will actually give them fulfilment. Their sense of it is still so abstract and unclear that they believe they will be fulfilled by obtaining these things. “If I get a good job, I'll be fulfilled.” “If I have one billion dollars in a Swiss bank account, yes, I'll be fulfilled.” Or, “If I have a beautiful wife, I'll be fulfilled.” And she says, “If I have an obedient husband, I'll be fulfilled.” [Guruji laughs]

So many things.

Everybody has their own concepts that they are trying for. But to some, in spite of getting all these things – a good job, good wife, house, children, bank account, some name and fame, living all these stories, the stories of their lives – they still experience that something is missing. “Yes, I have everything. What is lacking? Nothing.” But are they really fulfilled? Do they have everything? Are they in such ecstatic contentment that every second of life they are experiencing that happiness? Or it can be a kind of a complacency, “Yes, we have everything, what more to say? What more to think of?” But to some, this is not enough; they still feel something is missing.

To those who experience that missing, that “missing part” is a “mystery” it’s their “missing story!” [Guruji laughs] It is a mystery, in fact: they do not know what gives them fulfilment. Then, for some reason – I don’t want to go into concepts of why – they come across the concrete form of a person who they feel, without any reason, will give them fulfilment, who somehow embodies their own abstract sense of that.

In my case for instance it was Sai Baba. Just looking at him I felt satisfied, not that he had given me anything, not that he’s such a handsome figure [Guruji laughs], not that he’s a good speaker or writer. Actually we do not know whether he’s a scholar, an intellectual, nothing. We haven’t even heard him speak, but still by looking at him something happens where we feel a sense of security and contentment, a happiness, a sense of fulfilment. As though something that was abstract got concretized: “Ah, this is it! This is the one.” How? We do not know. We simply feel an attraction and, mingled with that attraction, a sense of security. Not that we have got any security from him, not that he has given a warranty, any guarantee that, “Don’t worry, I’m going to take care, your troubles I know; I’m going to do it.” No, he hasn’t said anything, and we haven’t received anything, but still we experience a sense of security. “He will take care, nothing will happen to me.”

What is this feeling? It’s not just a simple joy, like watching a movie or looking at nature. It is a carefree joy, a joy coupled with a sense of security. “Even if something happens to me he’s going to take care.” Why? We do not know! [Guruji laughs] Is it because we are so deserving? We do not know. Or whether he is so anxious to help us? That also we do not know. But we are so sure that, “Yes, he’s going to help!” that if at all we are in trouble, we know where to turn. Just the presence, just the thought of him, just the sight of his form, reassures. And there is no “why”, no “how”. What is the basis of this attraction? What is the basis of this contentment, this fulfilment, this sense of security, this carefree joy? We do not know of any reasons.

So that is the mystery. Finally, if you want to call the form which has given you all this, a Sadguru, yes, you can call him a Sadguru. Or you can call him by whatever name you like. But what happens here is this: the “missing story” in the “mystery” is the fulfilment that happens through the Sadguru. If you want to add some more concepts and mystify it some more, okay. Or if you want to know exactly “What’s going on here?” then this is what’s going on! [Guruji laughs] Nothing more, nothing less.



Guruji’s voice

