

“WE ARE SHARING SWAMI’S DIRECTIONS
BASED ON BHAGAVAN’S TEACHINGS”

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, PART 3 (Q. 15 – 24)
DEC. 9, 2019

15. THE LAW OF KARMA AND HOW ONE’S CHOICES CHANGE THE KARMIC CONSEQUENCES OR THEIR FATE

Yes, the law of *Karma* centers around these three points: reaction, reflection, resound, as Baba puts it. If I put my hand in the fire, it is sure to be burned. Therefore, for any action there is equal and opposite reaction. That is the law of *karma*. Therefore, one’s choices – if you go on changing your choices – your results also will not go as per your choice. It will go as per the law of *karma*.

If you stand in the rain, you’ll get drenched. Why? It is the law of *karma*. You are standing in the rain; therefore you are going to be drenched. Therefore you have got choice, *karma* meaning action. But *karma phala*, the result, is not in your hands. It goes by the law. “I’ve got equal independence to kill somebody.” Very good. You murder; the result is imprisonment, or you may be hanged also.

Therefore, results are not in your hands. Actions are left to you. Be prepared because you cannot escape from karmic consequences. Thank you.

16. Then another question: HOW SILLY IT IS

The collective responsibility – so many other things (questions) – opposing Swami’s teachings (very good), consequences, choosing money over God, following their friends (yes) – so many questions have been mentioned here – not following conscience, and then following friends, very good. And then, “Purna Avatar as being no longer valid after His passing” – these are the very, very childish questions I think. They are not the questions born out of maturity, I’m sure. There’re not the questions based on experience. There are not the questions built on a prolonged period of stay in Prasanthi Nilayam. This is just guesswork. This is only a mind game. Let me just cut the questions into bits and answer your questions.

17. FOLLOWING FRIENDS

This is one part of the question. **Never follow your friends.** As Swami puts it, so long as you’ve got money in your pocket, father is in position, everyone will say, “Hello, hello.” When father retires, when pocket is empty, nobody will say, “Bye, bye” even. Nobody will....that’s what Baba said! I’m quoting Him exactly. I translated His talks. Therefore, if you go by friends, you are sure to be in trouble! Don’t allow yourself to be

carried away by your friends. **Follow your conscience! Follow your conscience!** Pray to Swami. He will give you proper direction.

18. PURNA AVATAR NO LONGER VALID

This is another point raised here in the question.

The word '*Purna*' means what? 'Full, complete'. When the completeness exists, it cannot be made incomplete. '*Purna*' means 'full'; Purna Avatar, fullness'. How do you break it? How can it be fragmented? Can you divide the sky? Can you divide the ocean? They're FULL! That is why it is said in the scripture:

"Poornamadah, poornamidam." That is what Swami said in His discourses: "That is full, This is full. Everything is full."

But if I have that fragmental approach, that segmental approach, that approach of division into bits, I cannot understand the Divinity. Divinity is Oneness, full: *"Poornamadah, poornamidam."* Therefore, when Baba says you are full, how can He be incomplete? How can He be half full? When you are total, why can't He be total?

Totality is Divinity. Totality is Divinity; partiality is humanity. So it is humanity that divides into parts, parts, partiality; whereas Unity is Divinity. The Totality is Divinity. So there's no question of 'no longer valid'. It is not like any medicine to give you an expiry date! *Bhagavad Gita* does not say 'expiry date': 'It is no longer valid after that date.' No! No book says that!

So it is only our weakness. That's why Baba said, "Mind is a mad monkey. This mad monkey doubts everything It doubts all scriptures. It doubts even Baba! It doubts even Baba's teachings. It questions Baba's Divinity! It hesitates to follow Baba's path. It's all a game of the monkey mind! Baba said this long back.

Therefore, let us not allow this monkey mind to act whimsically or act in a funny way, and allow it to take us away from the spiritual path. Thank you!

19. MONEY COLLECTION

What Swami said about collection of funds versus the completely opposite tactics of that place?

Oh-ho, let me not mention that place and this place.

Swami's dead against, dead against collection of funds. Please take it from me. My friend, let me tell you. We usually sit for darshan, right? Every darshan we watch Swami.

Sometimes He throws back some envelopes given to Him. He accepts letters and envelopes regularly. But He throws back some envelopes. Some covers He throws back. You know what they are? Containing currency, containing money, containing checks – He throws back, that's all.

He cares for tuppence. There's no place for money. God and mammon cannot go together. He will not touch . . . will you believe me if I say there's no bank account in the name of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Do you believe that? He has nothing, no bank account on His name. Everything is on the name of Sathya Sai Central Trust only, not on His personal name. So He has nothing to do with these funds.

As a simple instance, there's one Sadhu Parishad Meeting held here in Prasanthi Nilayam: Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishad. Swami gave them a lot of money for organizing that meeting. It was attended by so many sadhus, so many swamijis, so many people from all over Andhra Pradesh.

That day I happened to be there in Swami's company. The leader, by the name of Swami Bhoomananda from Kalyandurga of Anantapur District, he came to Swami with accounts: "Swami, You have given so much money, Swami. These are the accounts. I'm returning this money." Swami did not look at him and told him, "Bhoomananda, do you think Swami will go into your accounts? You should be truthful to yourself. You should be honest yourself. I don't look into the accounts like that. Do you want to give Me back the balance? Do you think I will receive? No. Spend for your organization. Spend for poor people. I don't care for this money."

I can give you numerous examples, my friend, when Swami refused funds. Why? Vijayanagar District, Maharajas own a number of institutions. Mansas Institutions, Vijayanagar. When they all came there, "Swami, we offer these institutions to You." He said, "I don't want. I don't want. You manage yourself. I don't want it."

Swami is not here to take over all the institutions. It's not like that. So He's dead against collection of funds. Thank you

20. FOLLOW CONSCIENCE

The question is this: *Is there any rule in Sathya Sai International Organization that declares that if any center member starts following another teacher, they're no longer allowed to participate in the center?* In other words, if you are in the center, follow some other guru, the organization objects. Now, the question is, "Is there any rule (like that)?"

There need not be any rule. Your conscience will tell you. Following Jesus Christ, Christians don't follow Krishna. You cannot say, "Is there any rule in Christianity that

you should not worship Krishna?" When you start worshipping Christ, you don't go to Krishna, naturally all by yourself. There need not be a rule.

I'm a devotee of Baba. Is there any rule that says I should not go anywhere? Rule is not necessary. When I love Him, when I'm an ardent devotee, when I follow His message thoroughly, when I enjoy myself, when I am in a blissful state when I think of Him, there need not be any rule to forbid me; there need not be any rule to encourage me to go anywhere.

Rule – Conscience will tell you the rule, not the Organization. Conscience is above the Organization because conscience is Divine.

21. PRICK OF CONSCIENCE

Then, other part of the question:

Why has not this rule been enforced at all in any country by the leaders of the Sri Sathya Sai International Organization and heads of each country's Sai Organization?

I tell you, let us not go into enforcement. Let us not go into forceful implementation. As I said earlier, whether a leader or a follower, whether a member or an organizer, when you follow Swami, He himself will not go anywhere. This question of going anywhere is something like ready to jump to the other side of the fence anytime.

Spirituality is not a political game. You cannot jump like that. And further, the Organization as far as I know clearly says organizers cannot take up responsibility in any other spiritual organization. It is very clearly mentioned.

You don't expect to get any molvi to get into the temple. You don't expect any Christian pastor to go into the temple. You don't expect any pujari to go to the church. You don't expect any priest to go to the mosque, do you? You don't! Is there any rule? Ayo, rule need not be there. You are affiliated to this and you have committed to this, so you yourself won't go.

22. QUESTION LEADERS

And the question is: *If the leaders don't follow this, the members have got equal right to take up the matter in your meeting of the organizers.*

We do have meetings. Yes. Every Sai center will have executive body meeting once in three months or once in two months, as the case may be. When the members meet they can question, "Why did you do that?", "Why not?"

We don't question. Why? Because of our timidity, our cowardice, our limitation. Come on, in a meeting of the members we can ask them, "Oh, being the leader, how do you go there? What kind of an example do you give us? Why do you do that?"

And then go to a higher authority like a regional coordinator, and then go to the national authority, complain with proof. Not by hearsay or anything like that. Therefore, in the organization, you can easily question the conduct of the leaders in particular when members meet. Yes, it is a purely an organizational issue but not anything to do with spiritual concern. Thank you.

23. THICK SKINNED

Don't leaders feel any prick of conscience that they are NOT following the guidelines set up by Bhagavan himself?

Don't the leaders feel any prick of conscience? There's a phrase in English: thick-skinned, thick-skinned people. So the conscience won't prick! When they are thick-skinned, who can tell them?

And in fact, they should feel ashamed of themselves, ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES, for not following the rules of the Organization, for not following the teachings of Bhagavan. **The best thing would be to step down, to resign, and be amongst other devotees, be amongst other members.**

As a leader, you cannot do like that. You cannot set a bad example. No. It is because of utter ignorance that they may be doing it. That is a questionable thing in any platform at any place. Thank you.

24. REMOVE LEADERS

How can devotees remove these leaders who are silently contributing to the success of Muddenahalli by their silence and inaction?

Silence and inaction are the two weaknesses of the members. I don't blame the leaders. When you're wrong, I should say you're wrong. But I don't say that. Without telling him, how does he come to know that he is wrong? How does he come to know that there are people to question him? How does he come to know that he may be removed any time from that post of office because he is acting against the code of conduct, against the rules of the Organization?

He should be appraised; he should be well informed of the rules, or else we should remind him because Sai Charter for the Organisation is not a confidential document. Anybody can get it. Basing on that Charter, you can ask them, "These are the rules.

Why are you like that?" Come on, because you've got the Charter available to you. Basing on those rules, you can raise a question.

And they're (the leaders) silent. Why? Because nobody questions them. There may not be any action because nobody will point out. So the leaders are like that because followers are helpless. Followers are equally silent and inactive.

When I question your silence, I cannot be silent. In questioning, my silence is gone. When I say, "You're a man of inaction," well, I cannot be a man of inaction. So devotees must take action, must express themselves, so that leaders cannot maintain that silence and inaction any longer. Thank you.

www.saiwisdom.com

"