

1. The Eternal Prince

Speaker: Prashant Kakoday – January 2013 – Cambridge, UK

The essence of the spiritual message is that there is a higher consciousness and at present we are somewhere lower, as if we are not fully awake. Different words and language are used to tell us that there is a problem. A big limitation within this is/ that, if someone is asleep and you tell him he is asleep, there is no one to listen, no one to understand. Only when he wakes up does he realise that he was asleep. If someone is unconscious and you tell him he is unconscious, it does not mean anything to him. This is what Plato calls 'We don't know that we don't know'. We are in a double lock, in double ignorance.

It is useful for us to know the situation so that we can find a way out of it and wake up. We use the image of a prince who has forgotten that he is a prince and thinks he is a beggar. He is not asleep, but it is as if he is under a spell and he thinks he is a beggar. Someone comes and tells him 'You are a prince' and he says 'I am a prince? Thank you very much, but have you got a coin for me?' He hears the word prince, but he is deeply entrenched in the beggar awareness. In the beggar awareness, whenever he gets some coins he is happy but if he loses the coins he is unhappy.

The beggar can be very happy when he gets lots of coins. But it is a beggar life with beggar consciousness. The paradox is that even whilst begging he is still the same prince. He owns a whole kingdom, he has all the treasures and he does not know that he is begging. That is the paradox. The beggar is not always just begging. The beggar syndrome has many other symptoms in the form of ongoing behaviour patterns. The beggar compares himself with other beggars, he gets into competition, becomes disappointed, gets attached to his begging bowl, is insecure and has many other complications that come with the beggar attitude.

The life of the king and prince is different; their mind is different, they are not subject to the beggar syndrome. Their life is a celebration and a dance of happiness and charity; a life of loving and giving. When the prince comes here, he is giving; helping organizations by being charitable. He is not here to take anything because he knows he is already full.

What is the spiritual equivalent? The whole spiritual knowledge tells us that, right now, we have many treasures. When we say soul, soul conscious, it means we are princes and that princes have many treasures, eternally. When the prince forgets he is a prince, he is under the spell. He is begging for love, for happiness, security, life; begging for some respect and position. He is begging for the things that he already has, but he is under the spell. Someone can tell him 'you are a prince' and he hears it, but his attention is on the begging bowl.

This begging manifests in many ways within us also and if the prince within us is not awake, the begging will manifest. One manifestation could be begging for virtues, another could be showing off virtues. When the prince comes, he is not concerned if some people in Cambridge are misers, but the beggar will be bothered about this, it is a problem for him. If someone has no manners, it is their problem. If someone gets angry or someone is intolerant, it is their problem, it is not our problem. If someone is a miser, it is their problem. But if we are begging for virtues, it becomes our problem.

Is this the life of a prince or the life of a beggar? There is a huge difference in the quality of life between the prince and the beggar. Everyone wants a good quality of life, but, if their awareness is of a beggar, if they are under a spell, even if they have position, wealth, millions and billions, they are still beggars, they are still subject to the beggar syndrome. They are experiencing the lowest quality of life; their inner life is cheap.

Such a person has the chance to wake up, and waking up necessarily means discovering the reality beyond this beggar spell. What happens when the prince is awake? In our case, the prince is the soul, angelic soul. He discovers that his world is different and that he is temporarily a guest here in this theatre of the physical world. He does not need this drama; he does not need this entire physical world. He knows beforehand that it is temporary because he knows his eternal world.

When we talk about soul consciousness, it is simply this knowing that there is an eternal world. The soul realizes he is eternal and his world is eternal. Instantly he is out of the begging spell, because he realizes that he does not need this drama. He is neither begging for life, nor begging for death nor begging for company. The whole drama becomes irrelevant. The begging comes to an end.

Then the journey of the prince becomes the discovery of what he has got. He may discover he has a Father, a King, he has a family, and other treasures that he needs time to discover like 'virtues' and 'powers' and 'qualities' that describe the life of the prince. The word 'need' does not exist in the life of the awake prince; desire does not exist, comparing and competition do not exist, sorrow does not exist and, if there is no sorrow, what remains is silent bliss. The awake prince is useful because anyone who is awake can help others. In any place, if there are more beggars, then there is one kind of life in the town, but if there are more princes, that town becomes a kingdom.

These princes are also princes in character; royal, noble princes. They know that at every level, every aspect of their life is full. God himself is their Father and Companion and their family is a family of princes. This is what the awake prince knows and experiences. He has got everything and he has got the best, forever. When he visits this temporary theatre, the drama, he wants nothing. This drama has nothing to offer him. He knows his heart, he knows everyone and he has something very precious to offer to others. With this attitude he is happy to visit. His words, attitude and actions are all helpful to others.