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🌸 The essence of the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and all the scriptures is: 'Be Peaceful'. Irrespective of whether the situations are favourable or not, don't lose your Peace. This is a very wide world. Its driver is referred to as God. As and when people take birth, the Lord predetermines their destiny and sends them onto earth. How much ever you may try, you cannot escape from whatever you are destined to get. The destiny pertains to body only. Don't care about the activities that happen through the body. Then you cannot become sorrowful. You become proud if things are favourable else you become sorrowful. The physical body is subject to different types of destiny. The Jiva has to learn lessons through that destiny. Leave the body to its destiny and ensure that you are not impacted by it. It is called as spiritual practice.

🌸 Gandhiji said: 'A person speaking lies need not be careful but a person speaking Truth should be always careful. This is the lesson that I have learnt in my life'.

🌸 Swami Vivekananda was very great. He attained world-wide fame. His father was a lawyer. Being the eldest son, He had the responsibility of maintaining his mother and brothers after his father's death. On one side He had dedicated His life to Paramahansa and on the other side he had the responsibility of maintaining his family. He was very confused whether to look after the family members or roam around keeping Paramahansa on His head? Sri Ramakrishna said: "Wherever you go ie whichever country or whosever house, I will stay on your shoulders. I will come along with you, Naren". Six months before Sri Ramakrishna's Mahanirvana, someone told Him about the pathetic situation of Naren and his family in the presence of Naren. It

was then 8 O’Clock in the night. Sri Ramakrishna said: “If you desire the sunrise instantly, is it really possible? No. The sunlight can be seen only at 6 O’Clock in the morning. Similarly only after experiencing all the hardships of life, Naren will see a great light in His life (have a bright future). How is it possible for him to experience that great light instantly? Only after having experienced the relevant cuffs, His life will get brightened. This is his body’s destiny.

 When anyone mentioned about Naren getting good marriage alliances, Sri Ramakrishna said: “Naren is not destined to get married. He will die before his 40th birthday. Both these are bound to happen. Before that he will do the good work doable by a person in a time span of 1000 years. With one hand, He will experience Samadhi and with the other hand, He will serve the world. Thus Naren will work with both the hands”. Vivekananda struggled a lot for 6 months. Swamiji said: “The struggle arose whether to give up the whole world for the sake of three family members or give up the three family members for the sake of whole world? Finally when I concluded that this entire world consisting of innumerable people should not be given up for the sake of three family members and jumped towards the world, my brother got a job and maintained the family. If your service is needed by the country, give up your service to village for the sake of country. Give up the country for the sake of world. If required, give up the world for the sake of Self realization. There is no state greater than Self Realization”.

 When a devotee told Bhagavan: ‘Inspite of surrendering myself to God, I am unable to find Peace’, Bhagavan replied: ‘If your surrender is true, you will not become subject to disturbance at all. If you have truly

surrendered to God, you must abide by God's will. Everything happens according to God's will. If you are able to accept God's will, you will experience Peace else you will get disturbed'. When I suggest you all to remain Peaceful in all the circumstances and in all the periods of time but get disturbed due to any incident, it is equivalent to insulting the devotees.

 Whatever happens whether good or bad- it is all but a dream. However we must have faith in this. By possessing faith, the mind doesn't get disturbed.

 Sri Ramakrishna said: "God has put the 'i' thought in your body. He has to remove it out of His Grace. It cannot be lost through your efforts alone. The Lord Himself who inserted this 'i' has to remove it as you cannot cut the mask of i (ego)". As long as the 'i' thought exists, birth becomes inevitable. One who has put his 100% burden upon God will not even get a single thought. If God has to remove that 'i' thought, whether you like it or not accept His will. Earn the Grace of God. Be it either through thought or word or deed or worship or devotion- earn His Grace. Only that should be the goal of your life.

 Jesus said in the Bible: 'My words are more powerful than a hydrogen bomb. Due to this power, they cross the rivers, oceans, countries and continents and spread My message throughout the world. Such is the purity contained in them'. Sometimes a single sentence imprinted in your Heart drives out the impurity, disturbance, sorrow etc and purifies you accordingly. The words emanating from devotion, discrimination and purity possess such a power.

- 🌸 The Lord is adored through verses. It comes under devotion. Then what is Karma? The work should be done calmly and not out of excitement. It should be done steadily and naturally without any pomp and show. Don't do any task for the sake of name and fame. Do it only where there is necessity. It should aid in earning God's Grace. By doing so, the Lord Himself will remove the i(ego). You cannot eradicate it by yourself.
- 🌸 Good deeds done out of attachment beget merit but not purity of mind. Purity of mind can be secured on giving up the attachment. Knowledge can be secured on giving up the ego.
- 🌸 Ishwara or the Supreme Lord is the one who rules this entire creation. He is our husband as well as the Master. Nothing can happen and nothing really happens without His decree. If the children spoil their clothes, you beat them and ensure that they take bath again and wear new clothes. Similarly the Lord also gives us four lashings if required. Doing so, He won't abandon us but accepts us back. Whether he beats us or accepts us back into His lap, it is all for the sake of our purification.
- 🌸 Guru is the very embodiment of Grace. Irrespective of whether He touches or looks or talks or doesn't talk to you - it is all His Grace. It seems to your eyes that Guru is working but there is no doer there. Work happens through Him. The Guru doesn't have any thought. He doesn't feel like reforming anyone. The waves of power and knowledge spread through Him in the entire world.

🌸 Socrates was imprisoned and killed by poisoning. The day before He was to be poisoned, some of his devotees suggested breaking open the walls of prison so that he can escape. Socrates replied: 'The time has come for my departure. You all have to live for some more time. This is God's will. Let us all honour God's will. If the sheep strikes itself against a mountain, who is at loss? It is the sheep. Trying to confront God's will is similar to this''.

🌸 The Lord drives this creation according to a plan. He bestows the fruit of action accordingly. Don't have attachment for anything except towards God. Perform your duty towards family members but ensure that the mind dwells on God. Have the same amount of Love for God that you have for yourself. By having so, God can be secured. Such love should be selfless. It should represent a flowing river. If your love for God gets reduced when something doesn't happen according to your plan, it represents a false love. Such love represents a trade. It is a crooked love. The ocean remains full forever irrespective of the season- be it the rainy season or summer season. Similarly your Love towards God should remain steady irrespective of whether your desires are fulfilled or not. Only then God can be secured.

🌸 You are well aware whether or not your body contains the thought 'I am the body'. When you still possess the thought 'I am the body', don't talk rubbish things like: 'I have become a Jnani or I have attained the state of Brahman etc.' As long as the thought 'I am the body' exists, be obedient to God as Hanuman was obedient to Lord Rama. Rama's work became Hanuman's work. Rama's liking became Hanuman's liking. By being so, you will get reformed. Contrarily while possessing 'I am the

body' thought if you presume yourselves to be Rama, it is of no use; you will get ruined. You must first understand what the disease is. Once it is understood, appropriate medicine can be used.

- ❁ Your behavior towards God should be thus: 'Your liking is my liking. Your will is my will. I am not independent. I will abide by thy order'. While possessing ego and arrogance, if you get the feeling of having become a Jnani, it is nothing but deceiving yourself.
- ❁ The Lord Himself exists in the form of Jiva. If you torture yourself for every small thing, it is equivalent to insulting God and tormenting Him. It is because this Jiva belongs to God. Oppressing yourself is as sinful as oppressing others.
- ❁ The physical body is gifted by the parents. The bestower of Jnana is also equivalent to a father. Swami Vivekananda and his co-disciples never referred to Sri Ramakrishna by His name. It is because God Himself exists in the form of Guru. Hence they called Him as Gurudev.
- ❁ You may feel that you lack other's compassion. Why should you have other's compassion? It is a kind of weakness.
- ❁ If you have complete faith in the Lord's words, the mind stops there itself. If you abide by the scriptures, there is no more sorrow to be experienced. If you don't abide by the scriptures, you will lose the track towards right path. God cuffs us when we traverse in the wrong path in order to put us back into the right path.

 In a flock of sheep, some of them may be lame and cannot walk fast whereas the other sheep would walk fast. Buddha and Jesus were so compassionate that they used to carry those lame sheep on their shoulders unable to see their agony. They were most compassionate. If the body bound 'i' is given up, everyone becomes merciful and compassionate. When a person transcends his ignorance and delusion, his heart gets filled with infinite compassion and knowledge equivalent to water in an ocean. Such knowledge and compassion have no limits.

 Once Sri Ramakrishna was asked: 'Does God exist or not?' Sri Ramakrishna replied: 'God exists but cannot be comprehended through words, mind and senses'. Then Swami Ramakrishnananda asked: 'If it is so, why do you say that God exists?' Sri Ramakrishna replied: 'It is true that God cannot be comprehended by the intellect but if the intellect becomes perfect, pure, concentrated and eligible enough, God becomes comprehensible'. Therefore God becomes comprehensible to them who cannot differentiate between themselves and others.

 Sri Ramakrishna said: "A Mother gives toys to its child to play. Once the child gets fed up, it cries for its Mother. Then the Mother comes and takes the child into her lap. Similarly when you have completed enjoying all the enjoyments of the world and became dispassionate understanding this to be a play of God (ie God's Leela), you will start crying for God. Then the Lord comes and takes you into His lap".

 Love God as much as you love thyself.

- 🌸 Jnana (Self Knowledge) is not something related to the intellect alone. Some people feel that Jnana is something related to the head alone. Jnana is an Infinite ocean. Once you enter the ocean of Knowledge, you will reach the state where you lose the faculty to differentiate between birth-death, merit-sin and good-bad. This needs the Grace of God.
- 🌸 The faculty that differentiates yourself from others is a Maya (delusion). God is the Master of Maya. Even if you pray Him, God doesn't release you from Maya. If your Love for God is true, you will become subject to His Love and Grace. Then the Maya clears your path.
- 🌸 God also performs several miracles. Sri Ramakrishna said: 'Oh! Lord, I am a machine and you are its operator'. Whether you like it or not, you have to live as driven by God. Whatever seems to be impossible, God makes it possible. Whatever seems to be possible, God makes it impossible. Don't get surprised by His deeds. He is the Master of this creation. All this is His Leela, His play, His Maya. All of us are a part of His Leela'.