

Om Shanti

How many of you have a natural sanskar of obedience? Think about it, some of you are raising hands. Obedience is not subservience, obedience is out of respect and love. When there is love and respect for someone we like to listen and do accordingly. When there is love for Baba, then whatever Baba's Shrimat is, we are able to obey it. When there are doubts in Baba, then there are a lot of questions like, "Why should I do this?, I am not yet ready." It's really beautiful when there is this stage of being merged in Baba's love, and when you listen and obey, you see that many wonders can happen through us. One is I listen to myself and then try to do something, because I have feeling for this. However, when Baba makes you instrument, or nimit, and you become obedient and do it, at every step you see how much you can accomplish. Even as Baba's tasks get accomplished, it is your accomplishment too, because you are the instrument. When Baba used to tell me things, when I was a young Brahmin, the first thing I would think was, "I don't think I can do this," or "I don't think it's possible.", "I'm not ready." Anyway, I would do it, and I found that it became so big, and such a great achievement. I realized that when Baba gives us directions, whether it is for our personal life or for service, Baba also gives power and strength.

We often used to go and sit with Baba in the office. Once he called me and said, "Child, one day you will be serving the world, so Baba doesn't want your yoga of intellect to go anywhere or connect with anyone." At that time, I was still very connected with lokiks, since many of them were in gyan. Baba said, "Whatever Baba gives you, use it, but don't take anything. Even if you get something, don't use it, give it to Baba, put it in the Bhandara. I remember that until now. Baba gave that direction so that intellect can remain with Baba, otherwise you will remember so many things, like this one gave this, this one gave that This could be lokik or even alokik. When we travel for service, at every place, you get something, right? We would bring everything and give it to Baba at the end of the tour. Then Baba offered us one or two things, saying, "Child, you use it now, Baba is giving it to you."

Baba also used to say that it's not only the intellect that shouldn't go anywhere, but also we need to be internally stable. External situations can be like a wind or a storm that comes but doesn't stay. Some days the storm can be very strong, but if I stay stable in faith, then Baba also helps. We need to know what Baba's Shrimat is. Some directions are very general, like following all the principles, and listening to Murli every day. With the Dadis too, we would always follow their directions out of love and get their blessings. When the Dadis give blessings, there is also this importance of taking blessings, it is like a clearance, we had this system. It's also about humility, otherwise there will be subtle ego like, "I know this is right anyway, it will be right" No. When you go and take that blessing from them, somewhere deeply within, their sakaash is always with you. So their thoughts are with us until the task is accomplished. That is called sakaash. What is sakaash? Baba thinks of me or Dadi Prakashmani thought of me, and I feel that light and might. Sometimes Dadis will say that now you are the master, that you tell us what you think. That was not only a blessing, but sakaash, too.

Another reason to go see them was to give full news of your personal chart and service to Baba or to the Dadis. There was a time every Tuesday and Friday, we would write

a letter to Brahma Baba about what service happened in the last three or four days. Baba used to say, "It's Baba's shop, no? Baba should know which customers came, what they got from there, were they satisfied or not?" With that obedience, another very good quality is emerging. In English we say surrender, but in Hindi, we call it samarpan. Samarpan is where you are offering yourself and everything of yours to God. For example, if I have any habits, or deep sanskars, I surrender them to Baba. Baba, I have this sanskar, I really want to change it, transform it, so I want to take drishti from Baba, so it becomes very easy. Surrender also means deeply removing, 'my', 'I', and 'mine'. Baba did it, but I became the instrument, it was through me, right? So again I and mine and me comes.

Offering is on two levels, one is every time I look at Baba, what more can I offer, what more service can I do, Baba? Some are so happy with whatever they're doing and for me, I always say, "Baba, give something more to do, until everything is stable." The other is like you offer yourself to Baba in whatever way, even if it's Baba who gave us specialties, and even if it's my achievements of Brahmin life, I still offer to Baba. Once you have offered it, then it comes back to you, but it becomes sacred and powerful. Baba doesn't keep anything. What does He take? If you praise Him, what does He get? Anything that I am doing is of course creating my fortune, creating elevated karmas. However, deep within, everything I have, I know it belongs to Baba, so if it belongs to Baba then when I use it I have to get permission from Baba, right? It's not that there is no freedom, there is. It is a record of my respect to offer and then also a good quality is to surrender. Because every offering will bring back something.

Sometimes it does happen that some brothers and sisters left home, came, and stayed in the Yagya or at the centers, so they say these are surrendered ones, but no. There are some in families. We give the example of Ramesh bhai and Usha bhen. Many live with their families, and they live in such a way that everything belongs to Baba, so they take directions on how to use what they have. Let Baba guide us! I had been in the USA for many years, more than 45 years in the USA, of course before that there were many other countries. Everyone used to say, "What's your future plan? Some say in the end, I need to be in Madhuban, some say, I want to leave the body in Madhuban. When they asked me, I said, "Angels don't have a fixed land, they can go from anywhere, wherever they have to serve. I know how Baba brings us to His land." Deep within, as much as you surrender to Baba that means Baba will decide for you. One is to have pure desires, pure thoughts, but on the other side, you don't have to struggle. You don't have to think too much because Baba is there. I have surrendered my life to Baba, whatever is best for the soul, that will happen. We can say according to drama but we also say God's will, right?

So we take these qualities of obedience and surrender as very important qualities, which can only emerge when there is love for Baba, being merged in His love. When one is merged in love, nothing is difficult. When I think of it, I came to gyan, went to Madhuban and you have to keep fetching your metal bucket so then what happens, it's heavy, difficult, but it never felt like that. I was doing everything for Baba, knowing that it was for my training, making me strong, all scenes of Drama are beneficial. Ultimately each one of us has to look, am I obedient?

We used to say yes to Baba, yes to Dadi's and after saying yes, then Dadi would again say are you sure you want to do this? That means they give you a choice. I always got a choice, but first I said yes, why not? Once I told Dadi Prakashmani, "Dadi I think

someone else should do this”, then she said, “Okay, you tell me who.” Because she gave me a choice, I had to think. After a little while, I went back and I said, “Dadi, maybe I will do it for one more year.” Saying yes has a lot of benefits. Dadi’s always made sure that after they see that you said yes, they will say, “What do you think? What’s your feeling?” Obedience really is creating that relationship of trust, of love, of respect. Think about both qualities and they will make your life very easy, royal, loyal and definitely we will get a good certificate. There is a saying that a bad soldier can never be a good commander. I know what it is to be on duty, right? So, merge in Baba’s love. Today is obedience, tomorrow will be surrender. So obedience and surrender, these two qualities also emerge from love.

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