

CHELA: Guruji, why are so many people unwilling or unable to accept a gift of genuine love and trust from another? Why do they run away from such a gift or try and make it less than it is? [Chela applause]

GURURAJ: The giver, the gift and the receiver. The receiver is reluctant to receive the gift that was given with so much love. Now we have to know what is implied by gift. What kind of gift. You could give the gift of love to someone, and that person might not accept because that person does not feel the same amount of love that you feel. For example, a boy might love a girl very much, and he thinks in his mind that he is giving her the gift of his love that might not be acceptable to her at all. Then there are so many other kinds of gifts. Say a gift, a little package of something which the person might not want to accept. Why? Because that person that does not want to accept might think that there is a motivation behind this gift. And we know, people that have been in business know very well how this works. You want to have something done and you send a case of something along before hand. [Laughter] And then slowly an approach is made, especially with the receiver of revenue. What is it called here? [Amrit: "Internal Revenue Service"] Internal Revenue Service, yes. That gift really goes a long way. You see.

But when it comes to a genuine gift that is given with love and the receiver does not want to receive it, then be sure to know that there is something wrong with the receiver. The receiver's interpreting it wrongly with a distrust. The receiver's conjuring up in his mind all kinds of things: that what could be the motivation behind this. And yet there could be no motivation whatsoever. So the receiver should analyze himself. Why am I not receiving this gift? And it is given with so much love. Is the receiver incapable of feeling that love? And if the receiver is incapable of feeling that love, then there's something wrong with the giver as well. Because the giver can inspire, or his love could be so strong and overpowering that the receiver would definitely accept it in the sense that it is given.

I would take myself, for an example. I never accept a gift from anyone unless I feel very sure that it is a gift with love, with deep love. And I could feel it immediately. Especially when it comes to an organization, for example. Many people would want to accept gifts. They put themselves out for that. That would be wrong, that would be misuse again. So here it lies entirely upon the sense the receiver would have and the sense the giver would have.

There's a lovely Eastern saying. [Patra joy danna caru?] It means that even when you give the gift try and examine who the receiver is first. Will it be used or will it be misused? For if any misuse can take place of that gift that is given, then it is better not to give it. Yes. So here a giver with all his heart or her heart would want to give. And if the overpowering love is there, then the receiver feels so much a joy in receiving that gift. Even if it's a suit or shirt or whatever, there's so much joy in wearing it because the person is not only wearing the suit but he's wearing an armor of love. How beautiful it

becomes! It is... it could be elevated to a very high form of love, an expression of love. And yet there are other gifts that has no materiality involved at all. Just a smile, just a hug could change the person's whole day.

There are many other kinds of gifts involved. If you give a person food for lunch, by this evening he's hungry again. But the greatest gift is to give the person wisdom of his inner self. The gift is everlasting. And even when this body falls away, that knowledge implanted within him will forever remain, because that wisdom, that knowledge, is helping him to evolve. That is the greatest gift that could ever be given. All material things perish. The giver parts with it. The receiver receives it. But in a sense the giving and the receiving has a temporary, worldly value as far as materiality is concerned.

But now a gift given with great love has great benefit to the giver. I think I quoted an example. I don't know if it was here. One of the films I saw many, many years ago, *Les Miserables*, where this man was caught and he escaped into a church and he just could not help but to steal a pair of candlesticks. And he was caught and the priest in the church told him this, and these words I remember so well. I think I mentioned it on this course or was it some other course. [Chelas answer inaudibly] On this course? Another course. Ya, where this priest... this priest said that, "My son, life is made to give and not to take." How beautiful! I would like to, perhaps one day, publish a book of certain sentences and phrases I have read that has influenced my life so much. This is one of them. "Life is made to give and not to take." For the giver always gains the greater benefit.

Now why apply to people only the sense of giving? You can apply the giving to Divinity as well. What can you give to Divinity, really? You can only give to Divinity your little ego in the form of surrender. And that little surrender that you do to Divinity would return to you tenfold in the form of grace. So here man has the ability to bend even Divinity just by that little offering he makes or she makes. Just by that little help he or she gives. Say for example there's an artist or a poet or a musician battling to get his work on the go, and someone comes along out of the blue and says, "Ah, such beautiful art. You must have an exhibition." And exhibitions are costly. To publish a volume of poems for example, is costly. Or to publish your composition, to have it orchestrated, is costly business. And yet someone comes along and offers you and says, "Look, your book of poems or composition, I'm prepared to have it published for you." Look at that gift. Now that gift is not only to the poet or the musician or the artist, but it is a gift to the world. That that which has welled up within you, that creation that has flowed through you, is offered as a joy to the world, and may it give the world greater joy. What a great gift! Directed to one person, but through that one person so many hundreds of thousands and thousands would benefit by it.

You see the power of giving is so great. I've been saying this over and over and over again that if I give one I get ten in return. Always. That is an infallible law of nature. So the giver must not fear rejection. Perhaps if the giver is pure in mind and unmotivated he must not fear rejection whatsoever. Give for the sake of giving. That is the secret. What the

receiver does with it or how the receiver appreciates, that would be the karma of the receiver. If the receiver misuses it (are we going onto a different level), even if the receiver misuses it, it is your act that is important to you. You have done the act of giving.

You know, I'll tell you a little story about myself. I landed up in Cape Town, South Africa, and there was one evening where I had sixpence. At that time they never had rands and cents, they had pounds, shillings and cents. And I had sixpence in my pocket, standing at a bus stop. I had just arrived in the country about three weeks and was looking for a job or to start some business. And I had sixpence in my pocket and a woman comes along, one of the colored people. They are poor people that have been kept poor. She came along with a child in her arms and she says, "I've got to go to a certain place and I haven't got bus fare." I gave her my sixpence and I walked three miles. But the look in the woman's eyes...the poor shivering baby...that I walked away and I returned back and gave her my coat. I said, "Cover your baby." How wonderful I felt! How wonderful I felt! At that very moment I saw God in that woman and in that baby. What is my coat worth! What is the sixpence! What is that three miles that I have to walk! Nothing at all in comparison to the glimpse of

Divinity I had there in the poor woman with the shivering baby. You see the reward? It's so outstanding, so wonderful! And many acts like these...and it was not just a few weeks later where I met a friend out of the blue. And we are chatting about business and I said, "Oh, well, there's a lovely little factory for sale and I'd love to take it over." I qualified as an accountant, but being in a place where people don't know you they just don't hand over your financial affairs to you...their financial affairs to you without knowing you. In order to build up my accountancy practice, I said, "Now let me find a way how people can know me and I can build up my practice." So I joined so many charitable organizations and I took an active part. And the best part that one could take would be the secretary because that's the person that does the hardest work. And he's more in touch with people. So as people started knowing, my accountancy practice started building up and up and up until I employed nearly forty people. Good. But that was not enough. I had to open some business. But before this practice could develop, I met a person out of the blue... out of the blue and he says to me, "Oh, you want to buy a little business. You need money." I says, "Oh, well, business is business." [Chela laughter] It was a little sandal making factory which was producing very well, and this man was getting old and he couldn't manage anymore. And this person was... he says, "You need money?" I says, "Well, you know." That's all, finished. Next morning an envelope turns up with five thousand pounds, a check. Pay it back whenever you want to, whenever you can. I paid it back in four months.

The little acts of kindness that we do has its return. Who knows that last sixpence of mine did not bring that five thousand to me. Who knows? Divinity works in such fine ways, such beautiful ways, that man cannot comprehend it. Man cannot comprehend it. Yes. I pull up a car into a parking meter. There's an hour to go. I put in the five cent piece for the hour and my work was just for ten minutes, so there's fifteen minutes left. As I drive away I say, "May some worthy person have the benefit of the fifteen minutes." I would have that prayer in my heart. But the next day I find another parking meter and the day after another parking meter that has been filled all ready just for me to pull in. And it happens all the time, all the time. All the time it just happens. That is the law of giving because you give for the sake of giving. And every time a person gives there should be that little prayer, that little thought within oneself, that may it be of the greatest benefit to the person and to those that are around the person.

And the seeds that are planted in that way always grow abundantly. The seeds that are given in that way always grow abundantly. Who knows that the seed that you have given today and that has grown up into a big tree, who knows that you might be passing there one day and needing the very shade of the tree for which you had contributed the seed. The laws of nature work so, so beautifully. Work so, so beautifully. In the act of giving there is a surrender. You are surrendering something of yourself.

Now let us not evaluate that in terms of how much. I was instrumental in building up a center in Cape Town. They wanted a temple. They wanted a school and a community hall. So we needed some ground for it. And I managed to get hold of a very wealthy person to donate a very large piece of ground to build a center. But he had one condition. He says I'm prepared to give this, and not only that but also fifty thousand rand over and above the ground. And the ground itself is worth about eight hundred and fifty thousand rands. So I'm prepared to give two hundred and fifty thousand rand to this nearly half a million project, but one condition: that on the grounds you put up a bust of me. Yes. That the ground and this and that was donated by Mr. So and So and So. What is he trying to do? Is he really giving? Or is he trying to perpetuate his ego? Even after he is dead?

Sometimes I look askance at some of the government buildings where the government building is named after some congressman or senator. Yes, I do. I do. Because most of the times, ninety percent of the times, that was engineered by the senator himself, that name this building after me. This happens. Now that is not giving. That was not honoring. Perpetuation of the ego sense of man. Then is it valueless. There is a lovely Indian saying which says, that do not roast the seeds before you plant them. [Laughter] Because those seeds will never grow. A roasted seed can never grow. It's a lovely Indian saying. Very old, very old, ancient. Do not roast the seed before you plant it.

Now what that actually means is this. Do not keep mulling over it all the time. Shall I? Shall I not? Does she love me? Does she love me not? Nonsense! Give spontaneously if you have to give a gift to someone. Just come from the heart. Just spontaneously. Don't think about it. And immediately it is given, forget it. I know people who have done other people favors and they would throw to their faces all life long, you know, I helped you to do this. I give you another example of myself. I've got about four volumes of poetry ready. I've got about four volumes of childrens' stories ready. I've got a few volumes on the interpretations of some ancient scriptures ready. I've done over three hundred and fifty hours of lecturing which would make up to about thirty five volumes, large volumes if they're compiled together in book form. I meet a friend. At least I know this friend. And those days I had plenty of money to come and good use was made. Nobody must go back empty handed. No real needy person. So he says, "There is a little printing works for sale and I'd like to buy it, but it costs so much and I haven't got the money." And he was a printer, he had experience. Good man. It took me back to those days immediately when this man asked, where that five thousand just dropped up in an envelope the next morning. It took me back to those days. I said, "Now how am I going to return this gift? I said thank you to that person that loaned me to start off that business." Because you know as all practices go, it takes time, a legal practice, accountancy practice, a doctor's practice, they take time to build up. Meanwhile, I had to do something else. It took me back immediately. Now how am I... I said thank you to the person and repaid the money. But the better way to thank that person is to start someone else off. That would be the better way to thank. So I gave the money for this man to buy his printing press. He developed it so beautifully that he's got about six lithographic machines and they cost nearly eighty to a hundred thousand dollars each. Plus other machines. It's a big works today.

We were sitting down one evening and just chatting away and I said, "You know, I've got all these books ready, and people, I'm sure, would love to read them. There's some really good work, I think. And the reviews I have of them... not reviews, criticisms." Is that what you call them when you send them to various critics, various professors and that, and to ask their opinion? They all praised it very, very highly that this poetry should be published, not just kept in your drawer. So what this friend tells me, he says, "I've got a big business." Paper is a very important thing in printing. So this chap having good financial background now, what he does is watch the paper prices and when it is at its lowest he would buy in bulk. And he has to hire warehouses to store them. Good. He says, "Look, if you want to have your book published I will print them for you at cost without a single penny profit." You see how far real giving can extend. So if the printing bill works out to twenty thousand, the printer would naturally add on fifty percent as his profit. And he is not prepared to accept that. He says no, at cost I'm prepared to do it. I say, "Why?" He said, "You started me off and this is the way I could at least say thank you to you." You see.

So giving goes a long, long way. It goes a long way in helping our own lives. It opens up our hearts, and when the heart is open, all the positive qualities gets added on to it. You become kinder. You become generous. You become

compassionate. You become loving. All these positive qualities are blood brothers. If you develop one, automatically the other one is developed. It's like swimming. You might just be using your arms and legs, but your whole body is exercised. In that way negativity attracts to itself all other negativities. If a person, for example, is greedy, you definitely can be sure he's also jealous, he's also covetous, and all the other qualities that could go with it. If a person is kind, with that all the positive qualities would also go with it. So that is how we evolve. And if we have nothing to give, give love. I don't know if you've noticed the change in my face since last time I've come here. Yes. My cheek bones have gone a bit higher. Do you know why? Because I'm always laughing and smiling [LAUGHTER]. See. Yes. Yes.

Blessed be the giver. Blessed be the giver of the love. And that love can have its expression in so many different forms. It could have its expression in giving of wisdom. It could have its expression in unfoldment of the spirit. It could have its expression in just a smile, just a bit of laughter. A nice word can cheer up a person's day. It could have its expression monetarily. Some people have an abundance of it that they don't know what they're going to do with. Give for something good. And it helps not only the receiver, but it helps the giver tenfold more. So even if the gift is rejected, don't feel rejected yourself. Yes. The very act, the very thought, is good, is good. O.K. That was a practical question. Sorry I couldn't get into very deep philosophy about it because practical philosophy is good enough. Next.

AMRIT: It's lunchtime, I'm afraid.

GURURAJ: Oh dear me. We haven't even started talking. [Chelas talking]

AMRIT: Should we do another ten minutes? [Chelas answer, yes]

GURURAJ: OK. A quickie. Do they have a time schedule here where you have to be punctual? [Everyone answers no] Well, I'm glad you don't have that regimentation in America. [Chelas laugh] And I've been to one place where the management insisted you must be there at one sharp or whatever the time was.

CHELA: We want to give you the time off.

GURURAJ: Don't you worry. Thank you. That's a very kind thought. That is also giving. The consideration... [Interrupted by chela laughter] Pardon? [Chela answers in the background, "But stay!"] Ah, but stay. [More laughter] Hurry up and take your time. [Laughter]

AMRIT: Do you want another question?

GURURAJ: Well, it's up to you entirely [Chela's answer, "More. We need food for our souls."]

AMRIT: I've only got two questions left here. Oh, wait a minute, someone gave me some more....

GURURAJ: The answer's always dependent upon your question. The deeper the question is, the sincerer your question is, the deeper can I go into it. Because I have to speak on the level of the questioner and what the questioner could understand by it, and yet include the general audience at the same time. In other words, an answer must contain something for everybody. Then it's an answer. Which I'm not really too good at. I'm trying.

AMRIT: David [Fitch?] did you mean for this thing about your grandmother to be a question? I mean, did you want to raise that now? [He answers, "It's not a question."] I just wondered if you.... He just mentions here that he has a grandmother who's eighty and in the hospital and weak and scared. And he was wondering if the group could send out some love and attention.

GURURAJ: Oh, yes! Oh, yes! Yeh, definitely. Now, does anyone know what David's grandmother looks like? I mean.... No, so now what....

CHELA: I have a grandmother who is exactly the same condition....

GURURAJ: Uh huh, right. Now here's what we do. It would be better if one has the picture of the person. It would be much better. But now close your eyes and try and imagine, for the moment, you know, just a blue light. A blue light in an egg shape with a dim figure in it. You can't see the face but you know it's a human figure surrounded with this blue light. Try and get that thought fixed in your mind. The blue light represents healing light. And let that egg become smaller and smaller until it merges away into that dark shape you find within the egg, until all the light that surrounds the human figure is merged into the figure itself.

[Silence for sometime] [GR sings Sanskrit prayer. Om shanti....]

Open your eyes slowly. Now, do you know what has happened now? If you have a friend who is not well and you know this friend, you can use this person's picture. You close your eyes and... all of you, or practically all of you, are doing tratak, so you have some practice at visualization. Visualize this person surrounded with blue light. And knowing this person you send forth more light into that light which that person is surrounded with. Now thought is a great energy. Thought is a tangible thing. Thought can pierce walls. And this has been proven by mental telepathy, for example, where people can be thousands of miles apart and yet thoughts can be received, picked up. So now here you are sending healing thoughts to the person. You see the person... say for example a person is limping. See the person in your mind's eye in your visualization not to be limping, but running around and walking well. That makes the thought energy positive. It charges up the thought energy which you are now directing to the person. And that has been so, so successful. I'll give you an example that happened in England. What's that young man's name... Vincent? Ahjay, you should know. [He answers, "Vincent Scully"] Vincent Scully. We got a message... actually, Ahjay you picked up the phone or something. That he fell or broke his back or something. Or what was it? Slipped a disc. Broken back is something else. Slipped a disc. And of course it was group and we were doing a satsang and we sent him these healings powers. And next day he turned up feeling very well and normal and full of beans. [Laughter] So...yah, so so so this really works. Thought is a very, very powerful force. You know, in business days (I tell you how thought can be used in so many ways), those days when I was in business, if I have to do a contract tomorrow morning at nine o'clock with some person and I know that this is a difficult customer, tonight I would be sitting down and visualizing that person. I would actually see him signing that contract. I'd actually be having the conversation with him about the contract. I'd actually see the very pen he's using to sign the contract. Next morning I turn up at nine o'clock. Now, normally with a difficult person you've got to put about two hours aside. But here within fifteen, twenty minutes, exactly what you visualize, the thoughts that you send. Right. You have been working that person's psychic self, the subtle body, and you convinced his subtle body, or his mental body, the advantage of the contract you were offering. Next day I go, he would be having the same pen in his hand and he says, look Mr. So and So, I do understand. I had gone through the correspondence, and no more explanation is required. I'm happy with it. You know, and sign it and in fifteen, twenty minutes I'm gone.

See how powerful thought is. It has to be used the right way. It can be used negatively, but remember if the same force thought that can be used negatively will rebound back on you. It boomerangs back. You give one you get back ten in good or in bad. And that's how I used to do business with difficult customers. And they don't become difficult anymore. [Laughter] And then in the end they never remain customers to me. They were all friends. I pick up the phone and I say, "Basil, you know, I'm short on my budget this month and cancel some of the other companies. I want some more playing time for your cinemas." And he says, "Oh yes, Perry. By all means. I'll do it." You see. It works. It works.

Now as an experiment, David, if your grandmother is on the phone, just ask how she's feeling. And the reply you will get is, I'm getting so peaceful. Or she might even say she's feeling full of beans. [Laughter] O.K.? And tell us about it. O.K., I think that makes up the time, doesn't it. Yea.

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