

## Storing worth quoting/ remembering

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar:

1. I want to share an incident with you all.  
Once, there was a program conducted in Mumbai. We have a few senior teachers in Mumbai, and we have an Apex body also which was organizing the event and taking care of all the arrangements.  
Now the senior teachers had been organizing such events there for many years, and the new members there did not like the way they were going about organizing things.  
The senior teachers had always been in charge of such events, and these new members wanted a chance to contribute and take responsibility of the work. So the new members started to empower the others but found that the senior members were not giving them a chance to do their job properly. So they all had a meeting, and the senior teachers came together and in one voice scolded the new junior members.  
Following this, all the organizers resigned. This happened just two weeks prior to the event. So I called up the senior teachers on the phone and said, 'Look, did they take your advice by your scolding them?'  
They said 'No'.  
So I said, 'You know that they will not take your advice. So why do you give them advice? And they will never take your advice by scolding them. No doubt you poured out your heart to them. But what was the impact of doing so? Did things become more constructive or did they get worse?'  
They said, 'Yes it became worse'.

So this is what I want you to see.

For example, let us say, you are working in a company, and you get a brilliant idea. If you go to your boss and tell him that what he is doing is wrong and scold him, do you think he will listen to your idea? No, he will not listen. Then why do you do something which is not going to be productive? It consumes so much of your energy and time.

True that by pouring out your emotions you became empty. But that is not going to help in any way.

So I told the new members that the senior members were not going to listen to them since they were all accomplished people in the society. They are all big business people and they know what they are doing. Or they think they know what they are doing. And they are not going to listen to someone else even if they are wrong. They will not take it from some other person, or from the youngsters.

You know, there are different levels and barriers in the society. There is the age barrier, the status barrier, etc. If nothing else, there is the ego barrier.

So the next day, they got together and again had a meeting. Since everyone wanted me to visit Mumbai and I was going there after a gap of two years, there was such a strong yearning for this among the people, and so in the end, everything worked out well.

What I am trying to say is that, all the three, magnanimity, equanimity and skill, need to be there. This incident suddenly opened up the minds of all our senior teachers. They also agreed that it was the correct way, and that there is no point in pointing out a mistake which has already happened. People will not listen to you and they will only justify their mistakes.

So when the situation is such, what is the point in behaving this way? You should put your point forward as a positive suggestion instead of telling the other person that what he or she did was wrong. Tell them like this instead, 'May be this way would be a better idea'.

2. Let me tell you another story about an astrologer.

Once an astrologer went to a king. The king showed great reverence to the astrologer, made him sit and honoured him with gifts. The king then showed his palm and the charts to astrologer. The astrologer examined everything and then said to the king, 'O King! You will lose your entire family. Everybody is going to die before you. You will be the last to die'.

The king got very upset upon hearing this and put the astrologer in the jail.

This news shook the entire astrologers' community. They thought, 'We cannot tell the truth to the king. If we do so, he will simply put us in jail. What do we do?'

When someone hears some negative prediction, they don't like it. They obviously want to hear something nice and positive instead. And so it was for the king as well.

The king then called for another astrologer to appear before him. Many tried to escape this request but one senior astrologer agreed to meet the king. So, he went before the king, and the king welcomed him in the same way with gestures and gifts. The king then showed his palm to the astrologer. The astrologer said, 'Oh King! What a great fortune you are blessed with! You have a very good horoscope. Nobody in history has had such longevity of age as you are going to have. In fact, nobody in your dynasty has had such great longevity'.

The astrologer never said to the king that he was going to outlive everybody else in the royal family. Instead, he told the king that he was blessed with great longevity and that he had a great horoscope.

The king was so flattered upon hearing the news of his long life and good health. He told the astrologer, 'Ask whatever gift you want from me and I shall give'.

The astrologer said, 'Please release my poor colleague who is in the jail'.

So that skill in communication makes a huge difference.

3. Have you heard the story of Akbar and Birbal (*referring to the famous Mughal emperor Akbar and his intelligent minister Birbal*)?

I have told that story before. There was this emperor in India whose name was Akbar. One day he got an idea to pass a law that anyone who tells lies will be hanged and sent to the gallows. So when this law was announced, there was panic in the kingdom.

First, all the merchants got together, and said, 'This is a draconian law. Whenever we sell our fare, we always say that this is the best product available. When we sell silk, we sell it by saying that this is the best silk available, knowing fully well that it is not the best. You get better quality silk down south. But we have to sell our products also. What do we do? We cannot run our business otherwise'.

Then came the doctors' community. The doctors discussed among themselves, 'Whenever we give some medicine, it is after guessing the problem. We give the medicine hoping it will cure the patient, but still we assure the patient that it will certainly cure him of his problem and make him better. Suppose it does not work, then we too will be sent to the gallows'.

So the doctors said thought the king has gone crazy. They could not carry on with this law; so the entire medical community was shaken as well.

Then came the astrologers. They said, 'This man is out to destroy our business. While making predictions, we understand some things and guess certain things and then give the prediction'. So the astrologers in Akbar's kingdom also got terrified. They thought this law would be disastrous and they would have to run away somewhere to make their living, probably to America!

Then came the lawyers' group. They thought to themselves, 'This law is unfair. We always make a living by proving black is white and white is black. That is why people come to us'. So the lawyers too were in trouble.

Then the priests were also in trouble.

So every community was in great trouble because of this law. They all thought, 'Now who will bell the cat and save us from this law?'

Then they caught hold of Birbal, who was a wise man and also a court jester. He was very dear to the emperor. Birbal heard all their troubles.

So one day, Birbal was walking into the king's inner chamber and the guards stopped him. They asked him, 'Where are you going?'

He replied, 'I am going to get myself hanged', which was obviously not true.

This news soon reached the emperor. Birbal had indeed lied by saying that he was going into the king's chamber to get hanged. But if they hanged him now, then what he had said would have been true, and by hanging him, they would have actually punished an innocent guy. In those days, if a king punished an innocent person, then he too would have to suffer the punishment as well. This was the rule in those days. It was the biggest crime.

Now, if the king allowed him to go free without any punishment, then it would be breaking his own law. And if he punished him, he would be breaking another law. So the emperor was in a state of confusion. He called all his scholars and debated this.

'What do we do about Birbal in this case?' The emperor asked them.

'Birbal had indeed lied in this case. So do you punish him or not?'

Then Birbal came and said, 'See, truth is not what is expressed or what is said. Truth is what is. And to know what is, is a different thing altogether'.

So they removed the law and everyone lived happily thereafter. That is the end of the story.

Learning: *a victim can never correct a culprit. And if you wish to correct somebody or teach them a lesson, you need to have that magnanimity of a teacher. You have to have compassion, a broad vision and equanimity within you. Three things are essential, magnanimity, equanimity, and skill. Then you can digest their mistakes with ease.*

There is a couplet in Kannada which means 'Through words, fun and laughter happen, and it is through words that enmity can also happen'. So it is speech that creates conflict.

4. I will end with a small story.

A villager complained that he was having a head-ache, and so he asked his friend, 'What should I do?'

His friend told him, 'Just drink some alcohol.'

He was surprised. He said, 'If I drink alcohol, my headache will go?'

His friend said, 'Why will it not go? My land went, my job went, and my wife's jewelry has also gone. Everything has gone with alcohol, a headache is no big deal!'

5. *we should give miracles a chance to happen in life*: You have heard of many *Guru stories*, isn't it? So now I am going to tell you a *Devotee story*.

In the last week of November, I was touring in some of the remote places in the state of Maharashtra. Some villages and districts that I have never been to. There were a lot of people who came to meet me.

In one village, I told my secretary, 'Three people have lost their mobiles and they are very poor people. So put three new cell phones in my bag.'

When I went there, there were 2,000 to 2,500 volunteers and a crowd of around 200,000 people.

In the volunteers meet after the program, I said, 'Three of you lost your mobile phones. I know about it. Those of you who have lost your mobile phones, please stand up', and only three people stood up.

There was a lady who had stood up, and I told her, 'Look, you were crying in front of my picture last Thursday. You did not know

what to do, how to face your family because an expensive mobile phone was lost, which must have been worth two to three months of earnings. Here, take a new one.'

When I was doing this, one boy from the group came up to me and he shared his story. He was in an advanced course and his wife was at home, and he had to talk to her. There was no battery on his phone and he had forgotten the charger at home. So he put the phone in front of my picture and asked, 'Gurudev, let the phone be charged.'

The next morning, when he woke up, the phone was fully charged.

This boy showed me his phone and said, 'Look, for one and a half years I have thrown away my charger, and now I only keep my phone in front of your picture and it gets charged.'

He threw his charger away!

I said, 'This is really something. Even I need a charger for my phone, and my devotee charges his phone by keeping it in front of my picture.'

**See how powerful devotees can be.**

I thought this is a very exciting story. So I came back to Bangalore and there were about 150 people from Russia, Poland and all over Europe, and I shared this story with them, 'Look I can't charge my phone without a charger and see this devotee threw away his charger and he is charging his phone every day keeping it in front of my picture.'

So the 150 people there said, 'Yes, it happens for us also.'

My saying this did not surprise them at all.

One Russian said, 'It happened to me also. One day, I too put my phone and prayed that it should get charged, and it indeed did get charged!'

Devotees from Poland and Scandinavia also shared the same experiences.

Another person shared their experience and said, 'My car ran out of petrol and the fuel marker had come to zero showing me that the tank was empty. But I kept driving, and drove 117 kilometers on an empty tank.'

How is it possible? This seems to break all apparent laws of nature.

I tell you, **we should give miracles a chance to happen in life.** Nobody's life is devoid of miracles. Only we don't believe in them.

**All the cultures and philosophy in this world are based on miracles. In fact they thrive on miracles.**

Just remove all the miracles from the Bible and you will feel as if the Bible does not exist.

Similarly, if you take any scripture in the world, it is full of miracles. **But we think miracles are a thing of the past and not of the present. I tell you, it can happen even today, in the present.**

Once, I was at Boston airport and a devotee bought food for me, and for the four others who were travelling with me. Do you know how many people were with me? A large number of around 60 to 70 people, and the food which was meant for four people was shared between 60 people. Everybody ate food.

It makes you wonder - *how is this possible?!*

**There is a scientific explanation for this also.**

The whole world is nothing but vibrations; everything is vibrations. Matter is nothing but vibrations. Matter and energy are the same, they are just vibrations.

See, when you go near an automatic glass door, immediately the glass door opens.

Just imagine if this was a phenomenon that would have happened 100 to 200 years ago. People at that time would have gone crazy. They would wonder as to how this is happening. You simply go and the door opens.

Today, we know that this is because of bio energy. There is energy emitting from our body.

Do you know, there are locks that can be opened only by one person.

You must have heard of biometric locks. If it is your energy that is embedded in that lock, then nobody else can open it. Only when you touch it, will it open.

**That means that everyone is emitting energy.**

When you are in a state of love and devotion, your energy is so strong, so big, that when you want a cell phone to get charged, it simply gets charged.

It is just like an intense energy of the biometric lock. When you move near the door, the door opens because of your energy is caught by that little box above the door.

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There is a story in the *Ramayana*.

The monkeys in Lord Rama's army wanted to make a bridge between India and Sri Lanka and all the troops were preparing for it. So what they did is, they would write '*Sri Ram*' on every stone and then put the stone in the water, and the stone would float. Now, when Lord Rama himself arrived, he was surprised to see that all these people were writing his name on these stones and putting them into the water, and they were floating. So he wanted to try whether he can do it. So, he took a stone and wrote '*Sri Ram*' on it, and put it in the water, but that stone sank, it did not float.

So the devotees told him, 'You do not know what devotion is. You cannot do what we can do.'

So it is said that devotees are one step higher, and they have huge power.

***Love is the most powerful thing on the planet. Do not let anybody, any situation, any cause, any reason destroy that.***

Our love is so fragile and we make it so vulnerable that simply by listening to some people's negative talks, their negativity gets into our head and we start destroying our own high energy.

Now that does not mean you have to be blind. We need to be intellectually sharp and logically correct, and at the same time, maintain that beautiful gift that one gets, called love. This we need to protect, just like how you protect a child.

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