



GANDHI: ‘I am not afraid of anybody except God’

If I was in the place of Mahatma Gandhi I could say, "I can be afraid of everybody but I cannot be afraid of God" -- because to be afraid of God destroys the whole basis of being religious. But fear has been the base of all the religions of prayer.

In India Mahatma Gandhi used to pray every morning, every evening, and after prayer he would give a small speech. One of his sons was my friend. Gandhi had died; Ramdas, who was taking care of the ashram where Gandhi used to live, became interested in me. He was a man of really very sharp intelligence. He became interested in me because I started criticising Gandhi. And it was very strange that all the Gandhians became my enemies and Gandhi's own son became my friend. He invited me to be with him. He said one thing to me, "When I heard about your statement in the newspapers, I read it, that Gandhi after every prayer meeting used to say, 'I am not afraid of anybody except God,' and we have been listening to this from our very childhood," Ramdas told me, "But we had never thought about it. And when you criticised it we realised that to be afraid of God simply means your religiousness is out of fear -- it is not out of love."

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The Talmud declaration of God that "I am terrible" is just to help you to pray, not to go astray, to obey, not to be a rebel. And Jesus was not a rebel, as many understand him to be. He was born a Jew, he lived as a Jew, he died as a Jew. In fact, he had never heard the word 'Christian'. He had never known that he would be known to the world as Jesus Christ.

'Christ' is from the Greek, and he did not even know Hebrew. He used only his own local language, Aramaic. He was uneducated. Hebrew was of the educated people, scholarly people -- rabbis. He used

only the local villagers' language, Aramaic.

In those forty days he was praying. And what can you pray for? Whenever you pray you are always begging; prayer is, deep down, begging. On the one hand it is begging for something, on the other hand it is impressing God that you are great, you are the greatest of the great.

On the cross Jesus was waiting just as everybody else was waiting, expecting that some miracle was going to happen. Nothing happened. And after a few hours, when nothing happened, he looked up many times into the sky, hoping that angels would appear with their harps playing on the white clouds. Not even a white cloud appeared. Finally he had a breakdown and he shouted at God, "Have you forsaken me?"

Naturally a man who had lived his whole life fanatically with belief, who had risked his life, and was hanging on the cross -- and God is absolutely absent -- it is natural that he should ask "Have you forsaken me?" A doubt entered his mind. Doubt was always there, hidden behind a belief system.

If he had been a meditator, things would have been totally different. He would not have declared that he was the only begotten son of God. He would not have declared that he is the messiah the Jews have been awaiting for centuries. He would not have declared that he had come to redeem humanity, that he was a saviour. These are impossible statements from a man of meditation.

A man of meditation knows there is no God. He knows there is godliness, a quality but not a person; not like a flower but like a fragrance. And godliness is all over, you just have to be alert and awakened at the centre of your being.

And there is no question of the only begotten son, and the meditator knows that nobody can save you except yourself because nobody can enter into your

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centre. That is your privilege and your privacy. You can be killed, but nobody can touch your innermost being, for good or for bad.

A meditator cannot say, "I can save you," or "I can save the whole humanity," or "I am the saviour."

A meditator cannot say, "I am a messiah, a messenger" because there is no God who is sending messiahs and messengers.

A meditator can do only one thing. He can make himself available to you with all his joy, with all his grace, with all his dance, with all his beauty. He can remind you in a certain way that the same reality lies asleep within you. He can only become a pointer. He can show the finger pointing to the moon, he cannot take you to the moon.

If Jesus had meditated, there would have been no crucifixion, and without crucifixion the world would have been saved from Christianity.

That's why I say that he did not meditate and he has left the world in the hands of Christians who have committed every crime against humanity and who are still committing every crime against humanity.

Meditation cannot be violent.

Even to convince you is not possible for the meditator. He can only communicate. He can only commune with you in a deep friendship and love, "I have found something. Perhaps you can find it too. Just look within." He can tell you how he has looked within himself and how he has found the very source of life. But he is not a prophet. He does not claim any speciality, he does not claim that he is higher than you. He simply says he is as ordinary as you are, with just a slight difference -- that he has opened his eyes and you are still snoring.

-Osho, *The Transmission of the Lamp* # 46

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