

Sounds of Love Series

Spiritual Evolution

I will now speak to you about spiritual evolution. Everything seems to be evolving in this universe. There is evolution of the planets, the stars, the moons, the whole cosmos. There is evolution of the universe. There is evolution of the species upon this planet Earth. There is evolution of societies, evolution of civilization.

It seems that whenever change takes place, it takes place in an evolving fashion as if we are moving upwards into a more perfect form of whatever we have. If this is true that everything in this universe is evolving into a better and better form, into a higher and higher form, into a more perfect form, would it not be impossible, would it not be possible that even the spirituality that we see is evolving in the same way? It seems that spirituality is also evolving the same way like other things are evolving in this universe.

Look at the history of spiritual thought, spiritual culture, spiritual movements and we find that the general level of enlightenment about spiritual subjects has been increasing on this planet Earth in the past several thousand years. Evolution does not mean that every day we know more about spirituality than we did in the past year. Maybe there are some ups and downs in this spiritual evolution.

Maybe in the course of several centuries we have come to pass, come to a stage now when we can say the general level of awareness about spirituality has increased. There might be certain periods when we can have dips and rises like ... we believe three thousand years ago there was lot of spiritual knowledge at the same time when there was lot of civilization, lot of technology which has become extinct. As if there is a cycle which moves in a sine curve, goes up and down, up and down and this cycle of change that is taking place which has the ups and the downs is not a straight cycle, but a slanted one, so that every time when the ups and downs take place, the up is higher than the previous up and the down is higher than the previous down, which shows that there is an evolution even though the evolution is taking place in ups and downs.

If you carefully look at the spiritual history of man, you find the same kind of up and down in spiritual evolution and the same kind of a sustained general higher level of spiritual awareness and knowledge over the past several centuries. We do not have all the record of how much has happened in the past ten centuries or twenty centuries or thirty centuries or hundred centuries. But we do know that there have been growths and movements to an evolution of spiritual knowledge.

Spiritual awareness, as we know it today, is a very distinct phenomena, which affects all people on this Earth. Spiritual awareness, as it has evolved up to this point, has a strange combination of something coming from the East and merging with something that was happening in the West. It looks like we are standing at the crossroads of spiritual evolution.

It looks like if the great philosophers, Socrates, Confucius, Buddha, when they came and gave their teachings, they set in motion a certain evolutionary process which has now come to a head and is affecting people on this Earth in a manner which it has not affected so far.

What is the difference in what is happening now and what has happened in the past centuries? We find that in the past spiritual evolution went along with other evolution of social and civilizing systems. Now we find that

there was a little gap between the pace of evolution. Technology overran, technology went beyond the social growth of human beings with the result man had to fight with his own technology, had to curb the movement of technology. Otherwise, man could destroy himself.

We reached a place in technological evolution where we could have finished ourselves. In order to slow that movement, and to come up, we found that the civilizing evolution was not enough. The mental evolution, the evolution of reason and thought, was not enough to meet the challenge posed by new evolution in technology and we had to again bring back spiritual evolution which was moving independently and put them together.

The spiritual intervention in man's affairs so far as he's concerned in technology was never so evident as it is today. This is because we have reached a point which could become a point of no return. If we destroy ourselves, destroy the planet ... we have nuclear bombardment and nuclear explosions just ripping our planet apart ... what is left of evolution? That would be the end of evolution. We will have to move to some other planet and start a new series of evolutionary processes again.

Therefore, when we want to save ourselves from the same process of technological and mental and intellectual evolution, we have had to now rely upon an independent branch that was going on called spiritual evolution. Spiritual enlightenment has come to human beings again and again. In fact, it is claimed that this Earth has never been without a spiritual leader of the highest eminence, a son of God, who spoke the truth and who gave us a message of how we can find our own truth, find our own spirituality, find our own soul.

When these leaders of spirituality came at various points in the evolution of spirituality generally amongst people, they referred to the state of spirituality in which we were placed, used the vocabulary and language of those times, used the concepts and dilemmas of that time, used the culture of that time, and then taught the nature of real access to spirituality within.

One of the most profound impacts of spiritual knowledge upon human beings has been that it has led to man trying to find peace and tranquility rather than war and violence. The more man has relied upon mind and mental faculties in the human being, the more he has been confined to violence and war. The less he has confined himself to the mind, the more he has been at one with peace and tranquility.

The human soul, the spirit of man, from which originate love, intuition, beauty, joy, and happiness, is basically peaceful. It is tranquil, calm, contented. When we are aware of our own soul, when we are aware of our spiritual truth, our spiritual origin, we are at peace with ourselves and at peace with others. It is a tranquil phenomena, a phenomena of happiness. It is not a violent phenomena. It is not a phenomena of tensions.

But when we are not at peace with ourselves, when we do not know who we are, and we are constantly engaged in mental struggles and mental battles, then we forget this peace and we get back into violence, struggle, trampling over others, rat race, trying to conquer everything. Even in civilizations as we see them today, you can see this distinction. Look at the Western civilization in which technology has grown much faster than the spiritual evolution. If an American or an English or a European climber went to Mount Everest on the Himalayas and climbed on top, what would he say? He'd say, "I have conquered the highest peak in the world." Mark the word 'conquered' as if it was an enemy to be defeated. This attitude of violence comes automatically when we rely upon high technology and high mental development ignoring spirituality.

But, then, what would a Buddhist from Tibet say if he climbed the same mountain peak? He would say he has "kissed the high heavens with the bliss of achievement being on Mount Everest, embraced by Mount Everest in

the clouds on top of that hill.” He was able to kiss the heavens. He's saying the same thing but he's expressing contentment, expressing joy, happiness, union, love as a result of that achievement. Why? Because in his case, the technological growth has not been as much as the growth in spirituality. The spiritual evolution has helped him to have that attitude.

What about the humanity at large? What about mankind at large? What is the global picture of spiritual evolution? Now we find that the global picture is very interesting. If we look at the globe of this Earth, we find all these so-called God-men, all these sons of God, all these Masters, all these spiritual leaders who spoke the truth and gave us a message about our own spiritual reality within, they were born, spoke, and taught in only a certain part of the globe which we now call the Eastern, the Far Eastern, and the Mid-West and the Mid-Eastern part of the globe. They did not come to this West side at all. They did not come in United States or North America or South America.

You look at the history available to us for the last ten thousand years. How come, were they partial to this universe, to this globe, to this Earth planet that they should only come on one side? What is the reason when we look at the history of spiritual evolution that most of them should have been on one side of the Earth?

It appears that Earth itself has a personality. It looks like the planets have a personality and that for centuries this planet Earth has had its face on the Eastern side. That was where the eyes and the mouth and the forehead of the Earth has been. You will notice if that is the form of the Earth most of these people that we speak of as spiritual leaders came from that area, taught from that area and created a spiritual evolution that went beyond the technological and social evolution.

The other side of the Earth was like the back of the personality of the Earth, fighting with its back to the wall, fighting for economic growth, fighting for technology, fighting for social values, fighting for external values and ignoring spirituality. What happened? We found affluence, technology, all this on the other side of the world. So the West began to develop a special characteristic of affluence in material wealth, in technology, in ideas that led to greater creature comforts. The East, on the other hand, specialized in greater evolution of spiritual values of what is more conducive to peace in the mind and peace upon Earth and therefore, became the leader in the spiritual field.

Today, a strange situation has happened. Technology has taken us to a level where it can be destructive, where it can destroy ourselves. It can be suicidal. The social sciences have not developed enough. Man's mind is still caught up in the great dilemma of how to meet the challenges of doubt and fear that mind itself generates and in order to overcome that doubt and fear, man tries to be aggressive, to beat the enemy before the enemy can beat you. This seems to be the philosophy that pervades all societies, all evolutionary processes in which the mind predominates. Beat the other guy before he can beat you. This violent system is inborn in the mental process. When we use the mind excessively, it must happen inevitably.

If we use the soul, peace, oneness, we are originating from the same single source of consciousness. When that spiritual value comes up, it is a complete negation of violence; it leads to peace, union, harmony, oneness. Therefore, the Eastern spiritual evolution is more needed today in the Western technological growth than ever before and it is being pulled out from there.

I was taught some of these truths by a great Master, Whom I call the Great Master and that Great Master predicted half a century ago that this shift in the spiritual axis will take place upon the Earth for precisely these reasons. When technology will reach a level that the affluence generated in material wealth for the human

beings does not give them real happiness, real peace, they will try and turn to something that is different.

The spiritual wealth that the spiritual evolution has given to people in the Eastern societies is more useful to the Westerners today than it was to the East. The East was still hungry for material growth. They were still able to figure out if we have God's blessings, we can also make more money. If we have God's blessings we'll get more pure water to drink without having to walk three miles to get water. They still could associate some of the material gifts of God with God's grace. They could not figure out that you could have so much of good drinking water, you could have so much of money, so much of bank balance, so many of automobiles and television sets, that you will say, "These are turning me crazy! Let me find something better than that."

This happened in the West. When affluence reached its peak and when affluence created its own problems, when affluence did not solve the problem of violence and unhappiness in the mind, when affluence did not solve the problem of doubt and fear in the mind, the West had to turn to spirituality. Therefore, it began to import spirituality from the East and began to produce a genre of spirituality of its own. The spirituality that it brought from the East looked very odd. People thought 'they were cults', 'they were Eastern philosophies', 'these are the old gurus of voodoo style'.

They did not recognize that behind this facade of the gurudom, that behind the facade of yogis and swamis and sadhus, behind that lay the real spiritual evolution that had taken place upon Earth in the Eastern hemisphere and that was a reliance upon the soul of a human being rather than the mind of a human being.

The meditational process which was practiced for centuries in the East brought to the people a knowledge of their own self, a knowledge of the soul which was not merely a knowledge of their mind and the intellectual process. And this knowledge of the soul is what distinguishes spiritual evolution upon this Earth. Wherever people have been spiritually evolved, they have had greater awareness and more knowledge of their own soul, of their own spirit and how consciousness operates without getting into doubt, fear, dilemma.

When we rely heavily on mind and intellectual processes like reason and logic, we are caught in this dilemma, caught in these doubts and fears. When we rely on our soul, on our own self, we free ourselves from these doubts. We radiate and receive love. We get knowledge intuitively and we look at the beauty and joy of this creation as well as of the Creator within.

What is the state of spiritual evolution today on this planet Earth? It is the best time to have a look at how the spiritual evolution has fulfilled its purpose of now moving over the total globe. Having grown in the East, it is coming to the West. Having seen its intermingling with desire for affluence, with the distinction from affluence which could not produce the same kind of happiness. What has happened? The two have merged. The whole globe can now benefit from the present state of spiritual evolution on this planet Earth.

Today we find that the East and West have met as never before. Today we find the Eastern values of spirituality can be applied to the technological and material values which are bothering mankind on the West with greater benefits than ever before. More and more people are now looking for teachings of the East and seeing how they are relevant to the problems of the West.

The problems of the West arise from the mind, from intellect, logic, reason, technology; technology based largely upon these factors. The problems are of violence. The problems are created by a system which we call analysis. When the mind is put to use to solve the problems of mankind, it uses basically the analytical tool; analyze. How do you analyze? Break into pieces. Do you know there is no way of analyzing something except

by breaking it into pieces? Do you know if a problem is set before you and you are asked to analyze that problem, what you will do? Take different pieces aside. There is no way to have a look at a problem non-analytically which can break things.

If you take a non-analytical view, which is called the synthesis view, the view in which you can take a total view. That is only possible if you are not employing mind, logic, analysis. The human soul is capable of giving you a total view of a problem. The human soul, the spiritual development, spiritual consciousness is capable of looking at a problem in its totality, in its oneness, in its integrity and finding a solution.

But the mind is not capable of doing that. The mind will go into each part of it, break it up and say, “Now this part correlates with this part in this way.” That is how the cause and effect of syllogism applied in analysis works through the mental process. Every time the mind has been used to solve a problem, it has led to violence and aggression and fear and doubt.

Look at the history of human beings. Look at individual histories. Look at our own life. Look at how we tried to solve problems. When we used too much thinking, used too much of our mind and intellect, what happened? We tried to analyze, think, look at all the pieces and got more confused, tried to see what we could do with it. Ultimately, landed up in a state of fear and doubt and violence and aggression because of this use of the mind.

Not so with the soul. Not so with the spirit. If we look at a problem spiritually speaking, if we look at a spiritual solution to a problem, any problem, worldly problem, problem of affluence, problem of seeking, problem of life, what is the spiritual way of looking at a problem? Look at the totality of that problem. Look where it fits in to the whole scheme of things. Look at the whole of creation in its totality. See where it fits. See the insignificance of what you're looking at in its totality. This spiritual viewpoint is only made available when there is enough spiritual evolution and growth.

Today this spiritual point of view is being imbibed by the West because the other system has failed. They have seen that either you destroy yourself or turn spiritual. The choice has become simple. Either we destroy ourselves upon this planet Earth or we turn spiritual. There is no other choice. Spiritual evolution has brought us to this fore, brought us straight to this question, “Are you going to use the highest human values, the highest spiritual values, to control all this monster called technology and high intellect? Are you going to control it through spirituality and save yourself or are you going to let these monsters overrun you and destroy you in the process?”

Spirituality, alone, can save mankind at this time. But it looks like the Creator, in His original plan, through which this world came into being, through which this creation came up as we see it today, had this plan set itself that spiritual evolution will come to the fore, to the head, become available to mankind when it needs it most. Today mankind needs this spiritual evolution more than ever before.

Therefore, the spiritual ideas can be used by mankind in order to control the great destructive power of technology and intellect. There is resistance in human beings to accept the spiritual force but gradually people are changing. I travel around the world and I find in every country there's a general awareness of the need for spirituality, of the need to control our unbridled technology, intellectual trampling upon others, aggression, that we need to control all these and there is no answer available except spirituality.

Therefore, people are turning spiritual by themselves. What can spirituality do to control these monsters?

Spirituality does not go and stop the bombs from falling. Spirituality is not miracle-making so that the shuttle should fail and that other things should happen in such a way that we have to stop. Spirituality changes the awareness of human beings. Spirituality makes a change in the attitude of human beings. Spirituality makes us look at things differently. Spirituality gives us a sense of certainty of the purpose of life; certainty about the purpose of our existence on this Earth.

Spirituality is performing a profound function, a function of altering man's consciousness, man's whole experience of this universe. Spirituality is not merely performing miracles to stop man from his own destructive course. Spirituality is not changing the bombs, not changing the war planes, not changing the instruments of armor and warfare, it is changing the minds of human beings. It is changing human beings themselves.

Spirituality is the hope we have in which we can expect that the change will take place in such a way that we change from within, not from outside. Spirituality can give us the opportunity of looking at this universe as an opportunity, as an endowment, as a gift which the Lord has given us. We have reached that point when we can see the beauty of nature.

In this country, the United States, I find such a large number of people are today craving for that kind of knowledge, which gives them a total view, a view of oneness, a view of wholeness. People are calling forth for peace and harmony in the name of these qualities of human beings; these qualities of the human soul; these qualities of the spiritual nature of a human being. They're expecting that the new leadership will evolve in these areas.

We have given far too much importance to political leadership. We have given far too much importance to ritualistic, religious leadership. We have given far too much importance to leadership in the economic area, in material areas. The time has come when we should be able to give importance to the spiritual leaders. And more and more spiritual leaders are evolving. There is more intermingling of spiritual leaders between the East and West than ever before. There is more understanding of the point of view of each now than ever before.

I have never seen people understand the Eastern concepts so well in the West as now. Nor have I seen the predicament of the West being appreciated so much in the East than now. There are in the East a large number of new developing countries. They are looking at the experience of the West and harkening to themselves, "Let us not repeat the same mistakes. We can make the same mistakes and lead to self destruction."

So this kind of situation which can be seen now is the real fruit of spiritual development and spiritual evolution. Spiritual evolution on this Earth has come to a stage where the whole globe can take advantage of it; turn man into not a monster of aggression and war, but an instrument of peace and harmony upon Earth.

Thank you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XdCTnDlzo>

Published by ISHA. All rights reserved. This English transcript of a YouTube talk by Ishwar C. Puri is published under a CC BY-NC-SA license, which means that you can copy, redistribute, remix, and freely distribute sections of the transcript, provided that any derivative works or new resulting creations are not used for any commercial purpose and as long as you give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. License details: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/ Copyright 2019. Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA).