

Finding Your Soul Companion

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Our subject this morning: "Finding Your Soul Companion," Finding Your Soul Companion.

This can be divided into two stages, so to speak. First, before marriage, and then, action after marriage. They both are important, because, if you get started in the right way, so to speak, with the ideal, foremost in your mind, which should be with two people that are to be married, then the outcome can be only one way – for the best.

But first, let us understand the purpose of marriage. In just a word, or two, the purpose of marriage is, as you know, to perpetuate the species, and to keep this Cosmic Dream running. That is, if it were not for that, of course, the Dream would stop, it would not be perpetuated, and the Lord wouldn't have His fun, and we wouldn't have our misery. So let us, let us fool Him and join Him, and His State of Consciousness, wherein He produces this Dream. That's the only way to win. And finding our Soul Companion, we can find that State of Consciousness in a much easier way, especially if it is for us to be married.

Now, the second purpose of marriage is to purify, to elevate, and to take two people back to God. That's the real purpose of marriage, nothing else. And in His Unity of Consciousness, there will be no parting. Understand that.

There's the purpose of marriage, simply stated. To perpetuate the species – to keep the Dream running – but, on the other side, the spiritual side, so to speak, to purify, to elevate, to take two souls back to God in a conscious way. And when marriage is understood in that light, it can be the most wonderful thing. When it is not understood in that light, it can be just the opposite.

A word or two from one of Master's writings points this out clearly. From his little book, *The Master Says*, "Two persons that unite their lives, who help each other toward Divine Realization, are founding their marriage on the right basis – unconditional friendship. Woman is motivated primarily by feeling, and man by reason. Marriage is meant to balance these two things."

Now marriage wholly on the physical plane can lead to only one ending; there's only one result – ill health, distrust, and unhappiness. Realize that, if you keep your marriage wholly on the physical plane, that's what will come, because things of matter pass away. They have a beginning, they must have an ending, and when that part of it ends, there's nothing left. Just realize that. It is not necessary to do that at all. That's only one aspect of it, but realize what the result will be - ill health, distrust, and unhappiness. Who wants that? No one wants that, in their right mind.

But, on the other hand, marriage kept on the spiritual plane, supported by sincere love, and service, will take both to God. Will take both back to Him from whence they have come. And they will there feel His Peace and Bliss – never to part again, because we are not only physical beings, but we are spiritual beings. And, if we keep our marriage balanced between the physical and spiritual plane, where it belongs, then the result is Peace and Bliss in the Great Omniscient Consciousness of God. Both are lifted. Both are united in that Unity of Consciousness where there is no parting. Let us understand that. If we do that, if we keep our marriage on the spiritual plane, then the ship of matrimony will safely cross the sea of marriage, or rather the ship of marriage will safely cross the sea of matrimony, and reach the shores of Eternal Bliss, and Peace in God's Presence.

This is possible. This can be done, in spite of the papers which we read. It can be done. I know many, many perfectly mated couples, and they're safely steering their boat across the ocean to reach the Shores of God's Infinite Bliss, because isn't He in each one of us? Isn't He in the husband? Isn't He in the wife? How did we have one another, except for Him? Let us realize that simple thing. Get down to earth. Cut out acting all the time, and be normal human beings, and give God the credit. It will take away this false sense of marriage, which is not good. God is in each one of us, and no matter what your mate is, realize God's Omniscience is in him, or in her.

Master gives a wonderful illustration of how two people should act toward one another, in his Autobiography [of a Yogi], where we read as follows – showing the relationship of his parents, the parents of the Founder of our work, Paramhansa Yogananda. These are most beautiful words; I thought I'd give them to you. "As a gesture of respect for Father in the afternoons, Mother would dress us children carefully to welcome him home from the office." What a wonderful gesture. How different from one case that comes to my mind.

These two people. . .well. . .they didn't feel that way toward one another – I can tell you that. And so, I was asked to see what I could do with the situation. But it didn't look very hopeful. But it came out

pretty well, and they went back together, and lived, not wholly happily ever afterward, but they lived afterward.

So this particular case, they were having a little trouble. So I went to see the lady, and I said, "Don't you, don't you wait for your husband to come home? Aren't you anxious to see him, and hope that he will come and don't you have things ready for him?" She says, "No." She says, "When I hear the automobile start up the hill," she says, "I get all jittery, and when he comes up the back stairs, and comes into the kitchen," she says, "I could take the chair, and smash it over his head."

And I said to myself, "That's quite different than my case." So I felt pretty good. But that shows the difference. But after explaining a little bit, and things were better, and they did get along much better. But that's an extreme case. But, nevertheless, there should be that wonderful feeling as a child of God in the mate. That should come out, and that should motivate our action.

Another little story – about these two fellows were talking about marriage. . . evidently things hadn't been going too well. . .so, they said, "Bill, Bill, you've, you've been on the sea of matrimony for quite awhile, how do you, how do you figure it all out?" Well, Bill thought a little bit, was quiet, suddenly he said, "Well," he says, "sometimes I wished I'd missed the boat." So. . .but in matrimony we make too much of it.

I read in the paper about this one going to be married, and that one gonna be married, and the guests that are coming, and all the things they're gonna do, and sometimes it doesn't come out well at all. Sometimes this one won't come, and somebody does something wrong, and we make a lot of fuss about a perfectly natural thing.

Like the not-too-intelligent young man who had to jump over a stream. And so, he figured that. . .this was quite a wide stream. . .so he figured to jump over a wide stream you have to get a. . .quite a running start. So he went back a half mile to start. And he came tearing along, running and puffing, and by the time he got to the stream he was all done up, and he fell in. So, so with these things of life. I could just see him tearing along. . .and man. . .expending all his energy getting prepared to be married, and then having it flop. Lots of 'em do flop.

Well, so much for that side of it. But, the bond of successful marriage, let us understand, must not be human love. It must be the Unconditional Divine Love of God. That's the only requisite. And it's just as

easy to do it that way, if you start it that way, because human love passes away. And what will happen? Both will lose one another. There's no question, because that which has a beginning must have an ending. And human love has a beginning, because it is attached to the body. But when the basis of marriage, the underlying matrix, is Divine Love, the Unconditional Love of the One Father, the marriage cannot help but succeed. So that's the thing we must realize. We will never, we will never lose one another.

Now those of you who are married, just married, or gonna be married, realize that one thing – that unless you put your marriage on the basis of Unconditional Divine Love, you're gonna lose one another. You cannot help it. You might say, “Well, we won't think of that.” It will come. Every human body passes away. But when that marriage is based on God's Great Love in the heart of your mate, you will not lose one another, because you will be United in His Great Divine Love, and you will know that your mate is safe and secure in His Omnipresence.

That's the greatest thing. If that could only somehow be gotten across to people. It is not difficult. It seems difficult because the Devil says, “Oh, no. Keep it on the physical plane.” He wants to keep his kingdom going. But, if you meditate regularly, give a little time to God, and make the connection with God, the conscious contact with God, then your marriage must succeed, because, if you take God with you in any action, that action must be right, and more especially, perhaps, in marriage.

To one thing comes to my mind, for those who are married, or going to be married, is, watch out for one thing: it is the fear which edges into the heart of your mate. Jealousy you can call it. But jealousy comes because of fear. Fear of what? That they're gonna lose the other one. Understand that. In whatever activity of life you find yourself – even in the religious activity – do not leave the mate behind. Even though perhaps your mate will not come along with you, let your mate know that you are United in the Love of God, and you're going to stay with him, or her, until the end. And even then, if the mate does not come along, there'll be perfect understanding. No obstruction. And you can never tell but what it is the Divine Will that you save the soul of your mate. Understand that.

Watch out for fear. I've seen so many people where the other one fears they're gonna be left behind, in any activity. Why should you leave them behind? God has brought you together in a Sacred Communion. Let the mate know that you are never gonna leave her, or him, and you'll find many of your difficulties will pass away. That fear is a terrible thing, because deep in the heart of everybody is the Omniscience of God that feels for the other one, and doesn't want to be left behind. Understand that one thing. It'll save you much trouble.

Now marriage is not. . . marriage is not the sole purpose of life. The sole purpose of life is to find God. That's what we're here for. We're here to find Him, and, if you make that your sole purpose, then, whether it is in the cards, so to speak, for you to be married, or not, will not make so much difference. Perhaps, it is for you to be successfully married. Perhaps, it isn't. But don't you wanna do what God wants you to do? Do not I wanna do what God wants me to do in spite of what comes? Certainly we do.

And, if we get that attitude in the beginning, if we take that attitude in the beginning, and hold to it, realize our first purpose in life is to know God, feeling, having contact with Him – “Here I am Father, I want You. If You want me to be married, I want to be married. If You don't, I don't want to be married” – it will come out right. You will never lose. And unless you make that contact with God, make that paramount in your life, whether you like it, or not, that's what we're here for, as all the saints say – to return home to God, to go back home to God in a conscious way.

And so, personally, I would rather leave the consummation of my marriage in the Hands of God. Make the contact with Him, ask Him to lead me in the right way, and then with full faith go ahead. I don't want to be married. . . I wouldn't want to be married, if it wasn't coming out right; would you? If you take God with you, it's got to come out right. It's got to come out right, because He's the Sole Doer. He's in the heart of each and every one of us. It must come out right. Let us take God with us in every action.

And so, it seems to me that this question of this divorce rate in America, which is so high, has come about because people do not heed the things of which we have just been talking. They have not made the marriage on the indissoluble bond of Divine Love. Great Gandhi said about his mate, he said, "I don't know," he said, "but that woman influences me more than any other woman in the world." "I don't know why," he said, "no doubt she has more faults than I can see, but," he says, "there's an indissoluble bond between us." That's the greatest thing, isn't it?

And what's that indissoluble bond? The Great Love of the One Father. Now that can be between any two souls. It can between. . . be between the guru and his disciple. It can between. . . be between husband and wife. But that indissoluble bond must be there in any relationship – more especially in a relationship of marriage.

And so we have the great example of Lahiri Mahasaya, who was a householder, but look at the heights to which he reached. He was a householder. He was married, and had two children. He lived an exemplary life; tended to his duties; worked for the British government; and yet, in the silence of his own privacy he practiced Kriya yoga, and he attained the Freedom of God's Omniscient Consciousness,

even while being married, and carrying out his marital duties. That's why he is such a great saint. He was a householder, like most of us here, I believe. He said, "Be in the world, but not of it." He showed that man and woman could live together, be in the world, but not of it – like the lotus leaf in the pond, not attached at all. And in the silence of his little room, he practiced Kriya yoga, and he said, "That is the royal road of Self-Realization." To live, to be dependent on no one, to earn your living, but in your own secrecy, practice contact with God – practice communion with God by right meditation and prayer – that's Self-Realization. That's Self-Realization with dignity, becoming children of God.

And now one or two other things, and then we're through. Those who are not married, of course, unmarried people, should seek those of mutual activities wherein Divine Love is cultured, rather than human love and attachment to worldly things. That is, they should have their activities with nature, so to speak – in the mountains; in the seashore – doing those things whereby they are taken away from the artificiality of worldly living. I'm sure we all agree they should keep away from the movies, the dance halls, and the nightclubs. I haven't seen anything good come out of them yet, have you? But I've seen people walking along the seashore, or taking trips together, talking about nature, where they have come out wonderfully well.

I think the answer is simple. Unmarried people do that. Keep your activities cemented by Divine Love, rather than human love and human activity. Of course, we have to be in the world, we have to live in it, but we can be above it. "Be in the world, but not of it," as the great Lahiri Mahasaya has shown.

And so, in conclusion, those who are already married, who, perhaps, question the finding of the Soul Companion – well, don't give up. There's nothing so bad

it couldn't be worse, or as the optimist said, he fell ten stories and each bar shouted, "All right so far."

So when you're married, how do you know? You say, "Oh, it can never be right." How do you know, husband, but God wants you to save your wife? And how do you know, wife, but God wants you to save your husband? Don't think this is fantasy. It is not. Look at the lives of some of the greatest saints. St. Paul, St. Anthony, Mary Magdalene, St. Augustine – their life, their lives were not anything to shout about, were they, on the good side. Read their lives. But look what they became. Look what they became. Why? Because they somehow got hold of the Omniscience of God. They somehow united their consciousness with the Presence of God within.

And so, each one of us, who are married, how do we know but it is our lot to save our mate? The same Omniscience is in your mate as in yourself. The same Omniscience was in, and is in those great saints of the world, St. Paul, and the ones I mentioned. The only thing is, it became dynamic to their consciousness.

And so realize, do not give up. Do not feel, just because it hasn't been successful so far, the Omniscience of God is in you, and in your mate, right now. Don't give up. Make the connection with God. Make contact with Him. Ask Him to come into the lives of both of you. And, if He comes in, as God is Supreme, all things must come out right, and you will find your Soul Companion – Yes – right in the mate you have now. Don't think you've gotta change it, 'cause the Omniscience is in each and every one of us, just the same. Realize that. Find your Soul Companion in the Omniscience of your mate. Having that, both will have all things, because God is the Supreme Mate. He is the Supreme One. He's in each and every one of us.