

“Be a Smile Millionaire”

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When I first met the Master in 1920, Christmas Eve, and he said to me, one of the first words were: "Will you always love me, Doctor, as I love you?" Well, those words were something different than I had been accustomed to hear, especially on perhaps the first visit to a person. But, when he said those words, it aroused something within me, and that something has been going ever since. And so, when he showed me things of the Spirit, which I was searching for, and which my Soul was crying for; when he showed those things to me, of course, I was very grateful.

I asked him what I could do, and he said, he said, "If after allowing me to discipline you, and practicing the technique, and Self-realization, if it helps you, will you help others?" And I said, "I certainly will." And so, it is with that spirit that I have carried on his work, as best I could, because he did so much for me. And, I know, that what he did for me, he can do for each and every one of you, who will be loyal to him, practice your technique, and allow the Omniscience of God, of which he was the voice, to work through you.

And so, because he asked me to do those things, I notice sometimes, Mr. Rosser mentions my name, it is for no other purpose that I allow it, except that perhaps I can help his work. And as he blessed me so much, and saved me from delusion, that's why I want to do all I can to further Master's work. That's the only reason that I allow Mr. Rosser to use my name. Just to help you, as the Master helped me, that's all.

Such gratitude comes from God. When you feel His Presence lift your Soul out of this delusion, then anything you can do is far above the little rewards of position, or the use of your name. So realize that. And, I know, you all feel the same, who have tasted the Presence of God through the efforts of the Master, who gave his life, as he said, "As a ransom for many." Let us do what he has done, to partly atone for the blessings, which we have received.

And it is with that spirit, that I come up here, once a month, because I feel here, tremendously, the presence of the Master's Love; and I know you all feel it, and that's what he wants. Love alone will save this world. Love alone will change the hearts of men; and love alone will bring lasting peace on earth. And so, if I can do a little, and I know you all feel the same way, let us do it.

The subject this morning: “Be a Smile Millionaire,” “Be a Smile Millionaire,” or “The Attitude Toward Life” – your attitude toward life.

A little poem comes to my mind. Perhaps some of you have heard it: “It’s easy to sing and shout,” and we should add “smile” in there, “when life goes along like a song; but the man worthwhile, is the man with a smile, when everything goes dead wrong.”

Now that seems a paradox. But you can smile, you can smile when everything is going against you, if, if you feel the Presence of God with you, because the Presence of God is far above this outward world we living. And even though things are going dead wrong against you, if you know He is with you, it makes no difference, because you are a success, you are far above the limitations of worldly existence. And so, that way, with those conditions, so to speak, you can really say, and mean, that little poem.

Another one I like to quote on this subject is about the optimist. You know, who fell ten stories, and at each window bar shouted, “All right so far.” So that’s real optimism, isn’t it? I thought that was quite something – “All right, so far.” Another little quip that came to my mind you might like is that: “Money talks, I don’t deny. I heard it once, and it said goodbye.”

And this subject, being a smile millionaire, we must smile at least in the beginning, even though in the end we’re not smiling. We must smile. And so, nobody likes the person who doesn’t have a smile. No one likes that person. I’m sure you all agree with that. They’re called by various names, those kind of people: “killjoys.” I was glad to hear Mr. Rosser mention it – “killjoys,” “wet blankets.” And coming up this morning in the car, I asked, “What, what, what are some of the other things they call people who don’t smile, and are not exuberant, and so forth.” And someone said, “Sad sacks.” So there you have it – “Sad sacks.”

But these things are very important, because these smiles, which we have, they come from the state of consciousness within. The state of consciousness is very important, as we will talk about a little later – state of consciousness. But most people are so busy with their own affairs; so busy with this fast pace of life; so busy minding their own affairs, and minding the affairs of others; that they do not have time even to smile. But it is quite necessary. And it can be done.

I was thinking about, of course, this is the subject this morning – is the attitude toward life, the attitude toward life. This man was so busy, that he was jumping around all the time, snapping his fingers, all the

time snapping his fingers. Not smiling – just snapping. And so, this friend of his said, “What’s the matter with you anyway?” “What is the matter?” “You got a psychosis?” He says, “No.” “Well why are you snapping your fingers all the time?” He says, “Oh,” he says, “It keeps the tigers away.” “Tigers away?” the fellow says, “there’s no tigers within eight or ten thousand miles of this place.” The other fellow says, “Effective isn’t it?” Now there you have something to smile about. We must somehow get that smile.

Somebody came back from the East not long ago, and they’d been having real cold weather there – real cold weather. And then there was this one little town in the Middle West – you’d call it, from the East – this little boy was skating with other children, and somehow they fell in. The ice gave way, and he was down in this water, hanging on. And one gentleman formed a human chain, and he reached in, and grabbed, and he got the little fellow, and pulled him out. And so, that afternoon, he was walking down through the town, and he met this lady, and she recognized him. She said, “Oh,” she says, “you are the gentleman. Aren’t you the man who saved my son this morning?” And he kind of smiled, and said, “Yes ma’am, I’m the one.” “Well,” she said, “what did you do with his mittens?” That’s gratitude, isn’t it?

So now we’ve got ourselves in the right frame of mind. That is, we’ve got ourselves in the frame of mind where we have been smiling. At least somehow, we brought out these smiles. Smiles are good, especially when they come from wholesome emotions, as feeling for others, and kindness, sympathy. Those smiles are good. But those smiles may change, if your attitude changes due to the force of delusion. You may not be able to hold that smile when the delusion changes. You may lose that inner emotion. But when the smile comes from the Realization of the Presence of God within you – of His Joy, and His Peace, and His Bliss – no matter what stage of delusion you find yourselves in, it will not leave you. That’s the only difference to remember. Smiles from these different emotions, constructive emotions, are good. But when, through delusion, the attitude changes, then we must watch out, and we must be so grounded, that we can smile in spite of all things. And you can do it, if you’ll feel, and know, the Presence of God.

Now, there are certain conditions within us, and states of consciousness, and attitudes, which are known as the “destructive emotions.” We must understand about these things, because they have a tremendous effect on our bodily health; especially, the destructive emotions, as resentment, as anger, and jealousy. These exercise the most potent effect. Then, also, there are the destructive emotions of worry, fearfulness, disappointment, and, especially, worry is one of the worst states. Now these are all having an effect upon our body. And no matter, any emotion – especially of the first three I named – any of those, if you allow it to effect you, or touch you – even though the effect is fleeting – does have an injurious effect upon your physical welfare, and your mental welfare, also. To understand these things, that we must control those destructive emotions, because they do have an effect upon our health – not only physical, but mental.

Now, on the other hand, the positive, the “positive emotions” within us – which are the opposite to these destructive emotions – likewise have a very healthful effect on the body; and especially, if that positive emotion comes from the realization of your oneness with God. No sickness, no state of mind, can long remain, when you feel the Presence of God within you. Understand these things.

But, especially, understand about the destructive emotions. They are of delusion. They are not of the Unity of God’s Presence; and, especially, resentment, anger, and jealousy. Those are very bad. They have a very bad effect upon us. And, if we allow those to remain long, we cannot have the smile which we should have, which comes from our oneness with God.

And so, these emotions, they change the smile, which should be pure, and be a testimony of the Presence of God within us. They change that, to something which we are not, and should not be. We should realize that. But there is only one panacea, so to speak, and that is the Realization of the Presence of God within us.

Now, in the AY [Autobiography of a Yogi], if you’ll read, on [Chapter 1] page 11, it speaks about Lahiri Mahasaya, and there you see him sitting with that smile on his face – puzzling smile – but that’s the smile of the Presence of God within him. Now that smile, that’s the real smile of Happiness, the real smile of Joy, which you see on his countenance. Now that smile cannot be erased. If you can once attain that and then hold it, then you can, as the little poem said, “smile when everything goes dead wrong,” because nothing will be going dead wrong.

You may be a total failure in this existence, in this life, but within your Soul is the Presence of God, and you are a success, even though you haven’t, as Jesus said, a place to lay your head¹. That’s the beauty. For that’s the wonderful part of the gift of God’s Love. If you want to “Be a Smile Millionaire,” know Him. He can give you that. Having Him, you’ll want nothing else. So let us realize that’s the key point to this morning’s discussion.

Now, we should avoid the expression of smiles which are not genuine. I know perhaps, this doesn’t apply to you, at this point. But, it’s well to be on your guard – the smiles of greed and lust, and sarcasm and contempt. You know, some people can smile, and inside, they, I don’t know, what they think of us. That’s what it means. Be genuine. If you do not like a person, or, if you have any of these things, which you are trying to overcome, instead of smiling in that unnatural way, try and feel the Presence of God,

and then smile above these things which are bothering you. That's one of the, or, those are one of the, some of the smiles which you should avoid. Avoid that. Avoid that expression. And, especially, the smile that comes when inwardly, you are subject to these different emotions, of which I have spoken.

Now, another smile which we should avoid is the smile Master used to speak of many times. He called them "galvanized smiles." He said, "People who meet you, 'How are you, I'm so happy to meet you,' and inwardly they're saying, 'I could break your neck.'" Those are called, through the Master, "galvanized smiles." Galvanized smiles! And when he used to tell about it, he certainly could make you know just what he meant. We have to avoid those.

And then, there are other smiles which come. For instance, I think it was Shakespeare who said this – I'm not sure about it, but it is something like this: "The hearty laugh bespeaks the vacant mind²." Now I approach this with fear and trembling, because we have been laughing, boisterously, there's no question about that. And I'm not sure Shakespeare said that. But it's something like that, anyway. In other words, it illustrates my point. The point is that your smile should not be too boisterous. It should not be from emotion, which makes the smile boisterous. Whereas, that smile which comes from devotion...do you understand the difference? Devotion, is of a much finer vibration than that boisterous emotional smile. Of course, once in awhile, it's all right, if there's a definite purpose to do that. But understand that. That the smile, which comes from devotion – remember the smile of Lahiri Mahasaya – is of a much finer vibration. That's what we must realize. And that comes, as I have said, when you feel the Presence of God within you.

Now another smile which comes is when you have friendship with God. When you feel, through the Gift of His Grace, and perhaps through the channel which he has sent for us, the beloved Master, when you have established God contact and communion, and you feel the friendship with Him, that smile, which comes is far above this mediocre consciousness of earthly happiness and emotional smile. That Presence of God within you, you should make your own, and thereby, establish friendship with God is the greatest thing. And when you have that, then you will smile from your dross-less heart. There'll be no dross in it. When the Presence of God comes into you, there's no dross left. Such is His Power. Such is the Glory of His Presence. You'll smile from His Dross-less Heart, behind which is your Peaceful Soul, and behind that is Spirit. Now, if you can attain that, if we can attain that, then our smile will be a smile wherein this life is a Joy, because we have God with us.

If we are to smile under all conditions, we must have a scientific reason behind it. And that scientific reason – otherwise we're just fooling ourselves – and that scientific reason is, that we have made contact with God, and that through His Grace, we have friendship with Him under every condition,

during every action. Then we can smile the smile of a Spiritual millionaire, and really be justified in our smiles. No one wants to fool themselves – not very long. You cannot do that. You can make yourself smile even though you're dying. But, if you feel the Presence of God, perhaps it will be a Joy to die, because you'll be free from this turmoil of this earthly existence. That's the key point in this little talk this morning. Attain, and know the Presence of God.

And so, the smile of real happiness will not come from the fulfillment of the object of senses, through those things which we enjoy, through the senses of taste, touch, smell, and so forth. It will not come from that, because that consciousness is your ego, and the smile of the ego is not eternal. But that smile which comes when you turn your attention in to the Presence of the Soul within; that fulfillment will allow you to smile with a genuine smile of the Presence of God within you. Because why? That smile is of the Soul. The Soul is a ray of the Eternal Father. Let us understand that.

Fulfillment cannot be had in the object of senses. Fulfillment cannot be attained there, because they pass away. How can you be fully satisfied in something that's going to pass away and not be with you? There's no fulfillment there. But we can do this. We can enjoy the things of this earthly existence, these beautiful flowers that we have, and such things. We can thoroughly enjoy them, if we turn our attention – not to the flower, because someone may take the flower away – but to the Presence of the Soul within. Then, no matter what you are enjoying in earthly existence, the fulfillment must come, because in the Soul there is fulfillment. In objects of senses there cannot be fulfillment. So, let us not, let us avoid that pitfall.

I'm sure the Lord wants us to enjoy this earthly existence. He wants us to enjoy the things He has given to us. The only thing he asks is, do not forget the Giver. Now, everything you enjoy, from your family and relations, to earthly conditions and possessions, turn your attention in toward Him. Enjoy with the Soul. There'll be no attachment, and you'll never lose. And then, you can smile, Eternally. These are wonderful points.

And finally, I have a reference or two from the Master, which I'd like to read at this time, because he says it so wonderfully, and so much to the point, far better than I can do. From his little book, *The Master Said*: "Man has falsely identified himself with the pseudo-Soul, or ego. When he transfers his sense of identity to his true being," the Presence of God within, "the Immortal Soul, he discovers that all pain is unreal..." Think of it! You can do it. The next time you have a severe pain, which I hope you don't have, but if you do, turn your attention in to the Presence of God at this point [between the eyebrows], and put your Soul into it. The pain will disappear, because I have tried it, and I know it's so, through the Grace of God. "...and then, you can no longer even imagine the state of suffering."

And another point in the little book; The Master Said: "It is foolish to expect true happiness from earthly attachments and possessions, for they are powerless to bestow it. And yet millions of people die of broken hearts, having tried vainly to find in worldly life the fulfillment that exists only in God, the source of all joy."

And you see people – I see them all the time – suffering, discouraged. That's why I try, as I promised the Master, perhaps, to help a little bit, as he lifted me

from this delusion of darkness and uncertainty. The least I can do is to try and help someone as he helped me. And I know it's a great joy to be able to do that, and perhaps, repay him, and the Heavenly Father, just a little bit.

And so, in conclusion, let us remember the Divine producing, smile-producing words of Swami Ram: "Peace, like a river, flows through me." Shut your eyes, and feel, "Peace like a river, flows through me." Let us repeat: "Peace like a river flows through me." And then, Master's words: "Thy Bliss, O Father, flows through me. Thy Bliss, O Father, like a river, flows through me. Thou art in me, Thou art my life. Thou art my own." Just feel these things when discouragement comes. Turn your attention inward. God will not forsake you. "Peace, like a river, flows through me." "Peace, like a river, flows through me." You can feel it, if you'll just turn your attention inward.

So what is the answer? Meditate more. Meditate more. We must meditate more, and then, we will rise above this outward consciousness in which these destructive emotions are found – in delusion. And while we're in that consciousness, that mediocre consciousness, we cannot know the superior consciousness, which comes by being one with God's Presence. We must meditate more.

And finally, when we meditate more, when, through the Father's Grace, He accepts us as His friend – in a conscious way so that at will we can turn our attention inward, see His Light, feel His Great Love, and know we are not separated from Him, we are not apart – when we can do that. Then life, no matter what part we are playing, becomes a Joy for ever. Then we can truly be a Spiritual millionaire, and we can truly have the smile of a Spiritual millionaire.

1 Luke 9:58 —And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

2 Joyce's Use of Swift's Polite Conversation in the "Circe" Episode of Ulysses, Mackie L. Jarrell, PMLA, Vol. 72, No. 3 (Jun., 1957), pp. 545-554, quoting Shakespeare —'Tis the loud laugh bespeaks the vacant mind."

