

Why Say Ye Lord, Lord?

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Thank you. The subject this morning, "Why Say Ye Lord, Lord?" "Why Say Ye Lord, Lord?"

Of course there is more to that. Jesus said, "Why say ye Lord, Lord, and yet do not do as I say?"¹ (Sic) Jesus, as I spoke a few minutes ago, was speaking from Christ Consciousness. The "Lord" means Christ Consciousness. Realize that as you read the Bible or any scripture, the "Lord" is the Christ Consciousness beyond the present Christ Consciousness within each and every one of us, and, therefore, just to come to church and say "Lord, Lord, Lord," without going within and feeling your oneness with that same Christ Consciousness is of no use. That is what Jesus meant when he said, "Why say ye Lord, Lord and do not do as I say ye shall do?" (Sic)

So, if we will realize that discipleship means following Jesus and the great ones, whereby we establish our true relationship with God, then when we say "Lord, Lord, Lord," we not only say the words, but we turn our attention within, and feel it, our oneness with the Christ Consciousness – we feel our oneness with the Holy Vibration. That's practicing what Jesus wanted us to do, and all great ones, and our beloved Master, to by meditation make that reality of our oneness with God, dynamic to our consciousness. Not just say, "Lord, Lord, Lord," and come to church and say, "Lord, Lord, Lord," repeat prayers, and then do nothing about it. That's not true relationship with God. You have to feel your oneness with Him. Then when you say: "Lord! Lord! Lord!" Then you have the relationship.

That's what is meant by the scripture, and that's what this lesson this morning should point out to us, because the life of Christ on earth was dominated by one single purpose – to show man his true relationship with God. That's what Jesus tried to do in all his teachings. And, if you follow his teachings, you will see that he, in his very life, did that same thing. He showed, he acted, from his oneness with God. "I and my Father are one,"² "...go ye and do likewise."³ It couldn't be any clearer, the teachings of Christ.

¹ Luke 6:46, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

² St. John 10:30, "I and my Father are one."

³ Luke 6:31, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

And yet, in spite of his divine presence on earth, very few understood what he meant. And then in church, from the pulpits, they speak of “Lord, Lord, Lord,” but they don't follow it up; they still remain divorced from the main issue of Christianity – oneness with God. So from now on when we say, “Lord, Lord, Lord,” let us feel the Presence of God within us.

And so, that brings us to this point of true discipleship. We cannot know our relationship with God unless we follow Spiritual Law, which says that you must follow the channel which God has sent to take you back home. That's Spiritual Law. That has been so throughout the ages, and will be. And so discipleship – true discipleship – means that each one of us, you and I are one, and we follow, rather, God – He is the True Guru. He is the True Channel. He is all.

Now the others, as Jesus, the great ones, and our beloved Master – just to keep it within this church of Self-Realization – they are channels through whom God speaks. But realize there is only One, One Great Guru, One Master – and that's God's Great Omnipresence; His Glorious Omnipresence. That's the One Guru. And those who teach that and have made their consciousness one with that, and manifest that, they are True Channels of God, as was our beloved Master.

So understand this, that the mark of a True Channel is one who manifests Christ Consciousness. That's why Jesus was such a wonderful channel, because he didn't speak as Jesus, but from the Christ Consciousness within him. And each and every one of us can do the same, because Jesus pointed out, as all True Channels do, “...the things I do ye shall do and greater things,⁴” (*Sic*) if you want to, “because I go to my Father,” because he merges in the Christ Consciousness, and the Great Consciousness of God the Father.

So, realize there is One Guru. And you, if you are a true follower and want God, you are following the One Great Guru. And that's God Himself – and these other great ones are Channels, because God doesn't speak. He's silent. But He speaks through his Channel.

Now, the Master has written about this in a wonderful way in one of his little books, The Master Said.⁵ I'll just quote a little of it. Someone asked him if he was a guru. Well, he just simply said, "There's only one Guru and that's God, but I'm

⁴ St. John 14:12, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

⁵ The Master Said, by Paramhansa Yogananda, First Edition 1952

a channel." And he said, "Guru means one who leads from darkness of ignorance to the light of wisdom."⁶ Now, if one can do that for you, he must have that Wisdom. He must have oneness with Christ Consciousness, otherwise, how is he going to lead you out of darkness?

And so, he said, "Guru means one who leads from the darkness of wisdom to the...darkness of ignorance to the light of wisdom." Such a spiritual teacher, knowing God, has but one desire, and that's to give you what he has. As he has union with God, he wants you to have union with Him – nothing else. He has no personal motive at all. A True Guru, a True Channel, has no personal motive. The minute you see the personality entering into it, discard it. He is not a True Channel of God. And so, he shows the devotee that God Alone is the goal of life, and he tells him how to get there. And if you follow, you'll get there.

"It is not I," says the Master, "who am the Guru. God is the only Guru, but God has made me His Instrument." How wonderful that is. God is the Doer. He's the Sole Doer of everything. He has made universe upon universe. He's made you and He's made me, and His Power sustains us; helps us to digest our food, and to think, and act, and do all sorts of things – and we think we do it. No. God is the Doer. Realize that. That will help you to be humble, because none of us can do a thing about it. But when we unite our consciousness with His Presence within us; as God can do all things, so can each and every one of us, if it is His Will. That's the lesson we should learn from this morning's subject, "Lord, Lord, Lord." Know the relationship with God as dynamic within your being, and then you can do something about it to help others.

"The blind cannot lead the blind," Jesus said, because "they both fall into the ditch."⁷ (Sic) Certainly they don't know anything about it. How can they lead one another? And so it is with teachers and real channels of God. There are many teachers, but a real channel of God, called a "guru," is far different, because he has that Union with God, and he will give the disciple, as they're called, those who follow him, he will give them what he has.

⁶ Ibid, Page 33, "A man meeting the Master for the first time asked, "One of your students told me that you are his guru. What did he mean?"

And the Master said, "'Guru' means one who leads from the darkness of ignorance to the light of wisdom. Such a spiritual teacher, knowing God, has but one desire – to implant the love of Him in others. He shows the devotee that God alone is the goal of life and tells him how to get there. It is not I who am the guru – God is the only guru – but God has made me His instrument."

⁷ Matthew 15:14, "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Teachers do not usually have that. There are many teachers. There are very few God-Realized gurus. And those who have been here on earth, and have left their teachings, it is well for true seekers to follow the right path. That is very important. Otherwise, if you follow the wrong path, you'll get just what that path holds and nothing else.

And when I had the wonderful privilege of meeting the Master, I went in pretty skeptical. I was from Missouri, so to speak, and I had to be shown. And when he sat before me, what was the first thing he said – just like when he met his Master, he said to me – imagine, I was pretty skeptical, they weren't going to hoodwink me. He said, "Doctor, will you always love me as I love you?" Imagine, and a great load lifted off my shoulders. I said, "Yes, sir," because I couldn't say anything else true to myself. He went, "I take charge of your life." Well, what comes of itself let it come. I didn't know what that meant, but I felt awful good. I said, "Yes, I will." And he said, "If you regularly meditate, and discipline yourself, you will see the things, they'll be always with you that you have experienced this Christmas Eve."⁸

And so, it is so important, it is so important to mean business with God – not fool around. Get down to business. He's everything we have. We have our friends, and our relatives, and those dear to us, and even our enemies we have because of Him. Why not know Him? Why not say, "Lord, Lord, Lord," and know what you're talking about? So it is very important to follow the right channel. That's Spiritual law. Just like material law – two and two make four. So in the Spiritual law, you have to go back to God through a channel He sends, whether you like it or not. Realize that – and the channels, which we are familiar with, perhaps more Jesus, our great Gurus, and our beloved Master. So let us follow their teachings, being one with them in every act we do, trying to be like them. Why, because they have Union with God. We must realize that.

Swami Sri Yukteswarji's words to our Master were most wonderful, and it shows the real position of a True Channel of God when he told him, he told our Master these words – remember, he was his guru, the channel whereby he was to return home to God – and he said this to him, "I shall be your friend forever." Imagine it. "I shall be your friend forever, because God asked me to bring you home." Isn't that wonderful? Through a True Channel of God, God deliberately works through them to bring the lost souls back home. And that's why when you find a

⁸ Treasures Against Time, by Brenda Lewis, Chapter 2, "Doctor Lewis Reminisces" holds the entire story of Doctor Lewis' life with Paramhansa Yogananda and their fortuitous meeting.

True Channel you will feel the load lifted, and if you keep true to that channel, you cannot help but go home to God. Realize this, realize these important truths.

So the purpose of discipleship, true discipleship, is to reestablish your true relationship with God once more. And in following the True Channel – I'll have to be a little brief at this time – we must act as they are. If they have union with God, which they do, we must follow them – following their suggestions, and the laws, and rules which they have left – completely, one hundred percent, because it is necessary to follow them “lamblike,”⁹ as we read in the body, in the Bible. It is that lamblike submission to God through the channel which frees your soul.

People say “Why do you bow down to anyone?” You bow down not to anyone, you bow down to God through the channel, and by so doing, by being lamblike, you take away the resistance, and then God can come in. This is a wonderful truth. Coming in, bending your will to God through the channel, gives you freedom to do what you want. But, if you always keep your will in reserve, you're not gonna be fully free. And perhaps in the wrong moment, when you should bend your will, you won't bend the will, and you will not be saved at that point. This is a very important point to remember.

And so, the Master has written these words in the Autobiography¹⁰ or, rather, Sri Yukteswarji wrote these words in one of his little books,¹¹ “To keep company, therefore, with a Godlike object, is to associate with him with the heart's love intensified...¹²” Just as you heard Mr. Cook read how Master felt when he met his Guru, so you must feel the same way toward the Channel of God. You must feel and act as he acted, and then you become like him. Now, if you follow one who has not God Realization, you will not get it. But, if you find a True Channel, follow him for heaven's sake, to best of your ability. Then you become like him, as he had God Realization, so you will [have] God Realization.

And then going on he says, “Follow him, keeping his appearances and attributes fully in mind, and by reflection, by reflecting on the same, and affectionately

⁹ St. John 1:29, “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

¹⁰ Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, First Edition 1946, available on the internet (free).

¹¹ The Holy Science, by Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri, First Edition 1936, available on in India. Later editions are available from the SRF organization.

¹² Ibid, Revision 1963, Page 37, “To keep company, therefore, with the godlike object is to associate him with *sraddha*, i.e., heart's love intensified in the sense above explained, by keeping his appearances and attributes full in mind, and by reflecting on the same and affectionately following his instructions lamblike. Vide John 1, 29.”

following his instructions lamblike." I often wondered what it meant in the Bible in St. John, 1st Chapter, 29th Verse, "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." What does it mean? The sin of the world is delusion. If you follow a True Channel of God, lamblike, and submit your will to him, then you will attain freedom. As he has freedom, so you will have freedom. And that's what it means when about speaking, "...behold the Lamb of God." Isn't that wonderful? The meek, humble lamb; but behind that, is the Power of God. Behind that is God's Omnipresence. And, if you bend your will, and follow the Channel, as he has the Omnipresence of God, so will you. But, if you keep that reserve in your ego, as top-lofty, and cocky, you'll never get it. You have to become like a lamb. That's what that means. But you follow the True Channel – not an ordinary teacher, or anything. Don't do that. You'll get just what the teacher has. But, if you follow a man of God, you will get just what the man of God has – Union with his Father.

I remember Sister, Sister said one thing – Sister Gyanamata. Someone was complaining about the Master – this and that – and she says, "Well, isn't he your guru?" They said, "Yes, oh sure." "Well then why don't you follow him?"

If you feel God has responded to you through the channel, through this channel, follow it. Follow it. If God has recognized your call, the call of your soul and your heart, and has responded to you by sending you a channel, and you feel an upliftment when you follow Self-Realization and the teachings of the Master, why don't you follow it? That's God's response to you. Shouldn't you play fair with Him? Shouldn't you recognize what He has done for you? Then follow, follow.

It is no disgrace to bend your will. It's the greatest thing you can do, if you bend it to the right place, and to the right person, and to God. That's all. Don't bend it to every Tom, Dick, and Harry. You'll amount to nothing. Bend your will to the True Channel of God. Then what will you get – Oneness with God, because we have been given free will to stay away from God or go to Him, and when you exercise that free will to stay away from Him, nobody under heaven can get you there. You have to bend your will, and lamblike follow the instructions God has left with you through the channel.

And so these great ones, these great ones of which I have spoken this morning – we're confining it to this particular line of Jesus, our great ones, and our beloved Master. What are they? They're an avenue of the Great Flow, or the Flow of the Great, Glorious Omnipresence of God. That's what they are. And those who

follow them will receive what they had, and have now, Oneness with God's Glorious Omnipresence. That's the goal of life. That's what we must attain.

Now Jesus, Babaji, Lahiri Mahasaya, Sri Yukteswarji, they are all channels of God. All channels of the One, Great Glorious Omnipresence. And they reiterate the same truth, "Follow me." What'll be the result – guidance from the Glorious Omnipresence of God. Jesus said, "When I am gone I will send you the Comforter."¹³ The Comforter is the Holy Vibration – the Great Om sound, the Amen in the Bible, the Amin of the Mohammedans, the Om of the Hindus – refers to the Great Comforter. And, Jesus, having that oneness with that, and all of those who have that oneness with that Great Comforter, will be one with the Glorious Omnipresence of God.

They all say the same thing, get that oneness with God. Get that oneness with His Glorious Omnipresence. Don't just say, "Lord, Lord, Lord." Feel it. Feel through meditation your oneness with Him. Babaji said the same thing, because why? He was one with the Glorious Omnipresence of God. What did he say – "A little of this religion will save you from dire suffering"¹⁴ – a little of oneness with God will save you from any heartaches.

Just like when I met the Master, and Sri Yukteswarji met...our Master met Sri Yukteswarji. The load lifted. Why, because the Glorious Omnipresence of God was flowing. There's no other reason. There's nothing mysterious about it. It is straight scientific fact. These things are so. And when you turn toward God, and follow this channel, you will feel an upliftment. You will feel the load lift. Why? Because God is come into you, and His Glorious Omnipresence is flowing through you.

Sri Yukteswarji, or rather, Lahiri Mahasaya, he didn't leave many writings, but he left his wonderful spirit. And when that spirit was inculcated in his devotees, they too were one with the Omniscience with God, and they gave it to others. Sri Yukteswarji, he also said these words, and we must remember them. "Life is

¹³ St. John 16:7, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

¹⁴ Op.cit., *Autobiography*, First Release 1946, Chapter 34, "After a silence, Babaji added, 'Repeat to each of your disciples this majestic promise from the *Bhagavad Gita*: "*Swalpamasya dharmasya, trayata mahato bhoyat*" – "Even a little bit of the practice of this religion will save you from dire fears and colossal sufferings." (*Bhagavad Gita*, 2nd Discourse, 40th Line).

very unsafe, always unsafe and unstable, like the drop of water on the lotus leaf, and that the company of a divine personage for a moment can save it.¹⁵

Now, how could he say that? Because he was one with the Omniscience of God; and all the great ones, and all the True Channels of God are one with the Glorious Omniscience. And when you mix with them, the great load is lifted. The channel is open, and the Omniscience of God flows through you to save your Soul. These are wonderful facts.

And then, coming down to our own Master; he said in most beautiful words, "If you think me near, I am near." Isn't that wonderful? If you think me near, if you feel that I am with you, honestly and sincerely following God within you, I am there, as the channel through which God will flow "to guard you with invisible arms, and walk with you."¹⁶

These things are wonderful, if you realize them, and somehow get out of this delusion. "...the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." Sin is nothing but delusion – that which keeps you separated from God – makes you feel apart from Him. That's the sin. If you remove that, and you feel oneness with God, where is the sin? It never existed, except in duality of consciousness. Let us realize these eternal truths.

And so, let us be true disciples of the one Omniscience of God. Not just saying, "Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord," but "Lord! Lord! Thou art with me." And, through meditation, know your oneness with the Glorious Omniscience of God.

¹⁵ Op.cit., The Holy Science, Page 75, "This little volume is therefore concluded with an earnest exhortation to the reader never to forget the great goal of life. In the words of the illumined sage, Sankaracharya: 'Life is always unsafe and unstable, like a drop of water on a lotus leaf. The company of a divine personage, even for a moment, can save and redeem us.'"

¹⁶ Whispers From Eternity, by Paramhansa Yogananda, excerpts from the poem, "When I Am Only A Dream," First released in the magazine Inner Culture, 1940.