

Greater Than Will Power

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The subject this morning: "Greater Than Will power."

Greater than will power is the power of company and environment. Greater than will power, your company and your environment has more influence upon you than your will. Realize that, and therefore, we will watch our company.

Most people realize that they should change, and they want to change – there's no question about that. But why do they keep on in the same old paths, beginning with initial enthusiasm, then it tapers off, and, finally, the fascination, as, as one fellow put it, "We live in hope, and die in despair." Why? Because there must be something that's keeping us in that pattern of consciousness, and that something is our company, and our environment. Realize that. And so, it is very important to watch that. As Master said, it's "stronger than will power."

So, the power of habit is great. In fact, our lives are governed by the power of habit. And yet, man has the power, through his will, to improve himself, and to change, because man's will, when coupled to God's Will is Supreme. But it cannot operate due to the hold which environment and company has upon his consciousness – and that applies to each one of us. Let us understand that. We have the power. We have the power, but there are conditions. That's what Master meant when he said that will power, "greater than will power is company and environment."

We can do that. But we must avoid these things, because wrong company, and wrong environment, keeps our consciousness in a state of delusion, and in which the lack of truth is found. That's why we don't change. That's why this idea, or this subject of company and environment, is so important, because we will want to change. We have the ability to change, but because our consciousness is continually being impregnated by these thoughts of wrong environment and company, that we cannot change. That's what it said in the Bible, which we read in Master's commentary, that individual can hardly get out of the delusion of environment. So it's very important to understand these simple things about company and environment.

I have an illustration here at this time, which you will find in the Autobiography [of a Yogi] about one of Sri Yukteswarji's disciples, Kumar. While he lived in the hermitage with Sri Yukteswarji, under his influence, and the wonderful environment – he was fine. He was a fine looking boy, and his eyes shined with the Presence of God within him. But then there came a time when he wanted to change his environment and go home – which in itself was not of too great consequence – except at that time, due to his karmic conditions, it were well if he listened to Sri Yukteswarji, who tried to suggest that he do not go home at that time. And, as Master says, that he never authoritatively controlled his disciple's movements, but with his superior Wisdom he could see what was in store for Kumar.

So Kumar went home, and he got into environment which was not good for him, and we read the end of the reference as follows: "The boy would never have fallen to these depths had he listened to me and not gone away to mix with undesirable companions. He was. . .he has rejected my protection. The callous world must be his guru still."

He had to learn by hard knocks for not listening to the advice of one like Sri Yukteswarji. And so when he came back, when he returned, instead of having that glow of Divine Presence within him, he looked like an ordinary peasant. [Unintelligible remark] And so, the power of environment is extreme, and we must not underestimate it. Of course Kumar made his mistake in not listening to the Voice of God through the channel of Sri Yukteswarji.

And so, environment is a very great influence in our life. If you're good, if your environment is good, you will have peace and happiness. If your environment is not good, there's only one thing that can result, and that is restlessness of your mind, which is not conducive to Spiritual advancement. So there are two ways to go toward the good environment, where you're lifted up towards God, or that environment which is not desirable, where restlessness comes in, because the world consciousness is restless – there's no question about that – and when you're in that, your mind is restless.

Now you may not be doing anything extremely evil, or sinful, but, nevertheless, it's not of God. That's the important thing. It's a restless environment, and you are kept in that restlessness. You may want to be good. You may want to follow God's Wishes, and Master's wishes, but you cannot do it due to the restlessness of your mind. And so that's the important thing about environment.

People say, "Oh I mix with good people, and they're all right." But they're all restless, because that's the law. As the [Bhagavad] Gita says, "All men walk the earth wholly deluded." And so, when we mix with that type of. . .those people, we become deluded also.

And so the key, the key, to environment is as follows – and this is the law of environment, if you'll remember it, it may help you to keep out of wrong environments.

When you mix with worldly people, you become worldly. When you mix with good people, you will become good. But, when you mix with God, you become Godly.

Now is there any doubt in your mind where your environment lays? It is in the Presence of God within. We have right within ourselves the Supreme Environment of God's Presence. Whenever you can, through the exercise of will and discipline, lift your gaze from outward consciousness to the point between the eyebrows, there, there you see the Light of God, there in the middle of that Light you feel His Nearness; you know He is with you; you know you are never alone. Can there be any environment superior to that?

That's why the teachings of Self-Realization are so wonderful. They give you the ways and the means to contact that environment. Not having conditions just so, and so, and so, and so, and nobody around bothering you, or this one calling you, and all that, and this child crying, and all that. In spite of those things, you can lift your consciousness to the Light, you're in the Presence of God. Now isn't that Supreme Environment? So to do that, though, we must keep away from wrong environment until we get the strength, and power, to put our consciousness there. So environment is very important, very, very important, and it plays a great part in our lives.

Now, the greatest environment, I said, is God. And what is God? We say this over, and over, and over again. Some heed it, some get busy, some, as I said in the beginning, just drift along – lackadaisically – until the end comes and relieves them of all their troubles for a while – and back they come again, to go through it again. Who wants that? Why not make a little effort in the right environment?

So the right environment is God. What is God? God is the Word spoken of in St. John. God is the Holy Vibration. Not an idea. God is something real and tangible. Now, when you can be in the Presence of God – that's the Presence of God, that's the Supreme Environment – when you can be in the Presence of God as the Word, the Holy Vibration with the great Cosmic Light right in front of you, or with the Great Amen, the Om, vibrating through your being, with its peace and bliss, or the feeling of God, or His Love saturating the Holy Vibration; that's the Supreme Environment. That's what we all must have. Having that, we will be saved from the delusion and Maya, with its Great Darkening Power. And so environment is very, very important.

I have a reference here which I will give. First I have a little story to tell you about environment. It works in nicely. And this little girl said to her mother, she says, "Mother, does our minister come down from heaven only on Sunday? Where is he the rest of the week?" That reminds us of the church lady who said, "Our minister is incomprehensible on Sunday, and invisible the rest of the week." So there's environment for you. It seems that that environment didn't do him much good, did it? 'Cause he stayed away the rest of the week.

But the reference I have is this, about environment – and it's very wonderful, and I want to read it to you. It's from Kabir. He was a great saint. He was a saint. He was a broad-minded saint. He was a saint, as I understand it, of both the Hindus and the Muhammadans. Now that's something, because there was a great feeling between them. I don't know as it still exists, but, anyway, he was a saint for everybody. He was a real saint.

So he says this. "Through his own powers, man cannot attain to the knowledge of God." "But," he says, "God will reveal Himself to those who listen to His voice. . ." Could it be any clearer? Those who listen to the Cosmic Sound of Om within them, the Great Amen, "To those who listen to His voice, He alone overcomes doubt, and truly lives, who has welcomed this message in his heart."

And so you see religion, true religion is so simple. The Vedas say, "He who knows Om, knows God." St. John, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God." And the same Word throughout all religions is the Om, the Amen, the Amin, and the Hum of the Tibetans, and the Ahunavar of the Zoroastrians, means the one thing, the Voice of which Kabir spoke: "He who listens to His voice." That's why we must meditate and be in the Om more and more. Then we will realize.

And another, another reference, which Kabir speaks of – he says, " Through his own power, man. . ." I read that. "Through his own power, man cannot attain to the knowledge of God, but through listening to the Infinite."

And so, environment is very important. I'll have a little more to say of it in just a minute. On the other hand, company, company is also very important. We should mix with those people whose consciousness and magnetism does not depress us, but rather lifts us up.

Some people, you know, you come into their consciousness and presence, and they depress you terrifically. But we should mix with those people who lift us, who give us enthusiasm, who bring out within us the Heart's Natural Love – who give us vitality, and who give us peace and bliss. Those are the people we should mix with. That's the company we should be in. And we can have that company, most assuredly, in such gatherings as this; such meetings of the Fellowship; and such friendship in Self-Realization Fellowship, wherein Master has implanted the Presence of God. Company is very important. Certain people you mix with will stimulate within you the Heart's Natural Love. Now love is not something you give to people. It's not something I give to people. It's something God gives to us, and through us, gives to others.

And so when you love a person, realize that's the Power of God, of the Holy Vibration, the Word – the Feeling aspect of God flowing through you. Now when you can increase that so that all of the dross of the heart is removed, then that Love of God flows through you, and that's the Supreme Force in the Universe.

As the two commandments say, "Thou shalt love God with all thy strength and thy might." Why? Because it is Supreme, it is the Supreme Pulling Power, the Attractive Force of God, pulling all things back to Him. That's why you feel, when Divine Love comes, it's the Supreme Force of the Universe. That's why it overwhelms you – not just human love.

And so, those people who stimulate that within you – such as the Guru, or saints – those people are the ones to follow. And by stimulating your Heart's Natural Love, realize it's not something you give to people – that's the thing we must remember – it's something God gives to all of us, and through us, to one another. Now that Heart's Natural Love is what everyone needs. When you feel that, you cannot hate anyone, no matter if they're your worst enemy. As Jesus said, you can turn the other cheek.

And that Heart's Natural Love, because it is the Greatest Force in the Universe, does what to you? It gives you moral courage – moral courage to go ahead in

spite of everything. It also gives you the right conception of things. Just like, if you feel the Power of God, instead of thinking, "Oh that person, I have no use for him." The conception is different, because you feel God's Love in your heart, and you know it's in that one's heart. And finally, it is God's Love which gives you the highest concentration, or samadhi – which simply means an expansion of consciousness from this worldly existence, limited diverse consciousness, to the Unity of God's Presence. And when that comes, and all barriers are removed, and all veils torn down, then you will realize there's One Consciousness in the Universe, and that's your own consciousness, and the same in every other person. That's the Unity of God's Presence. That comes through right company, to begin with, those people, instead of irritating you, give you peace and calmness, makes you so, too. Especially

in the beginning avoid the others, they'll only keep you in turmoil, because they're in turmoil themselves. So company is very important.

Now, reverent contact with a saint, or with saintly people, with loving attention to them, is the next environment, or, perhaps, the next environment to the Presence of God within, because in the saints, and in saintly people, God is manifesting more. And so, loving attention to a saint is very important. Kabir says this about that, "This is so because the law of environment. . ." As I. . .when you mix with worldly people you become like them – you cannot help it – some of this stuff rubs off on you. And when you mix with saintly people, you become like them. And saintly people, or saints, are channels of God – God is manifesting more through them. And so realize and remember, the law of environment is very simple, and watch your company.

Now Kabir has this to say – most beautiful words – he says, "The company of saints will make your burdens light." I remember, I used to mix with the Master, and I'd go in there with a list that long – questions – everything was a mess. Suddenly, I'd be sitting there and everything was peaceful and calm. Why? Because I was in the company of a saint. Kabir has a wonderful statement here, "The company of saints will make your burdens light."

Then he goes on, "The company of evil means quarreling through the eight watches." There's no end to it. You mix with people in delusion, you get one thing fixed up, and on comes another. You get that fixed up, and down, up, and then two more come. Why? Because can we believe it? But with the saints, as he says most beautifully, they "make your burdens light."

Then he goes on to say further, "Through the association with a sadhu, or saint, comes the remembrance of God." That's why it's so important to mix with people of realization, because you imbibe from them, [the remembrance of God] and having tasted that, you want to get that - you want to secure that for your own. And so Kabir is a very wise man.

Finally, he says this, "The whole system is in a harmonious condition, and so from that hour is recorded to a man's credit in his account with God. . ." That is, when he mixes with saints, other saintly persons, "That hour is recorded to a man's credit in his account with God. All the rest is as valueless as air." Think of it. You cannot afford not to meditate. In the company of God within you is the same as being in the company of a saint, because God's Presence is Reality and Truth – all else is valueless as air. And so, it's important to realize the effect of environment upon us.

Now another, another environment, which is next [practically. . . tape skips] to environment of saintly people, or even saints, is your church environment. Self- Realization Fellowship church environment is one of the greatest things that you can have – that I can have. In meetings, such as this, you learn the theory of the Presence of God. In such meetings as meditation meetings, which you had before this meeting, and which you have other nights – Sunday nights, and Friday nights – there you realize the Presence of God. Here you realize the theory, and somewhat the Presence. But in those meetings where meditation is paramount, then you feel and realize the Presence of God. That's why your church environment, with its various meetings, is so important. It is next to the environment of saints. Realize that.

So, if we do these things. If we mix with possible. . . as much as possible, with saintly people; if we keep in the environment of our church, then the outward environment cannot have such an effect upon us. That's the important thing. An outward environment, which we are all subject to, whether we like it or not, it cannot touch us, if we keep our environment here with our church, and in meditation with the Presence of God. You cannot lose. If you do not do that, you are bound to lose, because that's the law.

How do you think the Devil keeps the show going on except from this delusion? So he wants you to not attend the meetings; or you don't feel well this morning; you stay home; and you work hard; you had a hard week; rest today. But when you make the effort, something inside says, "No, go!" You go, and I'll bet you, when you get through with the meeting this morning, you'll feel better. You cannot help it, because God's Presence is here. Master has imbued these places of worship, because he was such a great saint, with God's Presence. And that's why we all feel relieved, free, and blissful when we attend these meetings. Your church environment is very important.

And so, Lahiri Mahasaya spoke something like Kabir when he said, "Be in the world, but not of it." Now you cannot do that unless you have this inner environment dynamic to your consciousness. You cannot do it. If you go to a certain place and go long enough, you'll become like the people in that certain place. It's impossible not to. But, if you have this inner environment, and keep that within your consciousness, then you can withstand the onslaughts of worldly environment. That's why Lahiri Mahasaya said, "Be in the world, but not of it." That's the only way to do it is to have that security of God's Presence within you.

And Kabir, also, said this, "Remain apart from the world . . ." I give you these parallel references to show you that truth is the same, and all saints say the same thing. Kabir said this, "Remain apart from the world, as water refuses to mingle with oil, deposit your heart where is neither death nor dungeons of

kal." K A L, that means "ignorance." The only place to do that is in the Presence of God within. And so environment and company are very important.

Now, one other thing, then we'll be through, is that we must watch our company with other influences in life. Don't think it's just company with people. There are other things we have to watch. We have to watch our environment of what we read, for instance. You must also watch your environment of moods. Isn't that an environment? Did you ever get into a mood? Can you get out easily like that? No. Somebody has to beat you up – then out you come. So we have to watch these other influences. They are. . . affect us – moods, emotions, what you read; your amusements, and even what you eat. Watch that.

First moods – environment of moods – you know, you've seen people in them. They'll. . .they make themselves miserable and all of us miserable. And those who have emotions, they live in a land of emotions – watch their mind, it's very restless. And so you, if you keep company with them, will become like them. There's no question about it.

And, also, what you read. If you read detective stories all the time, and such things, you become like that. If you read Shakespeare, and the Bible, and Master's work, you become like that. And so we should realize those things.

And our recreation – if you attend dance halls all the time, you will not come out well. If you get the front row in a prize fight, and go there all the time, I won't guarantee what you'll be. You cannot help it, because that's the law. I know many of you don't do that, all of you don't do that, but it's just a suggestion, and an illustration. Some people do that.

Now, finally, you must watch what you eat – very important. Master used to say in such a funny way – I wish I could say it like he used to say it – but he says, "You know if you eat. . .if you eat beef, you become bully-ish." And he says, "If you eat. . .if you eat chicken, you should watch out, you become chicken-hearted." That's not exactly the. . .what becomes of you – and he says, "If you eat pork," he says, "You'll, look like a pork, a hog" – you'll look like that somewhat. And those foods are not those foods that are karmically [good] foods. They're not good. The vibration is not good – like horseradish. It'll give you a very bad vibration. These tomasic foods should be avoided, because they have a, a very depressing effect upon the buoyancy of your Soul.

And, finally, he used to say, "If you eat nuts all the time, you'll look like a . . ." I'll say he used to say, "You'll look nutty, or like a squirrel." So everything has its effect upon you. And, if you eat foods that are vital foods, natural foods, and which you can digest, and agree with you, that's the right food for you. So that comes under the company that you keep and it should be watched.

And so, finally, in closing, after weighing all the points brought out, I'm sure we all agree and realize that there's one environment we need, and that's the Supreme Environment within us, that Supreme Inner Environment of God's Love. His All-Pervading Consciousness, His All-Protecting Love is the greatest environment we can have.

And Master told me, and I've never forgotten it – he told me in the Fall of 1920 – he said – and six months later I found out he knew what he was talking about. He said, "Remember Doctor, when you are in the Om vibration, nothing can touch you. No force in the universe can touch you." That is, when you look here [Doctor points to the point between the eyebrows], and keep your consciousness there, nothing can harm you. That's what we have. And if the Greatest Force in the Universe be One with us, protecting us, and guiding us, if we can learn to lift our consciousness to the Christ Center, the Great Om Vibration, the Presence of God. And so, that's our Greatest Environment, the Presence of God within us. That's what we must attain – what we must seek.

And so, practice the Presence of God, as His Omniscient Consciousness within you. In that Omniscience is every saint that ever was or will be. Realize it. In that Omniscience of God within you is your savior, be it whatever channel God sends to you. Do you realize that? These are wonderful truths. We must not forget them. That's in us – Spiritually – the Environment, the Presence of God, and in that is every . . . everything we can ever hope to be, because God Alone Is. He Is.

Do not think you do anything. Do not expect any others to do anything for you. Expect God to take care of you. If He uses others, He's the Doer – that's His business. But you, don't depend on outward things. You dilute your loyalty to God by depending upon others. Understand that. Now let's don't misinterpret that. God flows through everybody, but if you do not feel that Consciousness that He is in everyone, then you are depending on that personality to . . .

[Tape ends abruptly]