There was a time, about 500 years ago, when everyone wanted to be rich and famous. Columbus, the captain of ships set off, taking enormous risks. They wanted to come to India somehow because it was the richest economy on the planet. In the past, the economy was extremely rich, really down. Back then, everybody wanted to come here. Now, everybody wants to leave.

Today, society is in transition. Moving from one level of economics to another. This is going to happen dramatically in the next few years. We hope it is going to put the rich in rural areas, and it will. If we facilitate it, it will happen very well. If we do not facilitate it, it will happen forcefully and painfully, but it will anyway happen.

One of the reasons for the problems in the world used to be India because they were afraid of us—from our corruption, our inefficiency, our way of doing things up and down. Now, they are making a plan to come and do it dramatically and the money markets are moving towards India now, and you will see things changing very, very rapidly. This is bound to happen.

When the financial situation changes, we must also be ready for very dramatic cultural changes in society. Along with financial freedom, the fundamentals of a particular culture always change. When every individual gets the choice to do whatever he wants to do, it is extremely important that we empower that individual with the necessary awareness to make the right choices. For most societies, this is a source of problems. Also along with economic affluence because the necessary awareness was missing in individual people to make the right choices.

Instead of just thinking of being well-off, being to human-ity, generally, one generation of that nation or society suffers from uncertainty, unable to make the right choices.

We are now living in the most fortunate country on the planet right now. During the 1980s, they went through a very bad depression where even food became a problem for the citizens. Then World War II came, and that was a great upheaval because people. The generation after the war worked really hard and got the country back on the rails. In the 1980s, economic upsurge happened, but that generation of people had all the wrong choices and for about 25-30 years, the volume of indulgence in drugs, alcohol and other things threw society off track and almost derailed the whole nation. Then again from the 1970s to 1990s, they recovered.

The spiritual process is one way of ensuring that people have the necessary awareness to make the right choices. When affluence comes, they won’t lose their head. This is very important. Poverty is a horrible problem, but the moment they get out of it, a lot of people tend to lose their head and get into a different kind of problem. We would like to see that the economic upsurge that is happening in the nation is enjoyed by people because this is a starved population, starved for everything.

Economic work is happening in a big way; it is moving in the right direction, but what has happened in the country in the cultural, social and individual level, and consciousness-wise, has to happen at an equal pace, if not at a faster pace. If it doesn’t happen, good economics will bring more pain than well-being.

We have to make it so that everyone who walks on the street walks with a little more awareness and concern for the person who is next to him. Just quietly, everyone must constantly be aware that this needs to happen. Wherever we are, you must be constantly conscious. Every activity that you do, you must see that this should spread. Then the world would be a different place. People need to begin to think a little more clearly, a little more focus. It is most essential that their thinking is not influenced by their caste, creed or religion. They must think straight. The spiritual process becomes a powerful tool in making this happen.