INCLUSION
THE FUTURE OF GIVING

Giving and receiving is the basis of all transactions. No interaction can take place without these two. Nowadays, we are constantly trying to elevate one to a place of sanctity and the other to subordination. One is considered superior and the other inferior. To make life possible, everyone is connected in some sense. No one can take place without the other.

Today we feel we must emphasize the importance of giving only because taking is happening in large volumes and giving has become scarce. But in reality, Existence is happening in a constant give-and-take. Since taking has become a very dominant aspect in our social situations, we feel we must promote the concept of giving. Existentially, however, the two are always in equal proportion; one can never be more or less. This reminds me of a story my great grandmother often related. There was once an old wealthy farmer. He owned a large piece of fertile land that he cultivated well. Before he died, he called his two sons and told them, "Whatever comes out of this land, both of you should share it equally. Let there never be any dispute about that." So the brothers stuck to this and always shared the produce equally between them. As time passed, one of them got married and had five children. The other never married. But the agricultural production was always divided fifty-fifty. After some time, a worm entered the elder brother's mind and the brother who had a big family, thought, "It is not fair that I get half the produce, because when I grow old, I will have five young sons to support me. My brother has nobody, no security, so he should get more than me". But his father had said the produce must be shared equally. So that night he went to his granary, picked up a sack full of flour, crept across to his brother's granary and secretly put it there. Whenever he felt like this, he took a sack full of grain and put it in his brother's granary. After some time the same worm entered the younger brother's mind. He thought, "I am alone while my brother has such a large family to support. But he gets the same quantity that I do. This is not right." But he knew his brother would not accept his generosity. That night he picked up a sack of grain, and secretly put it in his brother's granary. This kept going on. Both of them were getting old. One day both of them, with sacks of corn on their backs, walked towards each other's granaries in the middle of the night and came face to face with each other. Suddenly they realized what had been happening. Their clandestine generosity embarrassed them. They looked away, continued their journey, put the sacks where they had put them, and crept back to bed. After some time both the brothers died. When the people of that town started thinking of building a temple, they came to the conclusion that this spot where these two brothers had built a granary for others was the best place to build the temple.

In the story, the place of unconditional giving becomes a temple. When you give, not as a calculation, but just as a way of being, it means you are carrying your own temple within you. You are carrying God within you. When you are allowing the Divine within you an expression. Giving is not just a quality that you nurture; it is the very nature of life. Above all, what you give becomes your quality. In nature, something is "red" for instance, because it holds back the other six colors and reflects the color red. So, whatever you give away, that becomes your quality: people realize you are rich only if you give of your riches. Today giving away money has become a substitute for true sense of giving. You are encouraged giving as a means to bury your guilt or whatever they are doing at the present. Many such types of giving have existed in yours, you just rearrange as necessary. In my experience, I have never felt I am giving or taking. I don't feel guilty about using anything, and I don't feel great about what I give.

When you realize that the essential process of life is a constant transaction, you will realize that for an iota of offering that you make, there are a trillion things to be. It is the time. Think of the forces of Existence and the zillions of creatures working, knowingly or unknowingly, within your body and outside of it. You are a part of life possible. Everything in the Existence is somehow collaborating to keep you alive and well. So, only a fool thinks of himself as a giver because just to voluntarily. If, as Marx predicted, the richest nations in the world had turned Communist, it would be a wonderful world. But the fact is that it's the poorest— who have nothing to give—who talk about giving. That is a kind of obscenity. And the rich are not talking about giving—that is another obscenity. Communism was about prosperity for all. But unfortunately, it has been misunderstood to mean poverty for all. That is why it is such a tragedy.

When the Communist revolution has failed, people are not ready to be inspired. He traveled to Russia to see this wonderful phenomenon. He was taking a walk in the countryside when he saw an old
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO ANYONE. IT IS WONDERFUL TO BE ALIVE, TO BE WHO YOU ARE, AND TO GROW. ULTIMATELY, THAT’S ALL THAT MATTERS.