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THE SPEAKING TREE

Making a Case for Conscious Action



Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

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To seek the Divine, should one withdraw from worldly affairs? It all depends on what you mean by 'worldly affairs'. Is tending to a coconut tree a worldly affair? Yes, it is. So is cooking food. How can you live, otherwise?

The kind of worldly affairs you want to engage in is your individual choice. In society, someone is into politics, someone else is a clerk, another runs an industry, and someone is cleaning floors. All of them are engaged in worldly affairs. You cannot really withdraw from worldly affairs. Only those who do things without much thought complain in this manner. They don't have the awareness to live life by choice.

Such people complain about those who are spiritually inclined: "Oh! These people are being irresponsible. They are interested only in themselves." The man who is in his own house or office is also there just to take care of his own affairs.

He is not particularly interested in the world's well-being. He actually doesn't know what his real affair is and has gotten himself into such a mess that he doesn't know how to get out of it. Because he is unable to get out, he thinks that somebody who is able to manage his own affairs, the way he wants to in his life, is on the wrong bus.

One day, a drunkard somehow pulled himself onto a bus, stumbled around, upsetting suitcases and bags, and lurching forward, he fell on a seat next to an elderly woman. The affronted lady pushed him aside and said: "I hate to say this, but you are going straight to hell."

On hearing this, the drunkard suddenly sprang up and said: "I am on the wrong bus then," and tried to get off the bus, again stumbling and falling.

So, like the drunkard who was not in control of his actions, worldly people will always complain. They will say that the others are just running away from the world. Right now, the way the world is going, if a lot of people become over- industrious and continue to do too many things on this planet, it (the planet) will not last for long.

Fortunately, 50 per cent of the people are lazy. Most others are busy destroying the world. Probably only one per cent are really spiritual. Now, we want to encourage at least 50 per cent of them towards spirituality in order to save the world.

People who withdraw from excessive activity do not cause damage — either to themselves, to society or the environment. Those who are engaged in activity in absolute

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unawareness are the ones destroying this world. They threaten the planet's survival.

So right now, the most responsible thing you can do is to withdraw from unconscious activity. But withdrawing from such activity is not easy. It requi-res tremendous maturity to simply sit quietly, only doing things to the extent that is needed. For this, you have to be aware and conscious.

(Times Foundation & Jindal Steels will organise an introductory talk by the writer on March 20 at FICCI Audito- rium & a two-day workshop at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra on March 22 & 23. Contact: 98-103-01379, 51538362, 25751687.)



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