



‘Spirituality brings a sense of responsibility’

Spirituality is something that can bring a social change. It's spirituality that can bring a sense of responsibility. It can bring the shift from 'What am I getting?' to 'What can I do?' You know, responsibility is what I can do, rather than what I can have. That's not responsibility. That is rights. In rights, you always demand what can I have, what can I have! You think about yourself. In responsibility, you think what can you do, how you can contribute. Only those who have can contribute. The sense of 'having it all' can only come through spiritual understanding, spiritual experience.

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You know, today we find there are so many people working for rights: human rights, women's rights, this right and that right. You know they miss a basic point. When you demand rights, you acknowledge you don't have it. And when you feel you don't have it, you don't own it, and that's it! It's never going to come to you. You can keep on talking about women's rights all your life and get agitated, frustrated, angry and keep fighting with each other. You know, demanding rights, you forget to drop the responsibility. Social responsibility is something you take on yourself. You go forward, you progress, you move through all hurdles. We have ample examples of that in our history.

India is the best example for social change. Social change has happened not through the sword, but through spiritual revolution. Every revolution that has happened in India has been bloodless and has been spiritual. Whether it's Kabir's, Gurunanak's, Babasaheb Ambedkar's... all these revolutions have come. Social change has come, from Basavanna, Dnyandev to Tukaram, Rohidas. The spiritual movement has transformed people, society and of course, time and again that's needed. You need to bring that back, bring that spirit back into life.

See, it happened just a few months ago with Naxalites. We have also worked with some militants in Kashmir. For the first two days, they were so antagonistic even to learning anything, breathing and all! Saying, "We don't want it, what's this?" Our teacher who went there to take courses is a Hindu. So they didn't want anything to do with it. Somehow, twenty Naxalites did the course. They started and enjoyed it so thoroughly, they brought more people. In all, 350 people underwent the programme and all of them experienced such tremendous transformation: At first, they thought let's do jihaad for our community, give away our life. Now, they have started thinking let's do something for all, some work for all.

We all have to get people connected in this way, to bring everyone together. Today the world is facing terrorism: Islamic terrorism, Jihaadi terrorism, the world over whether it's Indonesia, Manila, Europe, Africa, America, Afghanistan or India. Even Pakistan is troubled by Islamic Jihaadis and terrorism. I think we can make a big contribution here. We can give this spiritual knowledge, which transcends the boundaries of religions.

All the enlightened masters, the sufi saints gave it a new turn, coloured it with the hues of spirituality. That spiritual flavour, that spiritual essence in religion can really bring about human values and responsibility in life so that every one has to work together.