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**Chief Guest-2019**

*Jananam Sukhadam Maranam Karunam Milanam Madhuram Smaranam Karunam Kalavashadiha  
Sakalam Karunam, Samayadhipateh Akhilam Karunam.*

*Namaskaram*, good evening to everyone. Mahatma's life is a statement that social transformation is only possible with the basis of self-transformation. When we say self-transformation, for ages people have always attempted this through belief systems; either through their trust in God or fear of God, rewards of heaven and terrors of hell, or philosophically the more agnostic people have tried to address this philosophically with morality, with ethics, with values. But, by believing two different things, two different people are in conflict. Though in the world, we are made to believe that the conflict is between good and evil. If you look at it closely enough, all conflict is essentially between one man's belief versus another man's belief, religious or otherwise. Morals and ethics and values, every one of you will know this, at least in your own homes, your values, your morals, your ethics are always in conflict with the next generation's ethics, values and morals. So home is a small demo. Rather society has bigger and more violent demos going on. Today, it has become necessary as we address everything.

Today we are addressing everything with technology. And this generation's trust in technology is more than God... is more than anything else in many ways. The hierarchy of authority is largely gone in human mind, or at least it is crumbling and weakened. So in many ways just because an authority says something it is no more valuable. I think these are very good times because this means we are moving towards a phase of life upon this planet where authority does not spell or mean truth... truth is only authority. It is very good place to go to. We are moving in this direction, so addressing self-transformation as a technology means the human mechanism is the most sophisticated technology on the planet. You cannot dispute that. The question is, only do you know how to operate it, have you read even the user's manual, that's a big question. Right now what human problem is we are trying to address this morally, ethically, value based belief system, fear, these are I mean carrot and stick method of hell and heaven and stuff like that. But essentially right now what human beings are going through is just this. You are given intelligence, but you don't have a stable enough base. You can call it stress, you can call it anxiety, you can call it greed, you can call it anger, you can call it hatred, and you can call it a variety of sufferings that human beings go through. Essentially it is your own intelligence turning against you. If your thought and emotions was happening the way you wanted, definitely you would keep yourself blissful and wonderful. Can I assume that about you?

If your body and brain took instructions from you, you would keep yourself healthy, wonderful, blissful, yes or no? So if there was a choice definitely you would choose highest level of pleasantness for yourself. What you want for your neighbours sometimes is debatable, but what you want for yourself is very clear that it is the highest level of pleasantness. What does pleasantness mean? If your body becomes pleasant we call this health. If it becomes very pleasant, we call it pleasure. If your mind becomes pleasant we call this peace. If it becomes very pleasant we call it joy. If your emotions become pleasant, we call this love.

If it becomes very pleasant we call it compassion. If your life energies become pleasant, we call this blissfulness. If it becomes very pleasant we call it ecstasy. If your surroundings become pleasant we call it success. Only to create pleasantness of your surroundings you need the cooperation of many forces around you. But to create pleasantness of the body, mind, emotion and energy is 100% your business. To create pleasantness around you, you need the cooperation of all these people. But for you to be pleasant, it's totally your business because you are the only entity. I want you to understand, you are an individual, an individual means-not further divisible. There are many ways to address this because human experience, joy and misery, pain and pleasure, even agony and ecstasy, even light and darkness that happens within you. All this in pursuit of human happiness and human wellbeing and wellbeing has not come, this is because human experience is caused within us, not around us. If I meet you when you are very happy, I am sure you are such a wonderful being but if I meet you when you are angry, when you are frustrated, when you are miserable about something, you could be pretty nasty, isn't it. This is true for every human being. So if you want a human being to function in a certain way, the most fundamental thing is your pleasantness of experience. It is not subjugated to something else, nor mortgaged to something else that happens around you. Your pleasantness is entirely determined by you, there are many, many ways of looking at this. First and foremost thing is your own thought and emotion not happening your way.

Right now unfortunately, a whole lot of people are going about propagating 'peace is the ultimate goal of your life'. See, peace is not the ultimate goal of your life. So I'm asking you, is peace a fundamental requirement or is the ultimate goal of your life? It's a fundamental requirement.

If we want peace in the world without you and me being peaceful... peace is just a lot of talk, isn't it? If you and I are capable of sitting here peacefully, we don't have to worry about peace. It is anyway there in the world. Because, what you see as society is a consequence of whom we are as people. Society is not an entity by itself. Society is, in a way, a composite of what all of us are. If we do not make this one peaceful, if you do not make this one joyful, if you do not make this one conflict free within ourselves, rest is going to be only endless talk. So without self-transformation, transforming society, transforming the world is just empty talk. It is time that human beings invest in this because this is the best time. Never before in the history of humanity was our survival process as well organized as it is today. Still unfortunately, many people are left out of it, but it is better organized than ever before. Our survival is better organized than ever before. This is the time to address these issues. This is the time to address this dimension of life, how self-transformation can be affected within us, because without self-transformation, universal transformation is not going to happen. That's because (when) we are talking about something... if you cannot keep your mind peaceful, you are talking about keeping the world peaceful. How is it even possible? Everything that you see in the world is just a larger manifestation of what's happening in our minds, isn't it so? If we do not settle this, if you do not take charge of this, then we are not going to do that. We will only talk about it. We will find more and more ways to become violent because the best fruits of science and technology are going into instruments of violence in the world. Not because there's anything wrong with science and technology, simply because the people who find access to these things are not peaceful. They are violent within themselves. So, the tools of technology will be first going into instruments of violence. So it's important, as we get more and more empowered with technological empowerment, it's extremely important that human beings are addressed as individual human beings and they are settled as individual human beings. If this doesn't happen, as we get more and more empowered, we become more and more dangerous. Empowerment should lead to wellbeing. Self-transformation should be the prime goal. All of them must focus on self-transformation; otherwise this empowerment is not going to be good for us. This empowerment is going to be disastrous.

Right now, whether its ecological problems or war or everything, it is a consequence of our empowerment, isn't it? If we were not so empowered, we wouldn't have caused this level of damage. So empowerment instead of enhancing life unfortunately is destroying life, simply because we have not settled as individual human beings. We think there is something called transforming a society, transforming a nation, transforming the world. There are no such things. Only you and I can strive to transform ourselves. From this as a consequence, society is transformed, nation is transformed and the world is transformed. So Mahatma Gandhi's message was this, whatever he wanted to do with the country or with the people, first thing is, he experimented whether it works within himself... in his own little way. He could take time off to experiment on himself before applying it to the people around. So this is very important. This is a land; this is a culture where we invested so heavily on self-transformation... not as a religion, not as value system, not as a philosophy, but as a technology. This is what yoga means... the technology of self-transformation. Technologies for inner wellbeing are very important for this day. Technologies for wellbeing, you must be just learn to use it, because this is the greatest gadget you have. If you know how to work it, it will produce wonderful things. If you don't know how to work it, it will produce terrible things. Most horrible things have been done by human beings. What do we manifest in this world is essentially ours. It doesn't matter what the previous generations have done. It doesn't matter what the next generations will do. But in our time, what example do we set, what do we create in this world, is essentially ours. We should not let this pass. We should not let this go waste because our time is just a brief amount of time. In this time, we can make either something truly fantastic, or just let it pass, or do negative things to each other. In our lives, if we do not do what we cannot do, it's not an issue. But in our lives, if we do not do what we can do, we are a disastrous life. So self-transformation means just this, that your life is not a disaster. Everything that you can do, you did.

Thank you very much.

