

Br. Allen

Faith

Glendale Temple December 22, 2011

Br. Allen started out with a story from the Lessons entitled Saint Maduski's Faith In God:

Saint Maduski was invited to a World Peace Conference in Geneva. Unfortunately, there was a big storm forecasted. His family and friends cautioned him not to go because it would be dangerous and they didn't want him to get into trouble. He was filled with faith in God but he had this battle going on within himself. Finally he said: "Okay, God is the essence of all goodness and since my purpose is good, I ought to surmount all difficulties that I may meet with during my flight to Geneva." The future of many countries depended on him going there.

Then he thought some more reasoning: "Well, there are so many people with good intentions who have performed good deeds but who have met with disaster during their effort to do good; God, seemingly, did not protect them. And there are some people who are treacherous and sinful but who apparently have continued to wander freely along the pathway of life without being punished by God's laws." He kept debating with himself but in the end his faith won out and he said: "I am going to go to Geneva." As he went to his airplane, a monoplane, his family and friends urged him not to do this because the storm was by now really strong and it was too dangerous but he hurriedly climbed into the cockpit of his monoplane, started the motor, and flew off. He flew as fast as he could hampered by the gale force winds but finally he got out of the storm and thought, "Smooth sailing from here on out."

The next thing he knew, causing him great concern, was a big rat beyond his reach gnawing at one of the vital electric wires that controlled the entire mechanism of the monoplane. He knew that if the rat kept chewing on the wires there'd be a short circuit and he'd have to make an emergency landing and crash on the mountain over which he was flying. He knew that he had to do something and kept maneuvering the plane around, up and down, trying to get the rat to get off the wire. No matter what he did the rat went on with his nefarious work.

Saint Maduski's concern increased but he kept thinking that there has to be a way. He turned to God in prayer and he received an inspiration to fly higher. He pointed the plane upwards going to 10,000 feet, then 20,000 feet and kept going higher and higher, until he could see that the rat had become powerless and died in the rarefied atmosphere. He knew that inspiration had come from God and much relieved and happy he safely reached Geneva and attended the conference.

Master analyzed the story thus: "The foregoing story illustrates that most devotees are subject to repeated doubts until they have reach the ultimate goal and found the answers to all life's problems and questions from the lips of God. Some aspiring devotees are not discouraged by doubt but instead salvage their faith from the sea of dubiousness. Although God usually does not protect devotees the way they want Him to help them, still He, in His subtle ways, always sends help in unexpected directions to true devotees who continue to believe in Him."

Master brings out two important points on faith that will be touched on later. Continuing with Master's analyzes: "The story also illustrates that those who have a firm faith in God will be inspired to receive conscious directions in regard to overcoming their problems." It would be easy for people in the world to say: "Hey, you thought of that answer to go higher yourself." Saint Maduski did not see it that way. He had faith that it came from God and that's why he got that answer.

Master goes on: "True devotees learn from God how to overcome menacing evils by lifting their consciousness to higher and better spheres of existence. The principal moral of the whole story emphasizes that you must conquer evil, not by doing evil, but by lifting yourself to the sphere of goodness and conquering greed by self-control, restlessness by calmness, hatred by love, evil habits by good habits, revengefulness by forgiveness, and habits of mental distraction by continued meditation. As the rat was killed in the finer etheric atmosphere, so all wicked mental habits that are gnawing at the vital happiness of the soul can be automatically eliminated by transferring the mind to a higher level of consciousness established by continued deep meditation."

Some important points and examples from this story:

First, Saint Maduski had full faith in God but he did not have an easy time of it and our lives may not to be easy either. We may have faith in God and it's great when we find the spiritual path and realize we are on our way home but that doesn't mean it's always going to be clear sailing all the time. We need to accept that we are going to have to struggle just like Saint Maduski did. We are going to be facing rats and we're going to get to a point where we're going to think everything is good like Saint Maduski did when he finally got out of the storm and the next thing you know something else has hit us. That's what life is all about.

Master said: "Life is worth nothing if it's not continuously overcoming problems." That is what life is and that's how we learn and that how we grow." We might as well accept that right now.

The second important point: Saint Maduski was cautiously courageous. Although he had faith in God he did not throw caution to the wind and just jump into his plane and take off thinking God would take care of him. He analyzed the situation carefully. We need to do the same. It's great to have that faith. There are times we can't avoid difficulties but we do need to think about them - analyze the situation. We need to use the abilities that we've been given. We've been given a brain for a reason so that we can think things out and not just think that we'll be protected by God.

Apparently, two women, in Master's time, would come to the Temple, park their car and always it unlocked. Master asked to them about it but they'd responded: "Where's your faith in God? He'll protect us." Then one day they left a number of valuable items on the back seat and they were all taken. Master said: "It's good to have faith in God but we have to do our part." So, we have to do our parts.

Master has a prayer: "Teach me to be tenaciously and cautiously courageous instead of often being

afraid.” So that’s the best attitude to have...be cautiously courageous.

Another quote from Gurujī: “Do you ever think that you’ve been completely unsettled by circumstances, ruffled, shattered, whipped, lacking will power, lacking power, banish such thoughts. You have power; you have to use it.” Part of being courageous is using that power because fear has a tendency to paralyze us. We’re afraid to act; we’re afraid something will go wrong. When we’re courageous we won’t be afraid to use our power in the best way we can.

Master goes on to say: “You have all the power you need. There is nothing greater than the power of the mind. Resurrect your mind from the little habits that keep you immobile all the time. Smile that perpetual smile; that smile of God. Smile that strong smile of balanced recklessness, that million dollar smile that no one can take away.” In order to have that balanced recklessness and cautious courageousness, we need to have that faith that’s underlying all this because we know God is going to make sure it’s okay in the end. It may not go as we want, it may be more painful than we would like, but God is taking care of things.

Underlying this balanced recklessness and courageousness there is an optimism; there’s a certain confidence, there’s a knowing that everything will work out in the end. That is what faith is. That is what faith is made of. All those things come from that inner faith. Br. Allen reiterated that faith really comes from the connection with our souls. The soul knows everything. Okay? So faith is really the knowing everything is going to be okay; knowing that we can accomplish what we set out to do. We need to keep that underlying confidence and not underestimate the importance, which come from that real faith.

Jesus said: “If thou dost believe and sayeth unto this mountain, go unto the depths of the sea, it shall go.” Master’s comment: “Do not expect the mountain to obey if you go to it and say with an unbelieving, timid, squeaky voice, ‘Mr. Mountain, will you please so into the depths of the sea.’” Master says that is not really faith. We may say it’s faith but it’s not for we need to have underlying courage, the underlying will that is a part of it. We need to have the courage, not just the belief, that God is going to help us through the difficulties and problems.

Another important point: Saint Maduski persevered. He did not give up, right? What he went through was very scary but he got through the storm and he could easily have been killed with the rat gnawing on the electrical wire that would have caused a short circuit but he persevered until he got an answer. He didn’t give up and let fear overtake him. Even when he saw no way out in spite everything he’d done he continued trying until he got the answer that solved his problem. We need to be the same way.

Br. Allen reiterated that things may not always go the way that we might wish...Saint Maduski, too, would have wished things to go differently...or expect and that often the difficult times are meant for us not to lose confidence and give up because our confidence was suddenly shaken...we didn’t expect this...why is this happening? We need to keep that inner faith. It will help us keep that confidence by continuing to make those good efforts.

The story of a good example of confidence is of a commander during World War I. In a note he sent to

his commander while in a battle, in the front with his men, facing the opposing army. He wrote: "My center is giving way." He was losing the center of his confidence. "My right flank are in retreat." Those guys were giving up completely and leaving the front. "Situation excellent. I shall attack." Isn't that a good example of confidence? He had that faith in God, in what he was doing. That's the attitude we need to have and never give up. We must always know that God is guiding us and whatever the situation we're in is the best situation we can be in right now for our growth.

God only cares about our growth. We may be faced with the most unfortunate things or the worst possible things we can imagine but, believe it or not, it's what's best for us and we have to be like this commander, attack and keeping going forward...keep trying to improve. Our faith isn't always going to be perfect but when we do our best by living those qualities of fearlessness, courageousness or optimism that lead to faith we will make our inner faith stronger even though it can't always be perfect.

Hope is also a very important point that cannot be separated from everything already touched on. As individuals it may be a good way for some to look at at faith through hope. We must keep hope alive. It helps us to grow.

Our Guru said: "To kill hope and be despondent is to put on an animal mask of limitation that hides your divine identity." We lose the realization of who we are when we lose hope. We lose contact with the soul within us...that infinitely powerful soul. Master continues: "Instead hope for the highest and the best. As a child of God nothing is too good for you. Keep on hoping. Move in that light as you travel on pathways of incarnation to your luminous home in God. Hope is born of the intuitive consciousness of the soul that some time we shall remember that forgotten image of God within us."

We may not feel that image of God within us. We may not know for certain that it's there with our minds but deep down we know we are the soul; that we are all part of God and that we have always known that we are a part of Him. We've just lost sight of that knowing because our vision has been clouded by delusion but deep down we know who we really are. We should keep reminding ourselves of that and keep living from that center of consciousness rather than from the center that we don't know. Br. Allen repeated a part of Master's quote: "Hope is born is of the intuitive consciousness of the soul that some time we shall remember that forgotten image of God within us. This intuitive consciousness is faith." So, again, faith comes from the soul...it comes from our soul.

Another important point: Saint Maduski had a noble purpose. There was a good reason for his going to Geneva. He was thinking of the fortune of many nations affected by his absence. He had a noble purpose. That's an important factor in our faith because it has certain amount of power in it. We don't need some great world purpose like Saint Maduski but the simplest way is to live unselfishly. Perhaps, what we do may be a service to other, to God or whatever, is a way to live our noble purpose even when we're doing our simple everyday, mundane activities. Our spiritual goals are as noble a purpose as we can ever have. The purpose of live is to find God. There is no more noble purpose. By being kind to others, serving other by seeing the image of God within them as within ourselves is the way to live life with a noble purpose.

Not everything we do may have a great noble purpose, so one way to cultivate our desire for God is by inviting Him to be with us no matter what we're doing, including the fulfillment of even those little desires that we all have from time to time. We have to give God our full attention all the time and let's keep those little desires in their proper place. They are not the most important thing we've got going and we can't lose sight and get caught up in those desires letting them totally distract us from God. There is a more noble purpose in life than those little desires.

When Jesus said: "If thou dost believe and sayeth unto this mountain, go unto the depths of the sea, it shall go" he was expressing the power of faith. However, if we do ask that mountain to go into the depths of the ocean we'd better have a very good reason for that to happen, right? If we're just going to ask the mountain to move just for fun it's not going to happen; it doesn't work that way. That's where noble purposes come in. There has to be a reason for what we ask for, otherwise it's not going to happen. The world is already chaotic enough, isn't it? God can't have us running around using our faith to make a bigger mess of it than it already is. There are laws. Even though faith can be very powerful, what it comes down to is that we have to tune our will in with God's will and then there's nothing our faith can't accomplish.

Master talked about that a lot. We came here on the earth to play a part, a role. When we play our part perfectly in tune with God's will, our faith will be stronger and we'll be able to accomplish more. There are people in the world who don't want that; people who don't have any interest in God. Their reasoning is what's the point of using this faith if I have to be in tune with God. I want to do what I want. They will never have the inner strength that comes from being in tune with God. So for faith to manifest and be really strong, we have to tune in our will with God's.

Paramahansa Yogananda said: "You should often repeat this prayer to your Heavenly Father. 'I will reason, I will create, I will do everything I set my mind to do but Father guide my creative abilities to the right thing that I should do.'" That's tuning in with what God wants from us.

Br. Allen continued with Master's quote: "And be fair with God. If you do not receive the result for which you have prayed, it maybe that He has something better for you. Talk sensibly to God with love and faith and you will see that He will work with you and help you to accomplish your worth ambitions."

Lastly, Saint Maduski set a very good example at always keeping his consciousness on God. When he did something he saw it was God working through him. When he got into trouble, he turned to God. When things went well, he thanked God. He was very grateful for that thought on how to suffocate the rat. He knew God had given him that idea. He was constantly connected.

Master encourages us to practice the presence of God. We need to keep that connection with God if we're going to have that faith that lets us keep going with a positive attitude and never giving up. When we break that connection, that's when we suffer. That's the way this creation is set up. When we separate ourselves from God we suffer. In the end suffering forces us back to God so it is not a bad

thing. It is best to keep that connection to the best of our ability, no matter what the circumstances, even when the things are bad.

Our Guru said: "God's omnipresent energy is flowing into your body all the time but you are not conscious of it. All nature pays highest respects to God and His power that is within you. The trouble is that you do not make the connection. Realize that you are living directly by God's grace and that every other power will fail without the power of God." Master is encouraging us to always keep that connection alive, no matter what's going on in our lives.

Br. Allen closed with the following quotes of Master's:

"My master, Sri Yukteswarji, used to say: 'Remember this, if you have within the faith, which is truly divine, and there is something you desire that is not in the universe, it shall be created for you.'"

"Do you realize that from all I've told you tonight, that even life and death are dreams? And what is the conclusion? Have more mental strength. Develop such mental strength that you can stand unshaken no matter what comes bravely facing anything in life. If you love God, you should have faith and be prepared to endure the trials that come. Don't be afraid of suffering. Keep your mind positive and strong. It is your inner experience that is the most important."

"Be strong inside with full faith in God. Then you will conquer all the limitations of the world and you will be a king of peace and happiness. That is what I want you to be."

Br. Allen closed with the following affirmation: "I will plunge the gaze of my faith through the window of the spiritual eye and baptize my body in the healing light of Christ Consciousness."