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A Conversation With Gangaji Series

Host Hillary Larson

Episode 61

FINDING HOME

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[00:03] MUSIC

[00:10] HILLARY: Six years ago, we started on a journey, and we called it '*A Conversation with Gangaji*'. The original question was, "What if you could sit across the coffee table from Gangaji, and ask her anything you wanted?" Well, I got to do that somehow. Gangaji and I covered just about every topic one could imagine: everything from relationships, to money, to death, to sex, to suffering, to enlightenment. We changed things up a bit by having special guests like Geneen Roth, Prince Ea and Alanis Morissette. We started the first episode with the topic of chronic pain, and ended our last conversation with the question, "What do you really want?" Together, we got to listen to Gangaji always point to the deeper truth of the matter. But when all the questions were finally asked, all it was really about all along, was finding Home.

[01:10] GANGJAI: You are yourself, Home. You are what is named 'Home'. That is your true name.

[01:20] HILLARY: For this one last time, I'm Hillary Larson, and this is *A Conversation with Gangaji*.

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[01:32] HILLARY: Some of you may have heard the episode '*What do you really want?*' a few months ago. And then we had another one sitting on the shelf that we wanted to release right after that, that was '*The Spiritual Bypass*'. So the ending of this show maybe wasn't so clear. But '*What do you really want?*' really brought all of these sixty plus episodes full circle. For those of you who did not hear that, take a listen and you'll see why I'm saying that. It feels strange to say that it's been a privilege to be with Gangaji over these years, because that word falls so far short of what this journey has meant. It's been surprising, humbling, always humbling, and profoundly liberating, as I've sat and listened to Gangaji, as you have all these years. These podcasts will live on in lots of different ways, that's for certain. And we have a new podcast that will be releasing soon. And on that note, many people have said to me over the years that they take *A Conversation with Gangaji* on walks with them, to the gym, while they're falling asleep at night, driving around in their car, so many different ways of being with Gangaji. So this new podcast will be like that, but something a little bit new and different, something to look forward to. But first I wanna do a goodbye of sorts, for this show. Over the past weeks the question came up for me, "How on earth do you end something like this?" Particularly since that last conversation I had with Gangaji ended in such a natural and unexpected way. It was my realization that I didn't need, and I don't need one thing to change in order to be okay, more than okay, 'deeply fine' as Gangaji would say. I saw how every single conversation before that led to that realization. It's the trustworthiness of life that has been a theme that has threaded its way throughout every conversation we've had. And let me tell you how all that lined up, it has to do with what you're about to hear. About a year and a half ago, I was listening to one of

Gangaji's webcasts that she does every month, and I was listening to her and I was so floored by her words, by what she said, and I immediately was thinking of all these ways that I would like to use that monologue. And then I realized, "Oh, this is it, this is our ending", our gift to you for this one last episode. If we would have just had one episode that summed up everything, perhaps it would have been this one.

[04:23] GANGAJI: We spend so many thousands of hours of our lives searching for Home. So many avenues we go down, so many dead ends we go down, so many insights we acquire along the way. So many false beliefs, so many beliefs that really support us in, in deeper inquiry. Until finally we reach a moment where we stop everything. And that's the moment I invite you to. As useful as all the avenues have been, as useful as all the dead ends have been, you have the opportunity to take this moment and simply stop searching, stop searching for something that will save you from all the, the negative ways that you judge yourself, or the negative experiences you have in your body, or your mind. Stop hoping that you will be saved from all your dysfunctions, all your ungodliness. You've understood that, you have had glimpses of that, and now you are at the point in your life where you simply without effort, without doing anything, allow yourself to be redeemed by yourself, by Home. I'm not suggesting allow yourself to be redeemed by yourself playing the role of a messiah who will redeem you, a savior who will fix you. It's much more simple. It's an acknowledgment of everything that has come before, an acknowledgment of the dysfunction of your mind, or emotions, or body, or the dysfunction of our world. An acknowledgment of everything, and then actually stopping. Being where you have always been throughout this imaginary journey of, of loss of Home. I've often spoken that loss is really the true spiritual path, because it is the path that life teaches us. Certainly we gain in many instances, and we have gained life experience just by being born. But finally we lose everything. So in this invitation, you're invited to lose your version of yourself, your vision of yourself, your definition of yourself. And in that loss, you are found by the Truth of yourself. That's Self realization. We hope that Self realization, and that our redemption through Self realization will make us nicer people, or make us feel good all the time, or make us not care about things. But that hope is a postponement, that hope is a, a discussion in the mind about what you need to be happy and fulfilled, and what you need to find Home. And when you are willing to stop searching, when you are willing to stop trying to give the search exactly what it needs to take you Home, you directly find you never left. This is the Truth of yourself, no matter what you're experiencing, no matter what you're feeling, no matter what you're thinking, this is the core, always here.

[08:37] MUSIC

[09:10] HILLARY: We're going to hear from Gangaji one more time before we end, but first I want to say that *A Conversation with Gangaji* will live on in so many different ways, ways we haven't even thought up yet. So please do continue to share your favorite episodes, and come back the website, check out ones you haven't heard for a while, this could be one of those things that gets even better with age, I have a feeling it will. We've got a new episode of *Epiphany* coming up in the next month or two, and we have this new podcast that's coming out soon, so if you've been finding us here on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, any of our platforms on the website as well, the new podcast will be right here as well, so it will show up without you having to go search for it when it comes out. As I'm closing here, I want to specifically thank the Gangaji Radio team, I hope you know how wonderful you are. You just are. So many donors have made this show possible, your generosity impacted people all over the world. Thank you also to Timothy Surya Das, he came up with our perfect theme music, that was almost seven

years ago that he first did that. And the staff of the Gangaji Foundation, as Gangaji says, 'There is none better'. Couldn't be more true. This goodbye wouldn't be complete without thanking all of you for joining us on this journey, that is for sure. And lastly, and I'm going to try to do this without getting mushy, I would like to say to Gangaji that even after all these conversations, after hearing you say countless times that you're just a regular human being, I still think you're a rare and special person. And I would not be the first person to say that. Thank you for giving your life to this, thank you for pointing us all Home. I'm Hillary Larson, and this has been *A Conversation with Gangaji*.

[11:20] MUSIC

[11:24] GANGAJI: So this is why we meet. The recognition of the endless search for some redemption, the redemption for being human, being a bad human, or an unenlightened human, a flawed human. The stopping in a moment, while acknowledging all the, the benefits that have come from this mysterious search, and realizing you are yourself Home. You are what is named 'Home'. That is your true name, Home.

[12:08] ENDING MUSIC