

Gangaji Podcast  
Being Yourself  
Episode 26  
Host Barbara Denempont  
Let Yourself Be Found  
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[00:00] MUSIC

[00:04] GANGAJI: I received a beautiful letter just the other day from someone in Brazil. Beautiful letter of Self confirmation, recognizing the flowering of this revelation of Truth. Seeing it in everyone. And she also had a wonderful story that seems to me to be a very good teaching story.

[00:31] BARBARA DENEMPONT, HOST: Hello and welcome to *Being Yourself, Self-Inquiry with Gangaji*. My name is Barbara Denempont. Over the last couple of months we've been sharing some material from the archives that focus on turbulent times. And today I wanted to share Gangaji's core invitation. The invitation that came to her through her teacher Papaji, which is—*call off the search*.

This recording is actually from a retreat at Snow Mountain in 1998. And in it, Gangaji shares this beautiful teaching story that I think everyone can relate to. And it really supports us all in simply stopping. So I invite you to just take the next 15 minutes and retreat.

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(Excerpted from Snow Mountain, CO Retreat with Gangaji, September 21, 1998)

[01:22] GANGAJI:

Good morning. Namaste. You know, with all of these people in this room, all of these individual life streams, we have to recognize that there is a huge accumulation of knowledge in this very room. From all different directions: east, west, center, periphery, outer space, from Vedic knowledge, Christian knowledge, Sufi knowledge, Pagan knowledge, Goddess knowledge, scientific knowledge, ignorant knowledge. It is a huge accumulation in this room. And there are also some in this room who haven't studied any particular path consciously with a spiritual outcome as the goal.

I believe it's crucial that we realize that regardless of the accumulation of knowledge, or the lack of accumulation of knowledge, we are all in the same place. We are exactly in the same place. And that notions of accumulation, or notions of lack of accumulation, are simply brought to this place where we all are. And the opportunity in retreat is to recognize, "What is this place? Where am I? And has this place where I am changed according to the latest evaluation that I have some knowledge, or I don't have any knowledge?"

So I am suggesting that you look for who you are, and where you are, not in what you know, or even in what you don't know. Then there is the revelation of what is called *jnana*, which is true knowledge. And this has nothing to do with accumulation. And different religious groups all over the world have been founded on that revelation. And then culturally, or whatever the propensity was, have taken that founding into institutionalization. And then this that is institutionalized—the knowledge that arose from the divine revelation—gets worshipped, gets accumulated, gets squeezed. And all the time we are in the same place.

I received a beautiful letter just the other day from someone in Brazil. Beautiful letter of Self confirmation, recognizing the flowering of this revelation of Truth. Seeing it in everyone. And she also had a wonderful story that seems to me to be a very good teaching story. So there was all of that recognition, that beauty, that strength, and seeing it in other's eyes. And then she says:

*There was an interesting experience of fear two days ago when I came here.*

She is visiting a friend of hers who lives outside Rio.

*I had been here twice before, and I knew how to get to my friend's house. In the neighborhood there are only dirt roads and pastures on the hills. No signposts, no streetlights, etc. At night you can't see anything but what your car's lights can reach. And that is very little. I got very close to the house.*

Well, let's say, "I got very close to Home."

*But somehow I could not find it. I drove for one and a half hours in circles, and I recognized some places. And after a lot of circling I started to feel exhausted, and fear began to crawl in. At first, I kept telling myself that there was no reason to be afraid, I was very close. I would find it sooner or later. But then I saw that I was just avoiding the fear and I stopped. I let myself be taken by the fear of being lost, of being abandoned, I was shaken by it, I cried and cried, I yelled in the car. After some minutes I realized that I was extremely tired, and that it was not worth fighting. That I wanted to stop searching. There was this thought, "Why should I keep on struggling to find it? I'd better stop, rest, and let myself be found." I thought, "I'll look for a pay phone and call my friend. He'll come to rescue me. I don't need to prove anything."*

*After some driving around in the middle of nowhere I found a pay phone outside of a closed grocery store. It was already eleven P.M. and it was completely dark. The sky was clouded and the moon was hidden. I called my friend, and he came to get me. I was so close to his house that he came walking. I had passed in front of his gate many times. I had even noticed the beautiful flowers growing on each side of it. But for some mysterious reason I did not recognize it. I was expecting a different gate. A green gate instead of a brown gate. What a trick of the mind. And I got so entangled in that search, in my attempts to find it by myself, that I overlooked it. And all the time, it was right there in front of my eyes.*

*Thinking about this experience later, I saw in it the same pattern of looking for what we desire most everywhere, except where it is. And how we can become attached to the search, to the excitement of it. Trying to prove something like how powerful, independent, or clever we are. So much energy and time unnecessarily spent. And all that is needed is to give up the search. To surrender everything and recognize there is nothing I can do anymore. Just stop and let myself be found.*

You recognize this story? In this time we live in it's a wondrous time both in its horrors and its beauties. And in our privilege we have been given many signposts, many directions, many instructions, many gates that say, "Here it is. Go this way." You know, some of them say, "Express yourself." And then you will see another signpost that says, "No, no suppress yourself." You know, like these cartoons you see where the sign—there's one long post and then there are all these arrows and signposts. You must know this, you just look in your life and you see how many different directions you have followed, looking for this ultimate recognition of, "Oh, I am Home." If you are Christian you have followed the Christian dictates, "Love your neighbor as yourself." And when you are not loving your neighbor as yourself, you are miserable. You are separate from Christ. If you are Buddhist, you have, "Follow the Eightfold Path." And if you are not following it, you are miserable. You have lost Buddha nature. And if you are Sufi, you are dancing in the ecstasy of the overflowing heart. And if you aren't dancing in ecstasy—oh my God, the beloved Friend has left you.

Shall I go on and on? There are special diets, and then there is the change of those diets. "You must wear white. No, no you must wear all black." "You must dance. No, no you must sit still." "You must sing. No, you must take a vow of silence." All these signs—going this way, this way. And if you have had occasion to taste the sweetness of the nectar and you desire to return there, then you look for it like it was before. Green gate. This way, that way. And in that looking for it, you overlook that it is here. And this is where we are. In this place. The "friend" in this instance, in this lineage—Ramana—has found you. Papaji once said to me, "You go door to door. You knock on the door. And then you see. If they let you in, give them everything. If they don't let you in, you say 'good luck'. Wish that they open the door for the next friend that walks in, or knocks to be let in."

You know, your story may be even funnier than this story. I know people where the friend walked to where the seeker was and chased the car even, saying, "I'm here, I'm here!" "No, no, no, I have to find it. I have to find it, don't bother me. I have to find it myself." "No, no, no you didn't have a beard the last time I saw you. It couldn't be you." "No, no I was looking for a woman." "No, I was looking for a man." And in this overlooking, there is this continuation of following the signpost, like this, and even tacking up a new one. So if you take what I say to you, and you tack it up as another signpost, then you haven't heard what I am saying. For this time together, in this place where we are, just ignore the signpost, as an experiment. Stop the vehicle. In the dead of night, in the dark of night, no light shining, stop the vehicle. Open your mind to be found.

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[14:09] BARBARA: My heart really fills up with gratitude listening to this recording, just knowing—the people that were recording the event that saved the recordings, archived the

recordings, the volunteers that hosted the event, everything that went into this one recording being possible. And that includes our donors, the staff, Gangaji, and now of course you. And here you are listening. I'm grateful that you are participating in this podcast, and I always truly hope that it supports you in discovering the depths of who you are.

And finally before I go, let me just remind you that you can visit [gangaji.org](http://gangaji.org), that's [gangaji.org](http://gangaji.org), to learn more about Gangaji and all of her programs.

Thank you for listening today. Until next time.