

Acharya Bharat Castelli's's Talk
At Ananda Pune's Weekly Bhagavad Gita Satsang, 3 September 2026

(Transcription, Very Slightly Paraphrased)

<https://www.youtube.com/live/7Tg2o4Qfvoo?si=-XLqvFL0az5Jwexb>

starting at 1.02.25

Friday is Janmashtami and I was informed that Saturday is what we call Teachers' Day, so I was thinking that perhaps we could honour both tonight. I think we understand that the guru, Krishna, and all the masters are the greatest teachers we have in many different ways; and we honour them on a daily basis, not just on a single day.

Krishna and Jesus Christ had very similar beginnings to their lives. Master said that Jesus, when he was a little baby in the manger, was already changing lives through his divine love that could change the hearts of those who came to visit him. The same with Krishna: when he was a little kid, he would teach others. The kind of teaching they did was not by words but by teaching how much love God can express in this world, even through a little form, and how to give and receive that love.



In a way, that's what we are all doing on the spiritual path: learning to give and to receive divine love. Of course, first comes receiving, because if we don't have love, how can we share it? Sometimes, though, people mistakenly think they have to have it perfectly before they can share; but there's always something we can share.

[Here Bharat shares a few passages from the Bhagavad Gita, ch. 4; then later, from ch. 11.]

Babaji, who is Krishna, is the teacher of teachers. You could say he is the one who, in an outward way, has been able to give the highest teachings and also to kind of preserve them. *How long* doesn't matter, because that truth comes expressed through all great masters, and they all share it in the particular way God decrees.

Are we willing to be instruments of God's will? Not that we wish to become teachers, but to share the little bit we have. But how? Usually, through who we are, more than anything else. St. Francis, or somebody else, said something like, 'Who you are speaks so loudly that I can't hear what you're saying'. People feel who we are above everything else. That's why it's important for us to always try to live in the highest. That's the main thing we can do.

But honestly speaking, life itself and everything around us can be a teacher. As an amusing example, during Swamiji's Centenary at Ananda Village I got to see my young niece and nephew. I don't spend too much time around small kids, but we were all in the same house and so we got to interact with them. It's so amazing, and kind of a little lesson, how excited children get about what's in front of them and what's happening there. They live very much in the moment. The

moment my niece and nephew got up, they started playing. They were children, of course. But for me, just to see you get up, you start playing, and you play the whole day until you go to bed, made me think how, in a way, that's what we want to do with God. To get up, think of God, feel God's presence, try to play, try to commune, try to be in that game with God until the moment we go to bed—and if we are blessed, even when we are sleeping.

Interacting with small kids really also teaches you non-attachment. I remember once during our visit, my niece and nephew had two umbrellas, and everything they did with them, opening and closing them even though we were trying to watch TV, was again just moment by moment, no attachment to what happened before. It was just, we were there, engaged. It was a beautiful thing.

Now, obviously not that *everything* around us has this cosmic lesson to teach us. But still, if we listen, there *can* be something to teach us. And what is this teaching for us? Something that reminds us of God. How—through everything in nature, everything around us, even the dogs barking sometimes—we can say, 'Ah, that too is a manifestation of God'.

From anything around us, we can learn something. Of course, if everything around us is to teach us something or to remind us of God, obviously there are too many people and too many things to show us whatever it is we need to learn; but then the most important thing is, are we open?

I was thinking about that analogy Swamiji gave us of grace with the sunlight on the side of a building. So many times he said that the sun is always there; but it is we who choose either to keep the curtains open or closed. And the more we open the curtains, the more we will receive that grace.

Certainly in some circumstances I feel like I just say, 'God, no, I'm not ready to receive this grace that this person or this life may be telling me through my body, through my mind, through my own restlessness, perhaps. Am I open to identify, to introspect, to say okay, what do I need to learn and how can I learn?' Then yes, we start opening those curtains.

And the more we open ourselves, God is always there to help us because he dwells the most in open, receptive hearts. Those are the ones he prefers and will be able to change the most, like teachers. They have to teach so many kids, though few are even interested in what they are saying. But to those few who *are* interested, who *are* paying attention, who maybe stay after class and ask questions, teachers can just give and give and give. This is a wonderful relationship and a wonderful exchange of energy that the teacher gets to express and the student gets to receive. And by giving energy, the student also makes the teacher give even more.

So it is with us on the spiritual path. The more we give of ourselves, the more our thoughts are like the kids'—let's start playing, let's keep playing throughout the day, let's go to bed always in that presence. The more we do that, the more the presence will be able to pour out to us ... because in the end, remember: the highest way of changing, of teaching, of sharing that the gurus have, and that we have as well, is personal magnetism. That magnetism is what will have the most power to create new levels of consciousness in us, and of course to share whatever little we might have received from the gurus with everyone.