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Benevolent Discipline Will Work In India

Talk: Osho

The Indian mind is programmed to be that of a slave; it is not ready to function in freedom. If there is nobody to dictate to it, if there is nobody to boss it about, then the Indian mind knows no way to function. It has no inner guidance. And it has not been a slave for only 22 centuries; even before that it lived in a spiritual kind of slavery – politically free but spiritually not free.

Brahmins have been ruling the soul of the country for at least 5,000 years, or more. They have dominated, dictated, guided, forced a certain discipline in every possible way, but that discipline comes from the outside, and the moment the outside agency that was creating the discipline is removed, the Indian is at a loss. He has poor character. Character is imposed by outside agencies: society, state, the church. Consciousness is individual; it comes through meditation. Nobody can impose consciousness on you, you have to discover it.

The Indian mind believes in collectivity. It has no respect for the individual. One should adjust to society, bow down to vested interests, to status quo. According to Indian programming, the man of character is one who is not a rebel, who lives according to tradition, scriptures. The so-called saints are nothing but agents of the past.

A man of character in India is only a slave. Because he is obedient he is respected – the more obedient you are the more you will be respected in India. But the obedient person is really a slave: he has no guts, he has no consciousness; he cannot say 'no', hence his 'yes' is also impotent.

If you enforce something upon Indians, they are very law-abiding. For 200 years the English ruled India and found them to be very

law-abiding. Lawlessness was never a problem before. But these few decades of freedom have seen India falling apart, becoming a chaos – something which looks strange if you don't understand the root cause. The root cause is that freedom is absolutely strange to Indian programming. India needs a totally different kind of government. Democracy is an imported idea.

I am not a supporter of dictatorship, I am for democracy, but democracy is possible only if we can prepare the ground for it. The parliamentary system that has been imposed upon India is so foreign to the Indian mind that it cannot function. You can see it in the Indian Parliament – the behaviour of members is so childish. They are continuously quarrelling, fighting. No work at all happens in Indian Parliament. And the opposition is for opposition's sake; a sheer waste of time and energy.

It will be better if India shifts to a presidential form of government – something between democracy and dictatorship. Democracy is needed so that no dictatorship becomes an absolute imprisonment for the country. So after each five or 10 years you can change the government. But as far as the functioning of the government is concerned, during the period in which the government is in power it needs absolute control.

My own name for this cross between democracy and dictatorship is 'benevolent dictatorship' – not absolutely dictatorial, so there can be a possibility to change the government. After at least 10 years the government can be changed, but for those 10 years the government has to be totalitarian, with absolute power, and all lawlessness will disappear immediately.

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