

Inner Call Podcast # 123 Looking for Justice May 21, 2021

When we talk about spiritual matters, the difficulty that often comes up in the conversation is how to find love, harmony and beauty, divine qualities that should be all pervading and undeniable, that everyone longs for, in the disorderly world around us. Yes, there are astonishing, inspiring glimpses of the Divine, when we see the perfect fingers and toes of an infant, for example, or hear the call of a bird as dawn approaches, or when a friend lends a silent hand in our troubles – but there are also innumerable examples of cruelty, selfishness and injustice. These can work in our heart like thorns, and if we are unwary, can make us doubt the reality of spiritual truth.

The symbol of justice is the balance, the ancient instrument with two pans hanging from a horizontal bar that allows us to compare weights – but while it is possible to measure a sack of rice or corn and feel satisfied with the result, it is not so easy to weigh words or deeds, or attitudes. Each person will see these from their own point of view, and if we are unaware of the reason for an action, we may easily misjudge it. A child cannot always understand the actions of a parent, and may complain, to the point of tears, that some parental decision is unfair. Years later the same child, now with more experience and children of their own, may see themselves imposing the very same rule.

What is more, imbalance has its purposes in life. The simple act of walking forward arises from imbalance; we are constantly falling forward and catching ourselves. We do it so automatically and so gracefully we are unaware that it is instability that permits us to cross the room.

When we talk about justice, it might help to keep two thoughts in mind. One is that to look for justice, we must first find justice in ourselves. How can we expect others to be fair if we have not developed that quality in our own character? Those who undertake the challenge discover that to be really just is not easy. What is more, there is no finish line to cross; we can never lean back and say, 'There, my work is done – now I am just!'

The second thought is this: the more we learn about life, the more we feel the suffering of our neighbours, and without doubt, we should do whatever we can to ease the misery of the world. It is illusion, though, to think the solution lies in some Divine bolt of loving lightning from Above that will erase all injustice. Injustice is a form of inequality, and if it were possible to remove inequality from manifestation, one consequence would be to wipe away individuality – and that is an aspect of Creation to which most of us are very much attached.