

Avoid Priests To Come Closer to God



*Propagating that without priests,
you cannot enter the world of God.*

**Only in your
void can
God
descend;
when you
are too
much, he
cannot enter
in you
-Osho**

Avoid priests, there is no problem in it -- in fact, the more you avoid them, the closer you will be to God. The priest is not needed at all. He keeps propagating that he is needed; he emphasises that without him there is no possibility for you to ever enter into the world of God -- but that is his proposition. It is his business, it is his trade secret, he has to create this atmosphere. Otherwise, no medium is needed; God is immediately available. But of course, priests have made a great business -- the greatest ever -- and they deal in such a commodity which is invisible, so you can never prove whether they deliver or not. The commodity itself is invisible. It is a beautiful game.

I have heard...

"What's the little boy crying about?" the kind old lady asked the ragged urchin.

"That other kid swiped his candy," he replied.

"But how is it that you have the candy now?"

"Sure, I got the candy now," replied the urchin. "I'm the kid's lawyer."

You get it? The priest is going to exploit you; he becomes your

By prayer, by the temple, by the church, by the ritual, tradition, you are not going to get anywhere; only the priest will go on becoming richer and richer. And his investment becomes so big that the priest and the politician join together in exploiting people. That is the greatest conspiracy: down the centuries, the priests and the politicians have always joined hands together

lawyer, he becomes your agent. He himself is completely unaware of God -- otherwise he would not be a priest; he would have been a prophet, not a priest at all. 'Priest' is an ugly word: one who is using religion as a business and exploiting people in the name of God. The prophet is one who helps you to be transformed, transfigured. The prophet is not so much concerned with God as he is concerned with you, your reality. Once your reality starts manifesting, you will know what God is -- because you are God in seed. We can completely forget about God: Buddha never talked about it, Mahavira never talked about it. Yet Buddha helped tremendously. He insisted: God is not the question, God is not the quest; the quest is your innermost being. A prophet is concerned with your being. If your being flowers, blooms, in the fragrance you will know what God is. There is no other way.

By prayer, by the temple, by the church, by the ritual, tradition, you are not going to get anywhere; only the priest will go on becoming richer and richer. And his investment becomes so big that the priest and the politician join together in exploiting people. That is the greatest conspiracy: down the centuries, the priests and the politicians have always joined hands together. They are the greatest culprits. Jesus was crucified because he was not a priest. He started behaving like a prophet, priests are afraid -- because he was going to destroy the whole business. Jesus was crucified because of the priests; the priests were behind the whole scene. No prophet is ever tolerated by a priest -- cannot be tolerated; it is dangerous.

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Don't go to a church, there is no need; God is everywhere. Don't go to a priest, there is no need; God is available to you -- directly, immediately. But if you have a resistance to the word 'God' itself, that will become a barrier. That will prohibit you; that won't allow you to flow towards the infinite. and there is no reason -- because God has not done anything.

Be against the priest. But there is no need, it is not warranted at all, that you say, I know God is within me. You don't know, you don't know it at all. You have heard it. You have heard me say it, you have heard Jesus saying it -- "God is within you" -- but you don't know it at all. Because once you know it, then there is no problem; knowing that 'God is within me', immediately God is without too. The moment you know a single ray of the divine penetrating you, you have come to know all that is there to be known, it becomes known, the without is known. The without known, it becomes known in the within too -- because within and without are not two separate things, they are two aspects of the same energy.

Now, this thinking that 'God is within me' may again be a trick of your resistance, because you don't want to see God out there. You are against it, because somewhere deep down in your mind you feel that if God is there then you will need a mediator, then you will need somebody to guide you there. If God is without, somewhere up in heaven, then somebody will be needed to guide you. Alone, you will not be able to find him, where he is. So you say, "God is within me" -- now there is no need for the priest. You are saying it just to avoid the priest -- but you don't know it.

God is all. The distinction between within and without is false. Without and within are one; it is one reality, from one corner to another. It is not two, it is not dual, so don't divide it.

I have heard...

When Xerxes (King of Persia who invaded Greece) stood on the shore with his army and looked across the Hellespont, he asked himself, "How can I get my men across?" He commanded his generals to build him a bridge of boats, and they obeyed. But a storm came up and smashed his bridge into driftwood. In a towering rage, he ordered the execution of the overseers who had directed the work. But that was not enough to satisfy him as he was really in a great rage, almost mad. So he ordered his slaves to administer three hundred lashes to the sea.

Now this is foolish -- three hundred lashes to the sea. But this is how the mind works; our mind is very childish. Have you not seen a small child? He hurts himself against the door or against the furniture and then he beats the furniture. As if the furniture is the enemy, as if the furniture has done something to him. He may have stumbled himself, but he feels the chair is responsible. This childish attitude continues. People become senile, but their childish attitude never changes.

Everybody is resistant against God -- why? Because if you want to know God, you have to disappear: that is the resistance. You have to die if God is to live in you. You have to disappear utterly, totally; you have to be vacant, you have to empty yourself. Only in your void can God descend;

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to disappear utterly, totally; you have to be vacant, you have to empty yourself. Only in your void can God descend; when you are too much, he cannot enter in you. Your cup is too full of yourself. This cup has to be emptied -- that's the resistance.

Don't pay much attention to excuses -- they are meaningless. Behind the excuses the real problem hides. The real problem is: to become religious, one has to deny oneself -- that is the only sacrifice needed. The ego has to be dropped. The mind has to cease for the God to be -- and of course, then there is resistance.

To be really religious is to commit suicide. And I mean it -- when I say suicide, I meant it -- suicide. When a person kills himself, that is not suicide; just the body changes -- he will be born again. That is just a change of the body, change of the clothes, change of the abode. But when a man simply drops his ego, he has committed real suicide, authentic suicide; now he will not come any more. Now there will be no need for him to have another abode in this world of misery, in this world of darkness, in this world which is almost a hell. He will not be coming again. Ego dropped, your journey is finished; you have learned the lesson. That's the resistance.

- Osho

The Divine Melody, Ch 2.

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