

Sri Ramakrishna Birthday Kirtan, 15 Feb 1997.

At Madonna's house, Corfton Rd, Ealing.

The celebration included celebration of forthcoming child of Hari Om and Babaji.

Mauritian relatives also were present

2,880wds

Some people meditate, they don't know why - perhaps they're worried, perhaps they want something, perhaps they want peace of mind. But there are some people who cannot do without meditation; they love God, and God is Love, a love which always gives instead of receiving, an unselfish love. And when you have this kind you don't have to sit to meditate, it's just a vibration.

Before meditation think of purity. Purity is the key to meditation, it gives memory. Maya makes you forget, temptation devours you. So you must be calm and tranquil. Even in the middle of work, try to remain quiet, stop thinking, be one-pointed...

Really to meditate is to come close to God. God may not like you to come too close because He likes to play, to sport in this world. But insist, if you really want it, if you love God above all... In the Kali age the greatest union is Bhakti Yoga, yoga of Love...

The guru must be a knower of Brahman. His word is guided, what to say and what not to say. Ramakrishna said "I speak as Thou makest me speak, I move as Thou movest me." And he will not speak a false word. He is Rama and Krishna born in human form.

Q: Why did Sarada Devi feel that the Mother had abandoned her?

A: It wasn't only Sarada Devi who felt God had abandoned her. So too Jesus Christ when He was on the cross. It is a test. These incarnations know themselves, they have come to play their part. Another example: Lord Rama was in exile 14 years, crying everywhere, looking for Sita. God sports in the world in this way. The incarnations know themselves, whenever they want, enough is enough, they break the chain and that's it. You know what Sarada Devi said to [her niece] Radhu? "I don't want any more binding now," she said, "I've had enough. You people think you are my family - you are very mistaken!" But she had to play the part of motherhood, to show humanity. This is a sport, you have to understand the sport of God. After all, the block, the executioner and the victim are the same. Love is the core... The more you believe, the more there is. The more you love God, the more sins are forgiven.

Q: How do you get pure love?

A: How? A hundred times you fall, a hundred times you must get up. Don't say we are perfect. There is only one Ramakrishna, one God. All of us are little distorted images of God. We try to make an image of Shiva - but we are only apprentices. Go somewhere where for generations they have done this. But if you try to mould an image of Shiva, what do you make - a monkey at the end! So you have to go through these falls. To fall is allowed, temptation is allowed. Unless you are perfect from birth, but who is perfect from birth nowadays? The older you are, in a way the younger you are, and the younger you are, the more dangerous is the fall. Insurance premium is higher for youth! So to be older is better in one way. To get pure love you have to renounce, and after a certain age you don't think about these things so much. You live like brothers and sisters. And when you have got experience for not falling, and you have the desire to approach and meditate, there can be progress. Pure love? You can have just love, but you see how many stages love has got? [Sings] *Bhava, mahabhava, prema, ragabhakti*.

Bhava - ecstatic love... Can you explain why my mind goes like this? This poor Mauritian, he pretends to be self-intoxicated? but no! God knows I am truthful....

*Sathyam*, truth. What is God, besides love? Truth. Truth is God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the life and the truth." Ramakrishna said, "I prayed to the Divine Mother, 'Take this, take that, and give me pure love,' but I could not say, 'Take thy truth and take thy untruth'." Truth is God... I love truth. Brahmagvidya. God is greater than jnana, He uses jnana just as a symbol, but He is Brahmagvidya, Mahavidya.

So, *Sathyam*, and then *Sundaram*, beauty. Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful. When you see, you can't believe, you have to ignore it straightaway. Can you take the beauty of God? You can't believe you're seeing it! Krishna said, "Look, Arjuna, the multifarious colours. Look at this, beauty of beauty!" The power of that beauty has power to change the personality. Every time you have a vision of God your personality changes. The beauty of God is - can't explain. The more you love, the more dimension there is to the beauty. And after the vision, experience comes in a wind. When that one experience of *Sundaram* finishes, it becomes like another incarnation to show you - "I was this, I was that" - He changes and makes you become universal so you aren't dogmatic. It's not a man you see, it's a little girl, a baby, so beautiful, God forgets His godliness and comes like a child so you can hold Him in your arms. So a man becomes a mother of God. He is a man, but he has the heart of a mother. Mother of humanity, not just for himself. You have to convert your heart...

So at the end you become as good, as beautiful, as serious: transfixed, one-pointed, all the crookedness in you is straightened. Spinal cord and everything is straightened so you don't have to go into posture and all this. Bhava, Mahabhava - because without love all this is dry. First try to get one glimpse. Take the name. I told you what to do. The body is full of darkness, Bring the light of God. As soon as you strike the match, a thousand years of darkness vanishes.

Ecstasy can be a natural state. Explanation has come to explain what the state is. Now there is doubt. Even in vision there is doubt - whether it was real, or imagination, or not! Too true to believe, too flashy, too quick, too beautiful, too *Sundaram!* *Satyam*. And *Shivam!* Ha! Ha! Ha!

But there's nothing like the devotees: you, us and me. I cook to please my devotees... Shiva said, 'If you want to please Me, feed my devotees.' Food is Brahman. Today is a day for love, birthday, Quintessence, Hari Om... Jai Ma Durga! Hari Om was not even fed with rice pudding, but it is coming to pass with the child. God has blessed this couple (Babaji and Hari Om). It's all blessed by God.

You can read Sanskrit and everything, but if no one understands, what's the point? Speak the language of the heart, which is hidden, but truthful. When you speak the truth of the heart they say, 'How did you know that? Did someone tell you?' They're very surprised. But what is God? God is Truth. 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...' Truth is God, Truth is God, Truth, Truth, Truth, nothing but the Truth. Therefore, a single thought of true prayer is like a mountain of reading - just a single thought of truth that comes from the heart. The tears swell, you fall asleep even, if you don't go into trance - it's too powerful! And it renews itself every day. Truth is not monotonous. It breaks monotony, it becomes a variety of spontaneous infinity, endless, you can go on and on without invention, without calculation. Spontaneous love, spontaneous realization, ha! ha! ha! Spontaneous payment. Some get their wages the same night. What are these wages? Spiritual wealth. Confirmation. Positiveness. Camphor. Om chanting. Devotees. They show you what should be done. There are silent witnesses watching.

This state of silence is meditation. In meditation you have to be silent. And what do you silence first? Your mind. Your mind, your body, your thought. Keep it from wandering, bring it back to the same thing, the same point. It's not easy! If it was easy, everyone would be realized...

The Word is the effect of meditation, the truth.

Remember what I am saying: *The Word is the effect of meditation.*

Which means: the Word, when Jesus said, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' And the Word was also the same and dwelt among us, eat, drink, cry, and all this.

Sanjana's question was why did Sarada suffer - but Rama was the same, Jesus Christ was crucified, Krishna had to go back and forth as a charioteer. These are Gods, not to speak you and me. You and me are only surviving because of trust and friendship, and on no other alternative of full choice. Better here than somewhere else, here we have our own music, spontaneous. Everything is spontaneous, just like our own meditation. And yet, whatever you do is only a replica. You are only a replica of a reproduct. You are not the original, you are a photocopy.

So this house so far is so blessed. Even Jesus Christ was invisibly here, and he is still here, he has not gone. You see, they witness, they watch, invisibly - unless they let you know. But because we said, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God," see, now the Christ comes! Now the effect. And you know why He is here? Because of what we said. And what we get is the effect, the state of *Supernaturel, Supernaturel de Christ*. The blissful state of Jesus Christ.

Who said that Jesus Christ was in bliss when he passed away? Ramakrishna.

When Ramakrishna died, he said, 'Kali, Kali, Kali.' And what did Jesus say? 'Father, Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.'

But first he said, "Why have you forgotten me?" It's a play, a play of hide-and-seek. If God shows you everything, the game stops, Ramakrishna said that. It's a great sport, and He is still sporting, it's a God sport. He plays with life and death, and brings back in different bodies, goes in cycles, so real, like a dream awakened, crying and everything - it's to test you, to test what is your poor level best between Me and your freewill choice.

Freewill choice is when people want to build their kingdom here. If they could, they would, but life is too short - at the most a hundred years, and even if it's a thousand years, so what, then it is finished. Well, youth is a beautiful thing. But in one way it's better to be old, because then you have realized the necessities, the usefulness and the uselessness. Everything is a trick, God's play, His maya. It's not an easy matter, meditation, spiritual life...

Music is another maya. But music is ecstatic, fragrant, it's love open and welcoming. There's nothing like music. God Himself listens to music before you see Him - there are gandharvas and kinnaras, celestial musicians and dancers. What did GSR say about maya?

Devotee: It says that even aspects of God are maya.

Swamiji: That's a good one! Aspects of God are maya. But can you see God in formless Reality? Even when God is with form you are a bit dubious, though He himself is declaring it many times. Rama said it, Krishna said it, Jesus said it, Ramakrishna said it - and no one fully believed them, only those who really believed. But as you are with form it's easier to believe in God with form, to understand, especially if you understand the good word, the language of the heart.

the language of the heart is most powerful from God, straightforward from the heart. The heart - there is invisible link: heart, love, tears, spontaneity and clarity. The mind gets clearer. Heart hears, love pierces, mind gets clearer, and there's oneness. It has to be oneness, unison. What I've

just said is very vital for the tuning of meditation. Meditation is an instrument, but if it's not in harmony you get a bad note, bad sound, bad music.

There are two mayas: vidyamaya and avidyamaya. One leads to God and one leads away from God. So discrimination is very important. Whatever is leading away from God, switch off. But actually the switch-off comes from God, not from you. You are told to switch it off, God tells the devotees it's no good, or else He tells them to switch it on. He is the inner guide. It's God who sings you the appropriate song, and kirtana is very good, it cleanses, the Name of God purifies, purifies, purifies. You can't understand what a river of holy water it is to wash away your sins.

And it gives warning, and ward-off, so powerful. But you must practise these things by yourself. It's good to come here, where there is very good reception, but you have to do a little bit of self-effort, all of you, you have to blossom this seed of Brahman in your own garden of house and privacy. Then you will see God. As the GSR says, you can have the vision of God, but it's like behind glass, you can see God but you can't touch. It's like something in a glass house. All this you put in the glass house, so that in winter you can have the products of summer.

It's a lot of work, a lot of detachment, a lot of private, personal *you*. That way you come to know what He is doing. If there's sickness you can't do much. Yet sickness and realization are two very similar things. In realization all rite and ritual vanish. In sickness there is no time to wait to go to loo and all this. Rite and ritual finish there too. When you're sick there is no law. You're indifferent from politeness and everything. Sickness has its own commandment.

There is power in the brain that is greater than computer, greater than electricity. It disconnects the thing, makes it cease to function. There is something there, but we keep quiet, we observe. Vidyamaya and avidyamaya. In one way it's good to be a bit old so you don't fall down in the vagaries and whims of youth, the adventures and temptations. Youth is very different from childhood. Some youths are special, they withdraw from these traps.

Otherwise, spiritual life is not a bad life - it's a beautiful life, but it all depends on yourself. You can't just borrow someone else's painting and say, 'That's my painting, that's what I have done.' It's not yours. You are not even inspired by it.

Well, we had a wonderful time, no? We thank Madonna so much for the last wonderful year we have had here, so great. We are very grateful to have the last birthday here. There was a lot of spontaneous spiritual manifestation, a lot of power. God hears what is going to happen and gives the answer. God is the answer to the question, but especially for the devotees - they've got it first. They're a bit more careful.

There's a lot of work, a lot of yourself to prove, without company, without congregation. It's not just a gathering. Meditation, the end of meditation, is - what does GSR say? 'At the end the flight is alone to alone.' That's beautiful, 'at the end', but I think it applies also to the beginning and the middle and all the time, not just at the end. If you depend on everyone else and have their ideas, talk, discussion, there is very little action, only a lot of talk and heroic words. But it's action that God sees, self-effort. So I think that in the beginning is He, and in the beginning also the flight is alone to alone. And in the middle of everything, in the din and bustle of the world, if you can withdraw - it's not an easy matter. Concentration of work is sometimes more powerful and takes over everything. Then duty is God, work is worship. You need 'work is worship' for the worldly, for those in the world. But then, for those who are living dead, jivanmukta, they are already dead to the world and live with a dual consciousness. *Et voila!*

For many, yoga is hathayoga, to do exercises. But yoga is to unite. Whoever is meditating is a yogi. Dedicate everything at all times. Don't eat without offering Me food. If you want spontaneous bliss, just offer a spoonful of something, dedicate it, and make sure God eats. You'll see, there will be a tangible change in your mind, a special iron force, solid, invisible, coming through the nostril, through the head. You can feel it, you can breathe fully. God becomes tangible, solid but invisible, which you alone acknowledge. The rest look, doubt - true or not true? - until they also believe, eventually, when they pass [to the other side].

*Retranscribed for kirtan at Mahayogini's, Lowfield Rd, London  
Saturday, February 21, 2004*