

Sep 19-29, 1978 Kedarnath

JN passed an extended period of 10 days at Kedarnath with Ambikananda. The god-consciousness emanating from Ambikananda himself, the blissful absence of worldly preoccupations, and the beautiful landscape, encouraged him to wander through the woods every day for long periods of reverie, reading, japa and meditation. On the other hand, the atmosphere at Kedarnath was austere, and it became clear that levity of any kind would not be tolerated. The guru's mood was far from lighthearted, and it occurred to the writer that he was probably missing Siva Kali, his constant attendant during the previous five years.

Swamiji's words at this time included:

'The four principles of this place:

Wash with the water of truthfulness.

Scrub with the wash-cloth of honesty.

Wear the garb of cleanliness.

Walk next to Godliness.

'The seed of divinity is piercing. What is sweet at the end is bitter at the beginning... Thank God that you advance towards God. He is the Compassionate Witness, teaching compassion to man, teaching forgiveness. God does not find fault. If you want peace of mind, Holy Mother says, then do not find fault.

'In dense darkness the word was "Let there be light." A dim reflection. The room is full of rainbows, a blurred glimpse of God, like a smoke-filled room. Above and behind the cloud is a rainbow making it more glorious... God hears audible silence. The voice of the soul. One God; One voice; One soul. Words can never express divinity. Take the name of Kali and become Kali's child, not to escape but to become.

'Spiritual life is not for the weak or the crackling, it is not for people who think they will turn to spiritual life when other things are not succeeding. A man is cracked because he sees his friends sprouting in the field of divinity, but for him it doesn't come naturally, germinating from birth. Thanks to His compassion we may make one or two mistakes – and make no more mistakes after that, grave mistakes that lead to the grave. Think of the terrible lest death seizes thee. Do japa thousands of times, keep beads in pocket, or hidden round neck.

'The Word is power and maya – Mayashakti. But Reality can't be expressed by words. Greater than God is His power. So be dharmic, be dutiful. Love your brother as yourself, but God above all.

'In one nutshell, the flight is alone to alone. The rest is compassion. The whole world is filled with compassion. God bears the suffering with the patient.

'Ignoring the seed of divinity in himself, man is a nothing, a messer. His soul is in the wall of his interests, his desires, his likings. Therefore desirelessness is the greatest desire. "No one is mine. O Lord, I am Thine and Thou art mine."¹

'Satchidananda alone is the Guru. So says Sri Ramakrishna. If your mind is choppy like a rough sea, it will be difficult to get a clear reflection of the one moon. Therefore, I say, in the din and bustle and turmoil of your surroundings, be one with thy higher self, which is yoga, the union of the lower self to the higher self. Be calm, be poised, be silent, and be the witness. Knock deep within and it shall be

¹ GSR

explosively opened in floods of light. Seek and thou shalt find Me everywhere. “Whatever is heard in the pure mind is the voice of God” (GSR)

‘Lord Krishna says, “I dwell in the heart of all beings, causing them to revolve at will.” This is of course the result of karma, but he who takes refuge in Me and knows he is not the doer, and I alone Am, he who surrenders everything to Me, and thinks of Me before taking any action by saying *Om Tat Sat*, such a one is Mine and enters into My being, I manifest Myself to these at time of death, there is no doubt about it. So the Lord said, “My joy I give unto you and no one can take from you.”

‘God always protects His devotees. Invoke Ganesh, remover of obstacles. But remember, little obstacles are placed to see the devotee’s eagerness.

‘Jai Guru Dev Jai Kedarnath!’

...

‘Love does not stand in need of proof because it itself is proof... Its nature is peace and supreme bliss... Do not depend on discussion, for reasoning is endless and not always fruitful... Cultivate non-violence, truth, purity, compassion and faith. With all one’s mind one must worship the Lord at all times...

‘What is death? Ignorance.

‘What should we prize most dearly? Compassion and friendship with the holy.

‘To whom do the gods themselves pay homage? To him who is compassionate.

‘Who is blind? He who does evil deeds.

‘What ought a man to remember? The sacred name of the Lord.

Ambikananda mentioned Narada Bhakti sutras to be written down and remembered:

‘Sutra 67 Devotees who have a community of their own are considered to be specially blessed. Such devotees, living in a community, talking of the Lord with tears and deep feeling, purify their families and the whole world.

‘82 There are eleven different phases of devotion. Love of the grandeur of the Lord, love of His beauty, orship of Him, meditation on Him, Service to Him, love of Him as a friend, love of Him as a child, love of Him as a wife, loving Him in full surrender, awareness of unity with Him, the feeling you cannot live without Him.

‘84 He who has full faith in this Gospel of all-including bliss, by Shri Narada, will have the love of GOD. He will have the dearest love of his heart.’

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