

June 14, 1980

Kirtan at Wales

Reading from Muruga/Skanda lila.

Muruga, the Son of Shiva and Parvati, also known as Skanda, Kartikeya, Kumara and Subramanya, was the subject of Swamiji's initial reading at this kirtan. Ambikananda often advised devotees to dedicate the fruits of their meditation to this deity as Kartikeya, along with Ganesh, Narasimha and Durga Mai.

After the reading devotees sang a Sathya Sai bhajan:

'Manasa bhajare Guru charanam...' - the first bhajan taught by Sathya Sai Baba, when he was only a child.

From Ambikananda's discourse:

'You are in that circle and He is everywhere. He is in the form of the preceptor as Sri Ramakrishna, or Krishna, or Sai Baba; really He is inside everyone holding everything together. It is the link of love. While there is a link the soul gets strong, there's no breakage. That's the union. So it's very important to be united in such a way that there's no consciousness even of this gross body. He dwells there, and I am giving Him my hand. He leads me – I am blind. I walk with blind faith because my Father holds my hand. And Mother guides, Sarasvati, the foundation of art, learning, voice, music – everything necessary for it. To bring peace.

'God is revealing Himself through colourful vision. The yogi sees it and then makes it apparent. When you remove these obstacles you can see a long distance to far horizons. Light must be given with love – then it shines without burning. There's nothing new under the sun of God's love.

All day long we have been hiding in the darkness of work, but honesty, not hypocrisy, is the best policy for work. From the Creator to His work, all is God. With that idea there's no difference if you go to work or go to the shrine – there is a sharing of acquaintance. With rest from work, give me bliss in the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine. I have put the toys outside. Meditation is to rest yourself in the lap of the Father Mother God – an initiation.

'Shankaracharya says in *Vivekachudamani*: "Only the cheerful mind with great discrimination experiences the high state of samadhi." This "cheerful" is in the mental state, it is not in a hypocritical show of cheerfulness. It is hard to know the will of God, so just be His slave – a contented slave, whether caressed or whipped. What you have eaten in different lives you may belch in this life. "Becoming" means, keep stripping – the more you keep going the better ... The Wish-fulfilling Tree is hard to reach. You give your life to God – He gives you the Self. "*O Lord Narayana, I am Thine.*" ...

"Sri Ramakrishna was pleased to see Mother however She appeared, holy or unholy. In vision we have been to nether regions in a kind of lift, and were met there by a lady. Remember what Sarada Devi said to the watchman Ambika: "You don't have to understand. Just remember you are my brother and I am your sister Sarada.""¹

Ambikananda then sang Vivekananda's poem 'The Song of the Sanyasin'²

'Wake up the note! The song that had its birth

Far off, where worldly taint could never reach...

Sing high that note, Sannyasin bold! Say – "Om Tat Sat, Om."'

'The minute you come in God's presence, all sins are burned away. What's left? *You* are left; which is Him, God alone is, even in your form. So praise Him, using Sarasvati, Goddess of speech. The Goddess Herself touches the soul, like a thread, elongated, to reach heaven...

¹ See *Holy Mother* by Swami Nikhilananda.

², from *In Search of God and Other Poems*: Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati, 1947 (3rd ed.)

‘It’s not easy to get rid of ego The bigger the ego the more dangerous to prick it - children cry when the balloon bursts. But Mother Kali is the destroyer of pride and ego. Never give way to egotistic pride by trying to show your superiority. But ego of servant, not for personal gain, is good, and ego of love, and guileless ego of the child. If you have ego of child and want to please God, there is a bright flame . You must be in the state of a child in compliance to God’s wish for fancy work; liking, and *will* for permanent work. We must be so thankfully grateful.

‘The best devotee is the one who anticipates, who reads the thought before it is said. Service is better than sitting in meditation. Work with God for God’s sake. Let Him be a companion. God tells the devotee what to do...

‘When you feel the presence of God, when you take the Name, you are freed from the iron cage of the body. Then you are an instrument to receive the power – a plug connected to the socket. Just press the Name and that’s it. When the Power is received then things move of their own accord...’

Just before prasad was served he said:

‘Most important, let your own mind remind you of Him. It’s the present that counts, so take good care of it. May this food be dedicated to Thee. Eat through us. May we be purified.’

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