

Oct 4, 1980

*Kings Cross (Mahalakshmi and Jai Narain)*

*Carnival Kirtan*

*Following Ambikananda's instructions, all devotees wore costumes and contributed sketches, songs, dances, monologues, etc. Costumes included Sita Deviji in feathery guise as Garuda, the celestial bird-mount of Vishnu; Sada Siva as the Brazilian songstress Carmen Miranda; Satram as a devil complete with a long red tail, forked at the end; Gopal Christ ( now a neurologist at Bart's hospital) as a blood-bespattered 'brane surjen'; and Nita as Swami Vivekananda in robe and turban. There was also an influx of Mauritian relatives, and another unexpected guest was Radhakrishna, one of Swamiji's earliest devotees, who came with her little daughter Sarada. Ambikananda himself, clad in a huge Mexican sombrero and black domino mask, remained mysteriously withdrawn. His appearance suggested something from the Mexican Festival of the Dead, and at one stage he instructed everyone to put on masks and told JN to leave the main door open to allow free movement for 'spirits and other visitors' to the kirtan.*

Ambikananda sang two new songs, which were among his very best. The first was 'Ecstatic love of God', from GSR:

*'Oh, when will dawn the blessed day  
When tears of joy will flow from my eyes  
As I repeat Lord Hari's name?...  
And with the thrill of His holy name,  
All of my hair will stand on end?  
Ecstatic love for God'.*

The second was taken from Shankaracharya's *Vivekachudamani*,  
'Know, O wise man, dispassion and discrimination;  
the extremely dispassionate man alone has samadhi,  
and the man of samadhi alone gets steady realization.'

*His discourse included the following::*

'Nothing is new. Everything is done. And God makes light lighter. That's why my mind floats, a man goes into samadhi, keeping gross consciousness (there are many kinds of Samadhi), then comes to save his friends.

'You have made an effort and God has come, and has warned you. Take good care. "The world shall perish but My words- ." And we come to save you just the same, after linking. Better to laugh and seek the truth than have frightening thing, isn't it? God is always with a smile, like a child, but He is devouring and devastating many many conditions unknown to you. Yes or no? If you have faith and tell the mountain to move, it will go and throw itself in the sea.

'None shall perish. Everyone will be saved. Link yourselves, don't go to the vast world. The path is wide. But narrow is the channel we are talking about, and to be approached with great discrimination and renunciation. You live in the world, but you are away from it, a witness, you are not trapped like the fish, Sri Ramakrishna has said, that are in the net and go right down, thinking they are safe. But they can come out the same way they came in, follow the ripple.

'Incarnations appear, and through their form you can attain. But if you haven't got anything like that, then He is anywhere and everywhere. You can be linked by constant flow of - thought? But love is greater than thought, love doesn't have to think.

'Why has God put the knowledge of discrimination as the light? To shorten all these birth cycles, to eliminate a lot of things. God is love. Give God what belongs to God. How can you give Him? By withdrawing from this terrible world. You have to live in it but when you come inside you have your life to consider, not just your job. Your life is detached from that. You are too quick to go back again

to work, back and forth. You've got warned now, you need sadhana<sup>1</sup>, you need tranquillity, you need to be strengthened. All this is possible with God.

'There is light in human birth. There is nothing like light. Can you live in darkness, whether you accept God or not? But someone can put a little lamp there, or a beacon. So become with the beacon; and you need to be free in the light, not overloaded with all this rubbish, and then you need the reality, and to give the juice of reality to the thirsty.

'So we embrace you, once again we embrace with our thought united, not in lecturing, but in trying, in struggling, and if you have never been in asylum of God you can step in and God will hold your hand. Be fearless, you will not go mad, you will become the very child of God.

*'Om Tat Sat. Jai Guru Dev.*

'And don't worry, all stars will shine, everyone is a star, and no star is without its glittering, and it will shine and glitter again. Suffice to call you little stars...'

Ambikananda and devotees then sang together:

*'O my God of gods, you are my Mother and Father,  
You are my family and friends.  
You are my wealth, you are my knowledge,  
You are my everything, O my God of gods.'*

\*

---

<sup>1</sup> Spiritual practice