

April 11, 1981 Kirtan at Quintessence asram (Raja Ram and Sita Devi)

Ambikananda reads:

“The Guru is not different from the Self, from Consciousness.. Hence a wise man must seek a guru.”

Raja Ram: ‘Does the guru choose the disciple or the disciple choose the guru?’

Ambikananda: ‘The guru is like a light, he is the light. The disciple is like the moth. The guru is always attracting. But it’s a slow procedure... We pick and choose, we look within and without, we see your interest. It’s not just for a day, a few things here and there, then finish. No, we see what has caused a ripple in your consciousness, what has disturbed it. We like that ripple.’

‘But if it is completely forgotten, the path becomes icy, and when the path is icy, if you’re not very balanced with sattva predominating in the gunas, you may fall.¹ Rajas will make you fall, tamas will make you fall. Therefore you have to be consciously, daily, cleansing yourself...

‘Do you know why you are born here? We accept the idea of the game of free will. But free will is nothing but a test, a test of your personal feeling, effort, acceptance, rejection. In the long run, everything rests here, in the lotus hand of Lord Vishnu - everybody’s mind, brain, will, intellect, rests in the hand of the Goddess or Lord Vishnu’s lotus hand. All is a symbol: sun, moon, earth, fire, water, you, me - all is a symbol. It’s a diagram, an art. Life is an art. Be an artist, be a professional artist – of what? Of your life.

‘We are still only dolls fallen from heaven, *poupées*. We will not become real human beings, with the value of a human being, until God has blown His holy breath into our nose; and when holy breath is being used by us consciously, “*Sa Aham, Aham Sa* – I am He, I am She”, only then will we become aware of our purpose: how to work, how to live, how to bear, how to forbear, how to choose, how to discriminate, what to do, what not to do. Do you command things or do things command you? Are you tempted, or are you tempting?

‘The guru is a gem, the disciples are the buyers. So before you give your money be sure you don’t give it to a false, a sham! Buy something worthy. It doesn’t matter if you sell all your fortune to buy one gem. Find the real Man, and the purpose of life is attained. Enough! Just do one sixteenth [as Ramakrishna says] and the rest will be done. So you must see if your guru is worthy of his guruhood. Is he guruhood or is he Hollywood? Does God use your guru? Do you think of him as being used by God - God using his thought to make a ladder? The guru must be intimate with God, and always be his own disciple. God teaches him, then he teaches himself.

‘You are the living earth. So it’s your consciousness that must grow before your trees grow, or your flowers, your crop. It’s you that must expand to the infinite. It’s you that matters. So make sure you have connected this ladder, so that the eternal guru alights in the individual guru, and then there will be no individual guru, it will all be the eternal Lord, it will all His will. My child. I am only a mike,² a speaker, I am only expressing the creative side, the means, the appliance, how an instrument can be used to reach infinity. Now it depends on you.

‘The guru shows the path, tells the truth; it depends on the disciple, so watch your sight, watch your hearing, be discriminative. You have been surviving the dangers of life, the

¹ The three qualities: rajas – activity; tamas – inertia; sattva - equilibrium

² Mike – a microphone, but also Ambikananda’s anglicised name (Mikaprasad)

crossing of the ocean of existence, with the raft of Thy Name. So you are very safe, but you must keep the Name like an amulet. Don't let go.

'If you haven't seen God, it's a very good thing to see God through the real guru. You have to take time to learn the alphabet in order to read Guru Gita or any kind of scripture. But God's expression is simple, direct. To read God – it's in the very palm of the hand. Sarada Devi says [God is] in the palm; Ramakrishna makes *Chin Mudra* in the palm, all in the palm, supporting, saving. You don't have to have qualifications. You don't need much initiation. [Shirdi Sai said,] "You harass me to whisper something in your ear, but my guru never whispered anything in my ear, never uttered anything. Yet I could never take my eyes off him."

'It's *gu* (darkness) now, but when you have got this it will be *ru* (light) dispelling darkness. And *ru* will not be without *Shakti*, and you will see how the Mother makes the world possible. The Mother is the basis of action, of *kriya*, of activity, of will. And She is self-willed. Impossible becomes possible. She says, "Sit quiet, I will make you see. You don't have to know anything." So just sit quiet when the Mother tells you, and see, watch. You sit so quiet to watch a whole film, or a television programme. Ah, devotee, can't you be quiet to watch the real sight of God through your sadhana?'

After more kirtanam and then prasad Ambikananda said:

'First you need a human birth. But human birth has blurred everything, you must have discrimination. You don't have to have a living guru - if you haven't got a guru at all it doesn't matter, God directly is the best, if possible. But so much the better if there is a guide. If you are going abroad, it's good to have someone who has just come from abroad, or knows about it.

'You cannot have a guru if you have no love. Well, you may have intellect - intellect gurus are jnanis, which is an aspect of Self-knowledge. But Self-knowledge creates love, brings it closer, and separation causes pain. It's love that predominates here, love that has become guru, and the guru merges in love at the end. What is left is *ru* alone, light alone, so meditate on light if you have no guru.

'Form is the means, and words are a help, like ladders, they make fulfilment possible. Now when you have got it, apply yourself, otherwise you are a timewaster. It's up to you, mate, there's no praise here, it's up to you to be quick. You are naked; but you have got human birth, this is your garb – human birth. God is love, and love is beyond knowledge. But knowledge protects God's love, knowledge enlightens it, gives light. Then the idea of guru and God doesn't matter that much.

'This is yoga. It's not just meditation; your coming here is yoga, being united here collectedly to think about God is yoga; this is the first yoga, the best yoga in one way. And on top of that if you have love, the yoga of love, bhakti yoga. And the third yoga is yoga of application; and the fourth yoga is to sing for God, not for technicality, not for composition, sing what you think, that is God, it's important. "I'm singing for you, O hear me, Thou!" The Lord has recommended singing, praising, reading and talking about Me. You have gathered for this purpose, may as well make good use for these few tedious hours. Yes or no? What is hard in the beginning is sweet at the end!

'You have to be a divine artist, to live Reality. Be practical in word, in truth and in deed, be practical in Reality. It will take years, because we like so many things. And liking and disliking in one way is a bondage unless you like the real thing. All are Brahman, but people become terrible because they have discarded the law of righteousness and have made nonbelief their prominent god.

‘But I could be wicked myself, why blame others, blame yourself, find your own faults, find your own weaknesses. I am my own friend and my own enemy, both. My own bondage and my own liberation, it’s on me, on myself. I have superimposed so many things in dream, in untrue thought, all this has concretized and amalgamated and tangled, what a mess! How to get all this out? So blast it in the fire of divinity and knowledge and consciousness, blast it! *Bom Maha Dev!* Hurry to Bom Maha Dev.

‘Be practical, be good, be wise, be a student of yourself. That’s all that is required, be your own student. When you have become your own student, God will talk naturally through grass, tapes, through every movement of things, animate and inanimate. Not a leaf moves without the will of God, and the will of God is a saying, a speaking, to the devotees’ understanding. ‘The gist, the foundation, the core of it is love. But the practicality of it is hammer and chisel and blast of bomb atomique! In the ocean there is a lot of coral that has to be blasted if the ship is to enter. So if you’re living in your shallow little pool we have to remove the stone and coral in the way.

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