

Oct 16, 1982

Kirtan at Kings Cross (Jai Narain and MahaLakshmi)

In October 1982 Swamiji was rushed to the Pilgrim hospital in Boston for emergency treatment. The kirtan was carefully orchestrated by Ambikananda, with tapes from Sathya Sai Bhajans and other religious music, tape of Swami Shivananda of Rishikesh, readings from Sathya Sai Vahini, In the Hours of Meditation. The Visions of Sri Ramakrishna, a slideshow of images relating to these visions, devotees' music, and constant input from Swamiji. He was in a very high state throughout, experiencing visions which included seeing the devotees as lights, and later as flowers. He often referred to this kirtan later as one where he had seen a vision of Ramakrishna, of Kali Mai, of Vivekananda...

Song "Ganesha Charanam" by Nigel, a Sai devotee.

Song by Sanjana 'who is only eleven years old'.

Tryambaka sings: "OM Shivaya, OM Shivaya, Sambhu, Sankara OM Shivaya.

OM Nataraja, OM Nataraja, Sambhu, Sankara, OM Nataraja.

And many others.

Swamiji reads from Sathya Sai Vahini:, p45

"...Two things in nature: akasha and prana. Akasha is the source of all the gross and subtle material one encounters. As soon as prana or life force contacts it, due to the impact the akasha principle transforms itself either into the gross or subtle in varying proportions, prana is also omnipresent. It acts on akasha, moulds it into various forms. The gross body is the vehicle of the prana that it has shaped out of akasha. The subtle body is of the form of thought, feeling etc. When the subtle body is transcendent, the awareness of the reality becomes manifest. The subtle body like the gross body is an integral part of man's makeup."

Ambikananda: 'Lord Shiva blesses you all! Don't doubt it. Believe, believe you will become children of God. Let's pray together: Our Father, who art within and without, in the chamber of the hearts of all of us gathered here, we the children of the almighty, are proud that we are the real children accepted by the Father.

'Take pride in your work.

Contemplate on the lotus feet of your Ishta Dev....'

There followed numerous Sai Baba bhajans which formed a background to Swamiji's reading from Sathya Sai Vahini:

[Reads] 'The jivatma or individualized soul, when liberated from the body, rushes to the Suryaloka, region of the solar principle. From there it reaches the region of Brahma, where it will exist till the end of time, and will experience boundless delight... God is free from desire of all varieties. Man's duty is but to offer him love and worship him through love.'

Swamiji: Here ends all kirtan today. [Laughs loudly]. This page can teach everything now. The minute you come here in the depth of the silence of the interior temple, the silence of the soul, with all surrendering, and you bow and you go back, all your life is finished...So delay not, this human body is here, and we need it.

Swamiji goes on reading from Sathya Sai Vahini on journey of soul after death.

'People who engage in good acts and crave the fruits, when they die the words will merge in the mind, the mind will merge in the prana and the prana will merge in the jivi ? and the jivatma will travel to the region of the moon principle, the chandraloka, the loka of the presiding deity of the mind. ...In the chandraloka such jivis will experience some satisfaction and delight until the consequences of the good action last...then the jivatma encases itself in a body, equipped with sense organs etc appropriate to the earned consequences of the deeds of the previous body, and will start another life career...

The Sathya Sai bhajans continue. Swamiji hears the word 'Brahmananda' in the song.

Swamiji: 'Brahmananda! Do you know what he said not long ago – today? "There is great efficacy in the name of God."... That's the man, Brahmananda, sitting there [*He indicates the enlarged photo of Ramakrishna's disciples surrounding Sri Ramakrishna and Sri Sarada Devi in the Panchavati*]. Believe in this man, I tell you, believe in all this. They were like us, the only thing, they had the Master just the same. But the Master said, "I am living for 300 years in a subtle body in the heart of my devotees." In the heart of my devotees. ...Believe, believe, if only you could believe!...

Sathya Sai arati is sung.

Swamiji: 'Hold your breath, maybe God will be in that breath. [When you] release it, keep it in your heart. Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om...

'You haven't seen the effulgent light, but that light is blessing you today, all and sundry, all here.'

...

More Sathya Sai bhajan: Shiva Shankara, Shiva Shankara, Shiva Shankara Om Maheshvara Sai...

Swamiji: 'You will hear this one day up there,' he told us, 'just what we have done, Lord Shiva records it. One day you will hear, in Kings Cross, 1982 about 6 pm - devotees, whoever is singing now, will be recorded... there has been blessing before to cross the ocean of this world. This world is a dark river. Singing the name is hovercraft crossing. Hahhahahaha. The greatest thing in the Kali age. The boat of safety in the ocean of existence...

'Let there be peace in the world, let there be peace among gods, let there be peace among beings, let there be peace among devotees, Blessed be God. Blessed be the preceptor, blessed be the devotees...

Now Swamiji sang, constantly repeating: 'Om Nataraja, Om Nataraja, Jai Nataraja...'

Swamiji: 'God is here, believe me!' he called out. 'There is light, peace and light, light, light, light. Think you are floating in light, in your subtle body... Floating in the ocean of Satchidananda... From the unreal lead me to the real, from darkness lead me to light, from this mortal life lead me directly to immortality, O Rudra with Thy compassionate face protect me Thou!...

'God is blessing you, believe me, jivatmas. You see these little lamps here? These lamps, count them, count them. You are more than these lamps. I see nothing but more lamps here, more lamps, with my eyes, it's a blessing eye, I see more than this lamp, I see one-two-three, that's why I asked you to count them, I see nothing but atma, no name no form, singing the name of God...'

'Jagat Shivaya, Shirdi rupaya...

Om Namah Shivaya Shivaya namah Om,

Om Namah Shivaya Shivaya namah Om...

Ambikananda: 'This kirtan you have been so so blessed, believe me...'

Next the devotees heard on the tape the voice of Swami Shivananda of Rishikesh singing,

'To the right is OM, to the left is OM, in front is OM, everywhere is OM...'

and concluding.. 'Don't just think of God, but trust in Him.'

Ambikananda: 'Lofty words! There's God in it.'

'Shivananda's voice on tape: "You don't have to see my physical form, I can initiate you while you are reading my books" – God, scripture and devotee are?

Devotees: One!

Ambikananda: 'believe! You must believe. I told you to believe, and Swami Shivananda told you, "Believe!" Now what more do you want? The veil of ignorance is destroyed. You are the very image – I sat here, I tell you, I wasn't experiencing yogic trance, I see with my gross eye, while conscious with you, I see elevated, all disappeared, and I see – I told you how many light is there, only three? You know what I saw? I saw a lot of little lamps, [laughs], so I said, "count these" [laughs]! These are

states, gross, subtle - “Self, gross, subtle, God alone is”¹ - and you are That. They are expressing. I am very pleased today, you are very – I must not tell you that, you’ll take advantage!

...

Teabreak is followed by a slide show prepared by Nita around the theme of ‘the Visions of Sri Ramakrishna’

Swamiji: ‘From the pictures to the real Narayana...If you see through the eyes, here, you will see many many many worlds, it’s like a television, God’s eyes, many lokas - perhaps seven lokas up and seven lokas down, that’s why it is said: “O Lord Narayana when Thou dost close Thine eyes it is night and when Thou dost open Thine eyes it is day,” Then all the worlds are closed; and “Thy tongue is the Goddess Sarasvati...The universe comes from the body of God...’

Swamiji continues to comment appreciatively on the slides Nita is projecting in the slideshow

‘Wherever you turn, you face Me...Above this darkness there is an ocean of consciousness where there is no darkness at all. Again, if this body is in darkness, if you meditate 10 inches, just 10 inches above, and think of light light light light light light. And the name of *ru* [light] which dispels *gu* [darkness], you will feel like akasa, you will get akasic consciousness. I tell you, God is in the company of the devotees’ *satsangi*

‘...God is very much blessing you, you know. He is uprooting darkness. God is the gardener to uproot the darkness out of the field of your life– the cave where you want to meditate is dark. Remove the darkness and, what? Light! So it is said, “*In dense darkness, O Mother, Thy formless beauty sparkles...*”

Swamiji urges the devotees to take the mahaprasad, ‘dedicated to 17 devotees or gods. ‘Maha mahaprasadam. Mahamahaprasadam. Take one for Kadamba.’ He goes round the room, serving the devotees, with Mahayogini helping. ‘Maha maha prasadam. Plenty consciousness.’

Swamiji reads from Visions of Sri Ramakrishna with music background as Nita puts up the slides. After reading for about ten minutes he says:

‘I tell you, believe me, my brothers, my flowers, earlier I saw you as lamps, now this time as I look at you I see nothing but the heart of flowers. All of you have transformed as the heart of flowers. Now it is discovered I shall explain: we have to have a mental eye, a vision with a mental eye that focuses divine glory. Read Bhagavad Gita, “I grant you, Arjuna, vision, and behold the multifarious colours, the multifarious forms” ...

[He goes on reading from Visions of Sri Ramakrishna, pp.13-14...his vision of the Divine Mother]

[Reads] ‘...When the sympathetic or curious gathered round, they appeared unreal, he said, like shadows or pictures painted on canvas...’ But as soon as I lost consciousness on account of unbearable anguish, I saw the form of the Mother consisting of Consciousness, with hands that give boons and freedom, a form who smiled, who spoke and consoled, and taught me in endless ways.”....He begged her, “O Mother, I am a fool, please teach me what is contained in the Vedas, the Puranas, the Tantras, and the other scriptures.” The Mother said to him: “The essence of the Vedanta is that Brahman alone is real, and the world illusory.” His heart was spurred to a profound and now famous prayer...’ Taking a flower in my hand” ...

Ambikananda: ‘Please take a flower if you have one there, or offer yourself as a flower – I just saw the devotees as flowers, so offer yourself, surrender.

‘Now we will pray with Sri Ramakrishna:

‘Mother, here is Thy knowledge and here is Thy ignorance. Take them both, and give me only pure love.

Here is Thy holiness, and here is Thy unholiness Take them both, Mother, and give me pure love.

Here is Thy good, and here is Thy evil. Take them both, Mother, and give me pure love.

Here is Thy righteousness and here is Thy unrighteousness. Take them both, Mother, and give me pure love.

¹ Swamiji’s song: Self, gross, subtle, matter, spirit./ consciousness, oneness./God, the Lord, the master of created things, matter or spirit./Love incomprehensible, transcendental, God’s Consciousness alone is./Cosmic consciousness, Oneness, Reality./ God alone is.

“I mentioned all these, but I could not say, ‘Mother, here is Thy truth and here is Thy falsehood – ‘I gave up everything, but couldn’t bring myself to give up truth.’”

Swamiji reads: “I saw these things sometimes with my eyes shut, and sometimes open” – How you explain this one? With eyes open or shut! You accept truth? Truth has many facets, don’t be one-sided. Be universal... “I would see God!” ...Pray that your third eye may be opened tonight, and onwards you may see God in a golden effulgent form.’

Sw goes on reading from Visions of Sri Ramakrishna while Nita keeps changing the slides.

While prasad was being prepared, Ambikananda read from In the Hours of Meditation, ‘...Nothing shall conquer thee; God Himself is bound to serve thee. For he is attracted by that which is Himself in thee... Verily thou thyself art divine...’

[Laughs] Earlier I told you, I saw all disappeared, without meditation. I saw just lamps. I said, “Count how many real lamps there are supposed to be.” There were only a few – not 35! Next I saw again you had become flowers, offerings. Hahahahaha. Maybe I suffer from hallucinations, hallucinations. Hallo the nations! ...

[reads] “Tat twam asi, Thou art That...How can thou believe in God if thou believest not in thine own self!...Know that thou art not the body...”

Ambikananda: ‘This is my experience just a while ago. I saw you as lamps. After that I saw you as flowers. You know why? Brahmananda told me, “There is great efficacy in the name of God,” and he said that flowers are in a constant state of worship of God. Hahahahaha. So devotees are in a constant state of worshipping. That was the vision of Ramakrishna when he went to pluck flowers he found that all flowers are full of consciousness, worshipping God. I saw you with my naked eyes...’

[Reads] “The final truth is realization. Therefore, arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached” ...

Swamiji: “O God, make me have the vision of Thee” – but here you are having vision! Two in One, isn’t it? ”O God, make me have the vision of Thee. Make me sincere. Make me yearn for Thee” Say to thyself every day that great prayer of all the devotees: ‘Let me love Thee alone, O Lord.’

Devotees repeat: ‘Let me love Thee alone, O Lord.’

....

[Reading from Sathya Sai Baba with slideshow continuing]

Ambikananda: ‘God blesses you now again, my children, believe me, last kirtan I said we were groping in darkness. This kirtan the darkness is being removed. How you explain that? I the son of Shiva tell you that, a dark child, one of the spiritual darkness. A-U-M. Meditate, worship. Here you have the chance to do all these. God is in His image. OM namah Shivaya, Shivaya namah OM...’

Remember, God blesses you now, God blesses you this very minute. This is the word of this dark one. OM namah Shivaya . OM namah Shivaya ...Blessed be the devotees of this ashram, they don’t know what is happening to them, they are flowers, they are eternal flowers, let them be like that, it is enough for them...This is my state of meditation, I will never give Thee up. OM namah Shivaya, Shivaya namah OM. Come confusion, come delusion after creation. Thy will be done. Do with me as it please Thee...

‘I tell you, God is blessing you, God is blessing you continuously. Blessed be God, blessed be the devotees, blessed be the precept[or]. God, devotees are one. God, devotees and the scriptures are one. God, devotees and the scriptures are one. God, devotees and the scriptures are one.

Sivo Ham, Sivo Ham!

God is in His image. OM namah Shivaya, Shivaya namah OM...

...

‘We will read now from For Seekers of God:²

Reads: “...When asked by an attendant about his reason for saluting one and all, Mahapurushji said: ‘As soon as people come in front of me, I get visions of different gods and goddesses.’”

Ambikananda: “How you explain this? A little while ago all of a sudden there were no devotees here, isn’t it? All we could ask was, “Can you count how many lamps there are?” That is a state!...

² By Sri Ramakrishna’s direct disciple Swami Shivananda (Mahapurushji).

We are not ardent devotees of [Sathya] Sai Baba, but we are universal, we accept. We are like gopis, you know? We are chaste to Guru Dev [Sri Ramakrishna]. But we accept Universal Form, you understand?...I accept every level: the one who sent me a card, the one who hasn't send a card but was thinking of sending but didn't have a chance, the one who didn't know, the one who sent thought – that also has been received. So we thank all. ... Nita has done a lot of work, work I can't do, accept the truth, work I can't do, I have no skill, no machine. These are made for me. They are brought by my love as it is, and that love is not mine, it's God's love. I try to distribute it with prasadam... 'It's no good to be monotonous. We are always learning, though we are not full adamant devotees of Sathya Sai Baba, we are borrowing their. bhajans], ... There is no intellectualism here. It's out of love that I dance, and when I dance I like to have a sound, and while there is a sound I like it to be technically good]...and also I like purity, I like the requisite of God's attributes, I am a devotee for the time being, until I become a devotee of Brahman. Why should I say I have realized Brahman? I haven't even realized God, [laughs] You don't have to know, this is my headache...If you have the same childlike zeal in your home – here you are summoned for a few hours. Now you go back to the tape, you've got a whole kirtan, you go back with this, you revise it – there will be a time when you want to call, your soul will be thirsty...

'I tell you, my friends, I got trance just by listening to these Sai Baba bhajans, listening over and over causes trance. Listening forms part of kirtan, Sai Baba has said. *Sirvana, manana, kirtana*. I don't understand Sanskrit, I don't know what he is saying. But there is something. I have seen the light. The moth has seen the light...

'I am just a foreigner in this land, I am a pilgrim, that's why I was sent to Pilgrim Hospital. Mother did a lot of things, but He wished it otherwise. So we are still here. But I have discovered. It's hidden, it's called *Gu*.³ The secret of your reality is from here to here, from what I am trying to say and what you have not felt. But because you have had a spray of it, a fragrance sprayed from somebody else, you are attracted, a little moth attracted by it. But I tell you, go beyond sandalwood, go beyond body and all this, there is greater, there is infinite. Let you seek and you will find. Why should I make it easy? If you are hungry you will enjoy your food. Maybe you are not hungry enough, isn't it? "Whoever hungers and thirsts after Me shall be filled," sooner or later. Real hunger, real thirst. You know, I was known as mad, but this time – blast it! You are attracted here but that attraction is a bait. That bait is not an end. As you can't go through it you have to break through. This wall protects, but yet it is a wall. Break it, and there is a bigger world to see. The frog in the well didn't know there was a greater world till he was brought out.

'Those who have nothing to do are looking for a distraction. Those who have one thing to do and cannot do it, they don't want to know anything else. "Be still" means be still in your mind and "know that I am God". Jesus also said, Christianity, isn't it? You swallow time in concentration. The power of concentration without devotion will have a reaction because it is *dharana*. With *dharana* it will cause a kind of transcendental state. Now suppose I add Consciousness to that? I start hearing flute! First flute was distracting me, now the flute is attracting me. There is no music, where is the music coming from? Ah, God said, "These distractions, keep going." You are meditating here and you think of somebody, and all of a sudden you will see the person, what he is doing. Though you are meditating! It's not so easy! But there is an easy way to do all this. What is it?

Devotee: Love

Swamiji: 'Ah! But how many people have got love? You have got it? Then you should be there! God is love, and love matured becomes *prema, bhava, mahabhava*, isn't it? What is the form of love?

Devotee: Tears.

Sw: 'Thankyou, sir, five pounds for you!

'It's no good to give you Veda, it's too big. You are only size three feet, four feet, and the jacket of God is colossal! If I give you *Vishwaswarupa* – impossible to find you [laughs]. So take one single name, one single form with great love, and you will find in that dot...

³ darkness

What is science without creation? And what is creation without Creator? I am illiterate, I don't read all these things, there's no time to go through scriptures. The same God that I worship I am giving to you. And more, there is a choice, a variety without being monotonous. And this body has survived. It has touched this little drop of love. It will not last, it is on its last legs, but in this last leg is tapasya, [laughs], austerity. Everyone is the same, everyone will go, so have zeal, have detachment.

'These bhajans and scripture are kindlers, but in yoga sleep even these which helped to trance me I can't hear. I worship not him [Sathya Sai Baba], I don't want even too many songs with his name. and yet he would come and kindle mastic until it burns, and throw it there, at 3 or 4 o'clock. I am not a devotee of Sathya Sai Baba as such. I also worship Shirdi Baba, my life, my soul, and if they say Sathya Baba is the same - accept his truth, his word, his work, what he is doing. If you don't accept his divinity, can anyone wave his hands and do anything? Can anyone heal sick, can anyone bring dead back? Can anyone give someone a ring and tell him, if you want to know what I am doing just look at your ring? Ask the greatest scientist to do it. Just a ring! Well, you must accept a few things. Accept divinity! "Mine is not magic," he says, "mine is divine powers." These are baits.

'That love is the same in you, I tell you. Your body, our body, is full of darkness. But in here dwells Somebody. And in fact the heart is the most important organ in the body. Many a time Sai Baba would come, and kindle more love again. "All names, all forms are Mine," he says. You must accept truth, you understand? God is truth, so embrace truth, live in truth, welcome it. For your help, read Sathya Sai's book; don't worship him as such, but for your knowledge, for your own help, your own foundation, borrow from him, and do all your worship for your Guru Dev.⁴ He will be very pleased with you! But you must not be a hypocrite. When concentration has been soaked into honey, the honey drip of Existence-Love, then you will be a Buddha.

'I said, "Where I am going you too will go." That's why it's no joke to initiate anyone. You have to take the responsibility. Not until the disciple is liberated will the guru find his liberation. But that must be a true guru, you understand. That's why Sai Baba says, "Give your guru exactly what he is, no more, no less."... He's terrific, I tell you. 'I am talking now – do you believe He is blessing us? Who do you think we are?. And who do you think everyone else is? And who do you think is listening? Ah, you see, you are conscious of body, but not of spirit....Where I go you cannot go. My spirit is universal, it's Sathya. And truth is the *tapasya* of the age⁵. And He is in us. And my state is not your state yet. Earlier it was said, "The soul gets befogged by bad *activities and sin*," *Suppose all of a sudden we were just soul. What would you say to me then?* 'You people must take drugs sometimes to experience something high, isn't it? But we are intoxicated by truth. There is no more powerful drug than not taking any pollution. I am under the spell of God.

'I am not selfish, I tell you, I don't seek anything for myself. If I am benefiting I want to share it, I want others to go and get their fill. God is very thoughtful, I tell you. He doesn't seek austerities so much, He doesn't demand penance, He is love, approach Him with love. Love is important. If today you are close to each other it is only because of love, yes or no? If today you are settled down firmly in your household it is only because of love. This foundation, this unity, this love, you cannot explain it. It's God's material in a body – put it that way. It's God's possession, it's God's property.

'If a big thing can eventually reduce, reduce, reduce into a dot, and if you can make the dot also disappear, what is left? Existence. Your reality, which cannot be destroyed. Existence, which is fundamentally, originally, always, the same Reality. [laughs]. That has split, has taken name and form, has become knowledge, has become material world, has become universe, cosmos, fire, earth, water, air, work, science, sea. God's creation. See God in a tiny little crumb. "From Brahma to a blade of grass, all is Brahman," Hinduism says. And Bhakti yoga in this Iron Age is the quickest step to attain to God.

⁴ Sri Ramakrishna.

⁵ Sri Ramakrishna

‘When I say, “Sing, clap your hands,” I am only stripping you of the dark clothes you have come in, and rehabili-tayloring you in a garment full of light, so that when you go you will know that “I am not this dark man that came here, I am light.” Didn’t Sai Baba say, “Think of light, meditate on light, send light, merge in light”? Light with the essence of love. Think of that for a minute, ponder on that. Light with the essence of love, the foundation of love. No motive. It’s love eternal. So many times we are blessed...

‘Listen, I tell you, my friends, I want you to believe in my word, because my word is an experience of the Above. That’s all I can tell you. If you have really come for me you must take the trouble to believe me a little bit. if you can yield somewhere in your body, remove a brick here and there, and put a brick of belief in you, it would be good. You know, I have read that God, the devotee and scripture are one. And there’s a state of experiencing it. When you experience something it’s a right-hand belief, isn’t it. You don’t need any more reading. All scriptures speak of one God. When you know there is this one God, then by hook or crook or by any means, decent or indecent, try to purely love Him!

‘That’s why we love all of you, those who meditate, those who do not meditate, what counts is that you have come here. What you are getting today, what you do not know, is because in some where, in some life, you have called on Him. “Whoever calls on Me even once shall be liberated.” But He didn’t say they would be liberated now. So if you don’t get it now, it will be at time of death. If not, it will be after a few births, isn’t it? I keep telling you, you are very, very blessed. Do not worry. Develop love for God. God is love. Give up intellectualism, give up “What will people think of me, listening to an illiterate, a fool man?”

‘Keep your job, keep your life. You are householders, why should you go mad so much? You are all calling on God. I tell you, householders are so blessed. Ramakrishna says that they have such a burden on their shoulders of work and all these things – and with all these burdens still they call on Me. That’s why He responds...’

Swamiji repeated his reading from Mahapurushji:

‘...As soon as people come in front of me, I get visions of different gods and goddesses. That’s why I make my obeisance. The divine forms disappear after my salutation, and then only can I see the human figures distinctly and recognize them as well.’

Swamiji: ‘You understand the state of realization? Can an ordinary being understand these?... Listen, I can’t read any more, to be frank with you. Just believe that God is here. With all due respect I will close this scripture for the time being. You’re very very blessed to be able to witness while in ignorance of Reality. It’s right-handed. God, scriptures and devotees are - ? Now quickly come confusion and delusion.

‘ We will reworship this tonight, this page at least, page 285, with due respect and love...

I tell you, as I see like that, I don’t see any of you, I see God listening. What did I tell you earlier? This man here [*indicating picture of Ramakrishna devotees*], this Brahmananda, who is no longer in the body, who came, sat two hours, talking English, after his meditation he said, “There is great efficacy in *japa*.” And he came back when devotees came and said, “Listen, I see nothing but Brahman.” To who will Brahman tell about Brahman? Read *Eternal Companion*

‘ “First pray to Mahamaya, then come and approach.” We’ll finish this reading of Mahapurushji– Sita Dev and Raja Ram will read...’ [*he indicates the passage*]

Raja Ram and Sita Devi read together:

“On another occasion, when asked by an attendant about his reason for saluting one and all, Mahapurushji said: ‘As soon as people come in front of me, I get visions of different gods and goddesses; ; and so I salute those deities. When somebody approaches me, first of all I see that particular effulgent form of God through which He reveals Himself in that particular personality – “Ambikananda: ‘Thankyou. Just a minute – say “Kali, Kali, Kali.” The Mother. Kali. Yes. She is here. She alone reads. All right, Gayatri, read now, Gayatri, please.’

Gayatri reads from the same place:

“The persons themselves appear indistinctly, like shadowy beings, while the divine aspect itself appears vivid and living –“

Swamiji: ‘Yes, you see? And what did we see just now? Whom did we see, in you? I asked you to stop reading. [We saw] the very very black hair of Kali, covering both of you two people there. You are selected, isn’t it? God is in your form. Believe us. I don’t invent this book. I just wish to do Her will, what She wants.’

Raja Ram and Sita Dev continued reading in unison:

“That’s why I make my obeisance. The divine forms disappear after my salutation, and then only can I see the human figures distinctly and recognize them as well... do you think that I do all this of my own accord? I myself often don’t understand why I act like that: I am struck with wonder, so how can others understand? There’s nothing else but the Master within this frame. I act just as he wants me to, and I speak just as it pleases him. To whom can I explain and who, indeed, can understand the various ways in which the Master is playing through this body?”

Swamiji: ‘It tallies directly, no? Now close down, close the lamp, and thank you very much. I am very pleased today. You have been blessed, really. It’s like I am reborn after the operation, and really another life, and I am the spiritual son, as we all are, of Lord Shiva, and I promise you with the very few hairs left on my head that I will take it back when I go there. Thank you very much indeed.’

*Devotees sing: ‘Twameva mata, cha pitas twameva/Twameva bandu cha saka twameva/
Twameva vidya dravinam twameva/Twameva sarvam mama deva.*

*‘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.*

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Appendix

*Notes taken from Swamiji's conversations after return from hospital⁶:
Ramakrishna Loka*

'In surviving death's call, I touched and felt the true Spring of Existence, Love, deep deep within humanity.

'...To be in contact with God continuously is the secret of Yoga. If your mind is not pure, you can't understand. Spiritual life is a daily life. Kirtan is the bank and you draw in and out.

'The Atma reflects in the pure mind; If your mind is not receiving, or has the slightest defect, you cannot receive the message of God (GSR)

'Spiritual life causes inner light. An Ashram is a place to develop higher qualities and to get rid of lower ones. Think of light.

'God is Formless Spirit that takes shape and form in in the devotee's mind. You have to study to get a good picture of Him. Prema⁷ is the thing to develop the picture in the darkroom of consciousness. But nowadays there is a kind of picture which develops by itself. God is in and out, so develop dual consciousness

'Trance is the union of your Ishta Dev⁸ and your spirit, with your body as an unconscious thing.

'I am now as ever busy building the Bridge of Immortality for us living souls to go across in the company of true lovers of God.

'I am building a Heavenly Temple by the bank of my earthly body, and am praying that everyone may have a permanent loan with a great and high interest from this eternal bank of Ganga Mata Shiva Mai...

'The name of God purifies, destroys, and makes way for the future, and bears the present.

'To see and hear God, wash your eyes with tears and open your heart with Love. Let everything be filled with Light and Love... In everyone there is a spring of Love, but it has not burst and is covered with layers of jealousy, envy, pride, etc...

'Life is such a dream; the way out is the thought of God and dual consciousness

'You have to be nourished by the milk of your reading. God infuses Himself in the scriptures for the bhakta... The ashram is a book where the vocabulary of God is printed in the heart of the devotee and when every day the devotee repeats it.

'Always live *now*; do not forget this very moment – NOW – is important.

'Every time one comes to kirtan, he bathes in the spring of God's tub. So rebirth is reduced and we pay with sickness after kirtan...

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⁶ From 'The Charters of Ramakrishna Loka', compiled by Sathitananda Aug-Dec 1982.

⁷ Divine or higher love.

⁸ Chosen deity.