

July 1, 1983

*Kirtan at Kings Cross (Mahalakshmi and Jai Narain)*

*This became known as the second Carnival kirtan because devotees were again asked to perform comic acts and sketches. As in the previous Carnival kirtan (1980), Ambikananda was concerned for devotees to understand that this was also for the benefit of people who were no longer alive:*

*'For the people in 'hemisphere' [i.e. nether world], kirtan falls like food from heaven.'*

*Mahaprasad was served after the devotees had performed their turns, and after prasad there were more bhajans. At the end, Swamiji began a reading from the GSR that developed into a short discourse:*

*'There is a tongue that doesn't make sound, but speaks, because ultimately it is Mother who is your voice. The mother tongue, isn't it? But Mother doesn't like people to speak much about Her because She likes people to find out for themselves, even to fall down, even to get robbed, so that they become strong. This is the game. But She does guide. If you dare listen, you will be guided. And if you dare not listen, you may lose your head and be misguided! But ultimately you will know Mother and Father are just like day and night. In daytime Father helps. At night time Mother is there. Mother puts you to sleep - everyone goes to bed at night, overpowered by Mother, Mother nature, Mother night, good night, God's night, put you to sleep in the lap of night. There you rest, you develop, you grow, you are born and die, both.*

*'Shiva and Parvati are our Father and Mother. Yes, yes. This is a better way of knowing God – God as your father and God as your mother. This is the best way, if you can. There is no blister in that, just bliss, if you know God as father and mother. Blister means karma, bliss means bhakti. Karma means work, and bhakti means love. And God is Love. But you have to be in tune with yourself. The God that we are talking about is not outside you. It is He that enables you to hear, it is He that guides, that perceives. It is He, or She, that has the knowledge of how the impossible can become very possible with God. God's ways are the best ways.'*

*[Reads] '..."Master: The worshippers of Vishnu and the worshippers of Shakti all ultimately reach the same goal."*

*'There is One who initiates everyone, the Master Yogi, the patron of the yogis, he who deals with yoga, initiation, kriya, mantra, yantra, diksha, for all this there is One. All religions lead to one -?*

*Devotee: - goal?*

*Swamiji: 'God. And goal. All religions are like rivers, all rivers lead to one ocean. All religions, the mighty teachers, professors, students - they belong there. We are nothing but a duplicate of what we really are above. As above, so -?'*

*Devotees: Below!*

*Sw: 'But "Below" is a weak plane, the plane of the personality, it has a personal deity, leading to real formless disappearance and not knowing, unknowable, unknown. Now I am a salt doll, and this is the ocean. I am told if I as salt doll stay long in that ocean the doll will melt and become one with the ocean...'<sup>1</sup>*

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July, 1983 Ramakrishna Loka

*Sitting outside Ramakrishna Loka on a warm afternoon. Satram, Marian, Brahma, Sarasvati, Jai Narain, MahaLakshmi were present.*

*Ambikananda's discourse included:*

*'Meditation may have a boundary where to go, where not to go. With some people it's an offence just to cross that border. If you are used to using body in meditation you know the clues. In summer you have to comply with the season as well as the vibration. Colour must match with colour. A picture can*

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<sup>1</sup> See GSR passim

capture the spirit sometimes, manifest the *jyoti* [light]. It can go deeper than other things, so the picture manifests the object.

‘Kirtan is for manifesting your blissful blossoming. The fragrance is the ‘belching’ [effect] of the flower. You can see the creator through the creation, though creator is himself invisible. So you can see through natural skill. It’s a great art just to study a leaf, a seed - in a tiny microscopic thing there is a whole group of blissful blossoming kirtans.

‘There is a compass for Earth, and with a good captain the sailing is quite simple. In summer it’s holiday, all passengers are mixed on the deck, you can’t be dry jnani. But some people are dazzled by their own reflection in a mirror. In meditation look in a mirror, and in that mirror see your face, then see a spark, ignite subtle nerve, and take a flight. A man who comes back survives to live, he doesn’t live to survive.

‘If you fall into good company, that’s good. Be universally minded, not one-sided. Don’t be limited by books, find out friends, find out people who don’t meditate at all – how do they survive? They also can be a spark. Life is a facing of the reaction to action. You have to bear it, it’s not permanent, Kumbakha of 50 seconds blows it out. But you can’t make a person a god just like that, it depends on three wills: yours, mine, and the paramount will.

‘Religion can be a blissful meeting, a book, but God takes His time, a proper man takes his time. A lot of us can’t understand; when things go wrong they back up, they can’t face it. So you have to be very strong. The yogi follows path of Sun, but Upanishad says, “*Sun does not shine there...*”. So a particle of Light in you is a tiny crystallised drop. The soul is like that. You have to relax and be born with everyone. It’s a dealing, a shuffling, an entire point of view. Only God can understand a holy man, only a holy man understands will of God – and that’s why he is beyond praise and blame...

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