

Aug 27, 1983

*Kirtan at Ebley, Stroud (Tryambaka and Sati)*

*There was a very relaxed atmosphere as Ambikananda and devotees sat outside in the afternoon sun, chatting and drinking tea. Bright sunlight glittered off Swamiji's latest acquisition – a venerable but immaculate Daimler.*

*After music and bhajans from Mahayogini, Marian, Sada Siva, Atma, Sati, Gayatri, Shiva Shakti, etc, Swamiji gave a talk with reading from Satya Sai Baba.*

[Reads]: "Every sadhaka must enter on the path of enquiry..."

'The path of enquiry. Who am I? What is this world? Who are you? Why are we gathered here? This world is "God becomes", and this time is temporarily God-pleasing, playing Lila, where kindergarten God becomes a human being. So love each other, respect each other, be nice to each other; but be careful, Narayana is also in tiger form, Narayana you should salute sometimes at a distance, sometimes close; therefore you must be careful and have discrimination. Be discriminative in this world, which is full of thorns and blades, and very painful as well.

'The path of enquiry is OM Tat Sat - Thou alone have become this. O God, why am I here? Is it for a house, is it just to gather here? I am being fed inwardly to sufficiency. The soul is fed individually, the mass only look a-gaze and a-gape, they don't benefit from the nectar. The essence of divinity does not manifest in an ordinary gross individual if you don't breathe it, sleep in it, like Marian was singing in the song just now, sleep in love.

'You must learn how to sleep – that is, how to go to bed but *not* to sleep. As soon as you stop there, no one should make a noise, all lights off, all noise sent abroad. This is vital. If a person is a devotee, this is very important because the first step to infinity is the one you take from your own bed. And the last step also is very important. How do I die? Whatever your last thought is, with that you shall become again. You don't know if you are going to get up at all from that bed - therefore that little yoga sleep is so important, even if you never have any spiritual experience. That is the state that must not be disturbed. Now you are departing, nature has come to visit you, twilight, yawning, light off... Now there is an actual visit. Ramakrishna has spoken of the three auspicious hours – dawn, midday and twilight – and twilight too is very good, you know you are going to rest now, all the daylong thought of what you have done in the world is gathered, and you see its uselessness, its evanescence, its temporality. You ask, Do I need that?

'First, everything is God: I am God, you are God, he is God, we are God, they are God. Everyone is part and parcel of God, and God's property. God's property is not to be abused, it is to be well treated, the plant has to be well looked after, though it has been cut. You must handle a rose with care or it gets bruised, it gets hurt, it dries; so handle with gentleness. Everyone is part and parcel of a big house, a temple, so the whole body has to be taken care of. Everyone is part and parcel of God.

'There is also awareness that I am breathing. But who is breathing? In the concrete jungle of London what is there to breathe? But there is a way to breathe, not only the I but also the Sai. How many things there are in a human being, from tip to toe, the tiptoe ballerina, but you have to have balance. There is a reason we are here, but we are in darkness, we are not fully enlightened. We are always hoping, seeking for some happiness, a glass of wine, a cigarette, an interest, a communion, like "talk to me, ring me, call me", everyone is seeking something. We want a friend to have this concern. And there is, inside us, an Indweller, a Witness.

Therefore our deeds should be very, very light, they should be brighter than day. If our deeds are not correct, our days are corrupt. He who lives in dharma, in righteousness, that man righteousness protects. God will protect him. God works for the devotees, God lives in the devotees more than he manifests in everything else. You can say God has become all these things, but let a devotee play and sing with consciousness, and he attracts God like a calf calling its mother. When also you have a split, a dual consciousness, then you may say, "From this lead me to That, from this state lead me to that higher transcendental state," even while you are living and acting and drinking and making merry.

Your thought and your consciousness, that's what matters. God is real, He sees what is real in all this. So "from the unreal lead us to the Real."

'This life is a flight, you understand. A spark has jumped here, you find yourself here, you have hit the mother's womb. It's all organized, the human system. The human being is so many millions of little cells, and every one full of Self, living divinity. It is all God's property, and God's property is not to be abused. The whole body has to be taken care of. You have to collect and gather your time. It may take 20 years, it may take 30 years, it may take 30 lives. It does not matter. What matters is the transcendental, piercing, elixir thought. "Wherever you think of me there am I with you."

'Therefore you are beyond this cage and case, you are definitely not this body. In different lives you had different bodies – you couldn't care less about them now. But now you are in this body, so you have to take care of it. Yet you are not this body, this house you are occupying is not yours, it's rented. Your mother and father have gathered it, and you are the inheritor of this body. But you are the soul, not this body, not this gymnastic mind. The soul doesn't have to try to understand – it's all understood.

Therefore try to understand what you are really. Don't be panicking and don't be miserable for the temporal game in which you have been placed here. Win that game. Let every step be a step towards - Him. God? Now you say God. God is a big question. Who is He? Who is He not? What is He not? Where is He not? Show me. So why not realize Him? A way to realization is to ask whether He exists or not. You are seeking something. Does He exist or not? How does nature exist, with all these millions of wonders of the world, plants, air, water, fire, microscopic particles of atom, subtlety of viruses, and the invisible thing that we don't see, He has made all that, *and* He has condensed himself in a finite body, unrecognizable and unrecognized. God is not recognized even when he takes human form - quickly, speedily yours, everywhere, with a transcendental form, if you exist or not, and where; but be honest, this is God's property, nothing to do with you.

'The senses are the devouring animals, the serpents. Senses, wrongly fed, become the cobras that eat you. You are coiled in your own senses. They chew you, eat your vitals, they diminish you, they dehumanize and then de-divinize you. You get lost, you lose control. When control is lost, temper is lost, sight is lost, balance is lost, mind is lost. Then, as Bhagavad Gita says, all is lost. Therefore purity is the first requisite. You can go through a bit of sense pleasure and all that, in the first stage of life, but nature itself stops you enjoying physical things continuously. You can only eat and drink so much - then you are full. Nature itself has put a stop, a break, until the appetite is revitalized. There is a law. You cannot go beyond nature, though you have free will, whether you believe or not, it's impossible.

'Now you are perturbed by the news - every time you switch on the radio you are perturbed. But God knows there is more to come, more terrible, more Kali Age, nothing bright in it. We are in darkness. But light is hiding in the darkness. There is someone here whom eyes cannot see. And this body really is very holy, very divine, because there is an Indweller there. Light is formless, and real light exists as eternal, everlasting, ever permanent, unseen, unknown, indescribable. We can give a hint: as long as you identify with this body, you are keeping yourself in a cocoon. We give the hint, but it is very good to make a move out of this cocoon for yourself.

'But who are the devotees? Maybe some have got experience, have been attacked by experience, but have wandered. Even the time you have sat in meditation can be a waste of time because you don't know if you are really there believing. Why not be truthful? "God is truth and the truth shall set you free." Why pretend to be Swami Somebody - it's good to see God in daylight without meditation. To see not all this but God, "From the unreal to the Real"... I know what I am talking about, from playful Radha to romantic Radha to eternal Radha – we are all Radha's shaktis. We must not forget our realities. But have discrimination – all these are my friends, all are God-becomes, but are they hungry, are they thirsty for the deathless state? God exists as light of the Word, enlightening point, enlightening vein of blissful home of Vedas.

‘You will all attain. What you are here is not you – houses, cars in form of coffins. You don’t have to sit and meditate; God is love, but there’s no love in people. So send thought, think of God. Remember, “Meditation is a constant flow of thought of God like oil from one vessel to another.” You can question God when you’re sleeping like a dead, meditating on form of death. Fire can burn sin. If man has no sin, what’s to burn? A man can escape here, but as soon as he comes out of the body where to go? He’s surrounded by black devil police. So we must live for reality and not be attracted by flimsy gossamer things – all these are maya. Make your acquaintance with God – that’s the purpose of life. Don’t let the ship of the mind lose its compass direction. If you lose your chance with Sathya Sai, or Shirdi Sai, or Ramakrishna – OK, repent. But when you repent don’t go and get muddy again. Live in the world, but also live above it. Don’t tax your body more than is required. Be for your purpose by helping all. You must love your work. Dedicate it if you can’t love it.

‘Every day I hunger anew after eating to heart’s content. Next day comes, life goes on, so you have to live to the end of life. God is first witness of your thought. You must not be a hypocrite, be honest to yourself. There are thieves around, not bank robbers but snatchers of the soul. Any karmic animal losing human birth, does he really enjoy the work he had to do? He himself has come to that by his desires, fantasies, will-o-wisps. Now if thieves come and take you – unless you become a baby of God for “theirs is the kingdom”. So it’s important to call on God. You have to do all this yourself with a sincere consciousness. God is the perfect hearer for His devotees, the chooser for the devotees’ choice. A real devotee is a struggler in the will of God.

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