

Jan 21, 1984

*Discourse during a kirtan at Madonna and Ed Lamond's new house at Swiss Cottage.*

*In this discourse Swami Ambikananda speaks of 'seeking the vision of God according to one's own liking. ..The light of knowledge is life consciousness, but some devotees seem to have lost their awareness... God exists in the depths of the caller's soul. Meditate on the name, be purified, and wait patiently for the arrival of a drop of infinity.*

'Vision creates faith, isn't it so? A man prays and prays and never sees anything. God hears his petition, but there are millions of people praying to God; they are in a queue - after all God is the lord of the English - so they have to wait their turn. How long has the Lord been waiting for *them*? When their turn comes they will have the vision of God, if it is not now it will be at the time of death. So be patient. In spiritual life you have to be patient, and you [also] have to be impatient for Him, both.

'There are many paths leading to the same goal. Therefore the teachings of all the saints are true. [But] they must be true saints. Realization of God, according to Holy Mother, does not mean anything particular or abnormal. It enables a man to discriminate between the real and the unreal. And when you discriminate between the real and the unreal you have to be fast, don't be stagnant in one point. Go beyond the sandalwood, and go much [further] forward. Spread your being, expand, develop wings, fly, get in touch with your subtle and etheric body, get in touch with your soul uplifting [with] attraction to the object of meditation, merging with the meditator, and try to leave a trace – "I am the seeker and He is the object." And [persevere] until you can cleave these and go even beyond that. So do not dillydally here and there. Go with great discrimination. One breath, one leap crosses many oceans, many lives.

'Here we are today, and tomorrow we are gone with the wind. So realize what we are saying, be blessed. If people really want - Guru Dev has said, "Whoever has sincerely called on God even once will come to Him." So with both hands call on Him, not with a dry heart and soul. Let the soul be soaked in light, in peace, forcing our wandering steps towards the goal, the purpose of being here.

'All this that you see seems to be real, it's true. So whatever leads and helps, take fast, but go [forward], don't be satisfied with [just] a drop of water. Be ever thirsty and fill yourself to the brim, expand. When realization is attained, according to Sri Ramakrishna, then even what you call unreal is a manifestation of the real. It's only unreal to us, as name and form. But it is Brahman that has become this name and form nevertheless. Everything is after all full of Consciousness. After all, after all.

'So a householder has to do to the capacity of his mind, his body, his soul, his physical health. And also to his liking, because spiritual life has to be to the person's individual liking. God is like food. You can't eat any kind of food - one man's meat is another man's poison... Dedicate your mind to the One and He will guide, He will feed you, He will feed your body, and He will feed your mind (which is even more important than your body). And when the mind is fed, with the idea of feeding Brahman, then you can "live like a mudfish" in this dirty water of everyday life...

'A bit of mental love is required, when the love is pure. You must give that love. Love is like light; you shed the light and it goes very far. God is love and He receives it, and if that love has no motive and is very pure, then you are jotted in the book of life. Eventually the seed of realization, if it is His desire, will [germinate] in the field of your heart.

'So, holy man, be aware, alert, aloof, watchful, controlled, determined. Be good, be resistant to all these evanescent things of this impermanent, hard world. If you were living in golden age everything would be a blessing, but now it is very hard. Of the wish-fulfilling trees of the golden age there are

now but one or two left, living for five thousand years.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, if you find yourself sitting under one of these cling fast, cling fast, and it will yield its fruit - it is the nature of true love to be unselfish...

‘Silent love in union with the thought - I acknowledge the receipt of your thought. Is that pleasing to you? Now my face is like a picture taken in time of war. I am here in the battlefield, I am fighting my way. So you will remember me when I had sword in hand. But my real self comes in the company of the soul-uplifting, and it must not be monotonous. Love is light of the light, subtlest of the subtle, and it is not stagnant. It's far beyond what we're trying to say....

‘We accept that all is a dream, you and I, but the dream of the Dreamer can be deciphered, and this is a starting point, this is a seed. In the seed there is the wish-fulfilling tree again, that was lost and is found. So, householders, according to your means - do! According to your temperament, Guru Dev has said, pray. Whatever you can do, do to your level best, Guru Dev will do the rest. But we also like to say, have great discrimination and keep yourself aloof from darkness. You can salute the Tiger Narayana at a distance.

‘So you must have discrimination. Maya is very great and powerful, it goes beyond mind, beyond body, even beyond the soul of an ordinary man. Therefore anchor yourself at the lotus feet, at the hand, at every member of your Ishta Dev.<sup>2</sup> Or, if you think your mind is still impure, think of the garment, or of the shadow, the image, the picture of your Ishta Dev. Or think of the Name alone, without form: the paramount, beyond the name, the colossal particle as you. Like a lingam, from which all come and to which all go back.

‘When you have some knowledge, the consciousness of God is like, "I have heard of piano, now I know how to play it." Consciousness is the perfect artist - he has already sketched it in his mind, and not until this is done as he wants it will he leave the sketch or the painting, not until he has realized the word in being, and from that being the relationship is now constant, and unaffected by the din and bustle of this busy world. You must, after having knowledge, become close to Him who is all-close but unmanifest. Doubt arises when there is no manifestation. As soon as He manifests, then - "Thou art even here, accompanying me! So closely leading every step, every word, everything... Now knowledge has dawned in me!"

‘The light of knowledge is life consciousness. Knowledge was here but not known, and if knowledge is not known you are in darkness. Light and consciousness have come, and now everything is clearer, as much as consciousness has graced itself into the frame of the seeker. Do you understand these steps to realization? [They go] beyond life and death. After death, if you haven't thought of God, it is difficult, you will be attacked by the mace and club of the emissaries of death.

‘... "I may be saved, I may be slain, it's all the same." Yes, yes, yes. The composer [Sambhu] has said it, but this "it's all the same" comes afterwards,. It's all the same after one has realized; it does not matter. [But for now] I am keeping, I am bearing. What is "bearing" ? It's when I am doing the will of God, bearing you for the will of God. "For My sake love, for My sake forbear, for My sake bear." Otherwise it's demolition, separation, divorce. "How many times I have gathered you under My wing, O daughters of Jerusalem." Didn't Jesus say these things? [It goes] beyond life and death.

‘Everything counts. When man is satiated [with ordinary life], his every step, every thought, every breath, counts. The man grows wings. The dream comes true. Words take form. Sufferingly he watches the play of life. Think of what we are saying. There is a headache, first you must have that, and after the headache - great light, great peace! There is a state of headlessness. You find out the game really is in the body, not [just] in the head: [it's also in] the hands, the chest, the breast, the heart,

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<sup>1</sup> A reference to Babaji (see *Autobiography of a Yogi* and Youtube *passim*)

<sup>2</sup> Chosen Deity

the limbs. You must be spirit. This chick must grow its wings, it must fly. And this suffering also must go. For this you need...?

*Raja Ram:* Faith?

*Sw:* Yes, faith is the medicine, the root of all. But faith without doing - what is that? It's like, you are sick and here is the bottle. Is there any good result? Faith is not just looking at the medicine. Faith is [putting the] medicine into action. Then there will be an effect. "It is not I that have cured you, it is your faith." Didn't Jesus say that? Love incarnate said it. "Your faith in me has healed you."

You have to take action. You have to do the *doing* of it, and that doing is practising discrimination. People don't know what to do here sometimes, so they take a million names, over and over, and that's good in one way. But he who has not finished in one name, how can he invite a thousand [others] in his bed? ...So, feed the root and all shall be fed. When the main goddess is watered, you will see – you may even see that Ganga Mai has got a dog! Maybe the dog is Dharma, and Ganga Mai will not give up Dharma. Shirdi Baba also had a dog...

'You come into a house full of ecstasy and bliss - so don't bring a crocodile here now. It may eat the child! I tell you, there *is* a crocodile, but the crocodile is a *vahana*, a vehicle [of the god]. The crocodile goes in 'hemisphere' and carries two goddesses. And in the centre of the crocodile there is a huge door and steps, where ascends the highest for darshan...

'Come here dry, like a sponge, and soak up the honey. "The black bee of my mind is drawn in sheer delight to Mother Shyama's lotus feet." But instead of stinging, the bee is giving honey, honey of love.

So this Swiss Cottage<sup>3</sup>, at the most you should treat it as a prison, the best kind of prison, with television, carpet, bathroom - the best. You can even go out. But still, all this is temporary. When will you pass the dark fortnight and enjoy the full moon of divine love? O the bliss and joy of it! So be aloof, be alert, be ready. God is here...

'They [*the devotees*] seem to have lost their awareness and consciousness. Lord Krishna said to Arjuna, "Listen, stop all this nonsense. You and I have been together. I know you but you must have forgotten." So do your best in whatever you are doing, but remember, love the One. Work for work's sake, and when work is finished, gather the mind collected in meditation and throw it [forward] to break the barrier of time and space in love's lightning flash, which is everywhere unmanifest. One single strike of a matchstick, if it's not soaked in worldliness, will ignite. A great night!

'...[There must be] consciousness of the dedicated blessed state of worship. Sometimes singing, sometimes dancing, sometimes crying under the blanket, washing with tears. Ramakrishna has said, if you can do that, this very night your object [of meditation] will come. Or if not this very night, then the second night, or if not the second night then in the limit of your programme, your detachment from name and form, your attachment to the One Reality...

'Just a remnant is ample for a caller of love. Alright, say I have a friend called Ganga Mai. I say, "O Ganga Mai, I am not worthy to see Thy form. May I just take thy name without form. Ganga Mai, Ganga Mai, Ganga Mai! *Ganga Mai!*" All that night, I refused to go to the Divine Mother, I spent the night here - [but] Ganga Mai didn't come. Alright, doesn't matter. The next day Ganga Mai didn't come. The third day - She came! After all, She doesn't look like the picture, She looks very Indian and She even has a dog. A dog! A little dog - how can a dog survive in water? that's another question. This was a small dog, the same like Shirdi Sai Baba has in his picture.

'Therefore God exists in His name from the depth of the caller's soul. The night that that love ignites, [you will know that] God exists in the depths of the caller's soul...

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<sup>3</sup> Madonna's new place, and the site of this kirtan

‘So we insist that from this night you come out of darkness. You are coming to kirtan - look young, look beautiful, look like God's devotees. When you are dancing, bathe in the sweat-love of ecstatic dancing. You may not have this chance again afterwards. Your singing and dancing here form part of the witness. Where is your witness? God is in the picture, if you think He is not in His name. Have you ever seen a talking picture? When God is not seen face to face you must believe. Who was speaking earlier of faith? If the picture moves, talks, you must have faith that He is manifesting through His picture. And one incarnation<sup>4</sup> is supposed to be manifesting a lot of things just now through his picture.

*Raja Ram:* Has anyone seen that?

*Swamiji:* And you were speaking of faith! What a maya! But the picture might not alleviate suffering overnight, it might be a greater test- it might kill you the next day. So I am not moving. Have a booking - maybe in winter the ashram will close down, open again on 1<sup>st</sup> April. You book in on the 1<sup>st</sup> April which is also a Fool's Day!

‘So [perhaps we] become a crocodile and bite the devotees' legs, and say, "Hey, where are you going there?" and pull [the devotees'] hand. Why kiss, embrace? Eat, chew, finish! There's no goodness in embracing, there's more entanglement. [Better to] really bite them hard, say, "Where are you going? Come here! You belong to Ganga Mai!" If you're going left and right I'll become a crocodile and eat your leg or arm, I'll get that first bite so you'll know you shouldn't go here or there.

‘Therefore God comes in the form of animals, dogs, cats. "Because I saw the Mother as a cat; that's why I fed the cat with Mahaprasad."<sup>5</sup> The door, the floor, all was filled with consciousness, even the cat. "I saw the Mother Herself becoming the cat."

‘...Saints are the ambassadors of light whom God recognizes. When the [Gods] call, either Ganga or Devi Naryani, or Narayana, or Lord Shiva, [you see that] for these saints God is not [only] in heaven. But suffering is inevitable. They suffer very hard, so how can you expect miracle survival? Bear it for a little while and they will cut it short. Bear it for a while, crocodile!

‘...Meditate on the name, be purified, and wait patiently for the arrival of a drop of infinity, and include all those "downstairs". You see how sharing goes? I am a captain [of the boat] and will save my life last. All the passengers who have embarked on this boat to cross the ocean must be ashore first...

‘A revelation: Ganga Mai reveals your condition before acceptance. Before you are accepted all your lust, etc boils up. If you want pure gold you have to melt it, and when it melts the sediment comes up - that's what Ganga Mai does. If you have faith in the word of Ganga, then you will be purified of the horrible condition. First get pure, and Ganga is the purifying agent, She comes to sanctify, to purify your sin... "Bhagirati, Bhagirati, Bhagirati, O Devi Ganga, may you purify us."

‘The God comes and kisses the devotee, so keep yourself clean, make yourself worthy to be embraced. The sinner who comes in front of Him gets purified and becomes a saint, that's His power...

*After prasad Swami Ambikananda read a scripture of Holy Mother:*

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<sup>4</sup> Some devotees had recently visited the house in Wembley of a Hindu devotee of *Satya Sai Baba* where much *vibhuti* (sacred ash) was being manifested

<sup>5</sup> Swami Shivananda (Mahapurushji) described in *Seekers of God* how he would see the deity before the object – even a cat – and therefore apparently bow to the cat

‘ "Who has faith that God is his own? Japa purifies the mind, creates inner calmness, and leads to meditation. Meditation is a difficult discipline, especially for beginners."

‘So we don't practise meditation so much as we practise "thought of love". Thought of love is very velvety. It does not scratch, it does not cause pain, it just suits the body, keeps you warm – that's "thought of love"...’

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