28 April, 1984 Kirtan at Wales

Discourse
Swamiji read from a book about Latu, Sri Ramakrishna's attendant and disciple, who became Swami Adbhutananda:

'Latu Maharaj says, "A man realizes God through samadhi. An aspirant realizes God only when God reveals Himself to him."

'Yes. And everyone sees according to his own eyesight. There is the story of the blind men and the elephant - each blind man touches a part of the elephant – the trunk, the legs, the ears - and takes it for the whole. . And those who have no eyesight must go according to their feelings. You may not see truth but you can hear truth… God speaks to the devotee in the depths of his soul, silently. A man can realize by the help of the good mind, but it's not easy. The mind refuses to work, it runs away when work is calculated. Only those who have got iron will succeed. Spiritual life needs the Sun God to enlighten the path, it needs your divine goodness to give up your luggage, and then love says, "Could you drown your body?"

'Will and power - you must have both. And you must have love, and denial of body; and you must have light, you must have truth. These are the spiritual garments. Jesus Christ gives a hint: "I am the way, the truth and the life."… God reshapes the head, and what comes out? The flicker, the spark, of Christ consciousness…When the curtain of maya is pulled back, the object of reality is seen, and the seeker dissolves in it.

(*Reads*)
"…Dr de Mello told Latu Maharaj, 'When I was at Mayavati I kept a picture of Jesus Christ on my desk and meditated on Him. One day I saw the picture as a living form. All of a sudden that form vanished and in its stead I saw Sri Ramakrishna. Was this a hallucination?'
Latu Maharaj: "No, it was not a hallucination. This is quite common. You are on the right track, continue on. One who has seen one great soul may see many others. Sri Ramakrishna used to see many divine forms…"

Swamiji:'Jesus Christ came and bore the thorn; Ramakrishna came and bore the rose. Both are truth.

'Latu Maharaj says,
(*reads:*) "A man will get social merit through his philanthropic activities, but if his ego is involved in those activities he will not get any spiritual merit. Even the result of a good action turns into bondage if it is done with ego… Unselfish action destroys the bondages of action and brings liberation to man… We do not say that one can do good to others with no motive at all. We say, let the motive be God-oriented. Although everyone cannot see God, one should have faith in his existence. That faith is the key to seeing God."

'…When God says yes, then everyone who has called on God hears it; just as when the sun comes out, everyone who is out there benefits. But if you are indoors, my friend, how can you benefit? The "yes" of God is a share in His multifarious colours,

'When I am not with you you are not progressing. But slowly, surely, steadily you will reach in the end. Thank God He sends you a friend. God is a matchmaker for those who are alone, who never had a friend. He matches pairs and unions. God is always the right matchmaker. And if you are interested, God gives Himself to you. But I don't know how much you can exchange yourself to Him. Man is selfishly reserved. Up to here, he says yes, but from here onwards, where real giving is required, the man withdraws, he is afraid. Very few can go beyond maya. The rest are not liberally free with God. They hesitate even to examine the Christ. Jesus Christ said, "I am the good shepherd." You know what that means? "All those who are lost come to me."

‘He is like that, he is the worker, he is the redeemer of mankind into godliness. He is the mirror who reshapes your distorted image. Christ is a great artist, he surrounds the man with the black of love, keeps him in darkness for a minute, then re-pictures him, works with a brush that comes out of his third eye, and then sends light. He paints him with his third eye. Then the man will be at least a container of the light - a lantern who holds and protects the light. You seek protection of the Lord and become the great protector of the Lord!’

‘Latu Maharaj says,
"Religion is realization, and one cannot realize the truth through noise and fanfare."

Swamiji commented:
‘It's nice what this great man has said. But if the fanfare is in harmony it can break darkness. Light dispels darkness, and music is a form of light There are many ways - some shout, some chant, some are silent. If a bad spirit comes I have to shout, to 'hiss'.[1]

‘Can you hear God? People can't hear God - so when shouting is required you have to shout. God is the volume in a man's love, a man's understanding. It's no good to discuss about noise and silence. Noise and silence - this is a state of love…

‘And true love may become a baby. The attitude to God as a child is nice. It's sometimes easier to love children than adults. It all depends on you. With adults you have to find out a man's mood, his attraction, his interest. But you can run after a child and put him in your basket - by force! And carry him on your back, like an African mother!

(*Reads*)
"What an upsurge of religion there was here in Calcutta a few years ago. Preachers of the Salvation Army were found at almost every crossroad of the city, the Brahmo leaders used to preach their doctrine in their temples, the Vaishnavites would sing kirtan in their worship halls - just think of all those meetings. One preacher abused Hinduism, another defended it. What a storm of religious preaching! But what has come of all that? Where are they now? Those religious leaders tried to attract people through their preaching; meanwhile another group was devoting their time to silent meditation."

‘Shiva is silent. When you are very quiet you go behind maya, behind darkness, the veil of ignorance. There the wall is Shiva, and if you touch the snake you have touched Shiva's neck. There you are quiet - don't shout! Shiva has very long hair; if you cling to one strand of this you will have perhaps transcended a hundred planes. But the path is still slippery. Therefore we say, once you have started something, once you have started the painting and it is beautifying itself, don't give it up, you will lose the vibe and the flow will be broken. Finish your painting into golden, even if you start it rough - at one point even a caricature sketch it will be priceless. After all, man is an unknown painting of God, and if God blows on that it becomes a living image in the screen of Brahman's thought. You are made in the image of God, and all men are part and parcel of that.

‘Then another person comes from beyond maya, and says,"Listen, I was one like you, I used to think of myself as an ordinary being. But then I pierced through the veil of darkness. Now I have realized that something which is without beginning or end is still with me, and I want to tell you about it. Be sure that Its essence dwells in the lotus of the muladhara.[2] And if you will, God will shape you - God is a great artist. Every day is a painting of God.

‘'So with one quarter of your mind look at the glory of God, for it is said that meditation should be practised where there is natural beauty. Then glorify him. Then, in silence, love Him. This silent love is with body, mind and soul; what Jesus called "With all your might, all your strength, all your mind."

[1] As in Ramakrishna’s parable of the snake that was forbidden to bite, but not to hiss.
[2] Basic chakra at bottom of spine

‘Then there is no you. Coming back into the world of maya, you are a corpse but living, a living dead. You are real God, not this body, this shadow, this ugly canvas.

‘You are this unknown self, because you have not seen your beauty. Too many impermanent waves in your hair! Every time you come here, remove a pin until there is wave of bliss alone. One glance divine, and you will completely deny this game; you will say, "I am not this body, this mind. I and my Father are…" The word of Jesus Christ is true, but God is happy to keep a veil for this condition. But later He will call, wake up. ‘Jesus says, "I will keep an eye, I am a good doctor, and God always works through us, the good shepherd." The good shepherd is he who always goes to seek the lost and strayed sheep…

‘Latu Maharaj says,
"If you want to lead a happy, contented life, stop criticizing others. Do not find fault with others. Try to see the good qualities in others. This is the way to get rid of the habit of fault-finding. Evil qualities pollute the mind of the person who searches for the lapses and shortcomings of others. Feel others' suffering as you feel your own."

‘'That is Jesus's way… " Feel others' suffering as you feel your own"…When you have understood what we are talking about, and have come close to me, and have made a step into our compartment, then you will know. I must not tell you - you will know. You do not see what I see. Nor can you understand what I am talking about. But we can tell you your state, unknown to you. Your heart is calling; you are arguing only with your mind. The day your arguments stop with your mind, you will have a shock! ‘

Swamiji closed the book and said: 'Now we will sing Jesus. One minute, we will sit.'
Devotees sing: 'Jai Jesus Nam…’,

‘God is in His name.You have heard it, now believe it. Ramakrishna called on all the gods - was he a fool?

‘…You know what I saw earlier? I saw you all as shadows, artificial - like when Ramakrishna saw everyone as wax figures. I was not in trance, I was not having hallucinations, just talking…. Many times I have seen the devotees' divinity at kirtan. Mahapurushji[3] saw the same thing - before he saw the person he saw the deity. He saluted the deity, who disappeared, and then he saw the rubbish people!

‘If the block, the executioner and the victim are one[4], then you and your shrine and the God are also one. When we came here I was in more bliss than at a kirtan. I saw the real you and the unknown you. We didn't explain in detail, but we had the whole thing in one snap, like a camera.

‘…Everyone is tangled because of loss of consciousness. When you are divine you will keep your balance, like a gymnast… You see how they bounce and somersault? You need balance, fitness, a bit of health.…I tell you, you are the crown of God. I have caught sight [of this], and I like people to be on the point of why they have come. Otherwise you have wasted your time – it is nice to see people, but it is nicer to uproot them and put them on the altar there, with the Most High God the Father, and bring them back to the Original, to the one real man.

‘The year is changing, the era is changing, the incarnation is changing[5] - I wish you could change your heart at least; then the mind, the idea, the colour, the perception will also be changed… Know your higher self – he is close to you. Break this cage, repent, go quickly, have yearning. Yearning is

[3] Ramakrishna’s direct disciple Shivanada (Tarak)
[4] Often quoted from GSR
[5] Swamiji was already directing the devotees towards the incarnation of Jesus Christ, with a Catholic conversion of many taking place exactly one year from now.

beyond meditation. Ramakrishna said a lot about yearning. Yearning means thirsting - so thirst for this.

‘I don't want to hurt you in any way, but I am showing you your real self, your divine self. Take the trouble to bear what I have said. I have told you your reality. I have seen it with my gross eye. I see you very beautiful, vast - *Shivam,Sundaram, Sathyam.* True beauty. I keep quiet, I speak in parables of your beauty, your reality. I see with my gross eyes, and now God punishes me for my hallucinations, for my untruth - but truth will conquer at the end. If you don't see it now, one day in your life you will become what you are. And good luck, best of British luck to you!’

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