

Dec 16, 1984

Kirtan at Kings Cross (Mahalakshmi and Jai Narain)

The kirtan began with a reading by Ambikananda from a new source, the Catholic stigmatist, visionary and mystic Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824), Emmerich's seemingly eye-witness descriptions of New Testament events, especially Christ's Passion, were to prove central to Ambikananda's spiritual instruction and experience at this 'Christianizing' time.

Subsequently, Jai Narain, helped by Sri Lakshmi, projected onto a screen a slide show of images Swamiji had requested depicting the Virgin Mary at different moments in her life, starting with the Conception and ending with the Assumption. Ambikananda made comments as the images succeeded one another, beginning with a picture of the Conception:

'The soul is neither male nor female. God inserts himself into the womb of his chosen. ... Lord Shiva [God] said, 'Go and visit this, visit that.' These are messengers, ... God impregnates himself through word. Word is *Vak*, is Omkara. As Sarasvati. So the Virgin and Sarasvati are affiliated.

'Some people don't believe in the virginity of Mary, but so it is, and after this has happened, 'Come confusion, come delusion.' But if the Virgin gives you her grace, and you are full of the grace of the Virgin, the Virgin will release to you who she is. Otherwise there is no way to know who she is, or Christ is, or God is – "I am that I am."

'In celestial plane Virgin Mary is a slender lady, long hair, black, very Middle East, Indian-looking.... And when all is over the Virgin enjoys music. She comes and listens, Quiet, shy, but enjoys the music, really.'

[Next slide shows the Virgin standing on the moon]

'The moon that you see is maya. The world does not know there are two moons. This moon is a place of *pitri loka*,¹ purgatory, and also there is the moon of divine love itself, the immaculate moon, the stainless moon. This moon is stained. The sun is the yantra² of the virgin, the Satya Lok: Om bhu, bhuva, swaha, maha, jana, tapa, and Satya.³ the Satya Loka is the Sun. In the Bhagavad Gita it says, "The yogi takes the path of the Sun and merges and never comes back again."

'... You meditate on Virgin or Christianity, you end up on Lord Shiva. Jesus comes from the Father. He speaks of the Father God mostly, not Mother.

'Christ and Krishna is the same, so what you call Virgin is also the faithful Radha⁴. Virgin will not accept herself as Virgin without you accept her as Radha. So if you look for Virgin there are only layers and layers of other things... the Virgin is a left-handed messenger. Without Lord Shiva there is no Virgin, there is only confusion and delusion....And Virgin is very quick-tempered. No time wasted. And you need her grace.'

...

'Music must come from the heart. When you play music it vibrates a realm. Music has got its Person, Sarasvati, and beside Sarasvati there are minor deities, spirits, fairies, hangers-about.⁵ They have a part to play, but they can drag you into worldliness if you don't use discrimination, for music is also maya, drowning the world. Therefore your playing has to be something special. Be a bit sattvic. What comes from heart must come also from your soul. Offer it on the altar, but it must be acceptable to Whom you are offering. It must be palatable to Me! You might have taken all the trouble in the world, but Gods are very very hard to please. Perfection will not accept imperfection. If it was dedicated it would flow divinely.

¹ In Hindu spiritual mythology the realm of ancestors and spirits

² Mystical diagram

³ The seven planes, corresponding to the seven chakras

⁴ Consort of Krishna

⁵ In Hindu mythology the gandharvas and kinnaras were celestial musicians.

‘There is a state beyond music. Music is to put you in a state, but the state must exist without it. Music may be an ox pulling an auxiliary cart of rubbish, but that state makes you live, and love, and give, and share. It must be good, composed, beautiful. So says Sai Baba. Those who are living do not appreciate it but those who are departed come here to get their handful.

‘You think you will bring God with your words and your music? No! What you are seeking has to be attained; or you will go back disappointed. But you must admit your coming for perfection, to be remoulded for the golden age, the golden God. The *atelier*, the workshop, is here. Go to Jesus, that’s enough. If you are going to heaven, go and get purification first from the realm of the Virgin... Why go to heaven, bring heaven here, God in your plate....

You worship the Virgin and it leads to another God. Another God leads you to another, and other names and other forms, and He shares these with devotees. So be ready and receiving.

I am a welder, a patcher, a mender. You can say mendicant⁶ if you want. I stitch the past life to the new life, the new existence. There is a life beyond all this life, and it is worth striving for. So get everything ready, anticipate. With all respect, I have to get cracking... Be an empty, clean glass and let Him be the everlasting wine that you Christians have. So you have to be a clean fellow. Garlic-stained cup goes to the fire.⁷ Water will not wash it clean...

‘God is perhaps not displeased, but I am not very pleased with the way of organization, microphone, falling, faltering, everything. I am sorry to be finding so much fault, but there should be a better way... You are not aware of quietness, stillness. You are not aware that God and Virgin are here... You don’t believe in the presence of God. It’s all contradicting. And we are trying to make it live among you.

‘You must not lose yourself here when you come. You must change. There is no divinity manifesting. There is no Cross, no book - or maybe you did that on purpose, I don't know... Play me some music so at least I can hear something to satisfy me before I go... Show me all your practice. You say you have done so much. Show me... But you must be more genuine, more serious, more adult. You must go into perfection, shrine must look like shrine, Gods look like Gods. Do everything nicely, properly. Do things to the level to whom you are receiving. Don’t waste our time ...’

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⁶ The ‘mendicant stage’ in Hinduism is the final stage of life

⁷ Ref. Sri Ramakrishna’s saying that the garlic smell remains however much you wash the cup (GSR).