

Apr 6, 1985

*Kirtan at Exeter Rd (Radhani and Vishnu Shakti)*

*This Easter week kirtan was held at the newly acquired house of Radhani and Vishnu Shakti, who had just returned from Australia with their adopted son, Ben.*

*It became known as the 'Bliss or Cross' kirtan because that was the choice Swami Ambikananda offered to devotees at a certain key moment of his discourse.*

*The kirtan began with a number of Christian bhajans from Hari Om ('Ave Maria' etc), Sati (another 'Ave Maria'), Atma ('Lord, have mercy on Thy people'), Tryambaka ('I am the Resurrection and the Life'). These were devotees' bhajans, but Ambikananda was anxious to get on with his own programme, beginning with a long reading from Emmerich in which Jesus explained the importance of the word Amen - 'The beginning and the end of everything. Then Swamiji instructed devotees how to chant Amen in a particular way, which they did many times. This was followed by an extended reading from Bridget of Sweden, the 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic and founder of the Bridgettine Order. When this was finally concluded Ambikananda spoke to the devotees:*

*'Jesus was the supreme incarnation, the only Son. Other incarnations - Rama, Krishna and so on - are bubbles in the ocean of Satchitananda. But Jesus Christ was Word made flesh, Son of man, Father of man, born to teach us to love God as Father. Ramakrishna was born to teach us to love God as Mother, there are great similarities, but this Jesus among all incarnations alone has died for exchange of sin to that extent - beaten, flagellation, nailed on cross - and then rose again.*

*'Ramakrishna had a terrible cancer, but he was not crucified. There was a time when he was like Christ, he said he was on the Cross; but every incarnation is different for time and period. Ramakrishna didn't care to heal anybody much, he didn't come to work miracles but to bring bhakti yoga. In ecstasy Ramakrishna had no suffering, and he said Jesus didn't suffer, but when Ramakrishna realized Jesus in the depth of his soul he said, "See the Christ suffered a sea of anguish for the redemption." How contradicting!*

*'... The Jews are the Brahmins of the west, many mystics, realized souls, some are good, some are bad, there are stages... These Fathers of the Desert, they are the Brahmins that have done tapasya by the Ganges for thousands of years. Then they went abroad, didn't want to keep it for themselves. They saved humanity, saved the west, like Vivekananda... But first the mind must stop the argument. From the unreal lead me to the Real... Jewish law is more strict than the Hindu, eat, drink Sabbath, the marriage law and all this. In those times, the Essenians observed celibacy for so long just to have the covenant, and God talks to them. No, no, the Jews are great - they are the Hindu mystics battered in form of Jews... And Jesus came back again and told them, "Listen, it is from you that people will be revived in the west." They are a very great people, Jesus himself has chosen them among all nations of the west. And among the west, there is only one incarnation, I suppose...*

*Today [day after Good Friday] Jesus went down, right down into hell today to save souls and relieve Adam, first man... He relieved all the dead for a little while, to fulfil the scriptures... But you can go mad with all this, you must be like him, perfect, perfect, that's why there's so much chastisement. It's unfathomable. To know Jesus is quite unfathomable, like the depth of the sea. Suffice to be chosen - even disciples ran away there, Peter and all this. And he was so loving, so compassionate, he came and taught them even after death, how to feed his people, how to put the blessed sacrament, make them become priests.... For 40 days after death he walked about!*

*'The life of Christ and Mary, it is too true to believe it! Just say it's a terrific thing, you can go mad if He reveals to you, it's impossible. The crown and the agony! Later we will read this agony... If you read this life you can't believe that it's true. The suffering that he has undergone, and the things that are happening. It's impossible, it's too true to believe! That one man in the world has done that, for the people. And this is valid till time everlasting, ever on and on... It's very difficult, and not because*

we have become Christian. We were Christian first time, Shiva Christ consciousness<sup>1</sup>... but now God has called us again and we are only responding... If you take the life of Jesus and Ramakrishna you can compare, in the depth of the mysticism they are like light and its brilliance, a man and his shadow, similar but different times...

'Hearing, reading, are good, but seeing is the greatest; and when God shows you, it's a grace of God.<sup>2</sup> Grace is required, both in Hinduism and Christianity. Without grace it's zero... Jesus wouldn't [let me] accept him without Radha and Krishna. And you won't go to Mary without worshiping Father, and Mother Kali in form of lingam in the mouth, and lingam is the Word.<sup>3</sup> And the mouth is the mouth of Krishna. Everybody is the image of God. Whoever has not seen himself as Krishna - . Therefore, this same day inspiration, same day revelation. This [body] has seen cherubin same day. By My sweet will, by my own Amen that I hear from the record as I should sing it. Same night, and my inspiration told me that for three days you will have vision, and I did, without ecstasy trance, live, like that. Live vision! Spirit has become gross, gross is spirit. All is Brahman. But without practice – zero!

...[Reading]: 'Oh sweet Jesus, pierce my heart so that tears of penitence and love will break day and night. May I be converted entirely to thee, may my heart be thy perpetual habitation... Whatever I am doing, you have got it here also.'

Now Ambikananda resumed his programme, leading devotees yet again in the Lord's Prayer. 'Next is – Hail Mary full of grace, etc... Next to that is the creed and we will do it in a minute.'

Devotees then recited a litany, repeating after him: 'Unto the King of Ages, immortal invisible only God'...

...After several hours of reading, chanting etc Swamiji suddenly broke off. '...Open heart! Communion of saints. Become a saint and then you will see, you will know. Be a saint, be ye a saint of him, and he will call you "my saint, my saint,"<sup>4</sup> abandon me not, come and rise with me. Communion of - ?

Devotees: Saints

Swamiji: 'Now Jesus is coming back again, to bring everyone to the last minute of the Kali age, back to the Mother, back to church. "No one goes to the Father except – [through Me]." This body is a temple, the Virgin is the Mother, the Virgin is the Kali. We were telling you before,<sup>5</sup> before we know about the Virgin, she is the Eternal Virgin before she became Virgin. She couldn't just be born – God chooses that, she is Eternal Virgin, Mata Kali... They told me, and I am telling you now. I believe whatever they tell me, yet still I only take what I can. They tell me again, over and over, now it's Holy Ghost teaching through natural semi-consciousness...

This Mary, from November I declared it,<sup>6</sup> up to this day, she has been elongating the transformer in the heart. Go and find out where there is another one like her. Every Saturday she goes down to hell, takes our prayers and gives it to the necessary souls...

After at least three hours came a much needed break, followed by some rather half-hearted bhajans before Ambikananda resumed his discourse, first reading a passage from the GSR (Introduction):

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<sup>1</sup> Shiva Christ Consciousness was first mentioned at Brahma's place 1971 – see Ambikananda's talk at Kings Cross 16 Feb 1985.

<sup>2</sup> Ambikananda is referring to his recent visions here

<sup>3</sup> *For Mary as Word, see notes on previous kirtan, Feb 16, 1985 at Kings Cross.*

<sup>4</sup> Many years before, Ambikananda had a vision of Jesus who called him {in French} *Mon Saint*, hence M.S.S.A. – *Mon Saint Swami Ambikananda*.

<sup>5</sup> Previous kirtan, at Kings Cross

<sup>6</sup> I.e. at the Wales kirtan.

‘ “Some time in November 1874, Sri Ramakrishna was seized by the irresistible desire to learn the truth about the Christian religion. He began to listen to readings from the Bible by Sambhu Charan Malik, a gentleman of Calcutta and a devotee of the Master...”’

Swamiji drew the devotees’ attention to similarities between Sri Ramakrishna with the Divine Mother, and Jesus Christ with the Virgin Mary:

‘...It is the Divine Mother Herself who has become the Virgin; both are Virgin, one is known as the eternal Radha. At the beginning of this I explained to you how the romantic Radha leads to playful Radha and then to eternal Radha... So the Virgin is none other than a part of Radha playing with Krishna, and further is none other than Kali and Mahadeva... Everyone comes from Lingam and goes back to it – ‘*lin-gyate*’. That Lingam is in the mouth of the Mother.

‘You must have divine madness, and grace, and revelation - three tools. We give you the tip, we supply you with the information and light, and you tread the path by your own crutch and own way of feeling and love. And faith is the root...

‘Ramakrishna’s mission was different. He came to give bhakti? Yes. Vivekananda’s master was bhava, God of love incarnate, but he trained Vivekananda for a completely different mission to the west. Work, work, work, work, isn’t it. If now, you should give a bliss or cross, which one you want, if I offer you two things? Now I give you two things, I give you here you are left hand bliss, right hand cross – ‘

A devotee: ‘Can we have both, Swamiji?’

‘If it’s his it’s not yours. Whereas someone carrying the cross for all. It’s selfish, like you go eat the mango and wipe the face<sup>7</sup>; while Veronica came and wiped the face took the towel, and that became a beautiful image of him....’

*The near unanimous choice of the devotees, not very surprisingly, was for Bliss rather than Cross. The exception was Star of Bethlehem, who up to this point had been an energetic participator at kirtans and gatherings, a good companion, a fervent devotee. But after his brave decision to opt for Cross over Bliss, Star of Bethlehem was never again seen at any kirtan, gathering, or function of the Universal Independent Ashram.*

Ambikananda read from the GSR about Sri Ramakrishna’s experiences with Christianity, breaking off to say:

‘I heard Amen once at Blenheim Crescent with Radhani,<sup>8</sup> I loved that so much, I did more Amens in the sacrifice than I did anything else. Now Jesus says that Amen is the greatest – and didn’t I do it without being told?... Mystics don’t have to be formally initiated like all of you. If we take you that’s enough, the sheep follow the shepherd – ‘

A devotee: ‘So we don’t have to go to the Catholic church?’

Ambikananda: ‘I told you to go to church. The day I tell you don’t do it, don’t do it. But I am telling you to do it, and I am telling for your own sake. If I am following there of course you will reach. I am called by somebody, and I am calling you. You are getting into the back seat and the front seat of my car. I am going there and I have got room. Suppose my car is a big car, an estate car, bigger, taking 35 people or 40 people, all our people. Where I go these people will go, whoever wants to come, whoever is obedient to us... I am called, and I want you to go through a proper door, a proper church, to get it officially so that there is no blame... ...Now, if you go to church, if you go to communion, if you go to baptism - maybe you are in the queue but you will get to there! I am selling my spiritual

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<sup>7</sup> Ramakrishna’s parable in GSR of those who wipe the juice from their faces to conceal their supply of mangoes

<sup>8</sup> At Himalaya Ashram In 1970.

wealth and buying this, because I am offered it, and I am offering to you. You would be a fool to refuse it...

‘Life here is not for enjoyment... You have to till the earth first, then sow the seed, then protect, keep it, endure it, keep alert, watchful, pray, for you never know when I am coming – and life is reducing every day. We’re reaching there, but we have to reach consciously, properly, as he has called us.... Then you have two shares in the bank, not only England but India also. Gethsemani is Get your money!’

Some devotees roar with laughter at this joke.

‘I am telling you, he who is Christ is Krishna; he who is Krishna is not other than Radha; She who is Radha is Kali, Kala. Now whether you believe in me or not, this is my experience, and their experience, and I have no experience without them. And they are in my mouth, as word was in the mouth. But all is invisible, God is invisible in your heart. You must have faith. Faith, faith, faith, faith – Jesus said, “I have not healed you, it is your faith.”

*[Reads at random from GSR]*

“He who is called Krishna is also called Shiva.”

– *Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!* Now what do you have to say? Now Ramakrishna your Indian master has said it!... And didn’t he also say, “This is Jesus the master yogi, love incarnate, who is in eternal union - ”? I put that in my heart and transform it for all eternity... The heart was closed, and now it is open and the flower blooms, and the light of God shines there. He [*Swamiji*] is seeing light everywhere; he sees the cross here, there, he sees the luminous cross, a cross made of light. He closes his eyes, he says, “It’s imagination, hallucination, it’s not true.” He just wakes up from bed, his eye again just falls on that cross, and he sees another cross by his side, more luminous, he denies it quickly, he can’t believe what he sees. Now he doesn’t need scripture, he’s *seeing* it – and still he’s denying it! The Cross of Light!

‘But you need the grace; the grace of guru, the grace of Mother. He who is Father is not without Mother. He who is masculine is not without feminine. Both are blended, both play with each other – you can reflect it, by the holy water that you drink, holy water is not perturbed by the senses and it reflects these divine faces...

‘In my subconscious there is secret in front of Holy Ghost. I love Holy Ghost, I love Trinity, I love Brahma Vishnu Maheshwara as it is.’<sup>9</sup> Holy Ghost Holy Ghost, three god, in one...

...Holy Trinity, One God

*[Reads from Emmerich about Jesus and an all-inclusive luminous globe]...*

‘The globe includes vision of Holy Trinity.’

*Devotees are prompted to reiterate “Holy Trinity, One God” numerous times.*

Now Ambikananda began a greatly extended reading of Emmerich’s vision of the Passion, starting with Jesus and disciples in the garden of Gethsemane after the Last Supper:

‘ “...I saw the grotto around Him filled with frightful figures. I saw the sins, the wickedness, the vices, the torments, the ingratitude of men torturing and crushing Him, and the horror of death, the terror that He experienced as Man at the greatness of the expiatory sufferings soon to come upon Him... Wringing His hands, He swayed from side to side, and the sweat of agony covered Him. He trembled and shuddered. He arose, but His trembling knees could scarcely support Him. His countenance was quite disfigured and almost unrecognizable. His lips were white and His hair stood on end...” ’

This part of the reading continued for almost an hour.

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<sup>9</sup> The Trimurti or holy trinity of Hinduism

Ambikananda: ‘...He is bearing, He is still suffering for us. Yesterday [Good Friday] He died for us... Holy Trinity, One God. So we are in Him, and He is beyond us... Suffering is God Himself, Sarada Devi has said. God is suffering. Ramakrishna is suffering for us, for our desire, otherwise - my God!’



Ambikananda's drawing of Jesus Christ, at Glen Lodge. The caption reads:  
'And thou must look  
Deep into thyself!  
Listen to thy Inner Self –  
Come together with  
neighbours. And  
Give love to ALL!'

More Emmerich was read, and more, and then more. Swamiji came upon the word 'wheat', which caused him to pause and tell devotees to repeat, 'Light, wheat, light, wheat.'

Devotees : 'Light, wheat, light, wheat.'

Ambikananda: '*Lumière du blé*. And God said, "Let There be Light." Makes them all shout something. I can't make it out.'

*Ambikananda continued with Emmerich's account of Jesus's Passion, shocking in its horrific detail. Nearly six hours had passed. Devotees were trying to conceal their pain and boredom but Ambikananda noted it.*

'...I It is only half past nine, but see how you are baited, how boring, boring! But bear it, bear with Jesus, isn't it? You have summoned us for Passion, you have to bear. Be brave, be consoled. It's worth it. I am somewhere in a lonely place without food, if you want to do sacrifice. You think you will be able to do what we do? You have to be in a very superconsciousness state, you have to be superman.

It is Passion, not every day is it Easter. It is man born in Christ who died for us... It is good for you. So sacrifice, bear. And this is nothing, just sitting, no cross or anything. It is done for you. If you want to do sacrifice you have to be ready for it, isn't it? Only a few hours...Better to bear it, better to die listening to these things than die in agony there, with nothing...

'After summer kirtan in Wales I wanted to pack up, but Divine Mother said, "Why you want to pack up? No, don't be silly." And this Christianity was when we were in Wales, we were sitting by the fire, and the fire was blessing everyone: "Blessed be the Christiane church, Blessed be the Catholic church." Fire was blessing the Catholic church and it was so beautiful, so loving.

'And then there was another kirtan in Wales, next one, when the Mother said, "Cover me now. What do you want, inspiration? All right. Covered. No more Kali. Ka-Ka-Katholic church now. Out of the blue - the Church, the Cross were presented there...

‘...Sacrifice is sacrifice. You have to choose if you want bliss, or if you want cross. What you want God will give you. Bliss or blister?’

A devotee: ‘Bliss.’

‘Then it’s *ras goulas*<sup>10</sup>. Those who are really interested, come. Those who are really inclined to carrying the cross, come, take it seriously, or don’t waste our time, with all respect. We still know you, but we do not form part of game, why should I be upset with you? You play baseball, you go and play your baseball. You don’t play baseball you play bass. If you don’t play bass go in your loo and retire. And good luck to you. Here it is fasting and different things. We are warning you what a turn it is taking for a little while, and this is nothing yet. It is going much deeper, this is just a sketch. You have to give up a lot of things, you have to walk in the fire of God...

‘From now onwards it’s going to be very Catholic. Either we do it or we don’t do it. Those who want to be following it will follow, with your children. Those who do not want...with all respect, they have choice, but I tell you, those who do not come I cannot save from Hell. If on our side we are saying, whoever we take responsibility to go to different departments, we will give password quicker, isn’t it? We are a new community; before we were indifferent there, but now we are defended from somebody else. I cannot save you or your children then. These are my people, but if you have not come to us I cannot go there with you. It depends on yourself... Be careful, I am giving up this part and going to a different place where I am called. I am dragging with me as many as want to come. It is very deep and serious what I am doing...’

As we have seen, a considerable number of devotees accepted the wish of our teacher to take instruction to enter the Roman Catholic Church. The largest group was in London, and these devotees attended a course led by Fr Macamee of the church at Quex Rd, Kilburn, where there was a huge Irish Catholic community. Fr Macamee was an intelligent, sensitive and charming man of great breadth of mind, and he instructed devotees with skill and learning over several weeks. He was even prepared to tolerate the devotees’ notion of ‘Shiva Christ consciousness’!

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<sup>10</sup> An Indian sweetmeat.