

Dec 12, 1985

Keyes Rd

Swamiji was taking lunch with some devotees at Shiva Shakti's house in Keyes Rd. He had come from Lincoln to visit and give his blessing to a house at Buckley Rd, Kilburn, which was being bought by three devotees' families: Steve and Julie Gorton; Mahayogini and Rohan Harris; and John Simmons.

Those present with Ambikananda included Shiva Shakti, Vidya, Steve, Satchitananda and Jai Narain. Jai Narain's mother had passed away about six weeks earlier.

Swamiji said:

'Creation cannot exist without a creator. This creation is a mortal reflection. Therefore departed souls need the path of the Sun, the yogis' path, the path of light. They come to the light. When harmony is dark, grief is not fully trimmed. So it's our duty to push away darkness, make people feel at ease, so that when they come they are light and can take others up with them. The doors of the prison are open this month, November, and December. Yama has got all his doors open, from All Souls' Day in November. Now the prison gate of condemnation is open for the birth of Christ. Joy in heaven, peace on earth for men of good will. *Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.*

'We are the root of the ancestors - they are gone but we are still standing here. They have fallen from the tree, battered, rotten, pecked by the vultures of "Merry Christmas!" and "Cheers!" – this is bottle Christmas, not the true wine, the true blood. The true wine is to be taken with great awe and reverence. It is taken in silence, and then, "Go and close yourself in darkness and see the light." *'In dense darkness, O Mother, Thy formless beauty sparkles...'*¹

'The body is in darkness so long as there is no spirit. Spirit is the light of the body. What is the body without spirit? People forget who they are, and then they quarrel about who is better. First find out who is your better self. All comes from Him.

'It is the spirit that is hungry. What is the spirit, the soul? Who eats, who lives, who goes? Who goes somewhere, out of the body? It is not death - you call it dying but I don't think there is death because they are here. They are not happy so how can you be happy? You must be practical. Happy New Year! Those who are Christian stay Christian. Those who escape Christianity become immigrants. They have left their country, although the ancestors say, "No, we are born here, we stay here." In every religion there is true and false, so you have to go from darkness to light.

'He who eats truth, digests truth and is healthy, fearless, lives in truth. He fears for others but not for himself. So one warns, a light in heaven, Mary appears on the borderline of Yugoslavia or somewhere, warning.² *"Those who really love me will see with the eyes of the soul. Those who I choose also."* Truth is the light of the spirit. We are too materialist.

'Always take the name of God when you eat. Then even if it is coarse it becomes refined. Christianity is not dead yet. Men are dead to Christianity, but Christianity is quite live. We are deeply rooted in the pillar of light. If there is no church, see Him without. See Him within and without. A holy thing is not given to everyone lest they desecrate it.

'The word of a holy man is more powerful than *bombe atomique*. When Ron³ was thinking to go for four months [to Swami Premananda's asram in Sri Lanka], the Swami came right over [in vision] and shook hands with us, took our hand. But we said to our devotees, "Don't go! There is bomb there," and later his asram disappeared, the man ran away.⁴ He has work to do in his own country.

¹ GSR song

² Virgin Mary had been appearing at Medjugorje, Croatia, from 1981.

³ Raja Ram. Swamiji only called him Ron very occasionally.

⁴ See discourse 1983.04.16 Kirtan at Godalming (Nita and Sada Siva)

You come here, and not only you [but also spirits of the departed], because they know there is something to hear. While they were in body they didn't want to hear. Now they are disembodied spirits, they cry to hear one word that will quench the thirst of the soul. We know the departed are here, they tell us they are here. How else would we know? They are begging, "Think of me, think of me. Give whatever comes from your hand."

'A man has to be really strong. If your spiritual life is weak, your experience is weak, and the devil takes advantage of our weakness. So we have to be strong. "*Call aloud the name of God, for He is the ruler of that road. Even Death must bow to Him.*" In fact God has told Yama, "Where my devotees are singing my name, don't go there." And Yama told his emissaries. But to fulfil that you must have austerity. Strength, my son, strength. Read *Hours of Meditation*... "*That thou art.*"

'Shiva is the Lord of the Ghosts. You cannot see Shiva without seeing the ghosts, and if you are frightened of the ghosts you cannot see the Lord. So we say: Strength! The weak will run away. Haven't you read in the GSR how Lord Hari puts on the mask of the wolf and starts frightening people, and they run away? When one or two have discovered: "No, thou art not that wolf, thou art Hari," Then he [the wolf] leaves the person. But you have to have a bit of fear when catastrophe is happening, when there is eclipse of my brethren and sisters in my house, when the moon of my love is red!

'The heart is the place where the light is, heart and hearth, the indweller is there. "*Know, Arjuna, I dwell in every temple of the heart.*"⁵ So if the heart is lit, other people in the darkness can be seen. Otherwise how can a blind lead a blind? Great is the fall! But [in the kingdom of the blind] the one-eye is king.

'There is one way to get somewhere, you can't go zigzag, there is one way. Though you want to go there [by another way] there is no-entry sign - you will be arrested. But love is the mistress who can go anywhere⁶, because love is God and He has got access everywhere.

'You occupy the body, but the body is a place where God dwells, the body is a temple, so keep your mind clean, keep your body clean, keep your heart, your house, your jacket clean. Jacket at least can go for dry cleaning, but how much in the fire must the stain and smell of this garlic [heart]⁷ be burned, how will it be removed? So Girish asked the Lord.

'We are only pilgrims on the path to eternity, sojourning on earthplane. Self-realization is an action, it's not just a saying. God ascends and descends the ladder of truth, giving *darshan*⁸ and blessing: the ascent of reality, and the descent of the Lord. Wherever there is an ascent there is a descent. But how many go up? So practice. Shun bad books. We know it's your duty for the time being,⁹ you have to work with evil to remove evil, but don't look on the dark side. Shiva has got a lot of ghosts as His attendants. Here there is God and your people as well. Your mother, at the last minute, she must have deserved something, we did say at last minute we will swallow it, say Prasad. She did ask for something?'

Jai Narain: 'She asked for Sai Baba ash.'

Swamiji: 'Ah! It is most unusual for an orthodox Thomas¹⁰, a Mrs Thomas,¹¹ to ask for sacred ash at the last minute, which is a challenge to the world: last minute to think of God. There must be a boon. But why? Because you rang us. And God denied the condition, it is not finished, some still need

⁵ Bhagavadgita

⁶ As in Ramakrishna parable in GSR

⁷ Ramakrishna compared a stained soul to a garlic-smelling cup (GSR)

⁸ Auspicious sight of a deity or a holy person

⁹ JN was working on editing an *Encyclopedia of Sexual Practices* at this time.

¹⁰ 'Doubting Thomas' was Swamiji's way of referring to sceptics and unbelievers

¹¹ 'Thomas' was the married name of JN's mother

finishing help. We did say to give a lot of masses while the person is living and also after death. A lot. This is their life, their food. When they were in body they were eating food, now they eat masses.

‘All these are your people, Jai Narain, we are just outsiders. She had a wonderful time I think, I had a wonderful time. It was a wonderful kirtan,¹² so blissful for the Gods to accompany us. But they say it is not finished, only a beginning. The more you go in the Ganges the cooler and fresher you feel, the more purified.

‘Spirits used to appear to Swami Vivekananda and Swami Brahmananda, they used to throw pebbles.

"What do you want?"

"Release me?"

"No,no, I am just an ordinary monk."

‘Then, convinced by the spirits, they took a handful of sand as food for them!

‘ They eat through you - God eats it and they eat. Give also for your ancestors here, If the ancestors are not happy, there is no enlightenment. Be on good terms with father, with mother, with grandma. No doubt they may not be good, but God is warning you as well. Give them water with flowers and incense and a good prayer. Offer it with Gayatri mantra: “*OM bhu buva swaha, tat savitur varenyam,bhargo devasya dimahi, di yo yona prachodayat.*”

‘Take the name of your ancestors, father, mother, departed. May they be happy, in peace. Read *Universal Prayers*: “*Let there be peace in heaven, among the gods...Shanti, Shanti.*” May angels take this to God and give it to the ancestors; and my Guardian Angel, take it to the guardian angel of my grandfather. It's angels that take the messages. They need light, those who are waiting there, all are brethren, waiting. How can I be happy, how can I eat when these spirits are my friends? I have friends, I love people I don't know.

‘Faith, faith, love, love. And it's not only faith - love even becomes faith. Faith is immaterial here, love is what matters. Love is light, love is God. If I love God I don't have to have faith. What does faith have to do with it?

‘When I was very young, I was at home doing sacrifice, and they were very baffled.¹³ They thought I was invoking some demoniac thing when they saw me outside in my little temple, and when they come back from the pictures and saw me still there. I used to go to a windless place, and then the wind would move as soon they came, searching my stablishment and vibe.’

The conversation later turned to the new house that Steve Gorton and others were buying.

Ambikananda: ‘I think the house was occupied once by some Buddhist ministers.’-

Steve: ‘Before. I think there were some Indians...’

Ambikananda: ‘Two great genuine devotees... But Buddhism is not my department. I am “OM” and they are “OM mani padme Hum”’. The middle room is very nice. But I wouldn't be baited by the top floor, there is temptation there, it all depends what they do, it needs a bit of light, the house of Lakshmi. There's a lot of peace without moving, there is a lot of good vibe there. It will be easy flow, if you get good company. Company is so vital, company is God. Change and go deeper. Don't change and float. It's very Christian, that house. Initially it started as a Christian foundation, then someone knocked the wall and broke the Christian side.

It would be good to dedicate it to Catherine Emmerich.’

¹² See 1985.11.16 Kirtan at Godalming (Nita and SadaSiva)

¹³ Ambikananda's family in Mauritius

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