

Kirtan at Kings Cross (Mahalakshmi and Jai Narain) 16 Feb 1985

*Ambikananda read from GSR [ pp. 922-3] about a visit to Sri Ramakrishna at Dakshineswar by Misra, a Christian devotee, and commented during his discourse:*

"I'm sure you know there is no death. Death of body there is, but the soul is never born nor dies. It shoots down like a shooting star to earthplane here as a pilgrimage. But we don't know the real state of our own existence here; we are all confused and confounded up to this very moment.. So it's a great privilege to share the little experience we have gathered by practice and learning and hearing. Greater still is to hear the experience of a being who is likened to a god, who is very pure from birth, and who is holy as His Father is.<sup>1</sup> And greater than reading or hearing is personal experience.

‘But be holy first, otherwise God cannot be understood. First be holy in your mind, in your body, in your soul, in your heart. Otherwise, the body pays tax for the soul dwelling there. But there can be relief, because God has become the doctor through the procedure of science, medicine, healing power, laying on of hands. And if you think you are not the doer, then with faith there is some sort of relief from the actual reaction of past desires. Therefore, the state of desirelessness is the greatest state. If you want to be liberated, it is said, be desireless. Have no desire and you are liberated. So says Sarada Devi.

*(Reading from GSR):* ‘ "Sri Ramakrishna said to the younger Naren: 'Rama is one, but He has a thousand names. .He who is called ‘God’ by the Christians is addressed by the Hindus as Rama, Krishna, Isvara... A lake has many ghats. The Hindus drink water at one ghat and call it 'jal'; the Christians at another, and call it 'water'; the Mussalmans [*Muslims*] at a third, and call it 'pani'. Likewise, He who is God to the Christians is Allah to the Mussalmans."

‘There is no difference, as this Gospel is saying, between Rama, Krishna, Jesus. If you are a true meditator, and you are meditating on Jesus, or your Ishta Dev<sup>2</sup>, or the Mother of God, or Sarada Devi, or the Catholic Virgin Mary, you will find out that they withdraw. These objects of meditation withdraw, and bring other incarnations. You can't go to the Father without going to the Son. So if you try to meditate on Sarada Devi you will find Radha, you will find Kali, you will find all the incarnations. Ramakrishna found out that at one point about 12 or 15 incarnations came, and included in that point was himself. He found all the forms. They know about it, and accept all forms as coming from the One. He has a thousand names and forms, and they come according to time, place, circumstance and environment.

[*Reading*] "Misra said: 'Jesus is not the son of Mary, He is God Himself...'"

‘Correct! Correct! Jesus is not the son of Mary, he is God, God born through the Word. But I tell you, nor is Mary Mary. If Jesus is not the son of God but is God, I tell you Mary is not Mary. Mary is an incarnation of OM! Everything comes from OM, and as a Swami has said at Shivananda's ashram in the Himalaya:

[*singing*], "*Om Jesus, Om Buddha, Om Virgin Mary.*"

‘And Mary is appearing nowadays, warning the people<sup>3</sup> this very day, and it is the same Mary who is telling you, "Think of me, ponder on me, let your thought merge in me. Further to your knowledge, I am telling you I am not just Mary, I am an incarnation of OM." That is what Mary told us, and you are lucky to hear it. I told you a long time ago that Mary was not just Mary. Everything comes from OM, the Word...

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. Jesus Christ

<sup>2</sup> Chosen deity

<sup>3</sup> Ambikananda was referring to apparitions of Virgin Mary then manifesting to children at Medjugorje, Croatia.

‘...The world of Jesus is like the song (*sings*) "*Drown me deep in the sea of Thy love...Jesus, Buddha, Moses, all are drunk with the wine of Thy love.*" What is that wine of love? To taste it your mind has to rise above the three lower centres of eat, drink and make merry. Love is not without discipline. Love is very strict - fasting, penance, sleepless nights, the sleep of yoga...But it can happen at any time; it can happen now. When you say the name of Jesus, when "*two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them*"! Then Jesus comes and he puts out his hand, and this love is grace. But without the grace your search is futile, it is still just a groping in darkness. You must have the grace of God, the grace of the guru, and you must have the grace of your own mind.

‘The grace of God. This grace of God is uplifting, it is elevating, it is beyond words. Words stop there, and when words cease the mind is lifted, it is raised, and the soul goes with it, just keeping the body warm. It depends on the amount of love you are emanating. God says, "Give me one and I give you 10. Give me 10 and I give you 100!" So a man can transcend space and time by this very love. Love is God, and Jesus is love incarnate. Ramakrishna is love incarnate. You know that. Beyond reading, beyond everything. If you have love you don't need anything, you just need to keep your body.

‘True love is unselfish, true love shares, true love bears, it receives the cross, the slap, the suffering of others into this body, into the body of love. This body is a key, it's so important, don't misuse it, make good use of this body now...Beauty is the beauty of soul, it manifests, you can see light coming, you don't have to meditate, if you are very good you can close your eyes, then – wagons of love, and penance, and sacrifice. Unselfish. Love for love's sake. Close eyes like that, and even now you can see light coming. Can you see the light? You are blurred! Let those who have eyes see, or at least feel...

‘...Now also, if you have true love, you have to be able to shed tears. The tears really wash the sin of the soul. When the soul is washed light comes, and this light fills the gaps where there is darkness. These lights illumine, these lights help. Light, light, God is light, Light and Love. And your body becomes light, this body becomes pliable, you can't see your neighbours rightly, you can't hear properly, all this is filled with – you are not conscious of your – what is happening now, light is filling you from the toe to the head...

...[Reading] “Regaining partial consciousness the Master gazed at Misra and began to laugh. Seemingly in an ecstatic mood he shook hands with him and laughed again.”

‘Where holy friendship shakes hands – God always comes and shakes hands...It's better that God touch you first than you touch Him. If God touches you, it's a guarantee that you are His. But if you try to touch Him and He moves – there's still something missing there, you are not completely pure, He doesn't allow you. Purity is the first requisite, body, mind and soul. Bad thought will come in meditation – forget about it, keep thinking of the good thought, good is more viable than bad. Temptation will come, but “go beyond sandalwood”<sup>4</sup>...’

‘...God is in His picture, I tell you. This picture will flash in your meditation, and then light comes, you will have a shock, you will deny it, will doubt if it has really come, then it creates a wave, then it comes back, it points to you like a rocket from heaven, a spiritual rocket made of light...Ramakrishna has created a loka for his devotees. Whoever calls on Him even once will be liberated...’

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<sup>4</sup> In Ramakrishna's parable the woodcutter is urged to go beyond the sandalwood forest to even greater treasures.