



Master's Speech

It All Depends on You

Dear brothers and sisters,

I did not know anything about Guru Purnima - I mean most of us don't know anything about it. I once happened to be in Shahjahanpur with Babuji Maharaj, and somebody said, "Oh, it is good you are here today. Today is Guru Purnima." So, later I asked Babuji Maharaj, "They say today is Guru Purnima. What is it all about?" He said, "Parthasarathi, it is a very auspicious day on which, if you are with your guru, special things can happen and your progress can be speeded up to any extent." I said, "Babuji, does it apply to all?" He said, "Yes, it can, but it depends on each abhyasi. What they bring here with them we try to clean out, but many don't want to change. I can change the inner condition, the spiritual condition, but the external, the behaviour part, the character," he said, "that is the abhyasi's duty: to convert and change. Otherwise the inside and outside will not match, and," he said, "progress will not continue, may even stop."

[..] So, it all depends on you what you take. As Babuji said, "This house has no doors. Come and take whatever you have the pow-

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er to take." So Sahaj Marg has infinite blessings to give us, but how much are we able to take with us? I remember once I told jokingly - I was talking to Babuji, it was midnight in his bedroom, and Babuji was saying



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how sorry he was that people don't appreciate Sahaj Marg, they don't know what they are missing. They come and go, they come and go, like a bucket without a bottom going into the well, coming back empty every time. I said, "Babuji, I know from my own little experience of Sahaj Marg that finally I think you will be the only person to go to the brighter world" - from the four or five thousand at that time who were abhyasis. He said, "Yes, it looks like it. Maybe two or three more." You see, what he said? - himself plus maybe two or three more!

Now if I am asked to say, I mean, I would not say because... I mean the thing is so bleak.

The value-spectrum has not changed: people don't want to change. They still hold on to their prejudices. They still hold on to so many things they should have given up long ago. When you enter into a pond and come out, even if you don't scrub yourself and all that, you must have some cleanliness. It is very sad to say this, especially today on Guru Purnima Day, but more and more it depends only on you; don't blame Sahaj Marg, don't blame the Master, don't blame the system. Here is an ocean of bliss, infinite bliss, and if you still look in the mirror and see what you are and you don't see any change in yourself, you look into your heart. How many of you are free of prejudices? How many of you still go by your caste, by your community, by your provincial (whatever it is) attributes? And opinions you formed about people fifty years ago, you still carry. [..] So how are such people going to progress?

[..] Just try to imagine what your guru must be feeling when he sees the same problems, same prejudices, same quarrels, same lies. It is very saddening.

And Lalaji Maharaj, Babuji Maharaj - they have given so much to our development, our progress. I hope in the brighter world their hearts cannot feel despair, otherwise even there they will think, "What is happening? What is happening in this country, to our abhyasis? Same people, same prejudices, same problems. Transmission going on and on, day after day, day after day; are they even conscious of what they are receiving?" Are they conscious of the efforts, the sacrifices that are made for them, and are continuing to make day after day? If a mother is making sacrifices for her children, can you evaluate the sacrifices that are made by your spiritual guides and teachers? Can you evaluate?

Master's Speech — [Cont'd]

This morning lying in bed, I was calculating - since I was born on the twenty-fourth of July in 1927, I could not have seen a Guru Purnima [that year]. So today is my eighty-sixth Guru Purnima. Even if you progress one step, another step, another year... but here you don't even have to walk; you are carried! Those of you who may have read the books, the example of the kangaroo that Babuji gives, where the kangaroo carries its baby in its pouch. Here we are literally in every sense, carried. And yet we rebel and fall, rebel and fall, rebel and fall, and then justify by saying, "After all it is a very difficult way." [...]

So what do we do about it? Do we at least see Sahaj Marg, a small society which is at least a little encouraging, heartening, and say, "Well, there is this small nucleus of human beings who are earnestly trying to get out of this mess, this stinking

pool of humanity, and to evolve out of it"? Again, as Babuji said, one or two or three.



So I want you all to digest this message. Don't exempt yourself - any one of you. Don't exempt yourself from the need to examine

yourself sincerely, and to evaluate yourself, and at least now to start throwing off all those dirty things that you know you have. It is not as if you don't; you know. And let us hope by Master's grace that we will see a better group emerging out of this, and more and more qualifying. And in years to come we can say, not one and two or three, but, by His Grace, most of them, if not all of them.

I pray for you all. Thank you.

Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari - Guru Purnima Day, 22 July 2013, Chennai, India

In Manapakkam from August 31 to 3 September 2013

The Steps

We left Washington on August 9 and we reached Manapakkam on August 31 as our trip included prior steps in Manila, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. One may wonder why these first steps are being mentioned herein. There are several reasons for that: we experienced these steps to our final destination as a whole, as a preparatory phase in view of the blessed moments to be spent with Master. We learned from Master's example that we must look at the world around us as the framework in which we are expected to implement what He teaches us. When experienced in that spirit, journeys as well as encounters with people from different backgrounds (cultural, language,

customs) are major opportunities for us to realize that we are all moving in the same



direction, that we are subjected to the constraints of life on earth, and that we are striv-

ing to make sense of it. The paths may be different, appearances may give the impression that the differences are insurmountable, but when a true real heart to heart communication is established, then we truly realize that humanity is as one. That is what we have understood from the teachings of our Masters.

First step: Manila, Philippines, where we arrive on August 10 after a transit in Seoul. We discover that it is a country of over 7000 islands, it's unbelievable. Looking at the map we tried to find our bearings and assess the next steps ahead : After Manila, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and finally Chennai.

It's quite amazing to realize that eventually India is clos-

In Manapakkam ... [Cont'd]

er to Africa than one might believe! That gives a sense of being far away. This impression dissipates quickly on the next day when we start feeling the openness and kindness of the people of Manila, and so will it be throughout our stay. We left Manila on August 16 en route for Hong Kong, where we will stay longer. Hong Kong will also be our transit point on the way back from Chennai to Washington.

Step Two: Hong Kong, it's a spectacular, bustling and charming city whose skyscrapers twin with mountain tops. It's a highly urbanized and ultra-modern place, another context where the uniqueness of human reality once again peers through the eyes of all the beings we meet. Here, materialism seems to prevail! Yet, this is only an appearance, because the city exhibits spiritual quest, as well as religious and philosophical values : Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism ... What people make of these principles is another story that is not specific to the city.

We left Hong Kong on August 30 and reached Chennai the following day after an overnight stopover in Kuala Lumpur. While approaching Chennai, we can enjoy a beautiful view of the city. Now, we are almost physically sensing Master's presence. Chennai is not only a dot on the world map, this is where in a few hours we will be at His feet. We feel the characteristic heart impulse and inner joy felt of the arrival at destination!

Manapakkam

Saturday, August 31

It is 10:30a.m. at Chennai airport, after protracted immigration formalities we reach Manapakkam at 12:15 p.m. When we are asked if we want to drop off our luggage in our room before meeting with Master, we say in unison, "we want to see Master." We get into the cottage ... on the veranda where Master is taking his lunch. It is a magical mo-

ment filled with the profound inner peace that one feels only in his presence; it's all peace, silence and truly heartfelt happiness. Although Master seems weak, he has the necessary strength of will to take his meals, his coffee ... There our trip "ends" and our real journey "starts". We leave Master's cottage at 1:30 p.m. We are happy to learn that we can come back and see him at 5 p.m. There is no more tiredness in spite of the



long trips and the world of prevailing materialism where spiritual values have little importance is behind us. At 5 p.m. we are in front of the cottage, waiting on the porch while other abhyasis including sisters and their children congregate there. Master greets the group and people keep joining in. At 5:30 p.m. children are taken away before an almost hour long satsangh. It's like a dream to be in Manapakkam in Master's presence... It's almost unbelievable.

September, Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd

Sunday's satsangh is led by Master: nearly an hour of pure bliss in a Manapakkam rustling with familiar sounds: birds, crickets! And from time to time there is a bird that hovers across the meditation hall amid flapping noise. It thus participate in this celebration of the heart in its own manner? The atmosphere is truly familiar and makes you feel

"home." After the satsangh we are privileged to be included in a group of abhyasis who join Master in the cottage patio where a brother makes a long presentation on the Vedas, the Gita ... and Sahaj Marg.

Being in Manapakkam is like dreaming awake in a place we do not want to leave anymore... We are counting the days; there is only one day and a half left because we will leave on September 3 in the morning. Hours are ticking by along with the series of meditations and special moments spent in His presence in the cottage. We are here with other brothers and sisters in the silence of His presence, enjoying fully the opportunities of seeing Master. When such opportunity arises, the news spreads quickly and abhyasis promptly hurry in to enjoy the blessed moments with Him.

On September 3 morning, we went to the cottage to say goodbye to Master. This was both a short and fulfilling three day period; the magic of experiencing Master's presence gives the impression that we are always wherever He is. Indeed, it is literally

true, if you are connected to Him and in tune with his heart. Such is our resolution as we greet him goodbye. He blesses us with comments geared towards the future of the Mission in Africa: "I wish the Mission to grow in Africa, with more and more people. Such is my prayer."

On the way to the airport we realize that traffic is fluid, there are not many travelers at the airport, emigration formalities are faster than on arrival. We are happy in view of the long journey back to Washington: one night in Kuala Lumpur, one night in Hong Kong, transit in Seoul and arrival in Washington on September 5, exhausted but happy and blessed with his grace.

JN/MMK

Echoes of the Centres - 24 July Celebrations in Douala and Bafoussam (Cameroon)

In Douala

Twenty-two (22) brothers and sisters gathered on July 24 in Douala for our Master's birthday celebration. We started off with inner preparation at the beginning of July, through two sessions related to deepening Sahaj Marg teachings as well as individual sittings. This allowed us to enjoy with utmost fervor the pervading vibration of the celebration day. It all started with a 6 p.m. satsangh on 23th of July. On the 24th, two meditations were conducted at 7:30 am and 6 pm. Ten brothers spent the whole day at the meditation centre. Three presentations were organized: one on Sahaj Marg practice which was followed by an exchange on the aspects of practice that characterize our system and make it effective. The second presentation was on the Whispers from the Brighter World; more specifically, it focused on Master's appeal whereby each abhyasi must own these messages. Fortunately many

abhyasis read them on a regular basis and unanimously recognize their impact on improving their condition and deepening their spiritual knowledge. The third presentation was on Master.

A lot of time was devoted to personal medi-

condition of love and understanding!

Jean Armand Nkoma (Douala - Cameroon)

Bafoussam

In Bafoussam the spiritual celebrations of our Master birthday took place from July 23 to

25. 23 July was devoted to sittings and readings of Whispers from the Brighter World, then a satsangh was held at 5 pm. On July 24, we had a satsangh at 7:30 am followed by readings of Whispers and selected texts on Master's life; these readings were concluded by a satsangh at 5 pm. On July 25, the 7:30 am satsangh was

followed by readings. A fraternal meal was shared at the end of the morning. Reinvigorated by the blessings received during the 3 days each abhyasi went back home.

Paul Daudet Sounkouat (Bafoussam - Cameroon).



tation, silence and introspection. It was a great celebration where each one of us beyond our respective opinions and convictions, could feel Master's grace and love. United in his heart, through the magic of transmission, we are grateful for this rare and blessed time spent together, while being carried by Them. May we remain in this sweet and serene



Freedom Seeker

*By Sister Govender, Vinodha
South Africa*

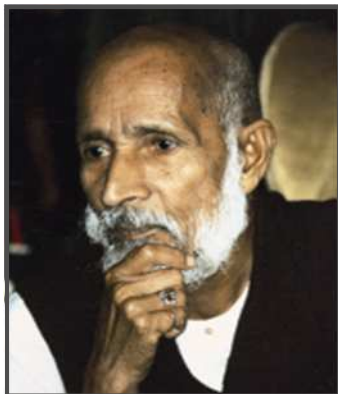
A cage, no matter how big, is still a cage
This body, this life, this world
All foreign to me, I don't belong here
I need to escape. I must escape.
I know the way out
But time is against me.
It wants me to wait
And waiting is torturous.
But Master knows
He knows how lonely this path can be
He is taking me up
Helping me shed this skin
Helping me flee
I need to escape. I will.





Whispers from the Brighter World

Saturday, April 10, 1999 – 8:00 a.m.



Do not be afraid to advance towards areas which are unknown to you. Your safety is higher than on your highways. Dangers are on the Earth, lying in wait for you at each street corner. The spiritual way is broad, difficult in some respects. It takes perseverance and will, but you don't have to fear any risk. Have faith in the Master; he is the scout, the guide, who shows the way and protects you.

"Be happy to be engaged in a spiritual way. Your life has a meaning; you know where you are heading. So many humans live from day to day, awaiting death as an ending and not knowing that it is a beginning! Consider yourself fortunate not to be in this frame of mind and to know that on the other side of the veil, there are other worlds where you will continue your progress. Remove your self-doubts about yourselves; you can reach the goal. Whatever one man has achieved, others can achieve it.

"One has only to want it so, and be engaged in an effective system. Therefore, don't lose heart!"

Babuji

Whispers from the Brighter World, Vol. II, Page 190

Daily Reflections

Human Attributes

Without these human attributes of patience, perseverance, faith, love, devotion, and mostly love and discipline, where each balances the other – love balancing discipline, preventing it from deteriorating into gross misuse of power and authority; discipline balancing love from degenerating into mere mushy nonsensical emotionalism – these are human, absolutely human behavioural characteristics that we need, attributes that we need, before we can embark on a voyage of becoming divinised. And until these attributes are seen in an abhyasi, believe me, his journey has not begun.

Taken from the book "HeartSpeak 2003 (1st edn., 2009)", Chapter "Love and Discipline", pg. 30, by Revered Chariji

Soul's Plan

The soul decides and says, "In this environment I shall find the best opportunity of liberation in that life." But once we are born here, what happens? Society, family, culture and our own desires – they make us swerve from the path that the soul has programmed for itself. And we are moving away from that programme day after day until the soul finds itself in a predicament that "I have to plan all over again. I have to make a new programme" – and that is re-birth.

Taken from the book "HeartSpeak 2009 (1st edn., 2010)", Chapter "Longing for the Original Home", pg. 245, by Revered Chariji.



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