

*Shri P. Rajagopalachari's 79th Birth Anniversary
July 24th, 2006*

Master's Message

Such gatherings must reflect human fervour in working towards the achievement of one's chosen goal, in our case that of mergence with the great Master, my great guru, Babuji Maharaj. Without this spiritual fervour, such celebrations remain mere social occasions entailing waste of many varieties of resources, the most significant being time. The Mission helps us to harness necessary spiritual and material resources towards this most desirable and necessary end. Lacking that spiritual purpose, a person's rare human life would other wise remain a mere wasted human life. That would indeed be a tragic waste of what spiritual souls have described as the rarest of gifts - the human life on earth.

This life of ours is meant to be used for sadhana, to work off past samskaras without accumulating new ones, and to reach the goal in this very existence. My divine Master Babuji Maharaj has emphasised again and again the

relevance, indeed the absolute necessity, of undergoing the ups and downs of this life with cheerfulness and in a spirit of acceptance, which alone can culminate in the development of ultimate

wasting time and energy in wasteful lament and sorrow and dissatisfaction with one's life, which after all, is nothing but a life each one has created for, and by, himself. May it be so, by His Love



spiritual verity - surrender to the will of the great Master who guides us in the pursuit of our chosen destiny.

I pray that all abhyasis of this great and noble Mission may develop such a cheerful surrender in their lives, and achieve that which they have set out to achieve without

for us, His mercy, and His ever present help on all occasions.

24th July, 2004, Hyderabad

Thus speaks:

Lalaji

- It is left to God to shower His grace on whom-soever He likes. Our duty should be to try to reach up to that condition. To whatever extent we might achieve success, it is well and good.

Babuji

- The most important and unailing means of success is the prayer. It connects our link with God to whom we surrender ourselves with love and devotion.

We should always pray to the supreme Master the Omnipotent and the Omniscient alone with a mind totally absorbed in love and submission to Him forgetting ourselves altogether. This is the proper way of offering prayer which in such a state seldom goes unrewarded.

Chariji

- The correct prayer, My Master used to say, is to sit in meditation and silently offer the problem to God - not request, just offer the problem. Let him solve, like you know, you give a computer a problem, it solves it, in whatever way it should. But, what we do is to ask. Suppose there is some sick person in the house. "Lord, may the sick person be well!" It may be against that person's interest to get well. So, prayers are not answered, you see. The problem is to say, "This person is sick. Let your grace descend on her or him and do whatever you wish. Let your will prevail, not mine!" That is the right prayer.

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I was born on the 24th of July 1927

The first born of my parents, I was born at 11:35 A.M. on Sunday the 24th of July, 1927 at Vayalur, a sea-side fishing village some thirty miles north of Madras. My Grandfather was serving there in the Salt & Customs department of the then Madras government. In India it is the custom for women to go to their parental homes to be delivered of their babies, especially for the first pregnancy. My mother had gone to be with her mother at Vayalur, leaving my father at Madras. [...] Our home was in Triplicane, a small suburb, near the famous temple of Lord Krishna, in his role as Parthasarathi, the driver of Arjuna's chariot.

My father received the telegram announcing my arrival into this world at around 2:00 P.M., and as was his habit he went to the Marina beach a mere furlong away for a stroll. There he met his friend and regular walking companion Mr. Vasudeva Rao who was an excellent astrologer. When Mr. Vasudeva Rao was excitedly informed by my father about the birth of his first child, he asked for the time of birth and quickly drew my horoscope on the beach sand. After studying it for a few minutes he told

my father, "Raja! You will never have to worry about this child, for he is destined to be a leader of men! My father has repeated this story to me, and to many others, again and again throughout his life, repeating it with a great deal of conviction after I reached my current situation in life. [...]

Having been born under the birth star of Rohini, and our house being within a stone's throw of Lord Krishna's temple, it was inevitable that I be named "Parthasarathi". This was my given name but I was universally called Pachu, an affectionate diminutive. [...]

The trauma of the early loss of my mother played havoc upon our family life. My father had to be both father and mother at the same time, and since he was but a humble clerk in the railways, bread-winning to keep the family going was itself a whole-time occupation. He had to go work far away by electric train, leaving the home at around 8:00 A.M., and was generally not able to return home to our one-room apartment in Matunga before 7:00 P.M. The wives of neighbours played mothers to us, and I must state that they were really and

truly our mothers in those woe-begone days of utter loneliness and misery. [...]

My life can hardly be described as having been so oppressed in my boyhood. Quite the contrary we led a sheltered life, filled with the genuine and unstinted love of all our relations and the families of my father's close and intimate friends, of whom there were many. Except for the tragedy of losing our mother at a tender age, we really had nothing else about which one could complain. My father pampered us, provided us with all the comforts that his by-no-means large income could provide, lavished affection upon us, gave us an excellent education, and in all ways saw to it that we never lacked for anything in our lives. [...] He was our guide in all the possible ways of life. [...] While he was a stern disciplinarian, and could mete out painful punishment when the occasion demanded it, nevertheless he was the best friend I ever had throughout my life.

Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari (Chariji): "Down the Memory Lane"

Celebrating Master's 79th Birthday in the Centers

Botswana

There will be a 2 day celebration with group meditations on Sunday 23rd (at 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.) and Monday 24th (at 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.). Brothers and sisters will remain together between the meditations for Sahaj Marg literature reading, talks, devotional song for Master's birthday, self-meditation, individual sittings as well as introductory sittings.

Cameroon

In Cameroon, they have adopted as a motto: "*I am getting ready for His coming.*" They will meet on Sunday for a first satsangh at 10:00 A.M. followed by readings, talks and individual sittings, and a second satsangh at 4:00 P.M. On the 24th, satsanghs are scheduled to take place at 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Also, there will be a satsangh on Tuesday 25th at 10:00 a.m. followed by a discussion on the preparations for Master's visit to Africa.

Congo-Brazzaville

Brazzaville: the celebrations will last 4 days, with group meditations on Saturday 22nd (10:00 A.M.), Monday 24th (5:00 P.M.), Tuesday 25th (5:00 P.M.). On Wednesday, a special retreat will take place by the Djoué River. A Master's speech will be read after each meditation. Pointe-Noire: two group meditations will be conducted on Monday 24th (11:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.). The time for the first mediation is set with reference to Master's birth time (11:35 A.M.). The program of the day also includes reading Master's teachings.

Côte d'Ivoire

Abhyasis will celebrate Master's birthday from July 23-25. The first day program includes three satsanghs (9:00 A.M., 12:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.) at brother Edouard Mockey's as well as a two talks and a questions and answers session. The talk themes are respectively "Sahaj Marg: Philosophy and Practice" and "The journey of the heart in the light of Sahaj

Marg". The 24 and 25 satsanghs will be conducted at the Treichville center in Abidjan at 6 P.M.

Mauritius

The catchword of the 2 day celebration is that it is an opportunity for spiritual growth, to receive divine grace and go deeper into our inner self. The program includes an initial group meditation on Sunday 23rd at 6:15 P.M. and two on the 24th (at 9:45 A.M. and 6:15 P.M.), with reading of Sahaj Marg literature, video show and discussions in between.

Reunion (Island)

At the Reunion Center, group meditations are scheduled to take place from July 23-25 at fixed hours (10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.) at Leïla Vally's (152 chemin Andinaïk, ligne des bambous, Ravine des Cabris, Saint Pierre). Arrangements are made for the lodging of abhyasis coming from up North. Every one has been invited to suggest a theme for reading and exchanges.

Master and Us

A Brother from Paris has kindly offered to share with us the answer hereunder he received from Master in 1989, in response to a letter he sent to Master, in a time of doubt and difficulties of all kinds...

J.P.M.

Bangalore Camp

8 March 1989

Dear brother J.P.

Thank you very much for your letter dated 4 February and your warm wishes.

Yes, Master takes care of you - our Master is always by our sides. With regard to your morning meditation, if you sit down quite simply and think that Master meditates things will be very simple. But if you say to yourself: I want to meditate this morning, the pressure of "wanting" is likely to hold up the flow of energy. If you are very tired, which is understandable given your responsibilities, think that you will meditate well tomorrow instead of feeling sorry not to have meditated today. Positive expression accounts for almost the totality of work; we sometimes go through trying periods. Nevertheless, doing our daily abhyas is our duty as aspirant. As our receptivity grows, our barriers fall by themselves. All is so simple by His Grace, do not torment yourself.

With regard to evening cleaning, it is very important to do it regularly and thoroughly. This is one of the most important ways towards complete vacuity to make room for the divine effulgence. If you judge yourself and think that you are not worthy of Master's attention there again you are obstructive by diverting attention on yourself. You would be free of this pressure if you ask the Divine Master inside you. Also, if I dare going further, do you think that Master would waste His time for somebody who is not worth the sorrow of it? The Divine Master, the Ultimate, knows his work, He loves for He Himself is Love. He can only give but who can actually receive what He can shower into us? This could be the sadness of the Master... You are happy, the Master is happy, who is the Master?

We know that our desires and tendencies stir only if we pay attention to them. There also, divert your look towards the brighter source. Look well within your heart, feel well the place where the heart is beating, and think that the divine light is there, and it cannot leave you. Nothing else will then exist but Him, His Grace and His divine effulgence.

Do not fear anything from anybody, this is my last advice, He is with you and inside you and nothing or nobody can affect you.

Dear brother, I am very happy for the birth you announced to me. I pray so that His Divine Grace may be in your house and that it may never leave you.

With Master's blessings,

Affectionately,

P. Rajagopalachari

Individual stories

Echoes of Africa is seizing the opportunity of the auspicious celebration of the 79th birthday of our Master to launch a new section on: "Individual stories". These are personal accounts on how we came to Sahaj Marg, our practice and relation to Master. Such stories were received from brothers and sisters, selected extracts of which are published below. All stories received will be published in subsequent issues of the journal. We hereby invite brothers and sisters who have not yet done so to contribute to this new section by sending their stories; they are welcome!

"[...] After an initial period of three months of practice, as Master generally advises new abhyasis, I felt that I was not no longer the same man as before. My thoughts were focused on Master. I henceforth started to bathe in a state of calmness and inner peace - which resolved many of my problems. Let me advise my brothers and sisters from Cameroon and Africa that they should open their hearts to Master when the difficulties of life seem too heavy. Master has an answer for everything. This answer may not exactly meet your expectations, but it will give you the requisite (spiritual) support if you really want to completely surrender to him with as much devotion as possible..."

J.P. (Cameroon)

"[...] I have only one experience to share with my sisters and brothers: I sometimes happen to write a letter to Master to relate problems affecting me very much. Once the letter is written (with my heart), I have the impression that He has perused it and I do not need any more to send it out... Finally, all is resolved. In other words: "let us just think about the problem as subtly as possible and wait. [...]"

J.D.N.N. (Gabon)

"To live with Master, is to move from inside to outside. If it is somewhat easy to remember Master at the beginning of day, this fades away at the end of the day. Our Master expressly invites us to regard ourselves as courageous lions, calm.... His speeches contribute very much to calming down our mind."

J.P.M. (Congo)

Chariji's Pearls

Spirituality says that God is not a particular presence tucked away in some corner of the universe in what you call a heaven. God, by very definition is omnipresent, He is everywhere at all times.

My God and your God cannot be different. It is a tragedy – I mean perhaps the greatest tragedy of the human being is that we all say there can be only one God, and yet claim that my God is not the same as your God.

It is the truth of God Himself that no God has ever punished or rewarded anybody. He has given us the opportunity to do it ourselves.

My master, Babuji Maharaj, said that one way of defining life is that it is full of problems. We cannot change the outer circumstances but we can change our inner nature in such a way that the outer circumstances do not any more affect us.

Our whole existence is a journey through life. We have got in at birth,

we have to get out at death.

There is no death; it is only a temporary absence of life from this body; the body is dead, not life.

Culture is a big prison. You see, music is a prison for those who are entranced by music and say, "Oh! Nothing else exists." So whenever we find some-



thing is closing in upon us, run away from it.

Our attitude must be like that; this culture is imprisoning me; God help me throw away the culture. This religion is imprisoning me; God help me throw away the religion. This Earth is hold-

ing me down with its gravity; God help me fly away.

So, all our education, our culture, is only a superficial veneer on the skin, like the powder and the rouge on a woman's face. Beautiful? Yes. But wash it off, and what remains? Skin.

Any fool can see your wealth, your strength and your intellect, but there are few today who can recognise a spiritual man if he is walking on the road.

In spirituality there is only one problem, and that is yourself, and every problem that arises on your path is from inside yourself.

In spirituality, we don't need the body, the mind, the brain, the intellect. They are useful, but the thing that we need is the heart.

Spirituality is not a progress, or a search or travel in time. It is a travel in eternity.



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